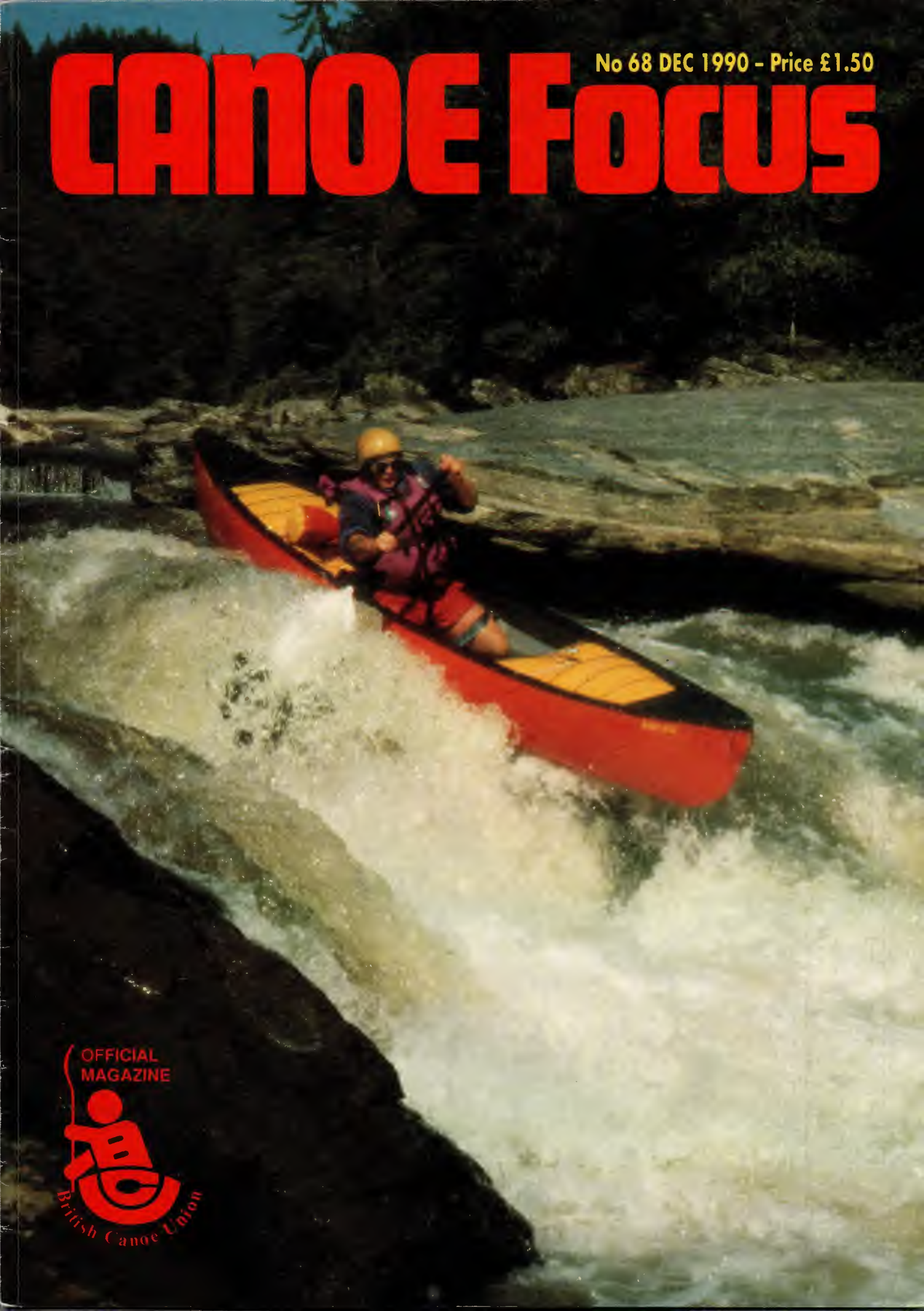


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Paddles Up!

Scenes from the filming of *Paddles up on the Tryweryn*
Helen Barnes (right) goes under the limbo

(above) *The Boys are Back in Town*. L - R Andy Raspin, Mark Delaney, Ian Raspin, Russ Smith and Shaun Pearce



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Canoe Focus is the official magazine of the British Canoe Union

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

Front Cover "This is no place for whitewater puberty rites" (Nealy) Picture shows Dave Crooks of Mobile Adventure Ltd, shooting the Class V "Sock em dog" rapid on the Chattogga River, North Carolina. The Chattogga was the subject of the film, "Deliverance"

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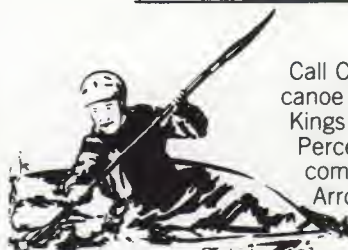
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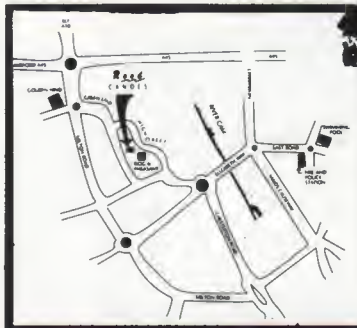
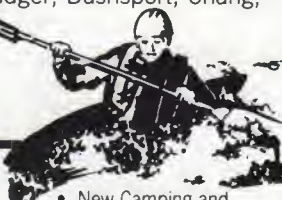
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**by BCU Director
Trevor Bailey**

BCU AGM - getting your voice heard

The last edition of Focus gave members the initial notice of the 1991 AGM. The Yorkshire Region are hosting the meeting, which will be held at Leeds Civic Hall on Saturday March 9th. Any motion for discussion must be sent to the Director to be received by 1st. January 1991. Motions must be signed by two members who are entitled to vote, i.e. paid up members who are life, adult basic or adult comprehensive members. Nominations for candidates for Council have to be submitted in the same way as motions and the same rules apply.

In recent years there has been some confusion amongst members over the question of how to submit motions, the type of topic that a motion to the AGM can cover, and about proxy votes.

The Union has produced a leaflet "The Timing and Presentation of Motions for General Meetings", which is available from BCU headquarters. The Union is a limited company, and so the regulations concerning the AGM are covered by Statute. Any member wishing to submit a motion is therefore advised to do so well before the deadline, in order that advice can be given to avoid the motion being declared invalid.

The leaflet does cover the question of the type of topic that motions can cover, but it may be helpful to highlight one or two aspects here. The Union has delegated a broad range of responsibilities to the three management committees and most things can be ventilated, and often settled by the appropriate committee without taking up the time of the AGM. Certain matters of principle do need ratification by the council. This route is usually more convenient, in the end, and likely to be quicker than taking it to the AGM.

The rules relating to proxy votes are contained in the Articles of Association. A proxy is a way that members can get another member to vote for them at the AGM if they

cannot go themselves. Proxy forms are sent out with the notice of the AGM and the format of the form is detailed in the Articles. Only proxy forms that comply with that format are acceptable. This means that a photocopy of the original form, or a fax of the form, will be accepted, but for example a list of a number of members would not be acceptable. The persons appointed as proxy vote holders, as well as the voting member, must be current paid up members of the BCU, entitled to vote. Proxy forms that do not give the membership number of both the voting member and the proxy holder will be invalid, except that if members appoint the chairman of the meeting as proxy holder

there is no requirement to quote the proxy holders membership number.

A final point on the AGM. The meeting does generate a tremendous workload on headquarters staff, including the checking of membership records to ensure that proposers of motions or nominations for council are current members. It would be helpful if members renewed their membership on time and did not leave it until they submit motions or proxy forms. The membership section is now completely up to date. If you don't receive your new card within two weeks of submitting your renewal form, please contact Headquarters.



THE DIRECTORS CHALLENGE - adventures around Anglesey

I mentioned earlier in the year that my Directors Challenge was to be a paddle round the Isle of Wight. The original date had to be put back to September, and then at the last minute the venue was changed to Anglesey. Unfortunately, at the time of the proposed paddle the weather was appalling and the wind was gale force. I went across to Anglesey with the intention of practising for 2 days and then doing a circumnavigation of Holy Island. Two very enjoyable days were spent as the guest of Nigel Dennis at the Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre. The plan was to paddle a double sea kayak, the Aleut Sea II produced by Howard Jeffs, my partner being Mike Devlin. The first day was spent paddling in the inland sea, and on the second we did the Menai Straights. Having thus overcome some of my initial worries I was actually looking forward to the big paddle, but unfortunately the wind was still very strong on the third day. A quick trip to South Stack persuaded Mike and I that the full trip was not on, and we therefore planned a reduced trip from Four Mile Bridge to Trearddur Bay. We were accompanied by two paddlers from Holland who were over here collecting their new sea kayaks. I feel sure that sea kayakers descriptions of the size of water is treated in the same way as the typical fishermen's story about the one that got away, but I can honestly say that the sea was big! (The accompanying photograph really does not do it justice, the waves were at least 10 feet, honest). One of the Danish

paddlers unfortunately capsized a number of times and eventually, after battling for some time, we had to concede defeat and paddled into Rhoscolyn.

The story has a happy ending. My sponsor, having listened to the details of the paddling undertaken over the 3 days, accepted that I had met the spirit of the challenge. I will therefore receive £500 for the coaching fund and a total of £800 for the Jubilee Canoe Foundation.

I would like to congratulate Howard Jeffs on producing a superb sea kayak, to thank Nigel Denis for his very generous hospitality and Mike Devlin for his expert guidance and advice, and of course to thank my anonymous sponsor for his generosity. Having had such a tremendous introduction to sea kayaking I certainly hope to have further goes, and hopefully, time willing, Mike and I will one day get back to have another go round Holy Island. Plans for the 1991 Directors Challenge are already being made. The World Marathon Championships are being held in Australia in 1992, which will clearly be a drain on the resources of the marathon committee, already suffering from a reduction in grant. I plan a challenge to raise money for the team, and would welcome suggestions from members as to the type of challenge they feel would be appropriate. I have already competed in a marathon, paddling with Alan Laws in this years National Championships

COMPETITION FOCUS

Marathon

Hasler Finals

Ever heard of the "Cockleshell Heroes"? - the name certainly rang a bell, but I'd never have made the connection between a tale of war-time bravery and canoeing marathons - let alone the Hasler Finals, one of the most prestigious marathon racing competitions in Britain. But way back in 1942, during the second world war, ten Royal marines took part in one of the most courageous canoeing marathons of all time. Dropped, from an aeroplane in the Mediterranean, the ten canoed up the River Gironde to Bordeaux in order to destroy enemy shipping. The mission was completed successfully, but only two men made it back - including...Lt. Col. HG Hasler DSO, OBE, RM. In his honour and to commemorate the other members of the daring mission, Lloyds Underwriters presented the famous Hasler trophy, competed for by clubs throughout the season, leading up to the Hasler Finals in September. The Clubs compete in regional leagues, and the four top-scoring clubs from each region then go through, together with teams from the combined services and the host club or clubs. Every year, the Hasler final is held somewhere different; This year it took place on the River Ouse at Bedford, jointly organised by Viking Kayak Club and Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club. Here Mike Carter, describes the event - from an organiser's point of view!

Eventually the day dawned, albeit overcast and rain-threatening. The moment of truth arrived - had we forgotten something critical? there is no "fount of knowledge" to assist in the planning and running of large scale events such as this one - we started very much at square one. 101 things had had to be done; ordering a tannoy, sorting out a landing stage, putting out buoys on the river, ordering and cooking 100's of beefburgers and hot dogs, producing a programme, locating the perpetual trophies and ensuring that they were present on the day - let



alone receiving and processing entries for over 530 paddlers! Briefing for the morning races over, everyone moved over to the river where the Mayor of Bedford saw some exciting starts - 63 boats on the line for Division 8. Surprisingly, there were only a few capsizes, and everybody negotiated the Town Bridge safely. Several Divisions were closely fought. But former Viking member Donald Pettigrew put his local knowledge to good effect, taking 5 minutes off the Division 7 field, while Wildwater Racing International Ian Tordoff was over 3 minutes clear in Division 4 - as was Spencer Unstead of Elmbridge (Division 5). Only three Senior Regional champions took part, Ian Timbrell of Fowey River took the Rhodes White trophy, while Anna Ballard retained the David Shankland trophy as Ladies Regional Champion. Tony Richardson of Royal Canoe Club took the Barbour trophy as Junior Regional champion and John Elliott of

Reading and Leighton Park received the Adam Thomasson trophy for Division 2. The overall winners of the Hasler Trophy were Wey Kayak Club, just three points ahead of Elmbridge. Kirkcaldy and Reading and Leighton Park were equal third.

Next year's Hasler Final is due to take place on the River Severn at Ironbridge on September 23rd 1991, organised by Gailey Canoe Club. Bids are invited from clubs for 1992's event up to May 1991, and the venue will be decided at the 1991 Marathon AGM.

Anna Ballard collects her trophy



ICF NEWS

Dates have been set for the main international marathons for 1991

29 March/1 April

Devizes to Westminster

20-21 April

Waterland, Holland

27 July-3 August

Arctic Canoe Race, Finland

17 August

Royal CC Grand Prix

27-28 Sept

World Cup Berlin

5 October

Bratislava Grand Prix, CSSR

Next year's DW is to be opened up to much wider participation from abroad - there will be an international competition within the overall event, over the four days of the Easter weekend, using the 'Junior' stages. Fuller race details and selection events are to be announced shortly

Dates for the Sella Descent have not yet been confirmed, but the race is expected to run as usual on the first weekend of August, the 3rd. Entries and more details when available from Alan Laws (0205)365505

Details of the assessment races for the 1991 Grand Prix will be in the Marathon/Racing Yearbook. Exams for International marathon judges will be held at the Royal Grand Prix. Anyone interested in taking the exam should contact Alan Laws.

