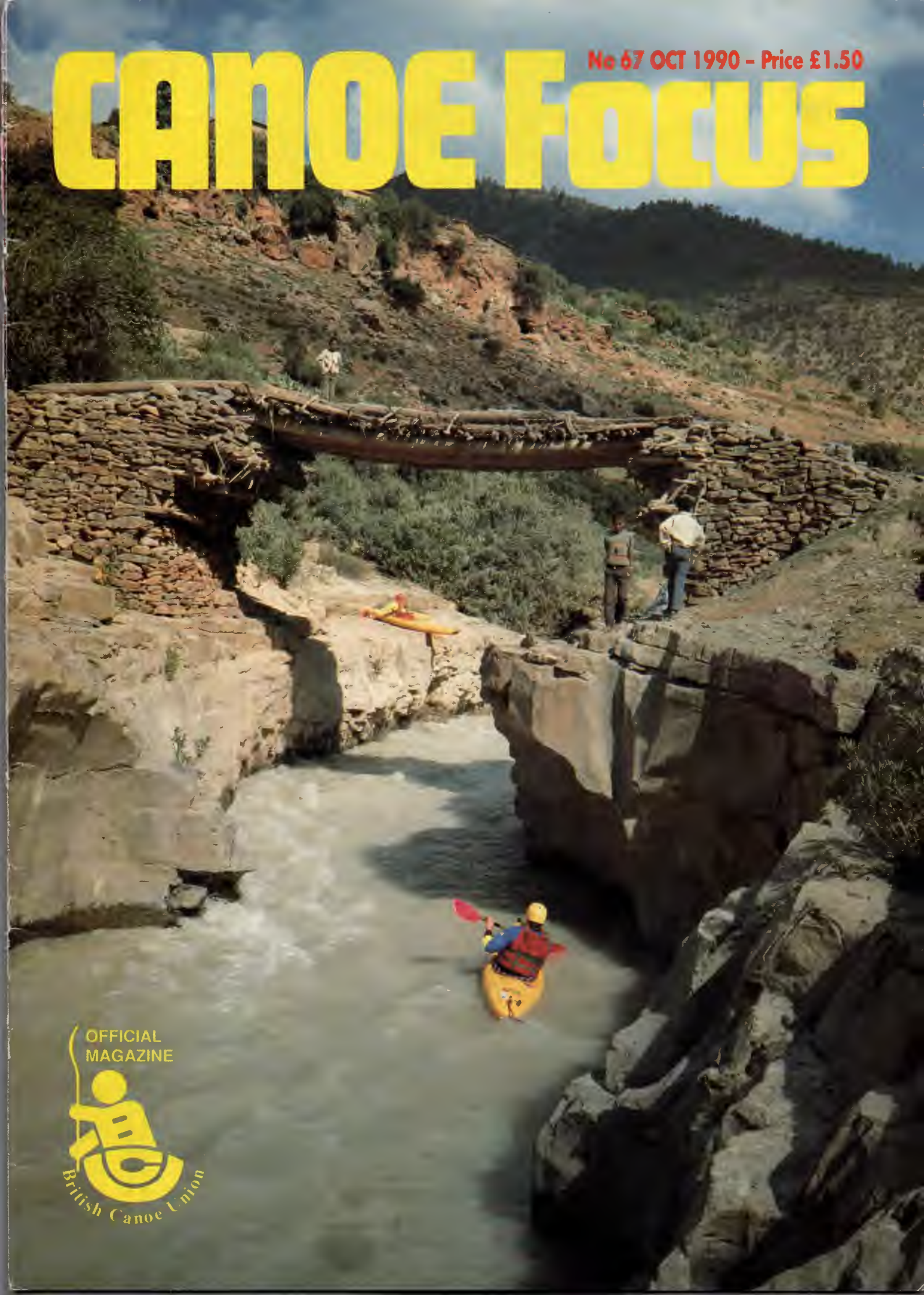


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No 67 OCT 1990 - Price £1.50





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*Taking to the Water in a Duo
Topolino - the Bitches,
Pembrokeshire. Captured on film
by Kevin Whibley*



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BCU Enquiries to above address **except:**

BCU Supplies, Current Trends, Adbolton Lane West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS. Tel (0602) 818844.

Assistant Directors of Coaching, The Elms, National Watersports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Nottingham NG12 2LU (0602) 455423

Slalom Sue Wharton, Hartwood Hill Farm, 117 Preston Rd, Chorley, Lancs (02572)62051

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Comment



Photograph Simon Bailey

by BCU Director Trevor Bailey

At the time of writing, with one World Championship left in the season *, the medal haul for Great Britain is somewhat disappointing. It is often said in sporting circles that a defeat at the semi final stage is more heartbreaking than losing in the final. For many canoeing events the equivalent of a semi-final defeat must be to finish fourth and thus, just miss out on a medal. This, unfortunately, was the fate of a number of our paddlers in major International Events this year.* The good news has just arrived from Poland (Sprint Racing) Congratulations to Ivan Lawler and Grayson Bourne on their gold medal (K2 10,000m)!

ITS NOT JUST THE WINNING

Two of our paddlers, competing in the World Marathon Championships in Denmark, demonstrated that the winning of a Gold medal is not the only reason for paddling. Graham Burns and Ivan Lawler were lying second to the Danish crew when the Danish boat was damaged at a portage. The British pair slowed down to repair the damage, and it was generally agreed by all those who witnessed the incident that that action cost them the gold medal. At a time when winning seems all in many sports it is encouraging to hear of such outstanding sportsmanship within canoeing, and I would like to publicly add my tribute and thanks to Graham and Ivan for their action.



BCU SUPPLIES FRANCHISED

Members will note that the BCU Supplies advert in this magazine indicates that Current Trends are now running BCU Supplies. This is the result of a franchise agreement between the BCU and Current Trends, whereby the operation of supplies will now be undertaken on our behalf by Current Trends. The benefit of membership allowing discounted prices will continue, and it is hoped by both parties that one benefit of the agreement is an improved range of goods on offer. This is the second formal agreement between ourselves and Current Trends, who since February have been operating courses on behalf of the Union. Further details of both arrangements are contained elsewhere in this copy of Focus. On the practical side, if members wish to order Supplies at the same time as renewing membership or ordering items from the Coaching section they can do so by sending everything to the BCU and we will process our part and pass the Supplies order to Current Trends.

ICF CONGRESS

Britain to host Slalom and Wildwater Worlds

I mentioned in my last Comment article that the official opening of the new H.Q building marked the start of an exciting future for the Union. One hope was that we could attract World Championships to Nottingham. The Union bid to stage either the 1994 Junior White Water and Slalom World Championships or the 1995 Senior event. At the ICF Congress held in Poland in August the latter bid was accepted, with Holme Pierrepont being the venue for Slalom and Bala staging the White Water event. This presents the opportunity for a major shop window to our sport, and one which should prove beneficial to all sectors of the union, not just those two disciplines directly involved.

Other Decisions

Other decisions taken at Congress of direct interest to the BCU were;- the election of Ron Emes to the position of 1st. Vice President of the ICF, the approval of Canoe Polo as a full committee of the ICF - this should lead to the creation of an official Polo World Championships in the near future - and the approval of a World Cup series in both Slalom and Wild Water Racing for the next two years.

ITCHEN CASE

- counting the cost

As members will be aware the Union has fully supported a member who was threatened with an injunction to prevent him paddling on the river Itchen in Hampshire. Initial advice was that the paddler had a good case and would be able to prove a right of navigation. Unfortunately, legal advice given later indicated that it would be a difficult case to prove, and the Union were advised to withdraw. This we have now done, in full consultation with the member concerned, but the total cost to the Union, taking into account both our costs and the costs of the other side, is in the region of £25,000. This case indicates the need for the union to continue with its current policy of improving access by negotiation. Court cases can be very expensive, and there is no guarantee of success. Full details of the Itchen case will appear in the next issue of Focus.

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Information on all other requirements, Personal and Contract, including Ace, Prijon, Pyranha, Perception, MI, Coleman, Arrowcraft (new Aquabat) and accessories from Chang, Tornado, Helly-Hansen, Javlin, Lendal, Schlegal, Kober, New Wave etc.

Please contact Tim Houghton



Telephone: 0902 634567

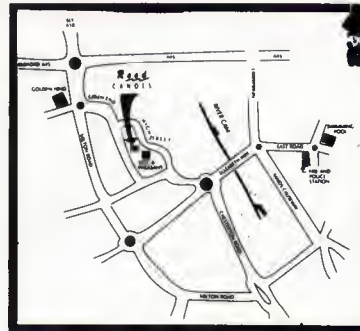
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(Retail price of Icefloe £669.30)

FIBATAPE

London and Lancashire rubber company are producing a sticky fibreglass repair tape, ideal for mending fibreglass canoes and kayaks. "Fibatape" was originally developed for repairing cracks in walls but satisfied customers have since found a number of other applications: from hockey sticks to car body repairs. It was only relatively recently that a canoeing friend suggested to Director John Weeks, that Fibatape might also be suitable for mending boats.

The tape is made from strong fibreglass mesh, with a slightly adhesive finish. This means that it stays in place while the repair is carried out - very useful for repairs in awkward places. Otherwise Fibatape can be used just as any other fibreglass repair material. Available in two or six inch widths, from builders merchants, or mail order (see advert on page 16)

MAKE YOUR OWN

Pennine Outdoor produce a range of leaflets/patterns with full instructions for making various items of outdoor gear. New this month are patterns for bivvi bags and compression sacs (for sleeping bags). All leaflets £1.85 from Pennine Outdoor (0484)684302

NEWS FROM PALM

Palm Canoe Products have been awarded a manufacturing licence by WLGore enabling them to produce a number of top range, high performance garments in GORE-TEX fabric. The new Palm range will be on show to the trade at the Munich ISPO and available in the UK from October onwards.

The range includes a new sea cag incorporating a spray deck, salopettes, thermal tops and rodeo equipment.

Also new from Palm are; the Gasket spraydeck, featuring a single lined body tube for maximum seal with a dry cag and the Voyager a 4.45m polyethylene touring kayak for river, lake and estuary paddling.

All the above are featured in Palm's new colour catalogue available from main stockists or direct from Palm (0272) 842740.

CANOESTORE

Canoestore's new sailing rig for open canoes is now available. The CS3 has initially been designed to fit the whole range of Coleman canoes, however differing attachment parts can be supplied for many others. The rig is designed to be stowed permanently on the canoe, the whole assembly packing inside one 5 foot mast. The sail is attached to a topspar, controlled by one rope in front of the seat. The manufacturers claim that assembly of the rig takes less than 5 minutes, on or off the water, and once assembled the sail takes 2 seconds to hoist. £240 from *Canoestore, Emsworth, Hampshire* Demonstration unit available.



Premier paddler Pete Astles (pictured above) has joined forces with John Day (Concept Designs) and Keith Hampton.

The three have formed a limited company, under the title name of Peak, to market, design and manufacture both Concept Designs canoes and kayaks and Peak Performance Racewear. The objective is to offer the competition canoeist a complete range of quality equipment which will be constantly improved and tested. The picture shows Pete using a Concept boat and Peak Performance cagoule and buoyancy aid;

PERCEPTION PADDLES

Perception's customers can now co-ordinate their kayaks with a RIM paddle made especially for Perception by the well know 'Moll Paddler' company. The paddles have black curved blades, reaction injection moulded and customised with the blue Perception logo. The alloy shaft extends into the blade for added strength. Perception have also begun stocking a portable Bilge Pump with a floating collar, and rear buoyancy bags incorporating a 27 x 40cm storage compartment. Items can be packed into the storage areas without deflating the bag. Available singly or in pairs.

DCS BACKSTRAPS

Every canoeist knows how important a kayak backstrap can be, bracing the body firmly into the boat. But they also know how difficult it can be to find a backstrap to fit many designs of canoe.

Dawson Canoeing Systems have solved the problem with the UNIVERSAL BACK-STRAP. This comfortable padded back-strap comes in a kit form, with all the bolts, brackets and fixings required to fit 99% of boats sold. Only a drill and screwdriver are needed, with no need to remove the seat from the boat.

Plans are in hand to complete the range with decline and boat padding kits. Details from Simon Dawson (Nottingham 0602 868803).

THE SEA TIGER

After complaints from the British Association of Canoe Traders about the advertising of the Sea Tiger, the BCU held a joint Tribunal of the National Coaching and Sea Touring Committees. The tribunal has now reported and copies of its findings are available from the BCU office - please send an SAE.

ALL CHANGE IN NOTTINGHAM

Are there no limits to the activities at Current Trends? As well as providing a new home for BCU Supplies (see article opposite), the latest news from Holme Pierrepont is that two of the most familiar names in canoeing are joining forces; Current Trends and, yes you've guessed it, No Limits. No Limits currently are retailing a range of canoeing, activity and leisure wear from their shop in West Bridgford, Nottingham, while Current Trends provides a canoe school and clubhouse facility at Holme Pierrepont. But from November this year, the two will combine to form 'No Limits at Current Trends Limited', based at Current Trends. This new venture is an exciting development in the success stories of both No Limits and Current Trends, aiming to provide unbeatable facilities for watersports enthusiasts at Holme Pierrepont.

THE CURRENT TRENDS STORY

1990 has been far from 'just another year' at Current Trends in Nottingham. In January, there was a change of ownership, with Mike Devlin, Graham Wardle and Pete Espin taking over from Frank Goodman and it seems as though the year will end in the same way that it started - exploring new initiatives and expanding the Current Trends image.

BCU Supplies Incorporated

Up to the moment headlines from Current Trends are that from 1 September 1990, the Current Trends Mail Order facility has been in operation, incorporating BCU Supplies. Lines currently on offer will be expanded and improved over the coming months - see the new listing in this edition of Focus.

Liaison with the British Canoe Union early in the year enhanced the already well established range of structured, professionally run courses designed to meet the needs of those wishing to get the most out of such a versatile sport.

Autumn/Winter Programme

The Autumn/Winter programme is available now, with many intermediate training opportunities, advanced proficiency assessments in both kayak and open canoe, Instructor, Senior Instructor, Rescue, Lifesaving and First Aid courses all on offer.

Looking forward to 1991, a similarly outstanding range of courses are on offer, such as 'Adventure Paddling' courses in Europe and further afield, which offer something of interest not just



to the water addict, but to those with interests in wildlife, recreation and the environment. During the Easter holidays, a week of coaching course activity will be taking place. This will include schools and clinics in Basic Skills, Safety and Rescue, Instructor and Senior Instructor.

Further details on any of the courses or new ventures at Current Trends can be obtained by telephoning 0602 818844, or by writing to them at Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS.

