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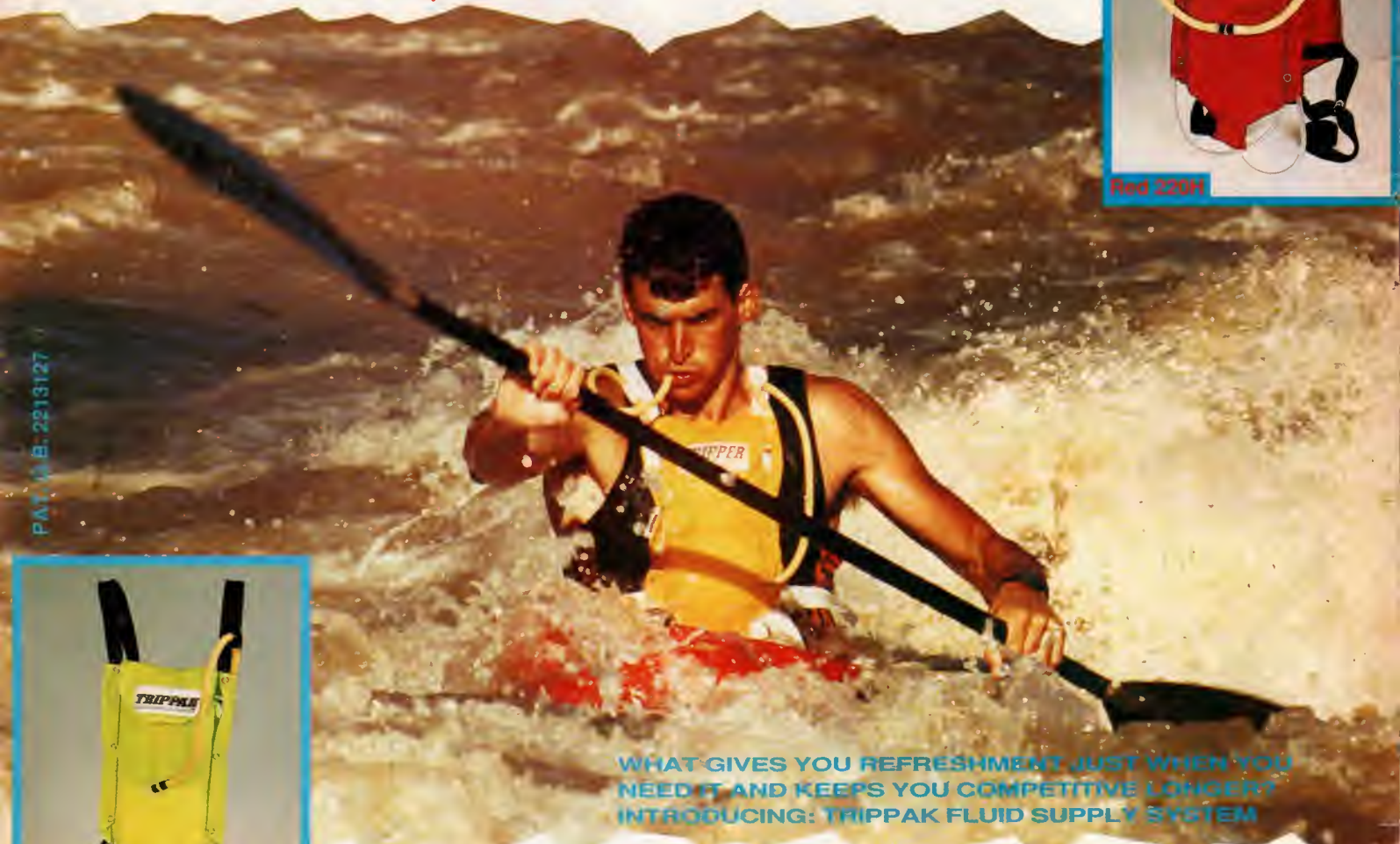
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# Comment


## The President

 At the last Council meeting Albert Woods was appointed President of the British Canoe Union, Albert is known to many of you and was formerly Vice Chairman of Council. Internationally Albert has many friends and is the current Chairman of the ICF Slalom and Wild Water Racing Committee. I know that he is, and will remain, a fine ambassador for our sport and I am sure that I represent everyone in congratulating him on his appointment. Access Prior to the Council meeting the Annual General Meeting took place and of particular interest was a presentation by the Access Committee concerning the future Access policy. Aply led by Mike Twiggs and the Access Team we are able to embark upon a new policy to change the law. The briefing document "Management of Access" was circulated with the April edition of Canoe Focus. The work of the Access Committee is fundamental to the future of canoeing and soon the lobbying document will be available. This will be used to support the effort for change particularly with regard to lobbying parliament via local MP's.

## Treasurer

 Sadly at the AGM we learnt that Ted Owen was standing down as BCU Treasurer due to work commitments. Ted's dedication including a short period as Chairman of Council has been for over thirty years. It is thanks to his financial astuteness that the financial nightmares of the past have been resolved. Personally I shall never forget the help he has been to me during my settling in period. Ted - we shall all miss you and we look forward to further input from you when time allows. John Liddell has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer. John a past Slalom Committee Treasurer and a partner with Ernst and Young will I am sure continue to steer the BCU through the financial jungle.