ROYAL GRAND PRIX

To celebrate their 125th anniversary, Royal Canoe Club are organising an International Canoe marathon on Saturday 17th August 1991, as part of the International Canoe Federation's Grand Prix series. This will be the first international marathon to be held in London since the Round London series of the early 1980's, and the first in Britain since the first marathon world championships held at Nottingham in 1988. The race is to take place on a 24 mile course on the Thames, from Windsor to Teddington, finishing at the Royal Canoe Club's own Clubhouse on Trowlock Island. A traditional Thames marathon with eight demanding portages and the usual holiday river traffic, the race will make strenuous demands on competitors and

should make for a high standard of racing. Domestic competitors will also be welcome to take part in the race, subject to certain ICF regulations.

Strong interest has already been expressed by potential sponsors and the race is likely to attract considerable media coverage, combining as it does a major sporting event with the anniversary celebrations of the world's first canoe club. Although planning for the event is well in hand, help and support from canoeing enthusiasts in Britain will be most welcome, and all offers will be gratefully received.

Included in the planned programme of events are:

Kingston Divisional marathon (11th August)

A Club-night Barbecue (14th August)

International marathon (17th August)

The Paddling Challenge (21st August)

These events, organised by Royal Canoe Club, will tie in with a number of other races, including the Thames circuit Marathon, Reading (18th August) and the National Marathon Championships at Nottingham (24th/25th August) making for a veritable festival of canoeing events in Britain. Further details from Guy Dresser, 8 Cranes Park Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8BP

WHY TRAIN FOR THE DW?

You may have already started to train for next year's Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race - or be contemplating the prospect once the last of the turkey has been added to the increasing waistline..

So why undertake this 125 mile marathon? ...maybe some foolish alcohol laden conversation led to a bet concerning the completion of the race, or perhaps an outstanding charitable cause has stirred the muscles and brain cells into hiving an Easter of canoeing. If the D-W is going to be your challenge, or one of them, for 1991, how and why train?

Training is necessary for a wide variety of sports and sporting events and this is particularly true of the D-W, the race which has become known as "the canoeists Everest". Its challenging and fun but requires a great deal more than the ability to sit in a canoe for up to 24

hours.

If possible, try at some stage in your programme to plan some canoeing along the route of the race - from Devizes, up the Kennet and Avon canal to Reading and from there down the Thames to Westminster. A good way to do this is to participate in the Waterside series or Thameside races which actually cover the course from Devizes to Longridge. If this is difficult due to your location, then at least practise some portages. This is essential - there are many portages along the entire D-W route. When actually canoeing, set yourself reasonable and achievable targets to prevent loss of enthusiasm. Always ensure you are wearing suitable clothes and have changes of clothing in case of a change in the weather or a swim. Make sure that you carry adequate food and drink supplies - remember that the body needs to have fuel for the muscles to work efficiently and effectively. Try, if possible, to get your support crew to come out and help - they can also learn your likes and dislikes of food and drink! If you're training along the route, they have the opportunity to get to know it. Then, hopefully, during the actual race they won't lose you! Finally, when training do remember to be safety conscious - it should be fun and not dangerous!

Tamsin Phipps

Further information on the D-W, including training, dietary requirements and rules is published in the rule book, obtainable by sending £1 to Janice Begent, 87, Hibernia Rd, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3RL

MARATHON RACING SCHEME

Money raised by selling certificates at marathon events is being made available to clubs in the form of grants to fund projects which will encourage club members to take part in marathon events. Applications for assistance should be sent to David Green, Marathon Secretary, Poole Cottage, Long Barn, Crediton Devon

Marathon section compiled by Paul Owen

RODEO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

For most paddlers, white water rodeo events are purely for fun; polishing your paddling skills in a sociable environment whilst preparing for the river paddling season. Nevertheless, the Rodeo circuit is growing, with British paddlers competing in Austria and Finland this year, as well as at the domestic events in England, Scotland and Wales.

1991 will see the first ever Rodeo World Championships, to be held at the Bitches in South Wales from 12th to 14th July. The event site is a famous tide race, giving guaranteed big white water, and a spectacular background to the canoeing. The event

is being organised by Palm, with support from Andy Middleton of Twr-y-Felin.

To provide maximum competition, the paddlers will all compete in the same designs of kayak, with the whole event filmed for TV coverage.

The British team will be selected from the highest placed paddlers in the 1991 Rodeo series, with events on the Thames weirs (March), Holme Pierrepont (May), and the Bitches (June).

If you want to Hot Dog for Britain, get an information pack from Playboater, Dawson Canoeing Systems or Twr-y-Felin Outdoor Centre.

INVERCANNIE WHITE WATER RODEO 1990



Photo Jim Henderson

Steve and Charlie, the men from Palm, arrived late Saturday night after 12 hours on the road to a good old Scottish welcome. Rain, wind and more rain. There was even a good chance of snow that night as temperatures began to fall and Steve, who by now had a heavy cold, sought comfort in a box of Lemsips and our old kitchen stove.

All but Steve's nose had dried up by morning as the water level began to drop from a "honking down" to a "horsing along" status (revised Scottish grading system) so it was with some optimism that we set out for Dee side. One look at the faces of the Playboaters who had turned up early, and, judging by the log jam of slalom poles and the amount of pots and pans coming down from the Div 2 event at Cairnion rapid confirmed our worst fears. Washed out! Time to put plan "B" into action.

By 1pm, Clubs from

Stonehaven to Peterhead and Aberdeen to Alford were well represented, with special contingents from joint services Kingussie, Glenmore Lodge, Clinterty College and Project Cascade swelling the numbers. A convoy of minibuses and cars ran shuttles down to Banchory Bridge and soon well over 100 paddlers and a raft louped (as in heather) their way through big standing waves down river to the golf course play wave. Once regrouped, the newspaper man was briefed, the rules explained and the fun began, Steve Wollett demonstrating how it could be done. Paddlers soon lost their normal quiet and laid back North of the Border manners and got stuck into the wave.

After what was described by the local paper as a reverse ejection and after witnessing a whole stopper full of even more cunning stunts, the judges made their final decision

Jim Prince

The Arctic Canoe Race - the view from a river racer



It seems like a dream now, but this summer it really happened; we actually went to the Arctic Canoe Race and I took part in the Wild Water Racing class.

Reaching the start was a magnificent adventure. My wife and I made a long, slow, journey up through Norway, travelling by easy stages with stops for very high quality warm-up training on superb water amidst stunning scenery.

The ACR starts over 400km. North of the Arctic Circle at Kilpisjarvi, Finland, close to the point where Sweden, Norway and Finland all meet. The race covers 537km and lasts for a week, with six days of paddling and one (essential!) rest day. This year, for the first time, the race was organised in the form of a series of race stages (26 in all) with transfer sections to paddle in between them. Dropping-out from either race stages or transfer legs carried penalty points; stopping off for a rest could, however, be used at times to tactical advantage, especially when several paddlers were working together!

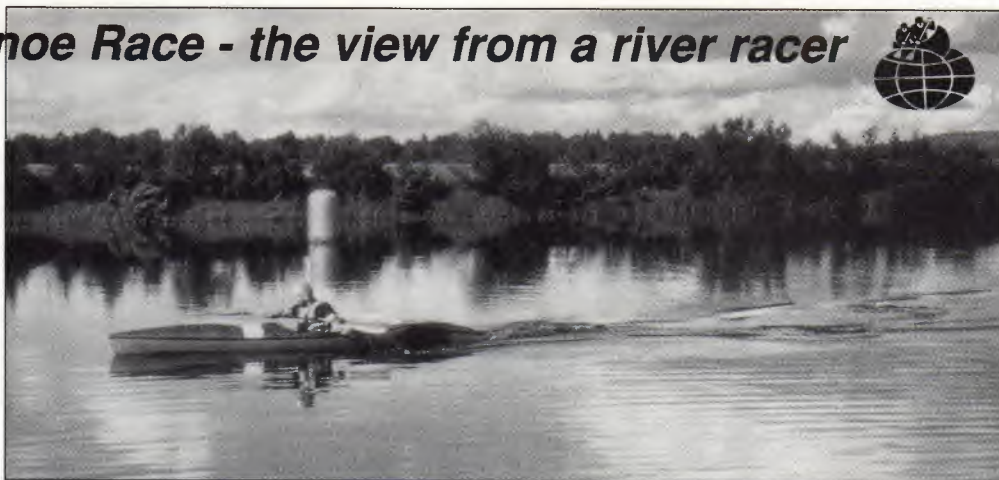
I had set myself the personal goal of completing the entire course without any drop-outs.

DAY (1). Kilpisjarvi to Karessuvanto 131km

The race began at midnight, the first timed stage crossing two largish lakes separated by a short channel overlooked by hills.

It was a strange and rather eerie experience to be paddling after midnight without it getting dark. As we finished the lakes there followed a mandatory portage down a long straight muddy path through a cold greyness.

Somehow I got through the 131km of the first day; the Joki was flat, still and mostly shallow, winding through flat and featureless scrubland. There were two stretches of Grade 11 water of quite good quality, but only about 500 metres long apiece. There were also a few short stretches of Grade 1-11, but it was becoming clear that the actual amount of white-water paddling was only an infinitesimal proportion of the race as a whole. The ACR was not what I expected. I had anticipated covering a very long distance on a challenging white-water river, with perhaps some flat sections



such as impressive lakes to cross.

But the race was proving to be very tough; soon, for me, it became simply a matter of keeping going. Race stages and transfer legs started to merge and become indistinct as my mind became focused on simply pushing the boat on.

The last transfer leg of the day was the worst; I thought that I had finished after the final race stage, but actually had a further 13km to do. A few paddle strokes at a time eventually brought me in, more exhausted than I can remember ever being before. I received some lift in spirits from the welcome over the public address system and the congratulations as I landed. Sometime during that gruesome first day, I came second in one of the race stages. Quite how I managed this I have not been able to work out!

I have one vivid memory from that first evening - being spoon-fed cold custard and falling fast asleep between mouthfuls!

DAY (2). Karessuvanto to Muonio 100km

I slept around the clock in a small hut and then geared myself up to re-start on the morning of Day (2). My left wrist was very swollen and painful and several people looked rather surprised to see me on the start line!

The day began with a 28km race stage. At the end of this I hit a 'wall' and came very close to dropping out. At this point the support team to some RAF paddlers came to my aid together with a German named Wolfgang Grothaus. With my wrist properly strapped up and an isotonic drinks mix in my bottle, I was able to go on albeit slowly. To my relief, the plasters on my blisters now stayed on!

I concentrated on simply keeping the boat moving in the direction of Muonio and the rest-

day. I had run my energy reserves right down to zero; whenever I started to feel weak a few mouthfuls of the RAF concoction through my drinking tube seemed to work like a refill of petrol! The worst seemed to be over. I began to think that I might after all be able to finish the race.

There were no major rapids that day but the river did liven up and flow a bit in places. The km leading into the finish was a stretch of bouncy water rather like the Eden

The day-off helped; without it, I do not think that I would have been capable of going any further. We found a secluded campsite away from the general melee and spent a pleasant day doing very little.

DAY (3) Muonio to Kolari 85km

The first 7km race stage was an attractive fast section with bouncy Grade 11 rapids and, at last, plenty of flow. Then, however, the river resumed its normal character, within a wide, flat and featureless landscape of twisted scrub and large man-eating mosquitoes. They were diabolically persistent and could locate the smallest untreated area, such as eyelids and the underneath of Jeannie's wedding ring.

I continued to receive assistance from the RAF team, which was greatly appreciated. I was beginning to get into a rhythm now, which allowed me to cope with stretches of up to 10km between rests and support contacts. Somehow, I managed to finish yet another day to stagger ashore at Kolari.

DAY (4) Kolari to Pello 81km

The fourth paddling day began with a 30km race stage; the longest single stage, all flat-

water. I struggled into the stage finish and continued the rest of the day in a sort of trance.

Despite the way I was feeling, I was still very determined to complete the whole of the ACR without any drop-outs!

DAY (5) Pello to Overtornea 65km

Day (5) was short, by these standards. It went by in a dazed rhythm of paddle, collapse, rest, in an endlessly repeating cycle. Somewhere in the course of this we crossed back Southward over the Arctic Circle and, with a trace of surprise, I found myself still moving, fairly slowly but smoothly, into the last overnight stop at Overtornea.

During the evening, I found the race doctor. He offered a Cortisone injection, which had the risk of permanent tendon damage. I opted instead for cream and bandages!

DAY (6) Overtornea to Tornio 75km

The doctor's help made a difference. He re-strapped my wrist before the start of the final day and I found that I could once again move with some speed.

I paddled now with some eagerness, knowing for sure that I was going to make it and that every stroke brought me closer to Tornio. There were, at last, three sections of really good big-water rapids. For the first time since starting the race, I experienced elation. In the rough-water I came into my own. I was able, finally, to show what I was capable of and managed a third place in one of the race stages!

The last haul into Tornio felt good; this had been an excellent day's paddling. Crossing the finish line was a memorable moment. There I was, 537km later in Tornio, having completed the whole gruelling distance with

no drop-outs. My final result was 7th place in the WWR class.

None of this would have been possible without Jeannie's support. I was also helped greatly by encouragement and sustenance from people who we met at the race, in particular the team from RAF Germany.

I would like to applaud all of the other British participants and support crews. Particularly congratulations are due to our medal winners:-

R Elliot/R Catchlove (3rd in K2 and classic series winners).
Angus Fitchet (3rd in K1)

Later, I heard that I am probably the first from Britain to complete the whole of the ACR. in wild-water racing class. A strong team spirit developed over the event amongst people of very diverse backgrounds and national origins. Without all of the support, assistance and encouragement that I received, I would not have finished Day (2), let alone the whole race.

Perhaps I would not have said so at the time, but I would highly recommend this epic race to other British paddlers. I find myself looking back over the photographs frequently and, with hindsight, it really was 'the experience of a lifetime'.

Jerry Tracey

The 1991 Arctic Canoe Race takes place from July 27 - August 3. The Organisers are Arctic Canoe Race, Lukiokatu 10, 95400 Tornio, Finland. (9698) 409 19 400 48.. Sporting Travel Services (see advert) offer a package taking in the ACR, including 9 nights accommodation, breakfast, travel (air or ferry) and a guaranteed race entry.

Wild Water Racing

WATER SHORTAGE HITS WASHBURN RACES

With the summer water shortages causing water release problems, the races scheduled on the Washburn were switched at the last moment.