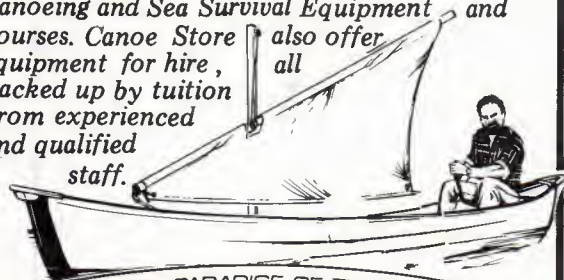
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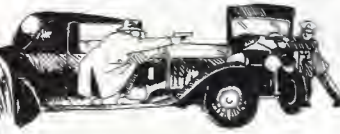
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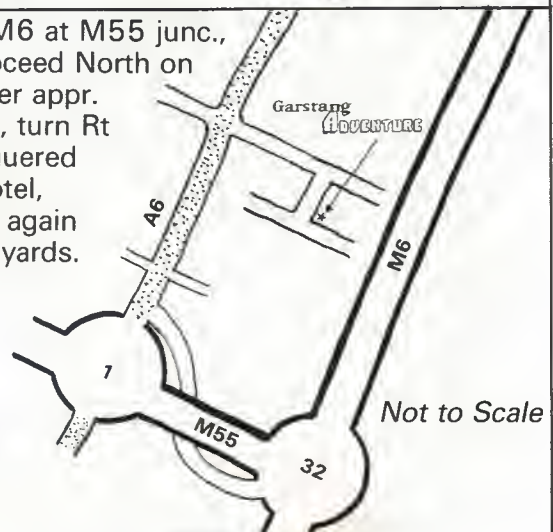
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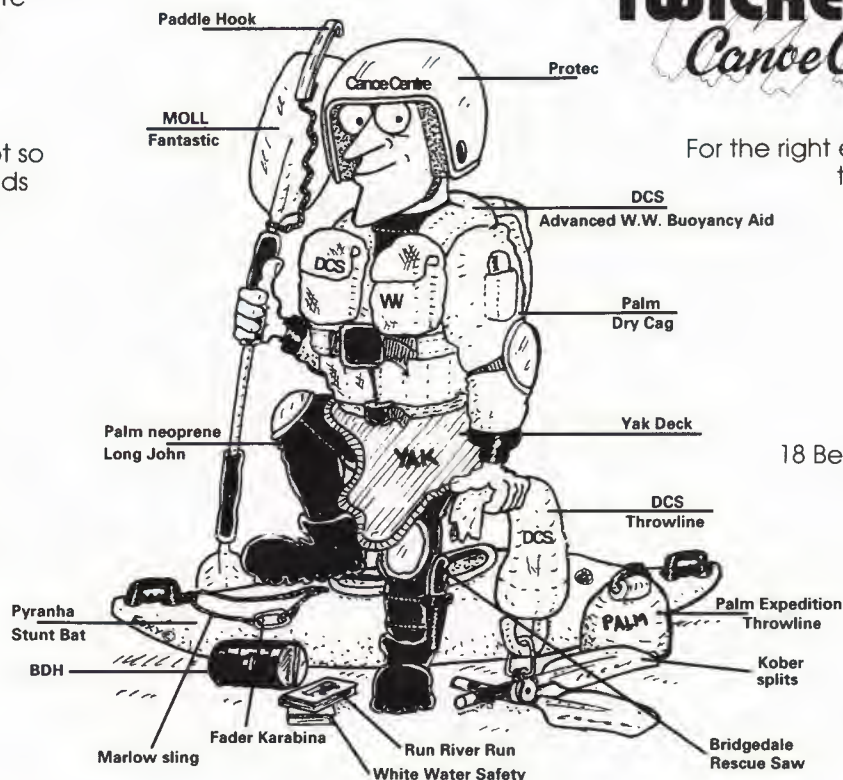
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COMPETITION FOCUS

Racing

WORLD RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sprint racing can now boast another two World Champions: Ivan Lawler and Grayson Bourne won the Gold Medal in the K2 10,000m race on the last day of competition in Poznan, Poland.

A Textbook Race

They paddled a text book race, Ivan always had the boat in the right place at the right time, playing the V washes superbly during the middle part of the race, conserving energy and avoiding as much of the trouble as possible. Then, during the fourth short lap they started their challenge for the lead. With 2000m to go they squeezed the New Zealanders off the Swedish side wash, giving them the commanding inside position for the remaining bends. At the penultimate turn they took the lead and held it. The final 500 metres was the most exciting finish to a 10,000 metre race for years with four boats half a length behind Ivan and Grayson challenging for the Gold medal. Graysons years of training and experience was the key now, he just wasn't going to let anyone past and he didn't. It was a great race.

Improvement in Ladies' Results

As expected, our other notable results were in the Ladies 5,000m events. The K2 crew of Alison Thorogood and Sandra Troop were placed 6th in their race, an improvement of two places over last years result. If they stay together and continue to improve, they could win our first Ladies World Championship medal next year. Andrea Dallaway was placed 7th in the ladies K1 5,000m event, an improvement of three places over last year. Andrea is only 20 years of age; she is going to be very good indeed.

Britain's Gold Medallists; Ivan Lawler and Grayson Bourne



Notable result: Alison Thorogood and Sandra Troop

Fastest British Time Ever

On paper our results in the 500 and 1,000m Olympic events look disappointing; none of our boats reached the finals. However the results were a considerable improvement on last year. Many of our paddlers produced personal best times and we were much closer to making finals this year in the Mens K2 and the Ladies events especially. Ivan and Grayson produced the fastest ever British time with 3.19.64 in the K2 1000, missing the final by just half a second.

For the record -

Of the nine mens kayak gold medals only three were won by western nations; France, Norway and ourselves. Russia collected four of the remainder.

Britain now has 5 World Champions in sprint racing. In 1992 Ivan and Grayson could be making canoeing history as Britain's first Olympic Champions.

Steve Jackson.

Results

Men C2 1000m 1st Ulrich Papke/Ingo Spelly GDR, 2nd Vasile Lehaci/Gheorghe Andriev ROM, 3rd Iurly Gurim/Alexandr Gramowitch URS.
Womens K4 500m 1st Anke Seck Von/Ramona Portwich/Heike Rabenon/Silke Bull GDR, 2nd Rita Koban/Eva Donusz/Erika Meszaros/ Henriett Huber HUN, 3rd Katrin Borcheri/Monika Bunke/Catrin Fischer/Marcela Bednar FRG. (3rd in Semi-Final Lawler/Dallaway/Troop/Thorogood GBR)
Men K4 1000m 1st Ferenz Csipes/Laszio



Fidel/Attuka Abraham/Zsolt Gyulai HUN, 2nd Alexandr Motuzenko/Sergey Kalesnik/Anatolly Tischenko/Sergey Kirsanov GDR, 3rd Kai Bluhm/Torsten Gutsche/Andre Wohillebe/Torsten Krentz GDR.
Men C1 10,000m 1st Z Bohacs HUN, 2nd J Bartunek TCH, 3rd I Klementien URS, 9th S Train GBR.
Men K4 10,000m 1st URS, 2nd POL.
Men C2 500m 1st Victor Reneiskiy/Nikolay Zhuravskiy URS, 2nd Ulrich Papke/Ingo Spelly GDR, 3rd Gyorgy Zala/Attila Palies HUN.
Men K4 500m 1st Alexandr Motuzenko/Andrey Plitkin/Oleg Gorobi/Sergey Kirsanov URS, 2nd Uwe Munich/Andreas Stahle/Mathias Hoppe/Andre Wohllebe GDR, 3rd Bela Petrovics/Ferenz Csipes/Gyula Kajner/Attila Abraham HUN.
(Sixth Semi-Finalist Maycock/Maycock/Quittenton/Horsley)
Men K1 1000m 1st Knut Holeman NOR, 2nd Maciej Freinut POL, 3rd Phillippe Boccara FRA.
(Fifth Rep R Burgess GBR)
Men C1 1000m 1st Ivan Kiementley URS, 2nd Gyorgy Zala HUN, 3rd Thomas Zereske GDR. (Fifth Semi-Finalist S Train)
Men K2 1000m, 1st Kai Blohm/Torsten Gutsche GDR, 2nd Vladipir Bobreshov/Arturas Veta URS.
(Fifth Semi-Finalist Lawler/Bourne GBR)
Men K1 500m 1st Sergey Kalesnick URS, 2nd Mike Herbert USA, 3rd Martin Hunter AOS.
Men K2 500m 1st Sergey Kalesnik/

Anatolly Tischenko URS, 2nd Mike Herbert/Terry Kent USA, 3rd Kai Bluhm/Torsten Gusche GDR.
Women K1 500m 1st Josefa Idem ITA, 2nd Yvonne Knudsen, 2nd Yvonne Knudsen DEN, 3rd Katrin Brochert FRG.
Women K2 500m 1st Seck Von/Portwich GDR, 2nd Donusz/Meszaros HUN, 3rd Borchert/Bunke FRG.
Men C1 500m 1st Mikhail Slivinskiy URS, 2nd Thomas Zereske GDR, 3rd Nikolay Bouchalov BUL

JEREMY WEST TROPHY

The Finals of the Jeremy West Trophy were held over the weekend of August 3-5 in conjunction with the Junior European Championships at Holme Pierrepont. This was a new event this year, organised on a regional basis to promote sprint events in local areas.

Results

Thames Area 165 points 1st, South East Area 153 points 2nd, West Midlands Area 143 points 3rd, Eastern Area 126 points 4th, Southern Area 84 5th, Mid Midlands Area 48 6th, Northern Area 12 7th.

Alex Martin and Anthony Crowther took third place at the Junior European Championships held at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham on August 3 - 5. Pictured here, Alex and Anthony with their coach Doug Saxby



Results

Men K1 500m 1st Oscar Pozo ESP, 2nd Zvonimir Krznaric YUG, 3rd Eric Preaux FRA.

Men C1 500m 1st Jiri Neander TCH, 2nd Jose-M Crespo ESP, 3rd Michael Pauli, 6th Mark Train GBR, 7th Tom Love GBR.

Women K1 500m 1st Maria Haglund SWE, 2nd Jenny Lundgren SWE, 3rd Belen Sanchez ESP.

Men K2 500m 1st Pozo/Garcia ESP, 2nd Turza/Erban TCH, 3rd Penetra/Monteiro POR, 9th Hibberd/Wynne GBR.

Men C2 500m 1st Martinez/Besada ESP, 2nd Muller/Szczecinski FRG, 3rd Lanselle/Krydywck, 6th Love/Thomas GBR.

Women K2 500m 1st Mirau/Lilie FRG, 2nd Sanchez/Pavon ESP, 3rd Thirion/Michaut FRA.

Men K4 500m 1st Heuser/Driehorst/Ferraro/Hausotter FRG, 2nd Turza/Kadnar/Erban/Nahlik TCH, 3rd Pozo/Garcia/Suarez/Hernandez ESP, 9th Hibberd/Wynne/Richardson/Hobrough GBR.

Men C4 500m 1st Besada/Besada/Crespo/Ricon ESP, 2nd Eschelbach/Gartner/Huller/Szczecinski FRG, 3rd Noyen/Metairie/Lanselle/Krydywck FRA, 4th Martin/Crowther/Love/Thomas GBR.

Women K4 1000m 1st Mirau/Gehrmann/Holle/Schumacher FRG, 2nd Thirion/Bailhoux/Cheminel/Gosselin FRA, 3rd

Edhag/Moore/Pettersson/Svensson SWE, 5th Davey/Kelly/Hynds/Gilby GBR.

Men K1 1000m 1st Eric Preaux FRA, 2nd Lars Jorgensen DEN, 3rd Torgeir Toppe NOR.

Men K2 1000m 1st Kadnar/Erban TCH, 2nd Penetra/Monteiro POR, 3rd Moorsel/Weyer BEL, 9th Hibberd/Wynne GBR.

Men C2 1000m 1st Crespo/Ricon ESP, 2nd Muller/Szczecinski FRG, 3rd Martin/Crowther GBR.

Men C1 1000m 1st Jiri Neander TCH, 2nd Michael Pauli FRG, 3rd J-Gilles Grare FRA, 5th Alex Martin GBR, 7th Mark Train GBR.

Women K4 500m 1st Mirau/Gehrmann/Holle/Schumacher FRG, 2nd Cheminel/Thirion/Bailhoux/Gosselin FRA, 3rd Inglesias/Pavon/Vina/Doval ESP, 4th Davey/Kelly/Hynds/Gilby GBR, 5th Train/Fowler/Campbell/Bennett GBR.

Women K1 1000m 1st Maria Haglund SWE, 2nd Belen Sanchez ESP, 3rd Jenny Lundgren SWE.

Men K4 1000m 1st Turza/Kadnar/Erban/Nahlik TCH, 2nd Heuser/Driehorst/Ferraro/Hausotter FRG, 3rd Larsen/Heering/Faurskov/Jorgensen DEN.

Men C4 1000m 1st Martinez/Besada/Crespo/Ricon ESP, 2nd Eschelbach/Gartner/Muller/Szczecinski FRG, 3rd Martin/Crowther/Love/Thomas GBR (disqual.)

Women K2 1000m 1st Sanchez/Pavon ESP, 2nd Mirau/Lilie FRG, 3rd Moore/Edhag SWE, 10th Hynds/Gilby GBR.

Men K1 5000m 1st Torgeir Toppe NOR, 2nd Z Krznaric YUG, 3rd Jozef Turza TCH, Steve Jensen GBR, 12th Paul Ilson GBR.

Men C1 5000m 1st J-Gilles Grare FRA, 2nd S Besada ESP, 3rd Jiri Neander TCH, 5th

Tom Love GBR, 6th Renny Thomas.

Women K1 5000m 1st Maria Haglund SWE, 2nd Anne Michaut FRA, 3rd Hege Brannsten NOR, 12th Helen Gilby, 13th Claire Hynds GBR.

Men K2 5000m 1st Penetra/Monteiro POR, 2nd Kadnar/Erban TCH, 3rd Alvares/Hernandez, 5th Richardson/Hobrough GBR, 9th Hibberd/Wynne GBR.

Men C2 5000m 1st Crespo/Ricon ESP, 2nd Martinez/Larrocha ESP, 3rd Muller/Szczecinski FRG, 7th Train/Crowther GBR.

Women K2 5000m 1st Edhag/Lundgren SWE, 2nd De Prins/Winters BEL, 3rd Thirion/Bailhoux FRA, 9th Davey/Kelly GBR.

Men K4 5000m 1st Kadnar/Turza/Erban/Nahlik TCH, 2nd Cordobes/Moreno/Munoz/Vegar ESP, 3rd Caille/Duhamel/Semeels/Martineau, 6th Ilson/Slater/Yates/Bradbury GBR.

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WWR DATES

The WWR Yearbook is arriving soon! If you haven't seen a copy yet Wild Water Racing dates for this season ARE:

October 13 Washburn I Div BOT, Sheffield CC, P Sleney, 9 Springfield Avenue, Millhouses, Sheffield S7 2GA.

October 14 Trent Holme Pierrepont Div CO, Nottingham KC, D Belbin, 14 Eckington Terrace, The Meadows, Nottingham NG2 2FT.

October 20 Welsh Confined Wild Water Racing Championships, Details from N Dallimore (see below).

October 21 Teifi Div BCO, Cardiff CC, N Dallimore, 3 Gilian Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF4 2PZ.

October 21 Ironbridge Div COT U14/16, Telford CC, T Gatford, 28 Portobello Close, The Rock, Telford TF3 5DB.

October 27 Washburn II Div BO RT, Leeds CC, W Fraser, 27 Marshall Terrace, Crossgates, Leeds LS15 8EA.

October 28 Wharfe Div CO RT, Leeds CC, as above.

November 3/4 Dee I Div BOT Regional Champs, Llangollen CC, N Pink, 5 Penry Street, Rhos, Clwyd LL14 1DF.

Saturday: National Championship Presentations

November 4 Great Ouse Div CO U14/16, Huntingdon CC, E Jones, 16 Dovehouse Close, Godmanchester, Huntingdon PE18 8DY.

November 4 Clyde I Div CO, Strathclyde University Canoe Club, A Pennycuik, Athletic Union, 90 John Street, Glasgow G1 1JH. (please write cheques in full).

November 11 Tees I Div BO, West Yorkshire CC, A Barber, Wexford, Barton Lane, Armthorpe, Doncaster

DN3 3AB.

November 11 Lower Wye Div CO, Gloucester CC, I Palmer, 8 Farrant Ave, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2BP.

November 11 Mersey Div CO U14/16, Manchester CC, J King, 38 Churchill Cres, Marple, Stockport SK6 6HL.

November 11 Royal Dee Div BCOI, Aberdeen University CC, N Turner, 3 Earlswell Place, Cults, Aberdeen AB1 9LG. (please write cheques in full).

November 17 North Tyne Div BCO, Dunelm CC, M Armstrong, 7 Dryburn Park, Durham Moor, Durham DH1 5AD.

November 17/18 Dart Div BO RT English Open, G Sellwood, 44 Stanford Close, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3XZ.

November 18 Eden Div BCO, Lakeland CC, J Stilling, 11 Carlingdale, Burneside, Kendal LA9 6PW.

November 18 Thistlebrig I Div CO, Central Region CC, W Gray, 26 Arkaig Drive, Crossford, Dunfermline KY12 8YB.

November 24/25 Dee Llangollen British Universities Sports Federation Wild Water Racing Championships.

November 25 Dee University Champs Div BO, Birmingham University, N Smith, 11 Croydon Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 7BP, no practising during the university event.

December 1 Lower Tees Div BCOT, Barnard Castle CC, L Smith, 44 The Bank, Barnard Castle, Co Durham DL12 8PN.

December 2 Tees II Div BO, West Yorkshire CC, A Barber, Wexford, Barton Lane, Armthorpe, Doncaster DN3 3AB.

December 2 Upper Trent Div CO, Stafford & Stone CC, M Mantle, 3

Princefield Ave, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG.

December 8 Nith Div B, RAFCA, D Peel, P'Ed Sqn, RAF Halton, Aylesbury.

December 8/9 Dee II Div BO RT, Llangollen CC, N Pink, 5 Penry Street, Rhos, Clwyd LL14 1DF.

The 1990/91 season has all the Div A races scheduled for the Spring on rivers where we are more assured of good flow. During the winter the Team Event Championships will be contested; year books and entry forms are available from Hazel Tordoff, 15 Eastcott Close, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4QL.

WORLD CUP DATES 1991

March 31 Eyrieux, France

April 1-5 Tour de Corse

April 4 Tavignano Corsica

June 8 Spittal Austria

Aug 11 Ocoee Tennessee USA

Aug 13 Ocoee Tennessee USA

Three results from these races will count towards World Cup positions. The Ocoee race site is part of the Atlanta bid for the Olympic Games and this bid will include Wild Water Racing.

WINTER SQUADS

The Wild Water Racing National Squads for the winter have now been selected. The teams are:

Mens K1

Neil Stamps, Alan Tordoff, Robin

Murray, Ian Tordoff, Neil Blackman, Tim Suggett.

Ladies K1

Julie Ashton, Gill Berrow, Tina Parsons, Karen Porter, Nicola Weaver, Andrea Clayton, Katie Watt, Cynthia Berry, Shirley Bain, Claire Daniels.

C1

Steve Wells, Mackon Singh, James Wingfield, Nick Pink, Ross Pearton.

C2

Clough/Clough, Simpson/Twigger

LOOKING AHEAD

With the newly restructured calendar and the good results obtained over the World Cup Series of Races, hopes for British Successes in 1991 at the World Championships in Bovec Yugoslavia June 14-16, are very high. We currently have proven the Womens squad has a great deal of depth and individuals are beginning to show through in high quality competition. 1990's results from Julie Ashton, Gill Berrow and Karen Porter give a lot of encouragement for team and individual medals. The C2's although small in number are also getting encouraging results. 1991 is shaping up very well for Wild Water Racing.

If anyone is interested in the activities of the Wild Water Racing Team then contact John Handyside, Glebe Farm, Colston Gate, Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire NG12 3JX.

This offer is open to paddlers, coaches, parents, drivers, or general team supporters who may only wish to go to the World Championships to watch. All support counts, feel free to join in.

John Handyside

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Polo



Ladies Polo Clinic

Moathouse Centre, Dudley

Only £20, including coaching, accomodation and mid-day meals. Organised by GB ladies squad coach, Dave Brown.

All individuals/teams welcome.

As well as a chance for female polo players to improve their skills and tactics, the weekend has been arranged to identify possible members of the 1991 GB teams and raise funds for the squad.

With video analysis, advice from GB team coaches AND special guest coach, a javelin thrower to improve your throwing skills!

Places are limited to 40, first come, first served, so book yours early. Contact Dave Brown, 109 Whitchurch Road, Chester CH3 5QD (0244) 335586.

Any profits will go to the GB ladies' squad.

POLO AGM

Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting of The Canoe Polo Committee to be held at the National Water Sports Centre Holme Pierreport on Sunday 6 January 1991 at 12 noon.

Motions for the meeting should be signed by two members entitled to vote at the meeting and should be received by the secretary by 6 November 1990. Proxy forms can be obtained from 1 December upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope from the Secretary. Completed proxy forms should be returned at least 7 days prior to the meeting, to the Secretary, 73 Dunlin Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 6LX.

EVERYTHING FOR THE CANOEIST



IEPER CANOE POLO TOURNAMENT

Several British teams travelled to Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium for the Avasco Canoe Polo Tournament over August Bank Holiday.

Thirty Open entries were divided into 1st and 2nd Divisions of 15 teams; 3 groups of 5 in each division. It was good to see some youth teams at an international and their event and the ladies were run as two leagues with the 1st and 2nd teams then playing a Final against each other.

Teams from Finland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia joined the more local teams from Holland, Belgium and Germany (no entries from France). From Britain were a large Scottish contingent (2 Open, 2 Youth and 1 Ladies team), the Great Britain men's B & C and Ladies B teams and club teams Merton, Humbersiders, Kingston and St Albans.

By the end of Saturday all the mini-league matches in the 2 Open divisions had been played. In Div.1 Finland, List and G.B. 'B' went through to the semi-finals with the 4th place to be decided from a play off between the 2nd placed teams on the Sunday. G.B. 'C' were the eventual winners of this only to find they'd been drawn against G.B. 'B'. A hard fought game saw the 'B' team win 2-0 and with the Finns beating List 2-0. The Final was set up for later that afternoon. In the 3rd/4th play-off List beat the 'C' team 2-1.

In Division 2 Merton and Humbersiders both won their groups but once again the 2 British teams were drawn together in the semi. Merton threw away a 2 goal lead in the second half and the match went to a penalty shoot out which Humbersiders won, putting them through to meet Essen in their Final. Merton met Liblar, the other defeated semi-finalist in the 3rd/4th play-off and the match went to penalties before Merton clinched 3rd place.

In the Youth league Scotland A and B drew 1-1 and were eventually placed 1st and 2nd respectively. They went on to play the Final which Scotland A won 2-0.

The 7 ladies teams were of extremely mixed ability and some high scores were recorded. St Albans and G.B. 'B' being by far the strongest teams it was soon

obvious they'd be the top 2 teams and battling it out in the Final. St Albans took an early lead before the G.B. team equalised prior to half time and in the second half went 2 goals further ahead before the G.B. team rallied and put on the pressure to equalise 3-3 at full time.

In extra time St Albans took the lead again but a corner in the dying seconds with the St Albans defence in disarray led to a last gasp equaliser and a penalty shoot out which decided the game in St Albans favour.

The second division final between Humbersiders and Essen was a fast, exciting end to end game. The match was evenly balanced until the final minute when, with the score at 3-3, Humbersiders scored the winning goal.

In the Div 1 final the game got off to a disastrous start for the British team. The Finns fast, aggressive play caught the G.B. team on the hop. Some of the refereeing decisions were so questionable that the crowd was soon making its feelings clear. The Finns were 2 goals up when George Spittall was blatantly fouled, shooting at an undefended goal. The Finn got a yellow card but no penalty was awarded. Shortly afterwards with everyone yelling for obstruction on the goalkeeper the 3rd Finnish goal was allowed and at 3-0 it seemed we were fighting a lost cause. Somehow this last piece of unfairness seemed to fire up the G.B. players and at half time they'd clawed 1 goal back. In the second half The GB team played with far greater assurance and rhythm and suddenly the Finns were rattled. Two superb goals brought the scores level at 3-3. The Finns scored again but another equaliser just before the final whistle meant extra time to play. In extra time the British team had much of the play but the vital goal eluded them and penalties were taken. With the penalty score level at 4-4 after the first round, the distance was increased for sudden death. The Finnish player missed, Brian Moore went on to score and made sure of a G.B. victory.

Apart from criticisms concerning refereeing standards the whole weekend passed in a pleasant, friendly atmosphere and the organisers are to be congratulated for their efforts in organising 40 teams and matches on 4 pitches in such an efficient way.

Valerie Vessey

Marathon

National Marathon Championships

The 1990 British Marathon Championships took place over a scorching August Bank Holiday on the River Severn at Worcester. There were events for all ages and Divisions, with courses of varying length and difficulty; the elite course being over 15 miles with two portages and two weir shoots. The first weir shoot was particularly testing, and proved to be the downfall of Guy Dresser (Royal CC), leading in the mens' K1 race. Having

smashed up his boat, Guy was forced to retire, leaving Duncan Blythe (Royal) and Paul Wells, (Richmond) in control of the race, with Chris Bland (Fladbury) close behind. Coming up to the finish, it was still neck and neck between the leading pair, with Duncan just pulling away in the sprint for the line - proving that he is still a force to be reckoned with, despite having missed selection for the World Championships held the previous month. Paul Wells second, Chris Bland third.

After his disappointment in the K1 event, Guy Dresser came back with a vengeance on Day

two, winning his first National title, with Paul Wells (mens K2). Having also failed to make the team for the Worlds, Guy too could be said to have been "a man with a mission".

The ladies events were unfortunately depleted in numbers, with many of the top performers competing in Poland. Jackie Eastwood (Leaside) was in a class of her own: even the first weir did not succeed in intimidating her and she dominated the race (ladies K1) from start to finish. Patricia Davey (Richmond) second, Tina Parsons (Nottingham) third. Again, in the ladies K2, Jackie Eastwood was very much in evidence, partnered by Patricia Davey, the pair won the event very easily indeed. Second Parsons/Bain of Nottingham.

TRENT K2 RACE

Nottingham Kayak Club are running a new race on the Trent in December for K2s only. The Trent K2 will be on Sunday 9 December 1990. 18 miles downstream from Kings Mills, Castle Donington to Nottingham with 3 portages. Provided that there are at least 3 entries per class, there will be separate classes and prizes for Seniors (A), Seniors (B), Ladies, Juniors, Junior Ladies, Veterans, U16 Boys, U16 Girls. Cost: £2.50 per seat. *Race entries to George Oliver, 10 Wordsworth Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham*

MARATHON AGM.

The AGM has been brought forward to November 17th at Exeter, coinciding with the Exe Descent weekend.

MARATHON EVENTS 1991

Venues have now been fixed for the 1991 National Championships and Hasler Finals. These will take place at Nottingham and Ironbridge respectively.

Photographs Bill Dodwell



Mens K2. Guy Dresser on the way to his first National title



Shirley Bain and Tina Parsons - second Ladies K2



Still crazy, after all these years..... Trevor Bailey (BCU Director) and Alan Laws (Marathon Committee Chairman starting the Div8/9 event - yes they did complete the course!

World Marathon Championships



Copenhagen
July 28 - 29

The second World Marathon Championships, were host to competitors from 24 countries, including strong and well-equipped Eastern bloc teams and one of the strongest teams Britain has fielded for years; defending C2 champions Steven and Andrew Train, 1988 K2 silver medallists Lawler and Burns, 1989 World Cup K1 medallist Anna Ballard and the consistent Paul Wells (mens' K1). Also in K1 - Jackie Eastwood, widely tipped for a medal.

Denmark too were fielding strong paddlers in virtually every class, and Hungary was expected to make the going tough. The great unknowns, the GDR and the Soviet Union, were also likely to provide some possible medallists.

The Mens K2

A shining example of British sportsmanship.

Britain lost the match but won the sportsmanship trophy. It could have been the World Cup in Football, but it was also to be the outcome of the 1990 Marathon Canoeing Championships. Ivan Lawler and Graham Burns, striving to beat the defending champions Nielsen and Koch on the Danish paddlers' home ground, battled it out with the Danes throughout the 26 mile race; despite some early breaks and some superb tactical paddling they just didn't quite get away. Britain's second mens' pair of Chris Ballard and Greg Slater struggled early on, but grafted back up to the front group after the second portage. British supporters waited with baited breath. Could Britain possibly win two medals in the same event?

After the last portage, favourites Nielsen and Koch bent their rudder, losing all steering.