This created the first ever Holme Pierrpont/River Trent double header with a Div B being held on the Satuay and a Div C on the Sunday.

The more testing course for the Div B's created some amusement for the spectators and bruised knuckles for the competitors as they slid down the concrete walls of the "Daleks" at the end of the Slalom course.

John Handyside

Mens K1 Div B 1st James Smythe
2nd Paul Anderson 3rd Phil Gooding

Mens K1 Open 1st Howard Blackman 2=Nigel Stevenson 2=Lincoln Taylor

Ladies K1 Open 1st Jenny Hands

2nd Helen Marriott
Mens C1 A/B 1st Paul Hepworth
2nd Andrew Parry
Mens C2 A/B 1st Slade Warne/
Clive Harvey
Mens K1 Div C 1st S. Martin
promoted 2nd A. Kirk promoted 3rd
R. Benson
Mens C2 Div C Corden\Crook
promoted
Open 1st A. Jolley 2nd J. Anderson
3rd C. Hill

BRITISH TEAM BAGS AND BROLLIES

Multi-pocketed value for money red white and blue training bags with British Canoe team logo (any team) are available at a bargain price £16 together with blue and white British team double umbrellas £11. These umbrellas enable both coach and paddler to cuddle up together and share the same dry space whilst inspecting the wonders of Britain's Regatta courses and rivers. Available from John Handyside, Glebe Farm, Cotgrave, Notts.

DATE CHANGE

The North Tyne Race, due to be held on Jan 13th is now on :-
JANUARY 6th 1991

It is Div. B, C, and Open, on Grade 3 water, from above Barasford to Chollerford Bridge, (Race finish is half mile above Chollerford, but paddlers' egress has to be at Chollerford). Length of course 2.5 miles. Water would be Grade 3-4 in flood.

Arrangements:

The access point for the start is restricted, and is not for use apart from the race weekend. Details will be given to entrants in advance. Practice is possible on Saturday, January 5th.

Paddlers wishing to only turn up on the Sunday without prior entry should be a Chollerford Bridge, normal parking i.e in lay-by on Wark road at 10.00 - 11.00am. Entries will be taken up to 11.00, the race start is at 12 noon.

NORTHERN SERIES - 1991

This will consist of 4 Races, best 3 results to count:

Jan 1st N Tyne Div B & O,
Jan 6th (please note change from Jan 13th) N Tyne (upper) Div B, C & O

Feb 3rd N Tyne Div B, C, O & I & Regional Champs

March 3rd S Tyne Div C, O & U14/U16

Plastic/Slalom boat class at each race; Results in all classes (i.e Mens, Ladies, C1 C2 etc) will be on fastest times taken across all Divisions. No special entry required, no restriction on entries. Overall Finish List available at end of series.

Contact Jerry Tracey for details, Haefen, Middle Hay Leaze, Allendale, Northumberland NE47 9NP

RIVER WYE DOUBLE HEADER

January 12/13

Marteg Confluence to Rhayader
Divisions B,C, Open and Team

with Guest appearances by British team members as part of Squad weekend
plus coaching clinic
and open Evening Forum and Discussion with team members, coaches and management

Further info and entries from Bob Tilling, 5 Ashmen Rd, Thatcham, Berks RG13 4WD or John Handyside, National competition Coach, Glebe Farm, Cotgrave, Notts.

SPORTING TRAVEL SERVICES

ARCTIC CANOE RACE

27 July - 3 August 1991

Partnered with the Devizes Westminster to form the 'Classic Series', this is a must for every Marathon, Wild Water or tourist paddler. If you want to paddle the river, but don't want to race, why not join the ACR Rally or Ramble?

Sporting Travel Services are offering two modes of transport, the usual ferry to Gothenerg, and driving to Kilpisjarvi or why not let us take your canoe for you, organise your bank support during the race allowing you to fly to Rovaneemi, therefore reducing time away from the UK. Prices on application.

Please contact us for full information now:-

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Royston, Herts SG8 7BP. Tel (0763)242867



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Slalom

COACH OF THE YEAR

Hugh Mantle, the mens K1 Olympic coach (slalom) has been selected as "Coach of the Year" This award is made by the British Institute of Sports Coaches from nominations for all sports throughout England. Nominated by Richard Fox, Hugh won the category for male part-time coach who has made the the biggest improvement to personal performance. This is the first time anyone from canoeing has ever won this particular award, and is recognition of Hugh's outstanding contribution over the last ten years, during which time he has prepared the mens K1 slalom team for five world championships and numerous internationals. But it has been in the last three years that Hugh's total commitment and single mindedness has made such a significant difference, producing the best results of all time . Journeying from Liverpool to Nottingham twice a week he has blended a group of individuals into a strong and co-operative group, with regular meetings, competition and free exchange of ideas - a remarkable change from the situation where paddlers trained in isolation with secret training plans. As a lecturer and registered Sports Psychologist at Liverpool Polytechnic, Hugh



has not been afraid to apply science to slalom coaching, using strict monitoring of preparation, meticulous recording of training and a clinical analysis of technique, goal setting and mood states.

When he's not coaching the British slalom team, Hugh is in demand as a speaker at coaching conferences worldwide . Some of his statements have a habit of leaving people slightly stunned; he is famous for coming out with such gems as "coaches are not the fount of all knowledge" and "unless you have something factual and accurate to say (as a coach), shut up"!

Brown wins Scottish Award
And following his efforts on behalf of Scottish youth paddlers over the past year, John Brown, Scotland's foremost slalom coach was awarded the British Institute of Sports coaches "Coach of the Year 1990" award for Scotland. John now goes forward for the UK title. The nomination was organised by several parents whose young have been coached by John.

Richard Fox (world slalom champion) and his wife Myriam (world slalom champion) née Jerusalmi at their September wedding



Paul; Mc Dermid winning the Junior K1 event. Photo Robert Summers

Llangollen International RASPIN STRIKES BACK!

This years Llangollen International, sponsored by Gales of Llangollen, climaxed a canoeing week which attracted paddlers from many parts of Europe, Germany, Norway, Ireland, Holland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and included World Cup winner Pierpaolo Ferrazzi of Italy and the Czech Junior World Champion Alex Adamek.

The individual event, sponsored by Brecon Mineral water, saw Ian Raspin and Rachel Fox win the K1 classes, Richard Domoney the C1 event and Arrowsmith/Brain the C2 race. All paddlers were competing for the newly formed England team, another of this year's success stories.

And then the rains came.....

Following a year of low river levels and drought warnings, heavy rain on Saturday night saw the river rise rapidly on Sunday, turning Town Falls into a wild, frothy, roaring hazard which caused all sorts of problems for the paddlers - this was no place for the faint-hearted!

The slalom sprint event, sponsored by Feelfree Rafting, proved to be the "downfall" of Ferrazzi, World Cup Champion or not!

The racing had been close and very exciting with plenty of mishap and drama on the falls.

On Ferrazzi's second run, he was tossed around on the fall, had several attempts to roll up,

but all to no avail - he had to swim out, much to the delight of the crowd.

Melvyn Jones, slalom sprint expert, stormed through to win, pushing Rob Wright into second place - a great finale to a really exciting afternoon's racing.

Results

K1 Men Ian Raspin 2nd Rob Wright 3rd Ian Wiley (Ireland)

K1 Ladies 1st Rachel Fox 2nd Lynn Simpson 3rd Maria Francis 1st Junior Claire Daniels

C1 1st Richard Domoney 2nd Chris Wilson 3rd Tadhg McIntyre (Ireland) 1st Junio Nathan Gray

C2 1st Arrowsmith/Brain 2nd Clough/Clough 3rd Meikle/Brown

K1 Juniors Paul McDermid 2nd Paul Ebrey 3rd Peter Buckley

THANKS

To "Gales of Llangollen", main sponsors of this year's British Open and International week.

Through their assistance, other local businesses sponsored the competitions and attracted a splendid overseas contingent

NO THANKS

To the C2 crews who boycotted prizegiving, causing embarrassment to both organisers and sponsors. All the other classes of paddler had made the effort to be there and the prizes really were excellent.

If we are to keep good sponsorships like this one, its up to everyone to put themselves out and make a bit of an effort - otherwise we'll all lose out next time around.

Joe Mulholland

JUNIOR CHAMPIONS COME OF AGE

What an exciting climax to the season for Premier paddlers.

The 1990 Rawston Vale British Open Championship also combined as the final Premier event of the year and provided a terrific final race, and, as it happened, winning the "open" also clinched the Premier title for the K1 classes.

Shaun Pearce finally overcame the challenge of the Raspin brothers to take the British Open and Premier title, with Andy "Kidder" Raspin, taking the no.2 spot from brother Ian.

Pearce's title was no flash in the pan - having won at the Open, a World cup race and several Premier races. "Kidder" too, has had a great season, and has come out from the shadow of Ian with a vengeance.

The competition for the ladies K1 proved to be just as exciting. Lynn Simpson and Maria Francis have had a great tussle, starting with the pool slalom at Crystal Palace and finally ending in Lynn's favour at Llangollen.

As Maria had beaten Lynn at the Holme Pierrepoint races, it was all down to the "Challenge of the Town Falls"

On the day, the honours went to Lynn Simpson, who won both the Open title and Premier divisional title with Maria a very close second.

Gareth Marriott has dominated the C1 class this year. At only 20 years of age, Marriott has made a terrific impact on the World stage this year and is now a serious challenge to the American World champion John Lugbill.

Gareth had been training in the USA and so missed the Llangollen week; Martyn Hedges took full advantage of the opportunity by winning the open title from Mark Delaney.

The C2 Division was possibly the most interesting of all this year, with plenty of movement among the rankings. Meikle/Brown confirmed their supremacy at the top of the division with Arrowsmith/Brain pushing into second place by winning the C2 open title.

A tremendous effort from Osborne/Shreeve saw them gain the no. 5 bib, just reward for a season in which they maintained a steady rate of improvement, and reached the senior Olympic training squad.



The new British Slalom champions Shaun Pearce Lynn Simpson and Martyn Hedges at the prizegiving. Furthest left is sponsor Richard Gale

British Open Results

K1 men 1st Shaun Pearce 2nd Andy Raspin 3rd Ian Raspin

K1 Ladies 1st Lynn Simpson 2nd Maria Francis 3rd Rachel Fox

C1 1st Martyn Hedges 2nd Mark Delaney 3rd Richard Domoney

C2 1st Arrowsmith/Brain 2nd Clough/Clough 3rd Richardson/Thompson

Final Premier Rankings

K1 men

1. Shaun Pearce
2. Andrew Raspin
3. Ian Raspin
- 3 Melvyn Jones
- 5 Rob Wright
- 6 David Crosbee
- 7 Russ Smith
- 8 Len Shackleton
- 9 Jim Jayes
- 10 Kevin Campbell

K1 Ladies

1. Lynn Simpson
2. Maria Francis
- 3 Karen Davies
- 4 Joan Jays
- 4= Rachel Fox
- 6 Sue Burns
- 7 Heather Corrie
- 8 Alison Walley
- 9 Claire Daniels
- 10 Janet Johnson

C1

- 1 Gareth Marriott
- 2 Martyn Hedges
- 3 Mark Delaney
- 4 Richard Comer
- 5 Peter Bell
- 6 Richard Domoney
- 7 Chris Wilson
- 8 Toby Morgan
- 9 Bill Horsman
- 10 Chris Payne

C2

- 1 Meikle/Brown
- 2 Arrowsmith/Brain
- 3 Thompson/Richardson
- 4 Smith/Brown
- 5 Osborne/Shreeve
- 6 Clough/Clough
- 7 Rouch/Ambridge
- 8 Mitchell/Cooper
- 9 Green/Green
- 10 Millar/Pitt

Junior World champion Adamek of Czechoslovakia tackles the town falls
Photo Pete Astles



GRANT AID FOR CANOEING PROJECTS

The BCU administer a number of grant making trusts which give out money or equipment to "deserving causes". So if you're after some finance for that special project or expedition, don't despair, help may be at hand!

The James Turner Legacy Fund

When James Turner realised that he had cancer and was going to die at an early age, he decided to donate the proceeds of his house sale to further the interests of disabled canoeists. Because of James' generosity, a disbursement fund now exists whereby the annual interest on the donation is used to award grants to projects involving disabled canoeists. Recent recipients have been an expedition to the Alonquin Wilderness in Northern Canada (Spirit of Canada Challenge, reported in August's Canoe Focus) and the Ranch Adventure Centre in North Wales. To apply for assistance, contact the Director's Secretary at BCU Headquarters, for an application form.



A handicapped student at the Ranch Adventure Centre enjoys paddling the Rob Roy donated by the James Turner Legacy Fund.

The Jubilee Canoeing Foundation

The JCF is a permanent grant-making fund set up in 1986 (the BCU's Golden Jubilee) to encourage young people to take part in canoeing. Grants from the JCF are financed by the interest on donations which it is hoped will build up over the years. Applications are welcome on behalf of any school, college or university student in the UK and can be used for anything from buildings to equipment, courses, teachers and research! To apply, write to the BCU Director, Trevor Bailey, with a short resume of the proposed project, including aims and existing resources available.

The Expeditions Committee

Over the years some of Britain's most exciting canoeing exploits have been supported by the BCU Expeditions Committee, from the rivers of Siberia to the first crossing of the Bering Straits. Only about half a dozen expeditions are awarded BCU approval each year, so there's no point applying in order to finance your annual holiday to the alps! But if you planning something exceptionally challenging in a remote corner of the globe, it would be worth applying. There's no actual money involved in BCU approval but it can be the key to gaining access to other more lucrative sponsorship opportunities. As well as BCU approval, there is also some grant aid available, not enormous sums of money (£2-£300 usually) but it could be just the boost your trip needs to get it off the ground.