Alison Thorogood and Sandra Troop - Britain's K2 pair

A bank stop would have lost them the race for sure, but Ivan Lawler, in the best traditions of amateur sportsmanship, straightened the rudder for them, not seizing the chance that was thrust upon them to beat the Danes. Despite a valiant attempt at the final turn, the British pair could not pass the defending champions, who beat them on the line by a narrow margin. The race produced Britain's first medal of the championships, as well as yet another personal best performance, this time by the Lichfield crew of Slater/Ballard who beat many top crews to finish fourth.

The Mens K1

Wells' remarkable recovery
With 1988 champion John Jacoby absent, there was no clear favourite for the title. Britain's contenders; Paul Wells (Richmond Canoe Club) and Oliver Morgan (Nottingham) were both hoping to reach the top ten.

The first section on the regatta course saw the two Britons struggle somewhat with the fast pace set by a Pole Lewandowicz. By the canal section, Wells was about thirty seconds behind the leaders. Olly Morgan was experiencing problems with his forerarm and had to retire at the halfway point. The penultimate portage, over 300 metres long, was critical. Paul Wells' portaging expertise shone through, and he caught up the front group; the unknown Hungarian, Petrovics, and the Swede, Stefan Gustavson were neck and neck behind Claus Rohr, the least fancied of the two Danes. 2500 metres later and the young Hungarian just had the edge on the Swede, with Paul Wells fourth. Paul's remarkable recovery was no mean achievement in such a strong field.

The Ladies K2

Troop/Thorogood in fourth
Just 12 boats were in contention; with two British entries

Thorogood/Troop and Dallaway/Lawler.

Two Hungarian pairs set the pace for the first 10,000 metres, with Sandra Troop and Alison Thorogood and the Czechs bouncing along on their washes, Jan Lawler and Andrea Dallaway dropped to the second group after struggling on the first portage. Sandra and Alison battled on in fourth and when third-placed Czechoslovakia broke their rudder at the penultimate portage it seemed as if they might make the ground up to take a medal. But the Czechs made it to the finish - no mean feat - and Troop/Thorogood stayed in fourth place, with the second British pair of Dallaway/Lawler in fifth, four and six minutes off the winning Hungarian crew, Erdod and Baranyai.

The Mens's C1

Rapturous applause for Danish winner

This was probably the highest class race of its kind ever held with Marcus Gohar, Britain's sole entrant. Marcus was rather outgunned on the first 10,000 metre leg; by the six mile mark he was 2 minutes behind the leaders (two Hungarians, a Pole and a Czech). The Dane Stig Jepsen, also over a minute down, managed to catch up by running the entire 1 mile canal section between two lakes. Marcus, meanwhile, worked consistently to improve from 12th place, slowly picking off the opposition.

At the front of the race, the Hungarians were unable to maintain their speed, and, once Jepsen began to assert himself, the leading group split up and dropped off, enabling Jepsen to pull over a minute out on the second placed Hungarian, Pal



The Train Brothers pulled back to 4th place

Petervari, finishing to rapturous applause from his home crowd. Marcus Gohar finished in 7th place, a notable result against such a high class field.

The Mens' C2

Superlative Performance

The Danish pair Nielsson and Frederiksen, already World 500m, 1000m and 10,000m champions, added yet another title to their collection winning by over 10 minutes, a superlative performance.

The Soviet Union, contesting marathon for the first time, collected a bronze medal, behind second-placed Hungarians Nadacdi and Gyursansky. Britain's Andrew and Steven Train, nursing a cold and having paddled C2 competitively only a few times in 1990 due to exam commitments, struggled over the first ten miles but steadily pulled their way through the field, to finish in fourth place.

The Ladies K1

So Near and yet so far

Hungarian Katalin Lakatos dominated the early stages, making a break early on with Jackie Eastwood, but the two were unable to stay away. By the 16 mile stage, the lead group was back to four paddlers. Jackie, perhaps feeling under pressure, exited the boat awkwardly at the third portage, filling up with water. By the time she had emptied, her rivals were over 300 metres away. Gritting her teeth, Jackie gave the spectators a performance to cheer as she grafted back.

By the end of the fourth portage, she was back in the

race. Another good portage at the grandstand, Jackie caught the leading two Kayaks; but there was to be no medal for her, she was outsprinted on the line. So near, yet so far, it was a story of what might have been Britain's first ladies kayak World Championships medal in a flatwater discipline. The race was won by Ingeborg Rasmussen, with Katalin Lakatos of Hungary squeezed into second place. Anna Ballard, Britain's second ladies K1 finished in twelfth position.

Special Prize for British K2's

The final medal tally was decisive, with six medals for Hungary, four for Denmark, two for the GDR and Czechoslovakia and one each for a number of others including Britain. Britain had the most fourth places of all the teams competing, and the fair play of our mens' K2 was, loudly praised by the Danish organisers, they were awarded a special prize and a generous money award from the sponsors, the Kuwaiti-owned Q8 petrol chain!

After Copenhagen, marathon racing stands firmly on its own two feet. No longer will sprint paddlers be able to "do the marathon" and hope to come home with medals. Britain's best performances were by those who had prepared well for the event, and with a long tradition of marathon racing in the UK, this can only be good for the future development of the sport.

Guy Dresser

Marathon Section
Compiled by Paul Owen

Slalom



Photograph Chris Worrall

BRIDGING THE GAP

East Midlands Region held a "low level slalom" on Holme Pierrepont - instead of their usual Regional Championships.

The idea was simple enough.. everyone from raw beginners in plastic boats to "stopper-hoppers" could come and have a go at a short Slalom course and see what it was all about- and they did... any age, any sex, and any size. The youngest competitor was under 12, and the oldest admitted to being over 50. The least experienced, a passing spectator whose "mates" volunteered him and paid his entry fee. First time ever in a canoe and he loved it.

There were two ten gate courses with plenty of practice time, one payment got you on the water. Rules were simple - stopwatch timing with five seconds added for any gate misses. Everyone had two runs, the times added together. The day went with a real swing, with excellent comradeship and support amongst the paddlers. For once there were no complaints about the course, the judging or the timing.

Quotes from the Day:-

Wasn't that great fun.

Now I never understand why these fools go around poles.

It was more skillful than I expected.

Makes a change from sitting in a stopper.

That's the first prize I have ever won.

Can I enter a real Slalom now.

Joe Mulholland.

MARRIOTT WINS PRE-WORLDS

Gareth Marriott of Nottingham, took first place in the C1 event at the Pre-World Championships at Tacen in Yugoslavia (September 1 - 2) beating world champion Jon Lugbill (USA) and Kaufman of FRG. This is nineteen year old Gareth's first senior

season following a successful career as a junior. Having won the Junior Worlds in 1988 he is now a serious contender for the senior title. Other notable British results came in the mens K1 from Andy Raspin of Guisborough - he came sixth, the best of the British results and was only included in the team at the last minute when Richard Fox withdrew.

Results

C1 1. I. Wiley (IRL) 2. L. Hilgert TCH 3. K. Rothermund SUI 6. A. Raspin 11. S. Pearce 17. M. Jones 25. 1 Raspin 27 R. Smith 41 D. Crosbee

K1 Ladies 1. C. Hearn USA 2. E. Micheler FRG 3. S. Hilgertova TCH 11 L. Simpson 14. R. Fox 17. M. Francis 18. C. Daniels 24 J. Jayes

C1 1. Gareth Marriott GB 2. S. Kaufman FRG 3. J. Lugbill USA 27. B. Horsman 32 R. Domoney 38 C. Wilson

C2 1. Simek/Rohan TCH 2. Benes/Kucera TCH 3. Matti/Matti SUI 5. Rouch Ambridge GB 8. Richardson/Thompson 9 Clough/Clough 11 Arrowsmith/Brain 12 Pitt/Millar 13 Meikle/Brown

Don't forget....

Llangollen Canoe Week 1990 -

Be a part of a great week in Wales. See the challenge of the Town Falls.

British Open Championships. British Junior Championships 20/21st October 1990

Followed by:

The English Inter Regional Championships and International Event on 27/28th October 1990.

supported by "Gales" of Llangollen

The Changing Face of Slalom.

Richard Fox describes the 1990 World Cup Series - and other stories!

1990 has seen the busiest international slalom season ever with more races, more paddlers and more countries participating on the circuit.

The changing face of slalom at the top level has meant that paddlers have had to be selective about which events to participate in. The Europa Cup events at Hohen Limburg and Merano in June, historically next in importance to the World Championships, missed the top American, French, Czech and British boats who favoured saving their energies for the more competitive and demanding World Cup races. In addition to the World Cup and Europa Cup was the newly formed Champion International Whitewater Series in the USA, sponsored by Champion, a major US paper company.

The injection of money into the sport has transformed the racing scene in North America, at least that is the outside impression. Paying cash prizes encourages the top athletes to race, spending money on media promotion and independent television production gives the sport a wider audience, encourages participation and creates a better atmosphere for high level racing. Who was it that said the only thing amateur about sport is the people who run it? The times are changing.

The World Cup was financially poorer than the Champion series, still no overall sponsor, but the racing was certainly rich, intense and for some at times, frustrating! The format this year was five races all of which counted. Points in every category have become harder to come by, and margins of victory smaller - a reflection of an all round improvement in the quality of paddling. It was the



Lisa Micheler
FRG - Mrs
Jones to be

Photograph Chris Worrall

year when all champions had their come uppance at one stage or another. Jon Lugbill retained his world title in C1 but was beaten at Bourg St Maurice and Tacen, not by his long time rival Davey Hearn but by Emanuel Brugvin of France and Martin Lang of Germany respectively. Gareth Marriott completed a hat-trick of European victories in C1 by winning the Pre Worlds at Tacen, a fine reward for some brilliant paddling throughout the season. Marriott finished fourth in the World Cup rankings and with more racing maturity could easily have come second.

In K1 The star was Pierpaolo Ferrazzi of Italy who won the final two World Cup events and took the title by four points. Between us Lubos Hilgert, "Ferarri" and I had quite a struggle. Every race was close and I can't help thinking of one hundredth of a second at the Savage or the protest at Wausau which was not upheld.... The Brits were the strongest kayak nation by far with four boats in the top 13. Also inside the top ten in 7th place was Peter Micheler, now paddling for Luxembourg after a dispute with his federation.

In K1W it was Mrs Fox (to be), Mrs Jones (to be but not quite so soon) and Mrs Hilgert (been there done it and got the kid to prove it) who took the honours. But the best performers of the series in any category had to be Simek and Rohan of Czechoslovakia in C2 with four emphatic wins out of 5.

The most talked about course on the circuit was Tacen, site of

the 1991 worlds with its newly redesigned slalom stadium. Not everyone was happy with the radical course design which featured a number of intimidating stoppers formed by ledges. In training, damage to equipment was heavy and the race results showed wide variations in performances as many paddlers struggled to cope with the surging water. The shorter course (120 seconds winning time) seems to be the trend for the next two years because the Olympic course at Seu d'Urgell has only 270 metres of white

water. If Tacen is anything to go by, shorter does not mean easier and paddlers will need to improve their strength, skill and concentration to cope with racing in high pressure slalom stadium on difficult waters. The sport has come a long way since the Olympics in 1972 where the winning time was 278 seconds. In those days paddlers used high volume boats, poles were hard to pass under, penalties stood at 10 seconds per pole and there were 30 gates including reverses. Now who's complaining!

Richard Fox

Results from Race 3 - Augsburg 11-12 August

K1 1. Martin Hemmer FRG 2. Lubos Hilgert TCH 3. Peter Micheler LUX 4. Richard Fox 6. Melvyn Jones GB 11. Ian Raspin GB 12 David Crosbee GB

K1 Ladies 1. E. Micheler FRG 2. K. Striepecke GDR 3. S. Hilgertova TCH 22. Maria Francis GB 25 L. Simpson GB

C1 1. Joe Lugbill USA 2. D. Hearn USA 3. C. Faloci FRA 5. G. Marriott GB 12. M. Delaney GB 29. B. Horsman GB

C2 1. Rohan/Simek TCH 2. Saidi/Delrey FRA 3. Forgues/Addison FRA

Results from Race 4 - Bourg St Maurice - 17 - 18 August

K1 Men 1. Pierpaolo Ferrazzi IT 2. Richard Fox GB 3. Lubos Hilgert TCH 6. Melvyn Jones GB 24 I. Raspin GB 26 D. Crosbee GB

K1 Ladies 1. Anne Boixel FRA 2. Myriam Jerulsalmi FRA 3. Stepanka Hilgertova TCH 11. Lynn Simpson GB 44. Maria Francis GB

C1 1. Emmanuel Brugvin FRA 2. Carlo Faloci FRA 3. David Hearn USA 9. Gareth Marriott GB 14 Mark Delaney GB 30 Bill Horsman GB

C2 1. Simek/Rohan TCH 2. Daille/Lelievre FRA 3. Stausbaugh/Jacobi USA 7 Meikle/Brown GB 17 Richardson/Thompson GB

Results from Race 5 - Tacen - 25 - 26 August

K1 Men 1. Pierpaolo Ferrazzi ITA 2. Martin Hemmer FRG 3. Richard Fox GB 5. Ian Raspin GB 27 Melvyn Jones GB

K1 Ladies 1. Zdenka Grossmannova TCH 2. Elisabeth Michela FRG 3. Eva Roth FRG 11. Maria Francis GB 21 Lynn Simpson GB

C1 1. Marting Lang FRG 2. Jon Lugbill USA 3. Oliver Weist FRA 5. Gareth Marriott 26 Bill Horsman 39. Mark Delaney

16. Meikle/Brown GB 18 Richardson/Thompson GB 19 Clough/Clough GB

Overall Rankings

K1 Men 1. Pierpalo Ferrazzi ITA 2. Richard Fox GB 3. Lubos Hilgert TCH 6. Melvyn Jones GB 11 Shaun Pearce GB 12 Ian Raspin GB

K1 Ladies 1. Myriam Jerulsalmi FRA 2. Lisa Micheler FRG 3. Stepanka Hilgertova TCH 10 Maria Francis GB

C1 1. Jon Lugbill USA 2. Carlo Faloci FRA 3. Davey Hearn USA 4. Gareth Marriott GB

C2C2 1. Rohan/Simek TCH 2. Saidi/Delrey FRA 3. Addison/Forgues FRA 20 Meikle/Brown GB.

FOX TRIUMPHS AGAIN

For fun and excitement, brilliant weather, and canoeing to match, the International Slalom that climaxed The Cavendish Finance Canoe 90 week couldn't have been equalled.

Its success was due entirely to the efforts of Richard Fox. His hard work, endurance and commitment had to be seen to be believed - and he was expected to paddle brilliantly as well.