Youth Grants

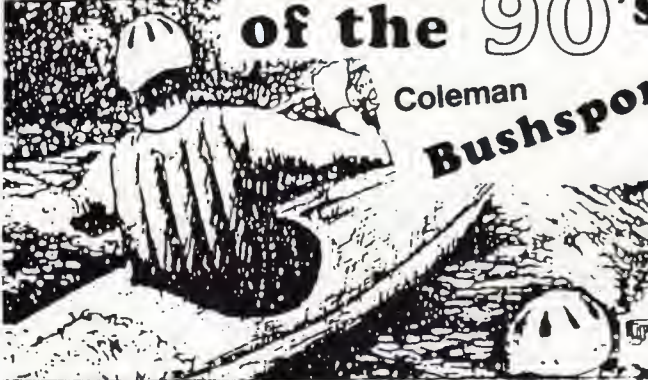
If you're under 20 and are planning to join an expedition, you may be eligible for a youth grant. The conditions are less stringent than those for senior expeditions, but the trip should be adventurous and have an element of self sufficiency.

Approval forms for Approval, Grant Aid and Youth grants are available from the BCU office. The closing date for completed grant applications is February 10th 1991 and the decision is made at the Canoe Exhibition on 16 - 17 February.

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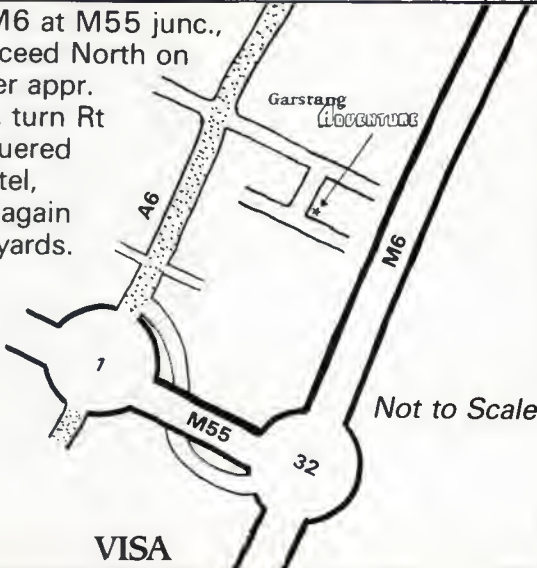
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Noticeboard

NEW ARTIFICIAL SITE PLANNED

Another artificial whitewater slalom course, similar to the successful Holme Pierrepont site, is being planned by Teeside Development Corporation. The design of the proposed course, on a tidal stretch of the Tees, is already at an advanced stage: Proper Channels Ltd have constructed a large scale working model, currently housed at Valley Canoe Products in Nottingham (the Proper Channels team of Frank Goodman and George Parr were the designers of the Holme Pierrepont course). The project, entitled the Tees Barrage Crossing Scheme is scheduled for completion in 1992 and Watson Hawkesley have been appointed as consulting engineers. The work will involve building an artificial lake and a channel, approximately 400m in length, by passing the River Tees itself. The length of the white water section, and its characteristics will depend on the state of the tide. At low water, there will be a drop of at least 15m over the full length of the course, including a six foot standing wave where the river meets the sea. As the tide comes in, the length of the course gradually reduces, until, at a high Spring Tide, it is completely flooded. Unlike the Holme Pierrepont course, all the artificial blocks which make up the course will be moveable, giving an infinite variety of water formations and difficulties. And the very good news is that TDC have pledged to improve the water quality of the river to meet with EEC bathing water standards; this will involve at the very least, the removal of two sewage outfalls, at a projected cost of five and a half million pounds.



It works! turning on the taps at Frank Goodman's model of the proposed Tees Slalom site

NORTHERN REGION GOES ON HOLIDAY

Northern Region Touring rep. Pete Button is organising a "Northern Region goes on holiday tour" from 15 - 17th March 1991, open only to paddlers from the Northern Region and their guests with "no guiding, no instruction, no money, no set rules, marginal organisation".

The idea is for small groups of paddlers to travel to the venue and choose one of a number of rivers to paddle. From the tour they will have people to help with advice on the rivers, shuttles, good company in the bar and if stuck for transport or someone to paddle with the possibility of linking up.

Pete will arrange a venue according to likely water levels, check out access and accommodation options, then interested people can phone him for details the week before the event. He's available on 091 565 7630 or 091 414 3265.

ACTION SPORTS 91

This new Exhibition is being held at the NEC, near Birmingham, over Whitsun next year (May 25-27).

The exhibition is designed to bring together a number of action sports including diving, canoeing, windsurfing, mountaineering, caving, mountain biking, parachuting and hang-gliding.

COMPETITION COACHES TO MEET

The 1991 Conference for Competition Coaches and Trainers is planned for 2-3 February 1991 at Holme Pierrepont. Further information is available from the BCU Office - please send an SAE

OCA MOVES

The Open Canoe Association of Great Britain (formerly the Canadian Canoe Association) has a new address. The membership Secretary, Carol Gaca is now at 19 Walden Lodge Close, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5BU.



Brian Wilson, author of Blazing Paddles, after successfully completing his solo attempt to circumnavigate the coast of Ireland by kayak. It took Brian 10 weeks to complete the 1200 mile trip

WILD WATER AUSTRIA

To help the newcomer to Alpine canoeing, an informal Wild Water Touring rally is due to be held at Prutz in Austria over the first two weeks of July 1991 - approximately 15km upstream of Landeck on the River Inn.

The Alpine Rafting Company in conjunction with the local Tourist Board is to host the rally, and, to break the ice, various social events will be organised. Experienced Alpine paddlers will be on hand to give advice on the local rivers including the Inn, Sanna, Rosanna, Trisanna, Pitzbach and Otzaler Ache, all within 45 minutes of Prutz.

Information from Steve England, 130 Peverell Park Rd, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4NE (0752)671820 or Mr D Roland, Alpine Rafting Company, Muhlgaasse 182 A6522 Prutz, Austria (010) 43 5472/2201

THE NORDKAPP TRUST

This new body was formed in October 1990 by a small group of people interested in the development of sea kayaking and particularly the promotion of safe paddling on the sea. It was the 1975 British Nordkapp Expedition that gave impetus to the surge of interest in sea kayaking in this country.

The trustees will be launching their activities with the First International Anglesey Sea Symposium on Mayday Bank holiday Weekend 1991. The rest of the week will be devoted to on-the-water experience for groups of all skill levels with the opportunity for individuals to be examined for qualifications under the BCU coaching scheme.

The Nordkapp Trust aims to become a major force in the promotion of safe paddling on the sea.

BCU SURF PHOTO COMPETITION

For all you budding photographers out there, the BCU Surf Committee are running a photocompetition. The only requirements are that the photograph shows a kayak surfing. Black and white or colour of any size may be used. The winning shot will be used in a poster to promote surf canoeing. Entries are to be in by January 1st and must include the entrant's name, address, telephone number and details of the photograph. Please enclose an SAE if you wish the photo to be returned. Alternative Surf, Strand Glass Fibre and Palm have very generously provided the prizes- 1st Prize, a Yak Spraydeck, second prize an AP2000 helmet and third prize, a canoe bag. The winners will be announced in February's Canoe Focus. Entries will be judged by the BCU surf committee and prizes will be presented at Crystal Palace Canoe Exhibition 16 - 17 February 1991. Entries should be sent to Nuts End, 56 Glendower Rd, Peverill, Plymouth, Devon PL3 4LD.

CANOEING IN POLAND - The Drweca Rally

Jill Griffin and her family visited the Polish Chelmo International Canoeing Rally this year - the first British visitors to the rally in its 30 year history. Here, Jill describes the experience.



It was a hot Sunday morning in August. Open canoes, single and double kayaks, rafted together, bobbed gently on the lake. Two tall dutchmen stood up and held aloft a large groundsheet to catch the breeze which obligingly billowed out the brown makeshift sail. Polish, Dutch, British, Belgian, Lithuanians, East and West Germans sat with paddles upright, blades flat across the skyline. Several languages joined in unison to render, "we are sailing", a motley colourful flotilla moving steadily towards the sandy shore. People gathered on the beach watching delightedly as the flat patchwork galleon moved closer and closer. Cameras clicked and cheers arose as we finally splintered and, like shattered stained glass, slid on to the beach.

The anticipation of canoeing in Poland in the summer had sustained me through the long dark winter evenings and here we were, under the blue Polish sky, paddling through the lakes and rivers that make up the district of Brodnica. My husband Terry, Barry and Chris Longman with their two children, Sue and Steve Bamber and their two youngsters and myself made up the British contingent. We were taking part in the Chelmo canoe rally which was celebrating its thirtieth anniversary.

Army Commander Lech Bolt had begun it all, when the canoe club of the Polish Army based at Chelmo had opened it up to civilians many years ago and like Topsy it had "grewed". Even though Lech was now retired, the Army had continued to support the rally and play a major part. The involvement of other nationalities had come about when a young Dutch woman Hilda Barr who had gone to Poland in 1982, had met Lech and canoed in the rally that year and every subsequent year, bringing with her Dutch friends. It was the few lines that she wrote to British Canoe magazines and other Western canoeing journals that elicited our response and led to one of the most memorable experiences of my lifetime. The opportunity to canoe in a country which I had never visited and meet people from many different countries seemed too good to miss. I felt very conscious of the fact that for the first time in the history of the rally, a "free" Poland was taking part. I wanted to share in the ideals of friendship and fellowship that Hilda had written about so eloquently.

The rally began at the army camp at Chelmo where everyone who was taking part put their cars in a special compound and gathered in the main parade square. Three hundred canoeists listened to local dignitaries and interpreters, cheering loudly when their country was mentioned by name. Canoes were loaded up into army lorries along with all our luggage, whilst we walked around the town accompanied by a military band. National flags fluttered at the front as we followed to a large war memorial where two young girls laid flowers. Poignant silence soon disappeared as we climbed on to the buses which would take us to the beginning of the trip.

We rattled down narrow country roads to the first campsite on the side of a large lake which would lead into the River Drweca. Our trip would take us down the Drweca which flowed in and out of lakes and often wound back on itself hugging lush forests and bathing the senses with soft greenness. Wild orchids by the hundreds clustered at the banks and trees that had succumbed to high winds, lay across the water and under the surface, keeping one ever alert to the concealed stumps revealed by the swirls of water. In Torun, the Drweca discharged into the wide River Wisla for the trip back to Chelmo. Throughout, nature alternated with beautiful old towns like Torun, Brodnica and Golub Dobryzn with their splendid past still recognisable by monuments of material and spiritual culture. There was the opportunity on non canoeing days to spend dollars at the duty free Pewex and Batona Shops with their tempting array of cheap glassware, silver jewelry and, of course, the inevitable vodka at 95p for a bottle. Chris Longman knew how to make Harvey Wallbangers which I had to rechristen Harvey Headbangers for obvious reasons. Meals at restaurants and hotels with all drinks set us back the princely sum of £5.00 for two. Polish Zlochtyys became like monopoly money and dealing in thousands of zlochtyys was a real headache. Enterprise seemed to be giving a fairly painless birth and shops were opening all the time. Shelves starved of goods for so long were beginning to enjoy a variety of goods. A market economy was emerging but I felt that it would be a long time before Poland became an Aladdin's cave for the consumer as in the West. What we were seeing was a country in transition.

The canoeing was at a pace to suit everyone and was generally

about 30-40 kilometres a day. Participants were of every age from the very young to the elderly - 300 people starting out in the morning jostling for space in the myriad of canoes and kayaks. There were a large number of teenagers and young people in their early twenties who brought a vibrancy and sense of fun to the whole proceedings. Everyday the Friesiens from Holland with their bright yellow hats and blue teeshirts, would dart past everyone, their sea kayaks knifing through the water like tiny coloured fish. There were the large heavy and cumbersome double kayaks which could be hired from the Chelmo club and which the Dutch christened 'Flower pots' There was every type of open canoe including a smoothly burnished brown cherokee with spray deck, fold up blue canvas canoes and the brightly coloured open and closed cockpit kayaks that scudded about the water.

Faithfully the army waggons turned up to bring our gear and collect it in the mornings that we were to canoe. They provided a daily soup kitchen with scalding hot soup served every afternoon when we came off the water. I never quite got used to eating hot soup in the middle of a hot afternoon, but then, this was Poland.

They built latrines and until you have been driven by necessity to try one out you have never lived. To sit on a plank with ones bottom dangling over a pit, whilst trying to hold a canvas door closed at the same time took a bit of doing. On one wonderful day the army even provided a mobile shower tent with scalding water. Queuing up with Trangia pots for soup and mugs for the ever constant hot coffee became part of the holiday routine. I suspect that there were more holiday photographs depicting the soup queues and various latrines than there were of the scenery.

Then there were the hot days swimming in the lakes and rivers. Casual, lazy days where canoes simply pulled over and people sat and watched the meandering river and gazed across calm lakes. There were walks through forests arranged with a guide and canoeing trips through nature reserves.

It was in the evening that friendships were really forged as flames flickered and logs crackled. Beer, vodka and goodwill was passed round. Smaller groups sat round candles that burned brightly in saucers. Silhouettes would glide in from the darkness and circles would widen to encompass the newcomer.

Some evenings Terry and I would wander the campsite enjoying the atmosphere of those soft warm nights. Guitars would strum and songs would blend in with the chatting and laughter that made up the melting pot of night sounds. One evening two young men played guitars and eight youngsters from a toddler to about ten years old sang Polish Folk songs, their faces lit by the candles. The Poles with their difficult language pulled you down into their group and pushed food and drink onto you with a smile, a substitute for conversation; a symbol of friendship. It will be a long time before the memories fade.

The Chelmo International Rally is an annual event, taking place over the first two weeks of August along the Rivers Drweca and Wiski: a total distance of 320 kilometres. If you're interested in taking part, Jill Griffin can supply details on (0376)500037



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Regional Round Up

CHAIRMAN'S SPOT

with Ron Hodgson, ERM C Chairman



The AGM's have been held and a new Regional Committee has been elected by you for the coming year. They are keen to promote events aimed at getting more people into our sport but like you are volunteers. If you can help by running a tour, fun event etc. please let them know so it can be publicised in the Regional Yearbooks. With your help 1991 can be an exciting year with lots of new (different?) events and many more members, I hope to meet many of you on the water, Happy Paddling! - Ron Hodgson

EASTERN

The Eastern Region Winter series of mini slaloms will be: Dobbs Weir 9 Dec; Hemel Hempstead 3 Feb; Duck Mill Weir 24 Feb. Further details from Mike Carter. Volunteers to run events in the north and east of the region required! How about it, Peterborough, Norwich, Ipswich? The Eastern Region Pool slalom (qualification for Crystal Palace) will be on 5 Jan. Details from Jim Croft. Members of the coaching scheme are reminded that the E2 Standards Seminar will be on Sat 26 Jan at St. Ives. This is essential for E2's and useful to all coaching scheme members. A Placid Water conversion will be held in conjunction with the above and on the Sunday. Further details: RCO Dave Coggins. The Eastern Region Yearbook will be published in time for Crystal Palace. Articles, information and adverts for inclusion to Regional Chair Ron Hodgson by 5 Jan 1991.

EAST MIDLANDS

Well Christmas is upon us, another year to look back on, or from a more positive point of view a starting point. The New Year will herald new opportunities both for Clubs and the BCU and the planning starts here.

The resolution for our Region for 1991 is to increase participation throughout the disciplines, to offer new low level events, and attract new paddlers.

The Regional Committee are looking forward to this challenge, but they need the support of Clubs within the region who will run low level events during 1991, "Come and try it", Mini Marathons, Tours, Slaloms etc. In exchange we will give any support required, advertise it in the Newsletter, and provide advice and manpower if necessary.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a fun packed New Year.



LONDON & SE

Congratulations to the teams from Shepperton, Meridian and Marlin who came first, second and

third respectively at the Regional Slalom Championships held at Shepperton in July. The Shepperton team went on to represent the Region in the National Finals at Cardington where they came second.

This year's Regional Pool Slalom competition will be held at Alleyns School Pool in January. For details contact Vince Lamph, Flat 6, 36 Manor Road, Beckenham BR3 2LE. The winners will go through to the finals at Crystal Palace.

Meridian deserve further congratulations for winning their first International Polo event held at Deventer in Holland in June. Three of their team have been selected for the Great Britain Polo Squad. Well Done Paul Harrison, Paul Hammond and Graeme Gurr.

NORTHERN

The National Trust plan to prevent canoeists using Kettlewell car park on Derwent water with a height restriction barrier. If this will affect you please write to them at Rothay Holme, Ambleside, Cumbria or contact Mike Mills for more information on (0946) 861229. Contact Geoff Turner on (091)259 0253 for details of the Tyne and Wear Polo League starting in the New Year, and also for entry rules (fee £1) for the Great Cardboard Canoe Race on Tynemouth Boating Lake on 29 December. 11am is the starting time at the ice rink, Durham City for the Boxing Day (26 December) race on the River Wear - entries on the day. The Regional Wild Water Championship are on the North Tyne on 3 February - details in WWR Handbook. Northumbria canoeists meet next at 7.30pm on 14 January at Ouseburn Watersports clubhouse.

NORTH WEST

"Calling all Paddlers". Suzanne Moore needs help setting up a canoe club in the Salford area. She writes "I have been offered some assistance by the Local Authority with flat water use and boat storage. I am planning a meeting for the New Year". Interested? Suzanne can be contacted at 19 George St, Patricroft, Eccles, Manchester M30 0RG.

A Group has been formed in the North West to promote opportunities for women in canoeing. Suzanne Moore is the contact.

A new Regional Committee has recently been elected, your support of members and events will be appreciated. The Chairman is Chris Bolton, Little Heath, Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6AP (0925) 823897). The Regional Pool Slalom will be held in January. Clubs will be circulated with information, however, Chris Bolton will also deal with enquiries.

SOUTHERN

We are starting to pull together the Regional events for next year. To celebrate the opening of the Kennet & Avon Canal our 1991 series of

tours will be down the K & A from just above Devizes to the Thames, in six easy stages. Touring folk should reserve the first Sundays in April, May, June, July, September and October.

For the racing fraternity we have three 6-mile Hare & Hounds training races planned for the Sunday mornings of 6, 13 and 20 January at Eyot Boat Club, Henley-on-Thames. Contact Charles Hicks (0252) 850657.

A splendid solo initiative by Audrey Frew, who had made many international contacts on her Danube tour, created a fully international 18 day tour, with sightseeing stops, down the Thames this summer. The next Southern Region News will carry her report.

SOUTH WEST

Applicants for Sports Aid Foundation grants should contact Tony Cox, Windrush, Stanshalls Lane, Felton, near Bristol for details. The Foundation is anxious to fund promising sportsmen and women and has considerable funds available. The regional development plan has just been published and all Senior Clubs will be sent a copy. Anyone else wishing to see the proposed programme should contact the Secretary. Clubs who wish to enter the 'Taster' scheme and organise low level competition and events should send details of their proposals for the 1991 season as soon as possible to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

WEST MIDLANDS

With Paddlers' Day successfully concluding the 1990 committee's round of events and with the newly structured 1991 committee elected, we are presently compiling a programme for the new season. The overall objective is for events to be organised and run by the Regional Committee to involve total novice/non B.C.U. members in properly structured competitions and tasters.

A major objective within the region is to reinforce our relationship with British Waterways and help develop projects such as the canoe trail based in Rushall, Walsall.

Anyone who has events or information of a regional nature for inclusion in the year book please contact Malcolm Freeman before Christmas.

Come along on 11 December evening to the Mad O'Rourke Pie Factory, Christmas get together, and on 12 January to the Icebreaker Paddle & barbeque, Malthouse Stables.

YORKS/ HUMBERSIDE

The Region's AGM on Thursday, 6 December at 7.30pm has been changed to the Parkside Inn, Pontefract, on the left going into Pontefract from the M.62.

Despite notification to the contrary, the Region's Yearbook has not been circulated due to printing problems. The revamped 1991 Yearbook will be ready for the Crystal Palace Canoe Exhibition in February and will be distributed free to all BCU members in the Region.

The Yorkshire Pennine Coaching area is running a special session at Riva Reservoir Baildon on Sunday, 20 January from 10am - 12 noon with an opportunity of trying out many types of canoe. A good turnout is expected details from Bill Lodge (0924) 493526.

The Regional Polo season is well underway with three Open Leagues and a well supported Women's league of 9 teams and the Under 18's have 5 teams entered.



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BOOKS

TAKE UP CANOEING

(ISBN-O-947655)

Springfield Books have added canoeing to their "Take up" series, introductory pocket guides covering the basics of technique, equipment and safety.

The information contained is basic, but it is comprehensive and, on the whole, correct, the principal contributor is BCU Coach and Handbook Editor Ray Rowe. There are chapters on types of canoe, equipment and clothing, basic strokes, eskimo rolling, competitive and non competitive canoeing, safety and how to get started. Also useful reference sections eg. Where to find a weather forecast, where to buy a second-hand boat, how to treat hypothermia and what to put in your first aid kit. The booklet is well illustrated throughout with clear line drawings and photographs.

Take up Canoeing is definitely aimed at the novice and would not be suitable for anyone with much paddling experience. But at only £2.95, it does represent excellent value for money and would be a worthwhile addition to a School or Centre library, or for anyone else in contact with newcomers to the sport.

THE WATERWAYS CODE



British Waterways

British Waterways' new Code of Practice for users of unpowered craft is enclosed with this magazine. The aim of the Code is to provide practical advice to promote the safe enjoyment of British Waterways' canals rivers and reservoirs. The code covers relations with other users - (particularly anglers and powerboats), safety and water quality including Weil's disease and Blue-Green algae. If you would like further free copies of the Code, contact British Waterways on 071-262-6711

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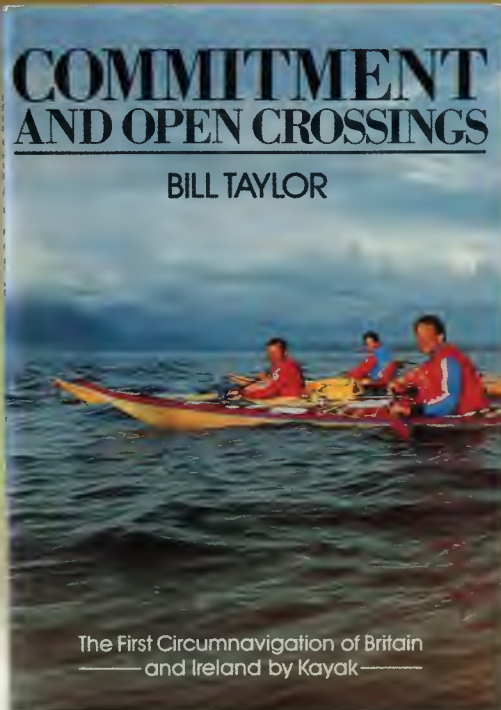
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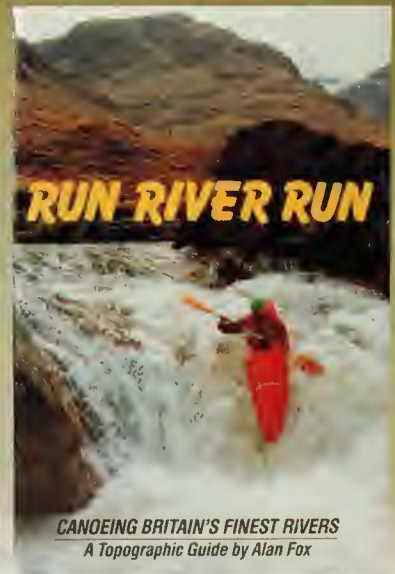
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RAFTING THE RIONI

Judith Christie discovers the joys of a Russian style holiday

I might have guessed; here come the bottles (never only one), some glasses, and a woman following carrying a plate piled high with round, flat bread and white, salty cheese. You can't refuse a single drop, even if it is the second of the day and it's only eleven o'clock in the morning. This is Georgian hospitality; no, not the one in the United States, but a little republic of the Soviet Union, between the Black and the Caspian Seas.

We are rafting the Rioni which races rapidly down from the Caucasus, these lofty, steep-sided, tree-covered mountains, and flows through sub-tropical plains to the Black Sea at Poti, and have paused in reply to a spontaneous invitation from the riverbank. Excuses are unnecessary for party-making in this country of open-hearted generosity, so when it comes to foreigners, the first westerners to boot, it's a royal reception.

We are here in the care of Soviet Travels, one of the first private companies in Russia, promoting adventure travel for Russians and foreigners together in the U.S.S.R.. After two hours' flight from Moscow, Misha Harsham, our Russian guide, armed with his "pass" from the KGB, leads us, two Americans, one Canadian and a European, to the closed town of Kutaisi where we are welcomed by seven, smiling, fellow-rafting Russians. The introductions are quickly made by Misha: "These are.....people". Perhaps his efforts at remembering Russian names are as effective as ours.

The real introductions begin across a table groaning under the weight of tomato, cucumber and onion salad, bowls of spicy, coriander-flavoured stew, beer and local wine; and of course the local bread, enormous and round like the Georgians themselves. One hour of pure greed and"Let's go", these magic words from Misha which we were soon to recognise as heralding the next surprise or adventure.

This adventure begins in the little village of Utsera where we go for a quick 'recce' of the rapids. The more experienced amongst us,

Russian and Westerners alike, exchange technical jargon - "holes", "reverses", "whirls" and "eddies"; they throw in twigs and study their passage between dangerous-looking rocks, dancing in the wild and foaming white water; they discuss the route to be taken, nodding wisely in agreement. "Let's go" shouts Misha above the roaring, agitated Rioni, and our flotilla of two Russian rafts, Misha's canoe and ourselves, is off.

Our raft, a good British design in inflatable rubber, rides the white water and plunges into the black holes, surfacing again with the aid of Chuck's oars. Chuck O'Bryan, our Sobek guide, experienced in white water rafting in America, Europe and Siberia, gives the command "forward paddle", "backward paddle" or "stop", and my team-mates act; for me, the first European in this exotic country for generations the ignoble task of bailing.

Bailing isn't included in the activities on the Russian "rafts". They are more like open catamarans. The bigger, a four-seater with one or two passengers, is constructed with two inflatable rubber sausages and a framework of pine branches and aluminium tubes, each attached with scraps of ribbon, tied tightly into place using a piece of wood as a lever. A bag of provisions provides a support when kneeling, and knee straps hold you in place. Three other larger bags are spaced between the two paddlers on either side giving the catamaran its name of a three-humped camel. Everything - catamarans, canoe, tents, sleeping bags, lifejackets and ruck sacks is home-made, and made to measure.

Suddenly the commands become sharper, more authoritative, and I start bailing full-time as we no longer recover from the holes; huge waves, instead of lifting us up, come pouring upon us from angles, down my back and front. I see only my red bucket and water everywhere. We are tossed forwards, backwards, and twist and turn with the currents; we are waltzing to the music of the Rioni and I'm beginning to get a taste for this exhilarating form of travel.

Tranquillity returns so I dare to raise my head, but....disaster in the Russian team. In the middle of the river on a rock is our brave guide, his yellow canoe bent like a banana. A few metres below, Dimitri, from the two-seater catamaran, a twisted paddle in his hand, is waiting for help. His partner has abandoned ship, swimming

bravely downstream.

Russian efficiency is impressive; rescued from the water with the safety rope, out come the pots of glue and the patches. Two pine trees are cut and stripped of their bark and, in an hour and a half, the paddle is straightened between two tree trunks and the canoe and catamaran are once again as good as new. Meanwhile, the campfire has been lit and yet another meal produced miraculously from the various bags of provisions. Our diet is typical of all Russia - kasha (buckwheat) porridge for breakfast and potatoes or rice and stew for lunch with a variety of fresh, locally-bought vegetables.

Adventure is round every bend on the Rioni, in spite at this time of year, swollen by the rain and snow melted by the hot summer sun. Sometimes it's wide and rocky where the valley opens before us, giving magnificent views; big, solid houses with wide verandas and quantities of white washing blowing in the breeze; the corrugated roofs glistening in the sun are dotted between tea plantations, fields of maize, of courgettes, of tomatoes and vineyards of the celebrated Georgian wine. In the background are the snowfields of Mount Elbrus, which, at 5,620 metres, is the highest summit in the Caucasus and indeed, in Europe. At other times we find ourselves in the canyons, one minute beige, dry and bare of vegetation, the next green and wooded with near-vertical slopes, trees pointing at impossible angles towards an azure-blue sky.