Many other top International paddlers were present, including the Australian Junior Squad, who were using the event to prepare for the Junior World Championships in Switzerland.

The Slalom event was "different" with a blast of music that surrounded the paddlers at the "V" Stopper and "Muncher" areas of the course. Not everyone appreciated this, least of all the Scots, who thanks to a quick witted DJ were greeted on every run to a blast of "Scotland the Brave" and other famous Scottish ditties.

The course was interesting too, with gates over 6.0 metres

wide, carefully placed by course designer Alan Edge to test the minds as well as the skills of the best paddlers.

The Slalom Sprint on Sunday was probably the most exciting sprint racing event ever seen at Nottingham. A large crowd, basking in the sunshine, saw some excellent racing, full of thrills and spills, especially at the wide gate on the "muncher"

Many thanks to everyone who in their many different ways made Canoe 90 THE event of the year. Particularly the sponsors Cavendish Finance and Radio Trent. **Joe Mulholland**



Photographs by Chris Worrall (above) and Peter Hatter left



Canoe 90 Winners

Junior C1 1. Justin Boocock AUS 2. Joel Scott GB 3. Nathan Gray GB
Junior K1 Ladies 1. Claire Daniels GB 2. Corrie Johnstone BCU 3. Emma Player GB
Junior C2 Burt/Ellsworth GB
Junior K1 1. Peter Francis GB 2. Peter Buckley GB 3. Richard Macquire AUS
C1 1. Gareth Marriot GB 2. Richard Domoney ENG 3. Chris Wilson ENG
K1 Ladies 1. Lisa Micheler FRG 2. Lynn Simpson GB 3. Maria Francis GB
C2 1. Meikle/Brown GB 2. Rouch/Ambridge BCU 3. Clough/Clough GB
K1 1. Richard Fox GB 2. Melvyn Jones GB 3. Andrew Raspin ENG

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Regional Round Up

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have national canoe associations to represent the views of local paddlers. In England local views are represented by the nine regions on this page. As you may have seen from Helen Mullineux's report in August Canoe Focus, Council has voted the ERMC an increase of funding for the next year. The AGMs listed on this page are your chance to influence how this money is spent, to moan about the BCU, or help put matters right by offering your ideas and services.

Ron Hodgson.

EASTERN

White water training in the Eastern Region? Yes! At Cardington the water level and artificial rocks can both be adjusted to suit the requirements of any group. Paul West and team offer expert instruction, training and testing for those who need it on CASC multi activity days. Details of the next event from Paul on (0442) 50158.

Canoeing in the East of England? Trying a new river? Visiting or moving into the area? Get the Canoeists Guide to the East of England from Roger Hardman at £4 (see yearbook). To find out more about the efforts of all the BCU Eastern region voluntary workers and have your say, come along to the AGM - details on this page.

EAST MIDLANDS

A 'Gap in the Market'.... to encourage participation, and broaden the paddling experience, we are encouraging Regional Clubs/Groups to run low level events thereby making the various competitive disciplines of canoeing more accessible locally.

An experimental low level slalom was held on Holme Pierrepont for approximately 40 competitors. This event was fun, competitive and well worth repeating. Thanks to all who took part. We are offering help to any club/group to run a low level event anywhere in the Region, in the form of advertising, manpower and prizes. Why not have a go at organising a flat water slalom, mini-marathon, sprint, whitewater race or polo match - expert advice is to hand - ring Pearl on (0332) 558263.

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

The Regional Whitewater Training Weekend was held at Holme Pierrepont on 11-12 August. The water shortage made it necessary to be careful with releases down the course but over 160 people enjoyed the fine weather. There were opportunities for less experienced and more advanced paddlers, and the rescue and rafting sessions proved that canoes are not the only way to get down the course successfully.

Paddlers enjoyed good weather on the Basingstoke Canal Tour on Sunday 12 August. The lunch stop was diplomatically arranged to avoid returning directly through a fishing match.

The new RCO for London is Jerry Elsmore: Mayesbrook Lake Watersports Centre, c/o Westbury Centre, Ripple Road, Barking IG11 8QY.

SOUTHERN

Canoeing was one of over twenty sports involved in Rushmoor Borough Council's 'Olympics', on 14-15 July. Thanks to the hard work of the Basingstoke Canal, Blackwater Valley and RLP organisers, sponsorship from the NRA and enormous support from Rushmoor, we now have

a fine slalom and polo facility at Aldershot Lido. It is up to us to make good use of it (contact Jerry Rogers on 0344 775946). Congratulations also to the RLP, Windsor and Basingstoke & Deane paddlers who represented us at the Jeremy West finals on 4-5 August, taking fifth place. You may still have time to join our last two Thames tours: 7 October - Henley/Maidenhead and 4 November - Maidenhead/Runnymede (contact Ted Moulding on 0908 676343).

SOUTH WEST

The Region organised a BCU stand at Devizes on 8 August when HM The Queen opened the restored Kennet and Avon Canal. A successful 'Taster Session' in Canadian canoes operated during the afternoon, and official greetings from the Canal Trust were sent by relay teams of DW paddlers to the Mayors of Bristol and Reading. Thamesway Canoe Club arranged a sponsored team paddle over this section on 7 August and received good media publicity. The Committee would like to set up an inter club team event based on this experiment for next year.

We still need help with editing the Rivers and Coastal Guides. Coastal clubs will be asked to help with updating their local data.

NORTH WEST

Committee members recently took an exhibition stand to the 'Countryside Comes to Town' National Trust Exhibition in Salford. The purpose of the exhibition was to let city dwellers see some of the attractions of the countryside. Our stand showed flat water and whitewater touring. A number of enquiries were dealt with and leaflets distributed. The Region hopes to have a permanent exhibition stand to use throughout the Region. We are updating the Regional Development Plan; please contact the Chairman, Chris Bolton, if you can contribute.

The popular Ribble Tour is on Saturday 3 November. Mostly Grade 1-2. Groups need to provide their own qualified leader. Enquiries to Phil Ferguson (0204) 76767.

NORTHERN

Top priority is to get the region on a strong financial basis. The Sports Council are helping with a £1500 grant for 1990/91 to assist with

negotiation of access agreements and publicising them and tours. The 1991-1996 development plan is in an advanced stage of preparation whereby clubs and individual canoeists can achieve a clear united front. Exciting possibilities include the Tees Barrage and Slalom Course, Abbey Rapids development, cleaning up of the Derwent in Gateshead and the NRA mediating on access matters. Do support the Wildwater Racing series - full details in the WWR handbook. The next meeting of Northumbria canoeists is at 7.30pm on 8 October at Ouseburn Watersports Clubhouse, Quay Side, Newcastle.

WEST MIDLANDS

At Paddlers Day on 4 November at Sneyd School, Bloxwich there will be the club challenge multi-activity fun event - marathon, slalom, canadian wiggles, polo - team of four, entries to Peter Jones (021) 745 3415.

The 22 November AGM details are on this page. Further information from Malcolm Freeman on (021) 520 7861.

The Icebreaker Paddle is on 12 January 1991 from Malthouse Stables, Tipton. Five miles fun event in any boat with a winter barbeque.

Christmas get-together. Meet the regional committee and have a drink at the Mad O'Rourke Pie Factory pub Tipton on Tuesday 11 December. Contact Mike Nicholls for details (021) 360 2136.

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

Any BCU member in the Region without their free Regional Yearbook should contact Marianne Spender, Long Rigging Farm, Booth, Halifax HX2 6SZ. Extra copies £1 each.

The Region is actively seeking a voluntary public relations officer to help promote canoeing. Anyone interested, or knowing someone suitable, should contact David Gent (0484) 518913.

Two successful recreational weekends for non-competitive canoeists have been held this year on the River Washburn and, although the final evening cruise had to be cancelled due to lack of water, the success of the other four evening releases has ensured their continuation next year.

For our AGM at the Red Lion leave M62 at Exit 32 and go to Pontefract town centre where Market Place is on the left.

NOTICE FOR YOUR REGIONAL AGM

EASTERN	11 Dec 8pm	Homerton College, Cambridge
EAST MIDLANDS	26 Nov 7.30pm	Current Trends, Canoe School, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham
LONDON & SE	28 Nov 7.30pm	St Johns Middle School, Caterham
NORTHERN	22 Nov 7.30pm	The Blue Bell, Alston,
NORTH WEST	28 Nov 7.30pm	Mission Hall, Warren La, Woolston, Warrington
SOUTHERN	20 Nov 7pm	Marlow Community Centre, Liston Rd, Marlow
SOUTH WEST	30 Nov 7.30pm	YMCA, Friern Avenue, Bridgwater
WEST MIDLANDS	22 Nov 7.30pm	Malthouse Stables, Hurst Lane, Tipton
YORKS & HUMBERSIDE	6 Dec 7.30pm	Red Lion Hotel Market Place, Pontefract.

Motions and Nominations for officers and Regional Committee members for election at the AGM, signed by two BCU Individual Members entitled to vote must reach the Regional Committee Secretary at least 21 days before the date of the AGM. Most Regional Constitutions provide for the the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to be elected; also for two representatives of BCU Individual members to be elected; and for the Regional representatives to the Council of Management, and Specialist Committees whose constitutions provide for regional representation to be elected or approved at the AGM.

The Agenda for the AGM will be despatched to any BCU individual members and Regional Associates who provide the Regional Committee Secretary with a stamped addressed envelope at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. Agendas will be despatched to affiliated clubs without special request.

Regional Secretaries names and addresses are in the BCU Members' yearbook with the exception of the Eastern Region where its Chairman is covering a vacancy, and the North West Region where Roy Bradshaw has moved to 2 The Ceal Campstall, Stockport, SK6 5LQ

Noticeboard

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

Ever heard of Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship? They're unique. They enable UK citizens from all walks of life, irrespective of age or educational qualifications to undertake study projects overseas. Next year's categories include, 'Exploration and Adventure for Women', 'Training for Leadership' and 'Access and conservation in the Countryside'. The fellowships are open to absolutely anyone whose employment or personal interest involves them in one of the specified categories. A grant is awarded for 8 weeks to cover return air fares, daily living and travel expenses, insurance and essential equipment.

So if you have an idea for a project overseas, send for further information to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queens Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR. (Send a large SAE) closing date 29 October.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust also administer the Mike Jones Award, which is a grant awarded annually to a canoeing expedition. Awards usually cover a substantial part of the costs of the expedition and may be several thousand pounds! So if you have a serious trip in mind, this is definitely worth going for, details from address above. BCU Approval, given to a number of serious and committing expeditions each year is helpful when applying for this and other grant aid - details from the BCU Office (John Dudderidge House).

THE PAN GALACTIC CANOE RALLY

Keswick (Cumbria) 30 Nov - 2 Dec

This new event has been created as an alternative to the Mike Jones Rally, which is now being held in January. The organisers are aiming to avoid overcrowding at all costs and to achieve this access is being arranged to all the Cumbrian rivers for all or part of the weekend - a total of 300km, grades 1-5. All rivers will be timed zoned, am and pm and pre booking will be possible of particular sections. A whole range of special events are planned including lilo races, treasure hunts, squirt boating, rodeos, slide shows, lectures and Ceilidhs. Bookings (£2.50) to Alison Schofield, PGCR 90, 20 Orchard Street, Carlisle CA1 2JL. General enquiries to Alan Brenton, 20 Orchard Street, Carlisle CA1 2JL (0228) 45942 (Home) or (076) 884 209 (Work).

Don't forget there are also River Dee Tours on 10-11 November (WCA, Pen y Bont, Corwen, Clwyd, LL21 OEL), 17-18 November (M. Windsor, Llangollen Canoe Centre, Mile End Mill, Llangollen) and 12-13 January (Mike Jones Rally c/o Betws y Coed Sorting Offices, Betws y Coed, Gwynedd).



David Grant, CANI's newly appointed Development Officer (Canoe Association of Northern Ireland). David is based at the Northern Ireland Mountain Centre at Tollymore in County Down and his developmental work will initially be in the areas of competition and the transition from schools to clubs by young people. So if you have any ideas, suggestions or would like more information about the work he is doing, contact him on (039 67)22158.

WELSH WHITEWATER TOURS

Oct 13 & 27

West Midlands Region are again running their successful tours on the rivers Afon Vymwy and Clywedog. Water levels may be unpredictable or even non-existent (Severn Trent's 'guaranteed' release was 5 hours late in March). So it's essential to check the details with the organiser, Mike Hubbard, don't just turn up on the day and expect to paddle. The number to ring is (021) 356 7619 between 6 and 10pm on the Thursday evening before, to find out if there is any water and where.

OPEN CANOE SAILING

John Bull (of Solway Dory fame) has set up an Open Canoe Sailing Group. Not a club so much as a loose (excuse the pun) group of people interested in canoe sailing. The group will be organising races (of a light hearted nature), producing a newsletter and generally providing a forum for the exchange of ideas about rigs etc. There are no membership charges; printing, postage costs etc will be funded from the £3 race entry fee. If you'd like to be added to their mailing list, contact John Bull, Holme Lea, Kirkbride, Carlisle CA5 5HX.

RIVER LEVEN OPEN DAYS - Cumbria

Dates for this season are October 21, November 4, November 25, Jan 6, Feb 10, March 3 and March 17. Numbers on the water are limited to 60, bibs bookable by phone, max. 2 weeks in advance from Sten and Angela Sture (0229)66063. £1 per person plus bib deposit £5.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DONALD

Longstanding BCU member Donald Bean had his 70th birthday recently. He celebrated his 58th year of canoeing by paddling down the Holme Pierrepont Slalom course with BCU Director Trevor Bailey.

YEARBOOK UPDATE

New Club

K & D Young Kayakers CC, c/o David S long, 25a, Moorside Rd, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset BH11 8DE.

BCU AGM

Leeds Civic Hall

Saturday March 9th 1991

Article 18(b) of the Union's Articles of Association requires that any motion for discussion at the Annual General Meeting not originating from the Council of Management shall be 1. Signed by two members entitled to vote* and 2. Lodged with the Secretary (Director) by 1 January 1991.

Article 13(c) requires that the nominations of candidates for election as elected members of the Council of Management are put forward in the form of such a motion. Nominations should be accompanied by a pen portrait of the candidate#

*Members entitled to vote are: life members, adult basic and adult comprehensive members.