As we descend the river towards the subtropical plains, the temperature rises, and each evening as we search for a suitable campsite, shade becomes a critical criteria. The nights, brilliantly starlit, are sometimes cooling with a gentle breeze from the mountains, sometimes hot and humid, before a flash thunderstorm, driving the Rioni to a tormented fury bringing down branches and vegetation, giving us a day off to explore the surrounding area while the level drops almost as rapidly at it rose.

Time off to discover the villages...an icon-rich church, closed since the Revolution like all churches in the U.S.S.R. This one has been open only since last November and we arrive right in the middle of a communal christening, reuniting the faithful so long denied their religion.... a museum full of the local flowers, animals, rocks and costumes....a tea processing plant where we sample the product and each of us leaves with an exotically-packaged sample under our arms.

Returning to the countryside, we wander among alder trees, hazels, chestnuts, pines. We gather wild fruits; red and yellow plums, hazelnuts, pears, apples, blackberries. We visit secluded and abandoned monasteries, destroyed by the revolutionaries; fruit and vegetable markets run by old Georgian peasant farmers, their faces tanned by the torrid sun and wrinkled by rude winters; millers with their hand-made watermills still grinding cornflower, typical of the region. We climb upwards to impressive waterfalls and on to summits where, according to legend, Prometheus, the Greek god who stole fire, was tied up by Zeus for the eagles to eat his liver as eternal punishment. It's believed that Jason and his Argonauts came this way in search of the Golden Fleece and to this day the locals soak sheep fleeces in the rivers to collect flakes of gold. Anecdotes, stories and legends.... no subject is taboo. These are no longer the reticent and anxious Russians we used to hear so much about.

The tour finished, the free running chicken has already been killed and the table is overflowing with colourful salads, meat and vegetable dishes in spicy, exotic-flavoured sauces. We sit

sun-dappled beneath the shady arbour of vines and tuck into a feast fit for kings, all in our honour.

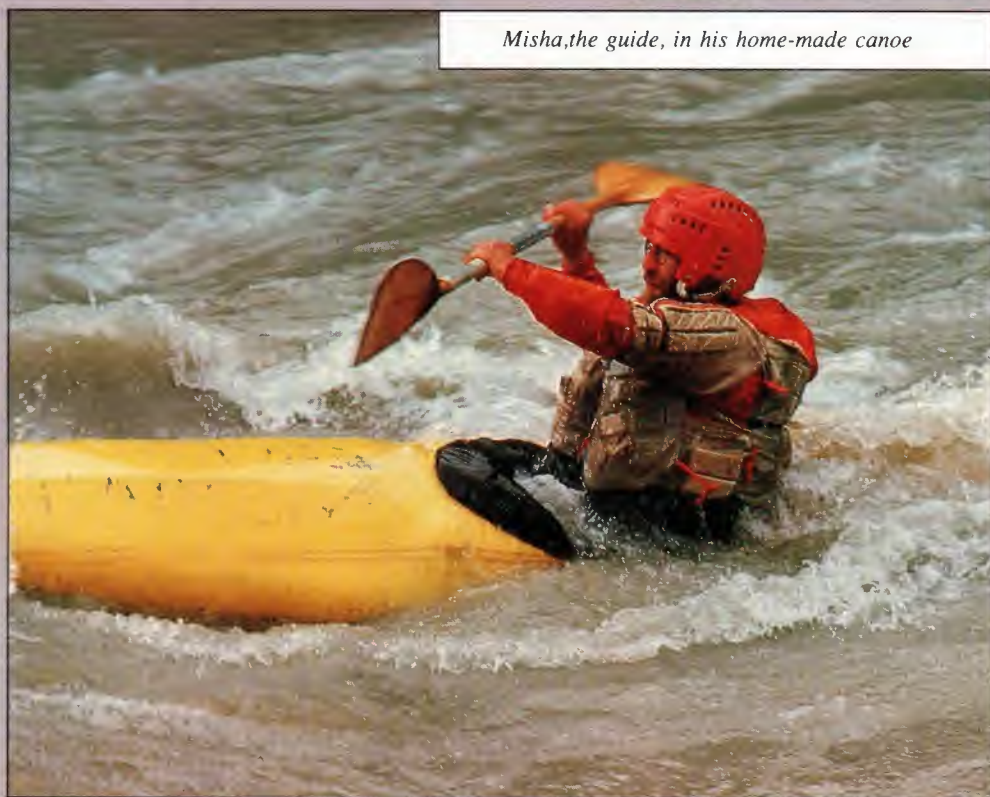
We must taste everything....Our glasses, of which we never see the bottom, are constantly filled with "chacha", their homemade vodka or "local handcrafted water" translates Yura, a specialist in such matters. Everyone in turn stands up, glass in hand, and launches into a speech dedicated to "glasnost" between East and West, to the motherland, to the family, to health - "May you live to be a hundred and without repair" translates our host's son from Georgian into Russian and Misha from Russian into English, "Beware of the toasts" warns Yura, "at each toast you must drink, and not just a little sip".

We made our way merrily back to the river and at the invitation from Yura, one of the pioneers of rafting in the U.S.S.R. fourteen years ago, I find myself mid-stream astride the two rafts, changing boat, paddle and language. Despite its rustic appearance, this handmade catamaran designed by Yura himself, is solid; it charges the waves like Wellington's cavalry at the battle of Waterloo. After a crash-course in Russian - "vpirood" (forwards), "nazad" (backwards), "vpravo" (right) and "vlevo" (left), off we go. Tanya, a 28 year old computer programmer, takes the command and demonstrates how to thrust in the paddle to pass the "holes", and how to make a circular movement to slip sideways. The catamaran, easily steered after a few movements, responds immediately to our efforts. Kneeling on a bag is quite comfortable until enthusiasm takes over and I lean a little too far and quickly find myself in the river; a refreshing break from the hot summer sun.

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FREE SPORTS GEAR

In a special Sports Council promotion, Elf petrol stations are giving away "points" on all petrol purchases which can be collected and exchanged for sports equipment at Intersport shops. There is also the facility for groups of individuals or clubs to pool their points to collect for larger items.

Although Intersport shops themselves only deal in standard sports items - track-suits, squash rackets and the like, the promotion organisers can arrange for specialist equipment to be obtained.

So if you're a Canoe Club, School or Centre in search of a new minibus or fleet of kayaks, why not give them a ring on the Elf Sport in Gear helpline (061) 256-2404.

WETSUIT REPAIR

Gul have set up a wetsuit repair centre offering collar replacement (from £10.95), wrist/ankle zips (from £18.95 per pair) sleeves (single lined) from £27.95 and kneepads (from £18.95) per pair).

The service is mail order, or pop in if you're in the Bodmin area, for details contact Gul Wetsuits (0208) 72382.

GREGSON WINNER

Gregson Packs have announced the winner in their annual prize draw, Outdoor Education Teacher Peter Bailey. Peter wins an adventure holiday. A free entry to the draw comes with every Gregson First Aid pack purchased, the packs are water-resistant and specially designed for the Outdoor enthusiasts.

GORETEX ARRIVES

Both Palm and Wildwater are now manufacturing canoeing tops and bottoms made from Goretex. Palm's range consists of a dry cag in blue and yellow, an expedition cag in yellow and salopettes in blue and yellow. Wildwater are making a dry cag in red.

The unique Goretex fabric has been widely acclaimed in hillwalking circles for its comfort, waterproofness and "breathability" but this is their first incursion into the canoeing market. Goretex incorporates a semi-permeable membrane, PTFE, which lets water vapour out (ie. perspiration) but prevents water droplets (rain, spray etc) from getting in.

Goretex have recently upgraded their two year fabric warranty to a full three year guarantee to cover the whole garment.

NEW YHA SHOP

A new YHA shop has opened in Sheffield selling a wide range of outdoor clothing and equipment. The opening of the Sheffield shop coincides with the closure of the YHA shop in Exeter.

Announcing the

PRIJON PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Supported by *Canoe Focus* and *Avoncraft*.

★ The competition is open to any non-professional photographer who has a quality action shot of any Prijon kayak or kayaks. The craft should be easily identifiable as a Prijon craft and may be photographed at any location in the world. Each person is limited to one photo in colour only.

Judging

★ Prints received will not only be judged on the spectacular, but also against technical difficulty and merit due to possibly adverse conditions. The photographs will be judged by a panel of three. One representative from Avoncraft, one from Canoe Focus and one independent judge with professional photographic knowledge

Prizes

★ **First Prize** Choice of Prijon single Polyethylene kayak
★ **Second Prize** Choice of a standard Schlegel White water paddle
Third Prize HF buoyancy jacket with harness

★ **Closing Date**
8 February 1991

★ **Winners** will be announced at the International Canoe Exhibition, Crystal Palace. The results will be published in April's edition of *Canoe Focus* - entries should be made freely available for reprint and to be publicised in the magazine

International Competition

★ The winning entries will then automatically go forward to the International Competition, to be judged by a panel in Germany - entries must be freely available for international publication by the combined organisers of the competition. Final results of the International Competition will be announced by June 1991

How to Enter

★ Send your entries to Canoe Focus/Prijon Photographic Competition, c/o BCU, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS. Don't forget to include your name, address, daytime telephone number and return postage if you'd like your entry returned.

VIDEOS OFFERED

Reed Canoes and Camping (of Cambridge) are offering free video evenings on canoeing, climbing or survival to clubs within a 50 mile radius of Cambridge. A whole evening's entertainment is promised, together with a chance to see a range of equipment in the Reeds' mobile shop. So if your club's winter programme needs a boost, call David or Valerie Reed on (0223)311411



Peak Performance Sports Ltd have added two new products to their racewear range. A breathable dry cag manufactured in three layer lined tadel, to retail at around £65. Also a Ladies/Youth bouyancy vest (RRP £45.95). For further information on these and other Peak products phone (0602)452295

JOINING FORCES

Wildwater and Perception Kayaks have entered into a joint representation agreement. The sales reps are Paul Hawkesworth (North) based at Harrogate and Philip Croxford (South). The two companies hope that the joint arrangements will benefit both themselves and their customers. Wildwater and Perception already jointly sponsor several paddlers, including Richard Fox.

SCHLEGEL T60'S - NEW PADDLE RANGE

All Schlegel's aluminium rimmed paddles are now being manufactured using a new process involving reversing the temperature control from material laminates to the paddle tooling. If this sounds like double dutch to you, don't worry, the good news is that the new process will give an improved weight to strength ratio and a more pleasing exterior finish.

Schlegel have also introduced recently their Visual Safety Colour Communication System - fluorescent green and red blades respectively for signalling GO and DANGER



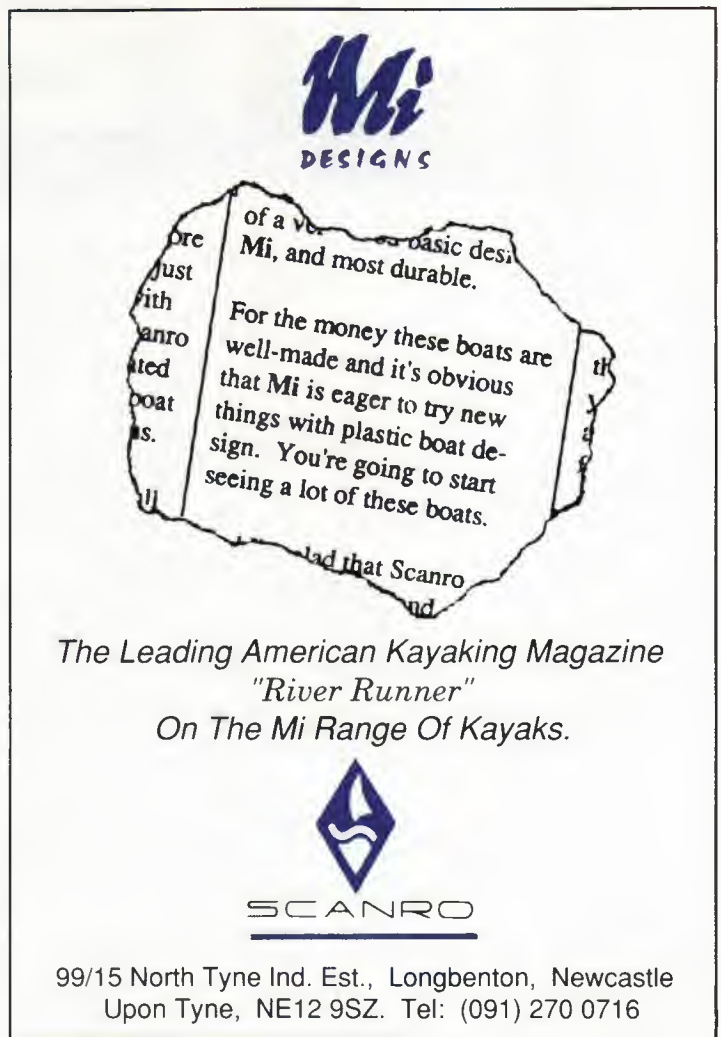
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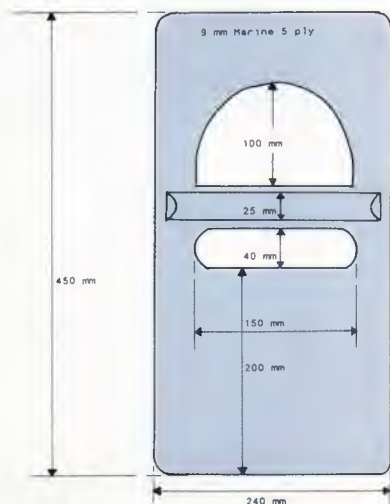
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Upon Tyne, NE12 9SZ. Tel: (091) 270 0716

EQUIPMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

reviewed by Geoff Smedley

HAND PADDLES For a number of years I have been using hand paddles with people who have difficulties in managing conventional paddles. They have proved to be so popular that I am continually requested for details of how to make them since, as yet, no manufacturer has produced them. So here is the DIY information.



Material is 9 mm marine 5 (or 7) ply. The exact dimensions are not crucial and the size, to some extent, depends on the user. The shape (see diagram) is cut out with either a jig-saw or a coping saw and all the edges sanded smooth. The grip is made from a short piece of 25 mm broom handle that is sawn through lengthways and then glued and pinned to the paddle. The whole paddle is then painted or sealed. N.B. Even though the paddle is sealed or painted it is advisable to use marine ply and a waterproof glue if you want the paddle to stay in one piece.

I have also made a pair of hand paddles out of polystyrene swimming floats to roughly the same shape - particularly useful for paddlers with very weak wrists. Polystyrene paddles can be stiffened by running some strong wire through the polystyrene taking care that the ends of the wire do not extend beyond the paddle edges.

DOUBLE TORQUE PADDLES Made by Wild Water.

These paddles, with the revolutionary cranked shaft, were obviously much easier to feather for paddlers who had wrist problems. Paddlers with learning difficulties also took to the concept of using offset blades without many of the usual problems associated with feathering. In addition, some blind paddlers found that they had a better idea of the angle of the blade due to the feedback they got from the position of the cranked section of the shaft in their hands.

The weight of the paddles that Wild-Water kindly lent us was sometimes a problem and could offset their advantage for people with weak muscles. However, the cranked shafts can be purchased without blades (£38), therefore fitting lightweight blades would help with this problem. In the new year Wild-Water will have available carbon shafts (at about £60), and these will also assist towards making a lighter paddle.

I do believe double-torque paddles have something to offer the disabled canoeist. A pair, or two (you may need both right and left hand models) would be a useful addition to the equipment held by groups who have members with disabilities.



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Access

RIVER THAME CLOSED

The River Thame, Southern Region has been closed to canoeing below Coton Hall Bridge for an undefined amount of miles. The National Rivers Authority has banned contact with the river due to raw sewage being pumped into the river above this point. *Access Officer B. Dodwell, Thornhill House, 23 Middleton Rd, Chacombe, Banbury, Oxon OX17 2JF*

CHESTER WEIR

The NRA are currently carrying out extensive works to the fish trap at Chester Weir. In accordance with the access agreement there is no paddling restriction during the winter. However all paddlers are advised to exercise extreme caution when paddling on the fish pass and should avoid the top step where construction work may create unseen subsurface hazards.

Further delicate negotiations are taking place regarding the future of Chester Weir Slalom and all paddlers are reminded to keep to the agreed paddling times when they come back into force in the spring. These are clearly posted on the bank at the weir. *For further details contact (SAE) S.D. Chorley, 13 Dee Banks, Chester, CH3 5UU.*

RIVER GREAT OUSE ST NEOTS - ST IVES

The NRA have pointed out that the shooting of weirs on the navigation (including those leading into backwaters) is in contravention of their regulations and those so doing not only risk prosecution, but also damage the cooperative relationship developing between the authority and the BCU at a local level, placing in jeopardy negotiations which will lead to increased and conflict free use of water. So keep off!

Plans are moving ahead for the use of specified moving water sites in the St Neots/Huntingdon area for proficiency skills training for authorised groups with suitably qualified supervision.

Pirate individual or group use of these sites or the erection of slalom poles, etc., will inevitably result in friction and the possible loss of water use.

The LAO, David Savage, will give you the up to date situation if you write to him c/o YMCA, Gonville Place, Cambridge, enclosing an SAE.

THE YORKSHIRE DERWENT CASE

The latest in the Yorkshire Derwent case, is that the opponents to the opening up of the navigation have applied for leave to appeal to the House of Lords. When the case originally went to the courts, the judge decided that there was no case for navigation on the

Yorkshire Derwent, on the grounds that the 1932 Rights of Way Act did not apply to the waterways. This would have set a disastrous precedent not only for navigation on the Derwent, but countrywide. It would have meant that a right of access along inland water could not be established through the 1932 Act which states that "a way over land (including land covered by water) is presumed to be a highway if it has been enjoyed by the public of right and without interruption by the owner for twenty years" Luckily the Yorkshire Derwent Trust successfully appealed against the decision but now they (the opposition) are trying to appeal against the appeal as it were. If an appeal is granted, the whole situation with the the Yorkshire Derwent and navigation laws in general will be up in the air again. **Which is not good news** for us canoeists. So if you would like more details, or would like to help with lobbying, donations etc. then get in touch with Graham Smith of the Yorkshire Derwent Trust, 69a, Park Rd, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8EN (0532)333067

AFON LLUGWY (NORTH WALES)

Access to the Afon Llugwy below Pont Cyfng is now from the layby on the A5 on the river left bank **not** the gap on the right bank past the cottages. *More details from Phil Blain, Capel Curig 271 or 372*

ACCESS OFFICER CHANGES

Local Access Officer for North Tyne, from Kielder to Chollerford is now Phil Clegg, Calvert Trust, Kielder, Kielder Water, Falstone, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 1BS. Tel: (0434) 250232.

Steve Lenartowicz, local access officer for the Rivers **Derwent and Greta** (Cumbria) has moved to: 4 Lower Gale, Amble-side, LA22 0BD. (05394) 34859.

ACLG MEETS

The national Angling and Canoeing Liaison Group met again under the chairmanship of the Sports Council on 23 October. Further discussion took place on model access agreements and all agreed that a model does not have to be followed rigidly. A model is a set of guidelines and actual agreements will be the result of situations locally and what the local parties are willing to agree.

The future of the Group was considered. The Chairman, who was attending his second meeting, said that with the experience of the two meetings he saw them as very valuable and hoped that organisations not present could be able to attend in future. This was unanimously supported.

FAIRY GLEN

The first gorge of the Fairy Glen (Afon Conwy, N.Wales) has changed character after a rock fall in October. There used to be

a natural weir halfway down, with a badly undercut wall below and to the left. The weir sill has collapsed, leaving a sump in low water. In high water, the flow is deflected left towards the undercut. The rockfall has changed the grade of the first gorge from 5 to 6 and produced an almost definite portage. More details if required from *Phil Blain, the Towers OPC, Capel Curig, Gwynedd.*

RIVER DART ACCESS

Many thanks to all the clubs, businesses, individuals and the BCU Touring and SW Regional Committees who donated to the River Dart Access Fund. £3,500 has now been raised to buy a piece of land beside Holne Bridge for car parking and other facilities. Local Access Officer Kevin Chamberlain said "We have been delighted by the response to the appeal. This is a place where endless complaints had been generated because of congestion around the entrance to the River Dart Country Park. Not only has the land purchase made access easier for canoeists, but by digging into our own pockets to help solve the congestion problems, we have greatly improved our relationship with the local villagers and landowners" The new access point will be downstream of the bridge, between the road and the river. Please keep the donations coming in, money is still needed for building work on the car park site. Send them to the River Dart Access Fund, *c/o Kevin Chamberlain, Mountain Stream Activities, Wydemeeet, Hexworthy, Devon, PL20 6SF (03643 215)* Kevin is also the person to contact for general information about canoeing on and access to the Dart.

STOP-PRESS The weir at GR 732706, between Holne and Buckfastleigh has been reconstructed and can be dangerous at high water in the centre of the weir. The best route down is on the left hand side.

GAME ANGLING CODE

The new Game Angling Code prepared and produced by a total of 17 bodies including the Salmon and Trout Association covers the environment, conservation, behaviour and the sport of angling. Of interest to canoeists is the statement that "Water space is in great demand from anglers and other activities and therefore its enjoyment has to be shared".

RIVER WYE

Andy Neale, the River Wye Project Officer, is employed by a group of nine bodies and operates from the NRA Office, Hadnock Road, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3NQ. Tel:(0600) 72245. He will be preparing a management plan for the river, aiming to resolve conflicts between existing users and conservation To start with he is trying to consult as many users as possible to obtain their views and details of their use of the river and any problems experienced. So if you paddle the Wye or know others who do, please write to him so that he can send out questionnaires. *River Wye access information from Chris Charters (09817 308)*

FEUDAL PROPERTY LAWS

I am writing in response to the item in the October 1990 Access Extra by Eddie Palmer, RAO Northumberland.

In his article Eddie has concisely summed up the problems and shortcomings facing all Access Officers in England and Wales. His suggestions to make RAO's part time paid officials, thus recognizing their important fire fighting role, would probably ensure better interested user relations and give a more efficient Access information service. I applaud Eddie and all Access Officers for the good work they do and hope that his ideas meet with the approval of the General Membership.

But, and there is always a but, as we all know the nub of the Access problem is the self-interested feudal Property Laws that exist in England and Wales. If our sport is ever to achieve real freedom of access to a natural resource then our laws must be brought into line with those of most of the rest of the world.

In my opinion it is therefore very important that the main thrust of our efforts to secure access should be in the direction of changing the Law. This may take many forms and work at different levels concurrently by this I mean that alongside the present 'servicing' of the system, undertaken by Access Officers, all of us should be trying to bring about the fundamental changes needed to 'enfranchise' us as canoeists.

Interestingly, your October issue also carried a report on the Labour Party's plans to improve public access to the countryside. At the moment political parties do appear to be sensitive to 'green' related issues - which Access certainly is! Maybe the time is ripe for fundamental Property Law revision - who knows

Whilst recognising and appreciating the efforts of the BCUC Access Officers, I know that those efforts under the present law are akin to those of a person in a straitjacket trying to accommodate himself as comfortably as possible to its unbearable restrictions!

Terry Cripps, Swindon

RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENTS

So canoeists are prepared to pay for a day's canoeing and an extra £8 on membership fees to cover the cost of negotiating access agreements! What rubbish! (Access Extra Oct 1990)

When working as a Senior Instructor, I adhere to access agreements. I represent my employing authority and I feel obliged to provide a suitable role model for the people in my charge.

For personal paddling, however, I paddle

wherever I want and whenever I want, depending on the hazards or hassle that I am prepared to face. Access agreements restrict canoeing, I have to book in advance, pay and am subject to the constraints of the agreement. They are not access agreements. They are restrictive agreements.

Is this what canoeists want?

A few years ago I lived in North Wales. Canoeing was like the freedom of the hills. I canoed anywhere. Now to paddle the Conwy I have to book early to bid for a ticket.

Is this the shape of things to come?

I currently have access to rivers. Why pay for restrictive agreements?

N. Moore, Tyne & Wear

OLD FASHIONED OUTDATED ESPRIT-DE-CORPS?

At the recent tour on the R. Tryweryn, attended by hundreds of paddlers, it was noticeable that a lack of due regard for others on the river was an attitude shared by more than an odd few individuals.

Capsized kayaks, paddles floating, and persons swimming were all totally ignored, even at the expense of a swimmer's safety did this attitude persist.

'Cowboys' is a popular word perhaps over used, but not in my estimation of the way some wave surfers and stopper players behaved on the weekend. On a busy day it is obvious you need to be fully alert and keep an eye open for paddlers who want to pass through and may as novices/intermediates require a clear route. Less able paddlers need to concentrate on getting clear lines but because they don't hit as hard as white-water racers they seem to be ignored. The last thing they want to see is two or three boats sculling a stopper at the same time. Even if the culprits are experts it still takes time to clear the stopper of this number of boats. It was evident on many occasions though that they didn't really take too kindly to moving. The Centre Manager on one occasion expressed his disgust at seeing a paddler, stuck half-way out of his kayak, swim for some distance as others watched when waiting a chance to get onto the stopper wave nearby. On several other occasions kayaks coming down were capsized by the cavalier manner shown by others in these 'play areas'.

Now I for one know it is annoying to have to leave your eddy and chase after a swimmer who is unattended etc. but that is all part of the game. That is how 'we' conduct ourselves and that is how these wayward lads were looked after when they first ventured onto fast moving water.

If attitudes continue to develop in this selfish manner we will be seeing reports of bad accidents and even worse on a more regular basis. Let us all in the sport, as well as those who can influence by coaching, make an extra effort to see that the correct "spirit" as the late Mike Jones would have known it is not lost for ever.

Pat Moran Warrington

SEA TOURING AT PLAS MENAI

In the belief that good canoeing courses should be highlighted (as well as bad ones), I wanted to provide a flavour of a Sea Touring course I recently attended at Plas Menai.

There were four people on the course with experiences ranging from a basic level to an 'old man of the sea' who at 70, was part of Dave Manby's Turkey expedition ("Don" will smile at this).

The standard of accommodation at Plas Menai was good and the standard of instruction was excellent. Despite varying and unpredictable weather - ie. 2 to 7 and most things in between - we paddled and enjoyed every day in a mixture of Sea Touring ie. Abersoch bay out to the St. Tudwal islands, to rock hopping and surfing on Anglesey.

What was also very good, was the combination of practical learning and enjoyment, with all the group getting challenges at their own level. (Not an easy task).

At the end of the week, I was pleasantly shattered. I'd learned a helluvalot, and had paddled and explored caves and coastline with nice people and a lot of Seals for company.

I'm sure that all of us would like to thank "Drew Delaney" for his instruction, help and a good one liner - "If in doubt, read de water".

Ian Price, Dorset

ON THE RADIO IN WILTSHIRE

Thamesway Canoe Club have secured a short monthly canoeing spot on our local radio, BBC Wiltshire sound.

We would like to invite all other Wiltshire Clubs and Canoeists to share this media with us.