#Only members as designated in * above are eligible for nomination as elected members of Council

DISCOVERING "THE SOURCES"

In April 1990 , a party of three British Kayakers visited the Atlas Mountains in the Marrakech region of Morocco; here Brad Lincoln describes their experiences at The Sources de L'Oum er Rbia, the last river of their expedition



The welcoming party at The Sources de l'Oum er Rbia consisted of an old man determined to be the 'guardian' for our battered hire car, and an old, half sighted woman. It appeared to us that the only person the Renault 4 needed guarding from was the old man and his stick! but we agreed to pay him if it was unharmed on our return. The old lady warranted 1 Dirham from our purse. The wizened face, cracked and creased, seemed to tell of an age of hardship, yet she placed the coin in a bulging purse of her own. I felt conned. Begging is obviously a lucrative trade here.

The Sources are a series of falls just above a confluence that swells and matures the Oum er Rbia. Their speed and steepness provides a 750 metre run of extremely continuous grade IV water with a drop of V towards the bottom. The tourist industry had provided a coach turning circle and a decent path from which to inspect, but fortunately, although the sun beat down from the cloudless sky, the tourists were a month or two away. The entire run was divided by a large collection pool. We decided to run the first half before inspecting the rest.

Carrying the boats up we sweated in the heat, a contrast to the meltwater we were about to enter. I was providing bank and photo support for Mike and Godfrey before paddling myself. I positioned myself ready for a photo. Mike shot past, I clicked the shutter and ran down the path, losing sight of him behind some trees. I sprinted down to the collection pool and waited. And waited.....

I had been joined by several Moroccan kids who kept asking me where Mike was. Up on the far hillside some spectators were waving at me. I could not decipher their signals.

After 2 minutes that lasted 2 hours, I ran back up the path. Then I saw Godfrey calling for my help. I suppose that the only section we had not been able to inspect properly had to contain the most awkward stopper. Mike, in fending off overhanging roots, had capsized and was holding onto the same roots to avoid being sucked into the stopper that was now somersaulting his boat. Fortunately Mike could clip himself into the throwline and grab the boat to be dragged out. No casualties.

With the others watching, and armed with their advice, I success-



fully descended the first section. Godfrey and Mike soon joined me in the collection pool, and we began a long inspection of the next fall. While technically probably only grade IV, the consequences of a mistake made it a very serious proposition indeed. After a complicated lead in, avoiding several rocks at speed, the fall of about 4ft was followed by a split. Here most of the water was forced left of an island and through a mesh of strainers that were lethal. A paddler would have to fight to move right to continue down more grade IV drops.

I decided to go first with Mike and Godfrey protecting the fall as best they could. The line of silent locals watched me with grim faces, not a smile to be seen. I felt like an England captain leading his team onto the Wembley turf.

I started and quickly lost my planned line. Regaining control



I dropped over the fall; I was vertically pinned, but safe. A one handed shove off rock with the paddle brought the scores level, but I was off line and going backwards to the left of the island. I was just able to use a cushion of water to scrape to the safe right of the island.

I climbed out of the beached kayak and walked back up and over the bridge. The locals clapped, cheered and shook my hand. There may not have been 90,000 of them, but I could easily have lifted the Jules Rimet Trophy!

Mike and Godfrey then followed down and both made better descents, in control all of the way down, to the delight of all concerned.

We managed to escape the locals by water to have lunch before using the land irrigation channels to get the boats up the hillside to the road. On retrieving the car we gave the guardian 1 Dirham (8p) for not damaging the car. Well, we felt generous after our success.

We wish to record our thanks to Palm, major sponsors to this expedition. Thanks also go to Dolphin Wetsuits, Ryder Trucks, Ford Iveco and a special thankyou to Colin Birnie.

Expedition Team:
 Mike Wardle
 Brad Lincoln
 Godfrey Owen,

*Eat Sweets
 and
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It crushed the aluminum canoe and smashed through the fiberglass one, but bounced off ours. In another test, we broached our canoe, wrapping it around a large rock in Wisconsin's Wolf River. RAM-X flexes under impact and "remembers" its original shape, so we simply *popped* the hull back into shape.

The hull is wide and flat for stability, and streamlined for easy paddling.

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†Patent Nos.
4660498 & 4741284

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



RAM-X® 13' Canoe Teal Green #5903D800 An exciting craft for solo paddling. Accommodates 1 or 2 people.
 Lapis Blue #5903D807

LENGTH - 180 IN BEAM - 36 IN DEPTH AMIDSHIP - 14 IN WEIGHT - 78 LB NMMA* MAX. WEIGHT CAPACITY - 650 LB
 MAX. PERSON CAPACITY - 570 LB MAX. HORSEPOWER - 5 HP WARRANTY - 1 YR



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



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MALAWI 90 - the first descent of the **by John Hatton**

After 15 minutes of lies, tact, charm and deception, British Airways decided to take our kayaks at no extra cost. We were away! Bound for Malawi equipped with a tube of suntan cream, three kayaks and a large insurance policy.

Twelve hours later the plane landed. All the passengers rose together. It was chaos. Standing on an old lady, I retrieved my duty free from the top locker and made for the exit, where the others joined me. We descended the steps and made for the airport terminal. It was then that we read the writing on the terminal building - Harare International Airport .Welcome to Zimbabwe. We were in the wrong country! Having gained re: admittance to the airport we headed off to Lilongwe; the capital of Malawi.

Malawi lies in the Rift Valley of S.E Africa and is dominated by a lake some 350 miles long and 40 miles wide. Most of the country

is on a plateau high above the lake. This combined with a rainy season between January and April suggests white water. The aim of the trip was to discover whether this assumption was correct.

The People

Its difficult to imagine a country where the people are all genuinely friendly, helpful, always offer a greeting and call you master. But Malawi is that country.

Our first warm up river was the Lilongwe river itself. This was a useful GRADE 2-3 venture which acquainted us with our equipment, local wildlife and local villagers who sang songs to us as we paddled down the river, hitched rides on the back of our kayaks then kept us awake at night as their village drums echoed across the plains. It felt good to be in Africa. Unfortunately the urge to emigrate is tempered by the fact that 50% of the population is under 15 years old, life expectancy is 35 and a wife needs to be purchased for between four and ten cows. Given that our only possessions were one plastic Kayak each, the prospects looked bleak.

The South Rukuru - a relentless succession of drops and rapids



Bill and John on Lake Malawi



Footbridge on the South Rukuru

South Rukuru River

The South Rukuru

The South Rukuru lies in the untouched North of the country and is the biggest contributor of water to Lake Malawi. This was the river we had come to paddle.

The river was a chocolate brown colour, wide and moving quickly. The rainy seasons lasts until May in the North and the river was full. We started at a town called Rumphu where the river goes through a grade IV gorge before dropping down to wind its way across the high plain and towards the edge of the plateau.

The villages on the plains are isolated and insular with the river providing a focus for all life. Parents of the village children instil discipline by warning them that "The white Men will eat you if you are naughty". Given that the children had never seen white people before, this explained the panic which our presence caused. Unfortunately in the first village Bill thought it was a game and started chasing the children, while Andy and myself lit a fire. The kids went hysterical.

However after demonstrating that "Real White Men eat quiche" we were soon accepted and invited to the village headmans house

for "floor and breakfast". It was here that we heard stories of the Wonga Falls. They were part of village folklore and were rumoured to drop 300ft vertically out of a steep sided gorge, down to the level of the lake where the river is packed with hippo's.

None of the villagers had been there so it was difficult to know how much to believe. But we came away knowing that "something" would happen after the second bridge.

Off The Plateau

The first fall off the plateau is marked as the Puresi rapids. The river changes its character completely within a few yards - from here, its all downhill to the lake.

It becomes continuous white water moving from a grade III to long sections of grade IV and shorter pieces of grade V. There is no let up with a relentless succession of drops and rapids.

The river was in spate this means that the trees normally on the



The Wonga falls - a breathtaking sight



Expedition members
John Hatton
Bill Taylor
Andy McDowell

bank are 6 feet into the river with a continual 10mph current flowing through the whole river. There a few breakouts and many of the rocks which you could normally hide behind are covered. The opportunities for inspection are therefore limited.

Two exciting and eventful days later we passed under the second bridge. We decided to go as far as possible into the gorge then camp and recce the falls from the bank. As we paddled further into the gorge the river became faster with more pronounced drops. Eventually it became a continuous grade V and we made camp.

It took 2 hours to hack our way half a mile through the jungle towards Wonga Falls. Eventually we arrived on the ledge of a side stream some 300ft above the river. It was a breath taking sight of brown and white water cascading over water falls and rocks the size of houses, all set in a sheer sided gorge and leading to the 300ft Wonga falls. It seemed that we had got out only just in time.

a big thank - you to our

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without whose backing, the expedition would have been very much more difficult

Out of Africa - into Hospital

The dietary tips for Africa are simple. Don't eat anything dodgy and don't let anything eat you. Unfortunately, this is not always possible.

Back in England, we all required some sort of hospital treatment: Bill had a four foot intestinal alien removed from his gut - now very useful for tying canoes to his car: Andy went down with malaria and I went down with an undiagnosed ailment - also suspected to be malaria. Eight days in hospital, seven without food, a week at home in bed and a further four weeks of indifferent health. The advice is simple - take every precaution you can -but don't let it put you off going

Other Rivers

There are many rivers in Malawi which could be good in high water, however two stand out as possible first descents. One is the Bua, just North of Linlongwe, the other is the North Rukuru from the top of the Nyiba plateau. Both look like good whitewater rivers. the only problem being that both flow through game reserves: a raft and an armed warden would be wise precautions

photographs by Andy McDowell

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Alan Fox judges.....

THE GREAT LIMERICK CONTEST

Knowing that canoeists talk nonsense for at least 99% of the time I was surprised that there were not more entries to the Great Limerick Contest (Canoe Focus 65).

Those received however showed great ingenuity-how many words (real or imaginary) can you find to rhyme with 'canoe'. At the last count, Peru was the favourite!

After an exhausting evening-beer and pizzas, aided by Steve and Maria, the final selection was achieved.

The winning entry came from Jane Harvey of Palmers Green in London with some 'true' canoeing humour.

'A paddler was shooting the creek
When his kayak sprung a slight leak
He broke wind in the boat
Which kept it afloat
But caused him to pass out for a week!'

Second placed was John Houlgate, also from London, with more than a few words of wisdom

'When the question of Access arises
We should try to achieve compromises
But despite common ground
The solution that's found
Never completely suffices'.

And third, Paul Elliott, of Norfolk, reminding me of my early days

'A novice paddler called Jim
Tried but just could not break in
So over he went
His paddles got bent
And now he is learning to swim'.

Jane, John and Paul win a pair of Kobers, a YAK spraydeck and a Green Slime throwbag respectively, all kindly donated by Olympus Outdoor World

And finally.... a special commendation to Derek Sayell of Kings Langley ... which reminds me, have I told you about the time I met the crocs...

'There was a young canoeist named Fox
Who liked white water - with rocks
So he paddled the Zambezi
And made it look easy
Until he met up with the crocs!'

Commiserations to the 107 other budding Poet Laureates whose literary talents have gone unrecognised - but many thanks from the long suffering BCU staff for enlivening the morning post opening ritual for a number of weeks! And thanks again to Olympus Outdoor World for generously providing the prizes for the competition.

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Junior World Championships



**Emma Player -
excellent first run**



Pete Buckley - astonishing performance

Slalom

Tavanasa, a small, picturesque village in the Grisons region of the Swiss Alps, was host to the third Junior World Slalom Championships with teams from 21 nations, including East Germany and Argentina competing on the icy, glacier fed Vorderhein.

The slalom course was long, physical and open. From the start line, the course staggered widely with a tight left to right sequence on Gates 2 and 3. This forced an essential early spin and hard cross. Gate 8 was downstream on the edge of a strong eddy line which meant a compulsory spin in order to get across to the left hand bank for the following sequence. Gates 11 and 12 were a double breakout move, first right then left. The line into 11 was tight. It was essential to set up an early entry angle in order not to lose time by dropping low. The next sequence was the most crucial move on the course: fast water downstream through 13, then by pancaking off the edge of a submerged rock, a downstream gate 14, deep in a strong eddy. Then immediately out, back into the current, tight onto a large boulder for another eddy downstream on gate 15.

Once competitors were past this point safely, it was time to open out and put the speed on. From here, the course was open and fast, a tight right to left stagger sequence, using the back of a small wave, then a tight right to left 'S' gate, exiting hard then powering down to the finish line.

In the ladies event, Angela Radermacher (West Germany) finished first with a time of 204.9. In second place was Irena Pavelkova (Czechoslovakia) with 209.35 and in third place was Ursa Breznik (Yugoslavia) with 213.45.

The British ladies' team of Emma Player, Claire Daniels and Rachel Doherty finished 10th, 18th and 22nd respectively out of a field of 44. Emma's first run was excellent, she lost only a few seconds but was given a dubious penalty. This cost her sixth position, her best total being 221.05. Claire paddled

- Slalom and Wildwater Racing

**Grisons
Switzerland
13 -22 July
1990**

**Hywel Lloyd -
potential star**



**Tim Suggett-
best British
result in years**

Wild Water Racing

The dam controlled River Albulá provided a testing 6.7 km race course. During the week before the race, it started to rain heavily, enabling the British team to train even without a water release. When the water releases were eventually made, the river rose to an extremely high level providing entertainment for spectators and paddlers alike. The Junior Team coped well with these unexpected water levels - for the Junior Ladies it was the biggest water they had paddled on.

The Individual event (Sat 14 July) saw the British WWR Junior Team record some of their best results for several years. Tim Suggett rounded off his best ever season with a creditable 4th place in Mens K1. Although Tim was disappointed not to win a medal, he raced extremely well and has the potential to develop into one of Britain's top Wild Water Racers.

John Anderson

RESULTS

Mens K1

1st Charles Lefeure FRA 17.10, 2nd Fabio Nosella ITA 17.13, 3rd Martin Cizmarik TCH 17.23, 4th Tim Suggett GBR 17.26, 14th Dean Thompson GBR 18.04, 16th Gareth Jones GBR 18.05 (Reserve Stuart Brass GBR 9th Place in non stop training time 17.57)

Ladies K1

1st Valerie Octobre FRA 18.37, 2nd Silke Schlauntnman FRG 19.03, 3rd Lucka Cankar YUG 19.06, 14th Naomi Bailey GBR 20.01, 15th Gemma Hargreaves GBR 20.31

C1

1st Tomislav Crnkovic YUG 18.50, 12th Andy Tracey GBR 20.10

well on her second run, but unluckily made a small off line error, which cost valuable seconds. Her best total was 235.18. Rachel also paddled potentially well, but had unlucky penalties, her total was 244.06.

In the Canadian singles event, the standard was excellent with impressive performances from America and Yugoslavia's top juniors. Danko Herceg (Yugoslavia) finished first with a time of 189.91 which would have placed high in the kayak mens event. Patrice Estanguet (France) finished second in 190.55 and third Adam Clawson (USA) with 194.38. The British C1's, Joel Scott, Nathan Gray and Hywel Lloyd finished 21st, 22nd and 24th respectively out of a field of 33. Hywel completed the difficult sequence of gates 13 to 15 faultlessly. He showed great potential and at only 16 years of age, could stand well for 1992.

The mens kayak event was exciting and fast. Alexander Adamek (Tch) finished first with a time of 180.51, followed closely by Great Britain's Peter Buckley with 180.73 and in third place Jiri Prskavec (Tch) with 181.25. Britain's Paul Ratcliffe finished sixth with a score of 183.74 and Peter Francis 18th with 191.25 (including 5 seconds penalty). Peter Buckley put in an astonishing first run and took the lead for the first runs and the majority of the second runs. In the final few runs of the day, being unluckily beaten from gold medal position by only 0.22 seconds, Paul Ratcliffe was technically brilliant, completing the whole course smoothly and faultlessly. Paul is only 16, an extra year's strength and he would have been a definite medal contender.

Pete Astles



RIVER ARUN OPEN

21 October

This is a new marathon/touring event, being organised in aid of arthritis research. There's a choice of two distances - 13 or 25 miles and a trophy will be awarded to the winning club. Send SAE for details, to Arthur Wells, 20 Dover Road, Worthing, West SUSSEX BN11 5NR or phone Worthing 505432.



Scotland's first ever Classic Canoe Rally; held on July 29th on the Monkland Canal at Coatbridge in Lanarkshire. The Rally was organised by Summerlees museum in Coatbridge, and brought together all manner of traditional craft Wood and canvas models predominated, with one entering the water for the first time in eighteen years! There was also a substantial plywood Open Canoe, Percy Blanford models and the Hugh Stevenson designed "Loch Lomond"

REGIONAL EVENTS

Now is the time of year when Regional Touring Officers start to put together the programme for 1991. They need your help! If you are a member of a club capable of organising a trip on your local water, why not offer it to your BCU Region now? Its easy to run a trip for visitors to your own area, and all the money stays within the Region where it is raised. The more support you can give, the more work the Region can do on Development and Access in your local area. If you can help, contact your Regional Touring Officer. Or why not attend one or two of the BCU tours yourself, and put some money into the pot directly. All the regions have a full programme so there's bound to be one in your area soon.

Regional Touring officers names and addresses and details of all the 1990 tours were published in the BCU Members' Yearbook in February.

TOURING AWARDS SCHEME

If your club is interested in touring, then why not organise an entry for the annual Inter-club Touring trophy? or even go for an individual award - all you have to do is keep a logbook of all the trips that you do, either on an annual or a cumulative basis. For details write to the Touring Awards Administration Officer, 78 Derrydown Road, Birmingham B42 1RT

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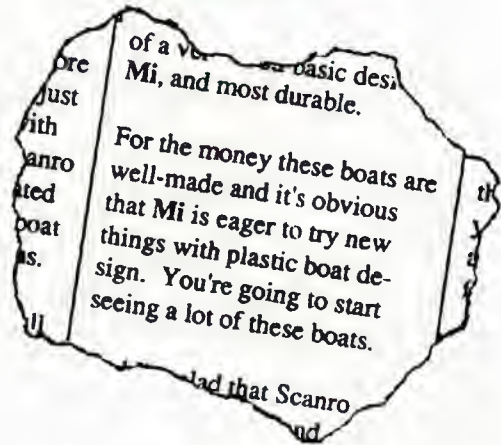
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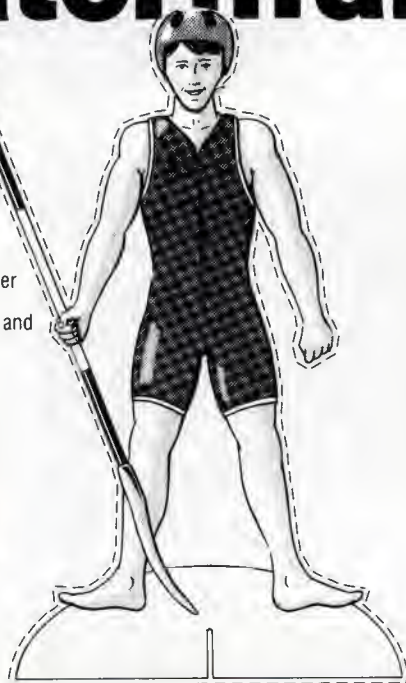
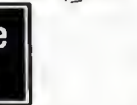
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Dear Focus

HOORAY HENLEY

The Halsalls, Halls and Johnsons
And three Murgatroyds went down
To camp at Aston Ferry
Not far from Henley Town.
The idle rich, they had fast boats
And were charging to and fro
They set up some enormous waves
And did it just for show.
We practiced saying "OK yah"
And talking really posh
But I heard some bad language
Whilst sitting on their wash.
The poor came in by roller
And the really rich by chopper
But I bet no-one was breathalysed
By the friendly local copper.
The champagne flowed much faster
Than the water in the Thames
The men all sported boaters
The women flashed their gems.
They wore designer dresses
And held their hats on tight
There were lots of bands playing jazz
And some fireworks at night.
We saw some really lovely boats
Of varnished wood and brass
Outnumbered by nasty plastic things
Which didn't have the class.
We all soaked up the atmosphere
And the wine it started flowing
I wondered why so many went
Oh yes! - To see some rowing!
Sue Halsall, Leicester.

DISTORTIONS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS

Whilst not wishing to enter into the public duel that seems to have developed between the mysterious 'A Paddler' (FOCUS, June 1990) and Mr H Goldberg (FOCUS, August 1990), I would like to state that they have both distorted and misrepresented my actions. Accordingly, a report of the incident has been submitted to Geoff Good, the BCU Director of Coaching, which includes the name(s) of independent witnesses. In the interests of fairness, both paddlers named above might follow suit.

Mark Hickman, Coventry

YOUTH EXPEDITION

The 1991 Youth kayak expedition to America, which advertised for prospective members in the August Focus, is pleased to reveal its destination as the Grand Canyon and other rivers in the Eastern USA, including the Nantahala. Anybody still interested in going between the ages of 14 and 16 with experience of Grade 3 and a strong roll should apply to Benjamin Love (esq), Station House, Chard Road, Chard Junction, Somerset TA20 4QN.

THE POOR RELATION

Canoe Polo in Britain is still regarded as the poor relation when it comes to sharing out the finance between the various canoeing disciplines and it's about time the Sports Council and the BCU recognised the achievements of the Great Britain National teams at international level. This season alone they have been winning finalists 5 times and runners-up 3 times. These results are in jeopardy as more and more foreign National teams get the support and financial backing from their federations for coaching, training etc. It's an honour to be picked for one's country but one for which GB players are paying dearly at present. Pity the day when skill and commitment as selection criteria are overridden by a player's ability to pay his/her way. It's a fact that despite the success rate the grant aid to Canoe Polo has actually been cut by the Sports Council over the last 3 years. Why?

The whole operation is being run on a shoestring by dedicated staff and players who are having to waive quite legitimate claims for expenses to keep the National squad going. Despite all their efforts the hoped for backing has not materialised. There seems to be some attitude with the powers that be that if good results can be achieved at this low/non existant level of funding, why give more. This is a head in the sand attitude that can only backfire. One cannot keep on forever dangling the carrot of financial aid in the future to inspire the squad now. False hopes raised and constantly dashed are no way to plan ahead and prepare programmes etc. This could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Can we have some answers please?

Valerie Vessey,
St Albans

GLARING OMISSION

On receiving our August issue of Canoe Focus today I was struck by a glaring omission in your results update. Where oh where are the Scottish female results for the International Slalom held at Holme Pierrepont on 13th to 15th July.

We do have female Scottish paddlers and I can assure you that they were there competing with the best. To add insult to injury my daughter Diane (age 16) came 6th in the Ladies K1 Junior category, a fact of which we were justifiably proud.

So come on Canoe Focus, give credit where credit is due because after all you are the magazine of the British Canoe Union and not the English one.

Irena Mitchell, Dundee.

TEDIOUS RESTRICTIONS

Dear Canoeists,
You will have noticed the Access agreement on the Afon Conwy. (see *Access Extra*). You will no doubt be complaining of the restrictions to our sport and the difficulties of doing the business. I wholeheartedly agree and as someone in their 28th year of paddling I have had to put up with it for a lot longer than most. On behalf of canoeists everywhere, I have also given much of my time voluntarily in the battle for access to our rivers. The agreement on the Conwy may seem tedious to you, but I am the poor sucker who has to make it work, for if it does, it will open up many more avenues for access in this area. Watch this space for details to follow for the Afon Glaslyn. Self restraint on the Conwy will lead to more, I can assure you of that.

Last year the Conwy was rapidly assuming Tryweryn like proportions, and the National Trust and the Estates do not want that to happen, nor should I add, any discerning canoeist. For details of the agreement, you must write to me at the Towers, that takes 10 minutes of your time, it costs me a lot more to answer, but for the sake of our Sport, I am willing to make this sacrifice of my precious time.

The LAO's (Local Access Officer) lot is not a happy one, they do their best, and hope for the best. Those unhappy about agreements made on their behalf, or not willing to abide by any such agreement, please feel free to apply for the job in your local area, then, rather than complain about matters, you can provide the "improved" service yourself.

Philip Blain, LAO Afon Conwy and Llugwy, the Towers, Capel Curig, Gwynedd, LL24 0DR

DISAPPOINTED OF NOTTINGHAM

Does anyone else share my disappointment in the way the ladies' races are organised at the National Championships at Worcester? I am in Div 9 and had planned to complete for the first time this year. However, I felt that 6 miles, a portage and a weir were a bit much for my standard. So apparently do the organisers who expect a Div 9 man to paddle only 4 miles with no portage and no shoot.

So are there any other low division ladies out here? If not many surely there must be a better way of accommodating small numbers of low division ladies, with low division men or juniors perhaps, rather than with much higher standard ladies? The present arrangement is clearly self-defeating.

Catherine Baylis, Nottingham

Letters to Canoe Focus are very welcome on any canoeing subject, topical, humorous, controversial, whatever. So - whether you have a point of view or simply want to have a moan, write to: The Editor, Canoe Focus, c/o BCU Office (see address on contents page)

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HOLIDAYS IN THE SUN



Why is most peoples' picture of the Alps like this ▲ (Falls of See) when the reality is there are an awful lot of rivers like this (The Lech)? Why has the Alps got the reputation of being for the big boys and girls to play in? Why do I still come across this sort of mis-information 'you shouldn't go to the Alps until you can paddle Grantully in spate'!

The answer, probably lies somewhere in the male ego. After being told how everything is mega this and horrendous that, what returning paddler isn't prone to exaggerate on those already exaggerated stories. And so the myth has grown

At last, the secret is now beginning to creep out. OK some rivers are huge, but there is also a massive range of choice, very few access problems, good water most of the summer and the big bonus, sunshine! If you were a skier where would you rather be; freezing on some wind swept Scottish hill (sorry Scotland) or sunning it in a huge choice of Alpine resorts?

The Alps can do exactly the same for us White Water paddlers. The choice offered is amazing; from the rivers of France, which are close to our own type, the incredible tight limestone gorges of Switzerland and France, the mammoth rivers of Austria and Switzerland, the steep rivers all over the place, the quiet mountain streams and so much more. You can learn, yes learn to paddle in the Alps! You can fill yourself to overflowing with any grade you care to name, II, III, IV ...

So how to get started? One obvious way is have a holiday with a specialist company like Alpine Canoe Holidays, who offer a comprehensive service. Or if you want to go do it yourself, here are some basic rules which will help you.

Don't plan to do the whole of the Alps in one go.
Do plan in a good variety of water. If you are organising it for a group, do remember they will have their own ideas too.
And above all remain flexible!

If you want more detail ACH have now published a book 'Alpine Canoeing' complete with a guide to Austria and Bavaria.

I think it is important that the Alps in general, is promoted as The Place to go White Water paddling. I read some rather interesting BCU statistics stating that of the 55% of canoeists who profess to enjoy White Water paddling only 8% go abroad. That means thousands of you have never really sampled White Water at its best. And don't worry, there is more water in a bad year out there than there is at home at most times.


Do yourself a favour, next year forget lazing on some Spanish beach drinking too much, go the Alps paddling ... you can still have a drink!

Steve Wales

Steve Wales runs Alpine Canoe Holidays and can be contacted on (0522) 540723



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BCU13	' I do it..... with the British Canoe Union' button badge	0.30	0.20	STA09	Pencil Rubber	0.50	0.40
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SHARK ENCOUNTER

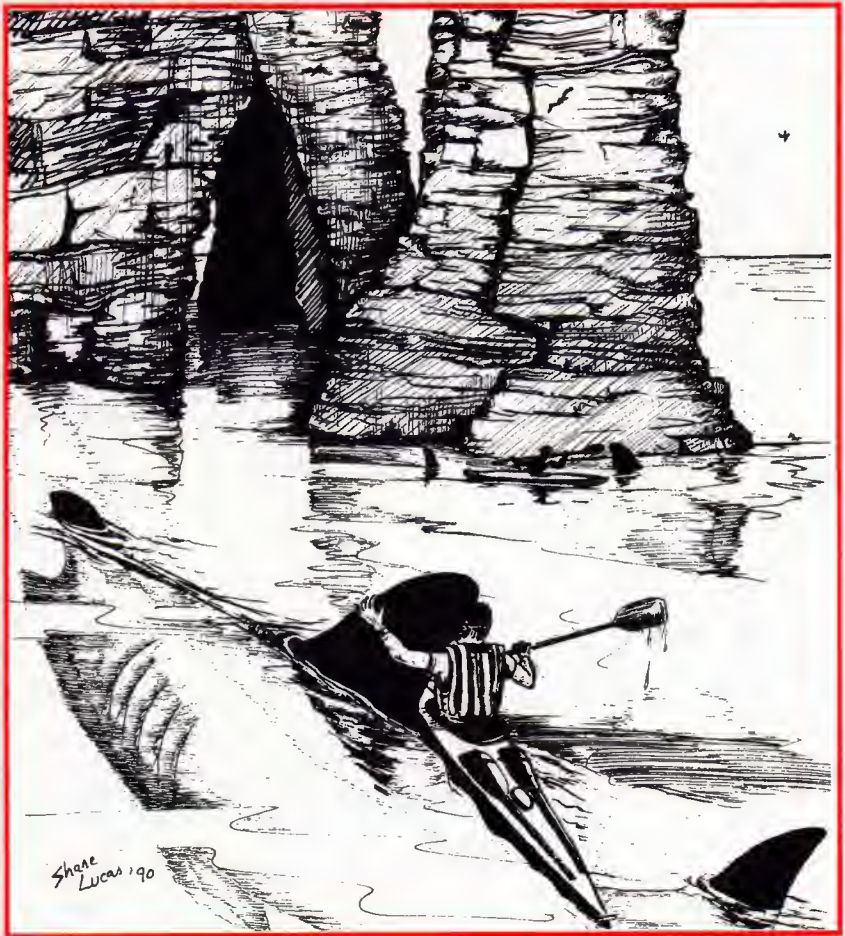
by Shane Lucas

“Shark! Sir, there’s a shark”.