Please send any items you wish to be considered for inclusion in the program, eg forthcoming events, results in competitions, ideas to promote the sport etc. to: Hazel Cripps, Thamesway Canoe Club, 9 Grindal Drive, Grange Park, Swindon, Wilts SN5 6HD. Preference will be given to items which have particular relevance to the Wiltshire area and the South West Region





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BCU04	Key Ring - Leather	1.05	0.85
BCU05	Members' Sew on Badge Oval, blue on white	n/a	1.00
BCU06	Blazer Badge Square, black background, silver logo	n/a	1.50
BCU07	Members' Tie Navy	n/a	6.15
BCU08	Tie Pin/Lapel Badge	n/a	2.20
BCU09	Canoe Lock/Cable 11ft Tough plastic coated cable. Approved standard to validate BCU Insurance. <i>NB - Padlock not supplied</i>	6.90	6.00
BCU10	Smurf Canoeist	2.95	2.55
BCU11	Cadet Badge Cloth, featuring smurf canoeist	n/a	0.60
BCU12	'I Canoeists!' button badge	0.30	0.20
BCU13	'I do it..... with the British Canoe Union' button badge	0.30	0.20
BCU14	Keepsafe Watertight, pendant cylinder Colours: Red, Royal blue, yellow, dayglo pink, dayglo orange	1.80	1.50

STATIONERY & STICKERS

		Non Memb	Memb
STK01	'I Love Canoeing' 215 x 45mm, for windows	0.60	0.50
STK02	'.....and on the seventh day, God went canoeing' 185 x 70mm for windows	0.60	0.50
STK03	'Go Canoe a Kayak' 185 x 70mm for windows	0.60	0.50
STK05	'I'd Rather be Canoeing' 310 x 45mm for windows	0.60	0.50
STK06	'Oceans are Free' 185 x 70mm. Featuring sea kayak	0.60	0.50
STK08	'I do it with the BCU' Circular, 100mm diameter. For windows.	0.60	0.50
STK10	Graphic Surfer 185 x 70mm, featuring graphic silhouette of paddle surfer	0.60	0.50
STA03	Greetings Card 'Shooting the Rapids' (Blank)	1.00	0.90
STA06	Licence/ID Sticker Holder Clear plastic, self-adhesive envelope	n/a	0.40
STA08	Pendant Pen	1.80	1.50
STA09	Pencil Rubber	0.50	0.40
STA11	'What Breakout?' poster 590 x 420mm, Full Colour	2.55	2.15

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CLO02	Recreation Cag Red with Blue stripe - M, L	21.30	19.40	CLO26	'Fred Perry' style T Shirt - S,M,L Red, pink, white, navy	11.45	10.40
CLO03	Overtrousers Royal Blue - M, L	12.70	11.55	CLO27	Widget Wallet	4.35	3.95
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				CLO33	Thermal Ski Tube Socks Navy, Red	4.70	3.90
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TECHNIQUE

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BKS14	US White Water Handbook John T Urban	6.55	5.95
BKS29	Canoeing Skills and Techniques - N Shave	6.55	5.95
BKS30	Path of the Paddle - Bill Mason	14.25	12.95
BKS42	White Water Kayaking - R Rowe	9.85	8.95
BKS43	Eskimo Rolling for Survival D Hutchinson	9.85	8.95
BKS46	Sail Your Canoe - John Bull	4.35	3.95
BKS49	The Squirt Book - Jim Snyder	8.75	7.95
BKS52	Beginners Guide to the Kayak	7.65	6.95

NEW!

BKS53	Basic Essentials of Canoeing	4.35	3.95
BKS54	River Rescue - Ray	10.95	9.95
BKS56	Take Up Canoeing	3.25	2.95
BKS85	The White Water River Book	12.05	10.95
BKS86	White Water Safety - Hardy	10.95	9.95

TRAVEL

BKS15	Canoeing Down Everest Mike Jones	4.70	4.25
BKS47	Paddles to the Amazon Don Starkell	4.95	4.50
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NEW!

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BKS62	Untamed River Expedition - Papua New Guinea - Gill	7.40	6.75
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GAM07	Canoe Touring in East Anglia Map and Guide	3.60	3.25
GAM13	Canoeists Guide to the River Wye	2.15	1.95
GAM15	Austria & Bavaria White Water	6.60	6.00
GAM16	Alpine White Water Guide	5.70	5.15
GAM17	French River Notes	0.60	0.50
GAM27	Where to Launch your Boat	5.60	5.05
GAM28	Canoe Guide to Northern Ireland	3.25	2.95
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GAM30	River Thames Guide - OS	7.65	6.95
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NEW!

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NEW!

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VID03	Path of the Paddle Solo and Doubles White Water	38.50	36.50
VID04	Mastering Kayak Control with Mark Attenburrow	23.95	21.95
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C2 (Slalom) Front right, back left Nomad Shoot 2. Kevlar Deck, Kevlar Carbon Hull, Kevlar Seam. Pink Lightweight. Used once. Very good condition. £400. Will part exchange for Extrabat C1. Tel: (061) 764 8982.

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Nomad Snipe Kayak. Green metal flake, diolen construction, outside seam, foot rest, decklines. £110. **Nomad Snipe Kayak**. Red deck, outside seam, J & R foot rests, decklines. £90. Tel: (0606) 45180.

Nordkapp. Fully rigged with foot pump £230. K1 reasonable condition £50, Slalom kayak, low volume £50, wooden paddle, left handed £30 (081)979 5727

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C1 (Slalom) Xtra bat. Tel: Matthew Turner (061) 764 8982.

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Watersports. W.W. Rafting, Canoeing, Kayaking (Sea and River), Sailing and Windsurfing. Also other activities - Mountain Biking, Caving etc. Individuals and groups. Contact Chris Humby, 41 Rue de la Fou, 66220, St. Paul de Fenouillet, France or Tel (01033) 68 59 07 27.

The Buri Gandaki Descent by Kayak.

Illustrated lecture by Pete Knowles on the first descents of the Buri Gandaki and Karnali rivers in Nepal. Broadwater School, Farncombe, near Godalming, Surrey. Friday 18 January 1991, 7.30pm. *Tickets £2.50 from Mrs Jackie Keen, 2 Nyewood Cottages, Frith End, nr Bordon, Hants, (0420)23542*

SITUATIONS VACANT



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Instructors required for our centres in France, Spain and the UK for Summer 1991 (May - September). Qualified, experienced canoeists, windsurfers, climbers, land yachters, should contact

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Tel: (0562) 882151.

Calshot Activities Centre. Outdoor Pursuits (Watersports) Instructors March - October 1991. A combined Training and Instructional post for those who already have previous experience in Outdoor Education providing an opportunity to improve and extend a wide range of Outdoor skills. Further details and application forms from Mr D K Evans, Deputy Director, Calshot Spit, Fawley, Southampton SO4 1BR enclosing an SAE. Tel: Fawley (0703) 892077.

Feelfree Rafting Austria require raft guides with white water experience, office staff, German speaking, drivers and cooks to cater for 30 staff for the '91 summer season. If you want to join the hardworking Feelfree team in Austria, apply now with concise, typed cv, including whitewater experience and SAE to: Personnel, Feelfree Holidays Ltd, 15 Albert Mews, London W8 5RU

Outdoor Pursuits Instructors. Required for 1991 season. Multi Activity Programme. Good all rounders with qualifications. Contact Sealyham Activity Centre, Wolfs Castle, Haverford West, SA62 5NF. Tel: Pembs (0348) 840763

Qualified Instructors in Outdoor Activities required for February to October 1991. We particularly need RYA, BCU, BWSF, MLC qualified/experienced staff. Drivers only minimum age 21. Operations manager, Skern Lodge, Appledore, Bideford, North Devon (0237)475992

Representatives, France. Work includes driving, Canadian canoe instruction, bicycle maintenance. Essential: clean driving licence, BCU certificate, organisational skills, sense of humour. Desirable: fluent French, bicycle maintenance experience. Tel: (0606)48699 for an application form.

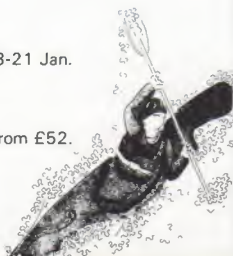


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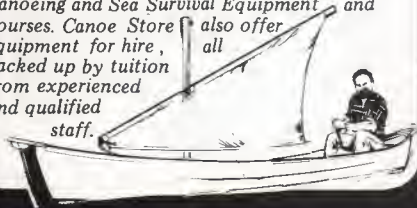
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SAFETY TALK

The 5th International Safety Symposium (ISS) was held during the period 18th - 21st September 1990, at the Nantahala Outdoor Centre, Wesser, North Carolina USA, staged by the American Canoe Association, sponsored by Perception Inc. and the Nantahala OC.

Attended by 42 delegates from 123 different countries the main theme of the Symposium was "Safety Education". First time delegates came from Canada, USSR, Chile and Japan. The Symposium also aimed to continue the ISS tradition of promoting safety and rescue by the exchange of information on the practical aspects and trying to draw conclusions without any pre-conceptions.

Manufacturers' Fair

There was a small manufacturers' fair on the first day with new ideas and developments on display.

The new Corsica 'S' from Perception Inc showed their latest safety features - new style webbing end grabs



and a front deck "broach loop"

There were a range of chest harness buoyancy aids including those of Chris Hawkesworth (Wildwater) Horst Eversattel of HF, Dawson Canoeing Systems and "Don't Die Wandering" (Steve England) Also some "new ideas" in throwlines. Also on display were quick release thigh straps for open canoes, and an array of American knives/saws, displayed by NOC



Safety Education

A total of ten presentations were given on systems of safety education in each delegates' nation. These included an extremely interesting presentation by Arnor Larson of the British Columbia council of Technical Rescue on the use of the "Kootenay High Line System" in professional Rescue Units

Kayak Safety Design

This discussion was led by Slim Ray, the Symposium Organiser. The BCU document - Safety Features Desirable in Single Seat Kayaks for White Water Recreation - was presented as a frame work from which to base discussion. The main points were:-

Kayaks should be categorised into two areas 1. General Recreation, 2. Whitewater class 1 - IV. The common characteristics that were considered desirable were those outlined in the BCU

document - this includes recommendations on materials, volume, end profiles, cockpits, end grabs, footrests and fitted buoyancy. Copies of the full report are available from BCU HQ - SAE please)



Practical Work

Arnor Larson, set up an impressive "high line" system above the great Wesser Falls - with opportunities for delegates to have a go. Peter Reithmaier of Austria demonstrated the use of equipment for entrapment - with paddle hooks and deck mounted ropes. The BCU delegate, aided by Dave Crookes (BACT) and Terry Davies WCA gave a demonstration on the use of chestharnesses in white water.

Safety at Competitive Events was covered by a presentation by Terry Davies WCA.

Buoyancy Aid Standards

This discussion was led by Chris Hawkesworth of Wild Water. At present, there are differing International standards for Buoyancy aids - amounts of flotation and construction of. The only agreed International standard is the ICF's one for competition purposes. It was felt that there should be an agreed International standard for white water buoyancy aids, especially those incorporating chest harnesses

The Future

Slim Ray chaired the final discussion on "Safety Issues of the 90's", the main issue being the future of ISS - generally, it was felt, the ISS did succeed in bringing the right people together to pool, discuss and interchange ideas on safety issues, but failed to adequately disseminate the information to paddlers worldwide. An international organisation was proposed with the aim of keeping the flow of ideas moving and to keep abreast of "Current issues". So the International Paddle Sports Safety Organisation was formed to overview, collect and comment on World paddlesport safety issues..Membership of IPSO is open to Corporate organisations - manufacturers, retailers, institutions associations as well as individuals.

Committees were elected. An **executive committee**, covering ICF and National governing body liaison, competition safety, sea safety, public relations, hydraulic hazards. A **Boat Safety Committee** with responsibility for kayaks, open canoes, rafts and inflatables. An **Equipment Safety Committee** covering Helmets, buoyancy aids, kayak safety design, paddles, transport. And an **Education Committee** for Rescue training, safety education, paddling proficiency training, establishment of an international technical, film and video library, insurance and liability, accident statistics. Britain is well represented on all of these Committees.

Graham Wardle, BCU delegate ISS90

Further details of IPSO and a full copy of the 1990 ISS report, and proceedings are available from Graham Wardle, 39 Heatherbrook Road, Anstey Heights, Leicester (0533)527267 12 x 10" SAE please



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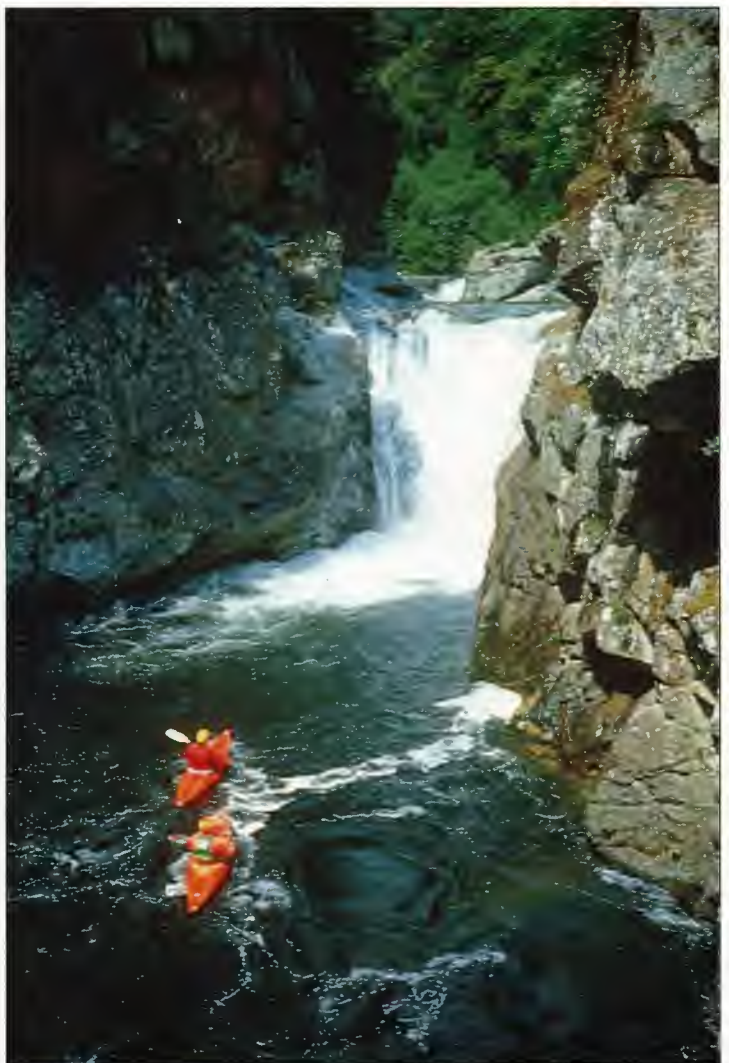
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