“Silly boy”, I thought, but on looking to where he was pointing, all became clear: There was that classic dorsal fin cutting smoothly through the water, followed by the slightly different shaped tail fin “Don’t worry, it’s only a basking shark - look carefully and you can see it’s wearing sun glasses” was my equally stupid reply! “Let’s see how close we can get to him”. We were, in fact, quite capable of getting very close indeed; after all, what is more manoeuvrable than a canoe?

I was teaching College pupils the joys of coastal canoeing around the Isle of Man - en route from Fort Island to Langness Point, we had been at sea for about an hour, creeping up on poor defenceless seals, who have the amazing ability of sliding their massive bulk into the briney with the grace of a fifty stone ballerina!

I briefly thought of our shark being of a more toothy breed - Great White, Nurse, Blue, Grey, and so on. However, everyone knows that only Basking Sharks frequent Manx waters. “They can’t bite you - could give you a nasty suck though!” Steam rose from our paddles as we headed for the beastie. It was swimming quite slowly, and I positioned my craft between its fin and its languidly moving tail; giving it a tap with my paddle - rather expecting much commotion, and a probable dive. However, the contact did not worry him in the least. I was wearing Polaroid glasses, which gave me the ability to see him very clearly under the water: about 14 feet long and four and a half feet wide with very obvious pulsing gills. Occasionally, he would open his mouth, his snout sticking out of the water, allowing one to gaze into a light green cavernous mouth; which contained absolutely no teeth - what a relief! We continued to play with



our shark for about fifteen minutes, before he disappeared.

This was on the eleventh of June, I hardly expected to ever get such a contact again; yet, on the afternoon of the twenty first; whilst canoeing through the cave which pierces the headland next to the Sugarloaf Stack; I was astounded to see, framed in the cave mouth, several black fins. “Shark, no, two of them”, I shouted, the words echoed inside the cave, adding drama to the scene. We paddled hard out of the gloom into daylight, right under the bulk of the towering Sugarloaf Rock. The first shark that I got to was only about twelve feet long and appeared rather shy, diving often, then re-appearing several minutes later. The other one, though, was a good sixteen feet long

and did not mind our presence in the least. I gingerly stretched out one hand and gripped the forward edge of his massive dorsal fin. I was pulled along quite gently. On letting go, my hand felt decidedly greasy.

In the middle of Perwick Bay, on our return to Port St Mary, we saw three more sharks, at least one of which was a different one from the earlier couple; his markings were different. And two days later, whilst walking with a group around Bradda Head; I saw three more sharks swimming together in Port Erin Bay.

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Pyranha Pro image, Diolen construction, immaculate condition, £150, or will exchange for surf ski Pro Gun or similar type. Tel: (0803) 812944.

Single Isokinetic free standing with Canadian Shafts. VGC will deliver to Holme Pierrepont and surrounding area, offers over £100. Tel: (0509) 41395.

Sony Handycam, Video 8, compact, no playback/zoom, water resistant casing, spare battery, as new; ideal for water-sports: £250.o.n.o. Tel: (071) 628 8011 Ext 2912 (work) (081) 692 3174 (eves.)

Tourer/General purpose 13'6" Fibreglass, yellow/white, excellent condition, decklines, keepers, footrests and paddles, included £90. 1963 folding canoe, sails and paddles etc. offers. Tel: Newbury (0635) 34943.

Trailer for 25 canoes. Tel: Trevor Wetherall (081) 898 3303 - Richmond Canoe Club.

2 Canoe Moulds Elite and Epee Canoe Moulds, both in good condition and supplied with free glass and resin enough for two boats. Offers please to (0254) 831007 (Lancs.)

Two man Nautiraid folding kayak, tough, Hypalon laminated hull, rubber, spray skirts, two luggage size pack bags. Offers. Tel John Key (0502) 501740.

Two 14'6" x 26" wood/canvas touring kayaks, sound frames and riverworthy. £45 each or £75 both. Tel Ann Jeffery (0734) 478375.

Wildwater twin seal spraydeck nearly new, (orange/yellow) fits Mirage/Dancer £25. Wildwater instructor buoyancy aid (orange) vgc £20. Tel: Jonathon (0734) 567786.

WANTED

Any 2nd hand K2 in reasonable condition. Tel Gary (0635) 47554.

Any 2nd hand stable K2, Barracuda K2, spraydeck, paddles, life jacket. Tel (0784) 460841.

Childrens canoe/paddle reasonable condition, easy reach of Ashford/Middlesex. Tel (0784) 244439.

Junior kayak. Chesterfield (0246) 208135.

K2 stable, fast tourer, required for international tour, Midlands or Yorkshire area or further

if suitable. Tel Andrew Glasgow (0742) 449941.

Prijon Topolino Spud wanted. Tel (0223) 207597.

Rotobat W/W spec or Master. Good condition. Good price paid. Tel: (0825) 763397 (Sussex).

Trailer for 4 to 6 kayaks. Tel (0436) 72010

Could you organise a WW Tour?

The Mike Jones Rally is keen to support other smaller non-restricted tours for British White Water recreational paddlers.

Please write to Mike Jones Rally, c/o Betws y Coed Sorting Office, Gwynedd LL24 1AA..

LOST AND FOUND

Stolen from Caldercruix OPC at the end of June: Marlin WWR, white deck, translucent hull, red seat and trim, Warhorse Slalom Kayak, pale blue, glitter pattern on rear deck, Unicorn kayak, silver/red glitter fade, black trim. All boats are clearly marked 'COPC'. Any information gratefully received on (0236) 842240.

Stolen Mistral 370 Pro Sport Slalom Kayak yellow with 370 on deck on Sat/Sun 11/12 August from Arethysa Adventure Centre, Lower Upnor, Kent. Please contact Philip Lacey (0634) 719933 if you have seen or know anything.

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gear. Discounts. For samples/prices stamp please to Tor(Ca), 3 Fryer Street, Runcorn WA7 1ND.

Carlisle Canoes, everything for the canoeist from beginner to advanced white water paddler. All leading makes in stock including Prijon, Schlegel, HF, Pyranha, Ace, Wild Water, Old Town, Coleman, Palm, Perception, New Wave. Open 7 days (Sunday by arrangement). Contact Carlisle Canoes, Pennywise Shop, 41 Wigton Road, Carlisle, CA2 7AX. Telephone (0228) 31703/37658. **Eskimo's Canoe Store**: sea kayaks and accessories from the country's leading manufacturers. Demonstration boats from Valley, North Shore, Pyranha, McNulty and P&H. Open 7 days a week, 12 months a year. Eskimo's, Twr-y-Felin Outdoor Centre, St Davids, Pembrokeshire (0437) 720391.

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Sunray GPs Canoe Shop, supply canoes and accessories for all. Discounts for clubs and groups, schools and colleges, Scouts and Guides, demo boats available. Write, phone or call, Sunray GP, 4a Bolton Road, Adlington, Nr Chorley, Lancs (0257) 483362/480680.

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5 - 7 October 1990

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2. Senior Instructor Assessment
16 - 18 November 1990

Location - River Dart

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3. Introduction to Whitewater
using the Thames Weirs
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Ammanford, SA18 2RD (0269) 594725.

Turkey 1991 Two and three week holidays offered on the Coruh and Euphrates rivers May - August to suit all grades of paddlers. Contact - WILD RIVER TRIPS, 125 Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NA.

ACCOMMODATION

Dartmoor Camping Barn, sleeps 10 comfortably, showers, toilets, cooking facilities, close to River Dart, at Holne SX706696. Tel Katie (03643) 271.

Dartmoor Expedition Centre, Accommodation/base near the river Dart. BCU Approved. Instruction for groups if required. John Earle, Rowden, Widcombe, Devon (03642) 249.

Inchree Chalets & Bunkhouse, Onich, Fort William, Inverness-shire, Tel Onich (08553) 287. Situated in the midst of some of the finest white water. Suitable all grades. Less access problems.

Llandysul, West Wales. Bunk house barn, sleeps 30. Heating, drying room, hot showers. 1 miles from slalom course. Tel: (055 932) 3200.

The Management and staff of the White Lion Hotel, High Street, Bala, Gwynedd, welcome all canoeists and visitors. Bar meals available 12-2pm and 6-9pm. Weekend rates for supporters.

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CLUBS

Owners of 'Little Pete' Sailing Canoes interested in getting together with other 'Little Pete' owners to sail and share information, please contact, Philip and Margaret Evans, 30 Bishops Avenue, Worcester WR3 8XG.

River Rats London based club for whitewater paddlers meets first Tuesday of each month at the 'Mudlark', Montague Close, London Bridge. The club itself does not compete or organise trips but aims to provide a congenial atmosphere for like minded people to meet and exchange information. Lectures at every meeting, start 8pm, admission £2 (free to members) November 6. Adrian Davis Tales from the Yukon. December 4. Andy McDowell, African Adventure. Membership £10 a year, send SAE to Hon. Sec. Anne Garland, 125a Norwood Rd, London SE24

"ITS ONLY INTERESTED IN COMPETITION"

"ITS TOO COMPLEX"

"It has nothing to do with competition"

THE BCU COACHING SCHEME

"Its all about "baptismal" forms of canoeing"

"ITS AIMED AT TEACHERS"

"Its run by Canoeing Centres"

by Geoff Good, BCU Director of Coaching

The Ideal Instructor

The ideal instructor or coach, in my view, has a high level of personal performance, has experience and understands the requirements of high level training. She/he will also understand physiology and how motor skills are learned, and have natural teaching ability enhanced by tuition and shared experience.

There are some, but not too many, people like that around!

There are, however, some high level performers with little idea of teaching, and there are paddlers of comparatively modest personal ability, who are excellent teachers, and coaches.

The Coaching Scheme endeavours to cater for all. It also endeavours to offer an adequate progression for every discipline within our multi-faceted sport - both recreational and competitive.

It is obviously vital that an instructor has sufficient personal ability to ensure the safety of his or her students. However, this must be only the realistic requirements for safety related to the conditions in which the award holder is permitted to operate.

It is also vital that the instructor has sufficient understanding of the skills, techniques, and progressions of the sport, to be able to inculcate sound basic paddling skills, and assist the tyro to develop.

Again, this must be related to the real needs of the situation. In other words, an instructor does not have to be able to cope with the Dudh Khosi in order to teach on the village duck pond.

"But what if a hurricane occurs?" Some will comment - "The duck pond could become quite a dangerous place!"

There's no answer to that, except to follow the logic through and accept that only a world champion is competent to teach canoeing.

What about the complexity

During 1989 an extensive exercise was carried out to simplify our tests and awards structure. Improvements have occurred, and others are in hand to simplify and codify the descriptions of the system, and the administrative processes.

Insofar as the range of tests and awards on offer is concerned, however, the working party ran into great difficulty. Really, there is only a simple choice:

Either base the whole qualification system on competence in a general-purpose "closed-cockpit" kayak, and assume that a person competent in this regard can, with minimal training, cope with all other aspects; or, do what we have done, and provide a full progression in every recognised discipline.

I can see no alternative if we accept that a person who wants only to paddle a canoe, or an open-cockpit kayak, should not be forced to pursue a system which requires them to become competent in craft and techniques which are irrelevant or alien to them.

The system which has now matured takes note of the following facts:

Type of craft.

There are basically three types of craft involved: **Open cockpit kayaks** (directionally stable craft where the legs are not engaged

"To promote the sport and recreation of canoeing and to ensure that newcomers are introduced to canoeing in a safe and enjoyable way and that they and those already in the sport are assisted to progress to whatever level and in whichever discipline within canoeing suits them best"
(Stated policy)

under the decks - in the less likely event of a capsiz, the paddler falls freely out) **Closed cockpit kayaks** (and decked canoes) - these are kayaks or decked canoes which are designed for use on white water (or the sea) and, **Open canoes.**

Categories of water

There are definable categories of water on which canoeing can take place: **Very sheltered water** - some non-commercial canals, small lakes, and similar. **Simple water** (flat sections of river and medium lakes or the equivalent) **White water** grade II-III or III-IV and above. **and, the sea** - either holiday beaches close inshore and simple sections of coastline; or committing sections of coast and open crossings.

The Coaching Scheme progression (spelled out on pages 51-52 of the Members Yearbook) sets out a table of qualifications related to particular boats on particular waters.

Appropriate training courses prepare instructors to be in charge of canoeing activities according to the candidate's ability and interest.

Why a Scheme is necessary

Clearly there are many canoeists around of both sound paddling ability, and with a natural flair for teaching who, for various reasons, do not wish to pursue a formal qualification.

No one person is likely, however, in isolation, to embrace all the canoeing knowledge and ideas on instructional techniques.

What a coaching scheme does is to provide the means whereby the experience, knowledge, teaching innovation and ideas, acquired by many individuals, is shared, thus improving the standard for all.

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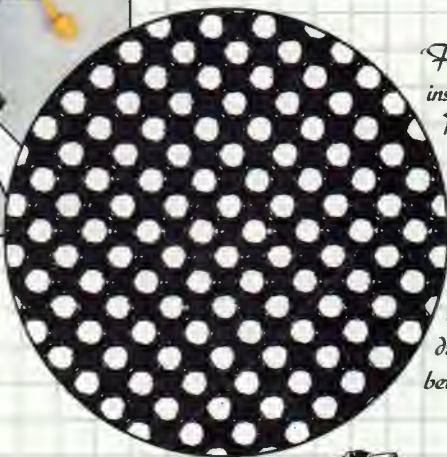
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THE INNOVATORS

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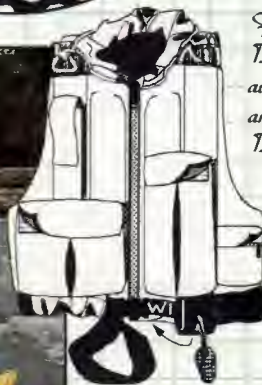
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