## Olympics


 This is the last Canoe Focus before our teams depart for the Olympic Games in Barcelona. We are very proud of the athletes who will represent canoeing in Spain

and all of our thoughts will be with the team as they strive for success. Manchester Olympics ? On the national scene the Manchester Olympic Bid for the year 2000 is up and running. The bid team is highly professional and the proposed facilities excellent. The BCU and all governing bodies of sport will be working alongside the bid team to turn the dream into reality.

## UK Sports Commission and the English Sports Council

 The next few months will see major changes to the face of British Sport. The Sports Council will be replaced by an English Sports Council and the new UK Sports Commission. The impact of the changes particularly on funding is yet to be determined but I am sure that an interesting time is ahead.

## National Canoeing Day

 A major BCU initiative. September the 5th is not that far away: programmes and events are now well under way and we are confident that all canoeists of all types, ages and abilities will be on the water, and bringing a friend to try the sport! Are we over-optimistic at aiming for 50,000 paddlers turning out on the day ? Time will tell. What are you doing on the 5th ? Do you know of an unused canoe gathering dust somewhere ? Help make NCD the biggest canoe event ever and lend a hand in your local club or centre. Get your boat out and get it wet !


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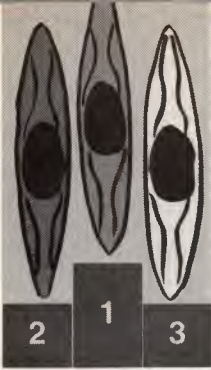
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# Competition *focus*

## DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER 1992

### NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN

Crews had already begun to leave Devizes by the time we arrived at the wharf. We had seen crews passing under the road bridge on the outskirts of the town beginning their long journey to Westminster. Devizes was quieter than usual mainly because we were a lot later in arriving and a considerable number of crews including the K1s and the Juniors had already left. However one could never feel lonely standing on the wharf waiting for the clock hand to go around to your planned start time as there were still people to wish you well and old friends to chat to.

For David Green and myself (and for many others I suspect) we were grateful that the day had arrived. We seemed to have spent so much time training and planning for the event that it could not come quick enough. So at last we could put in to reality our aim.... Westminster. With the kit checked and packed we were at last off. From now on it was us and our support crew that had to make the 125 miles to Westminster.

A lot can happen in 125 miles as we were to find out. However we successfully negotiated the Pound and survived the green slime.... passed through the Saverlake Tunnel and then came Crofton. Crofton is a mile run so on to the shoulders went the boat and off we went.... jogging down the path. Neither Dave or I are runners and we knew that to run this stretch flat out would take too much out of us so we jogged along with our support crew jogging beside us with words of encouragement. We had set ourselves hurdles and Crofton was the first one. The next Newbury came relatively smoothly for us and it was lovely to begin to catch up with some crews from the 4 day event and meet some more Reading and Leighton Park competitors (who were doing the event for charity). Passing through Newbury was a noisy affair as we seemed to have a lot of well wishers cheering us on. This was a definite boost for us as we knew that there was still along way to go and

the juniors and K1 were just about to settle down for some well earned food!

Our support crew were excellent. They knew exactly what to do and what we were doing as they all had either done the race and/or supported it before. (Colin Middleton and Steve Ellard have won the veterans race and Colin won the overall race in 1991). They took it in turns to run the canal with us mysteriously appearing from nowhere and jogging along beside us telling jokes. We even began to wonder whether we were being conned and they only wanted us to do the race so they could practice their running! They certainly came in to their element when things began to go wrong.

We passed through County Lock with much rejoicing apart from it being home territory the river was only 1 lock away. However one of the supporters lost the car keys to my car so we were a support crew short. We didn't know this and light was made of it as we changed at Henley. The fact that we were on the river had certainly made a difference and we began to rapidly catch up with other crews. This is always fun as it is lovely to have a chat (Dave thought that I should save my energy but a good chat and sing song certainly helps the spirit if not the paddling). We caught up with the "Ladies from Pangbourne" as they are affectionately known at Reading. Leslie Addington and Jackie Mullins did the race in 1991 but this year they were going to go all the way through with out a stop. They won't mind me telling you that they are veterans but I tell you that you would never guess it when they are out paddling. (They made Westminster in 27 hours but Leslie had hurt her shoulder so determined as they were to finish Jackie sat in the front and "took" the boat the last 40 miles to Westminster. It was a brilliant effort).

Disaster struck at Romney in Windsor we stupidly managed to break our rudder but both support crews were (thanks to the new driver Steve Carter.... the other

locked car minus its keys was at County Lock, Reading! We had a spare rudder but we hadn't tried it out and what we needed was a long stem rudder and all we had were short stemmed! We wished the competitors we had just passed well and huddled up for warmth whilst the support crew tried to find a hack saw.... no luck so to prevent us getting too cold we got back into the boat saying to the support crew that we would meet them at Old Windsor.

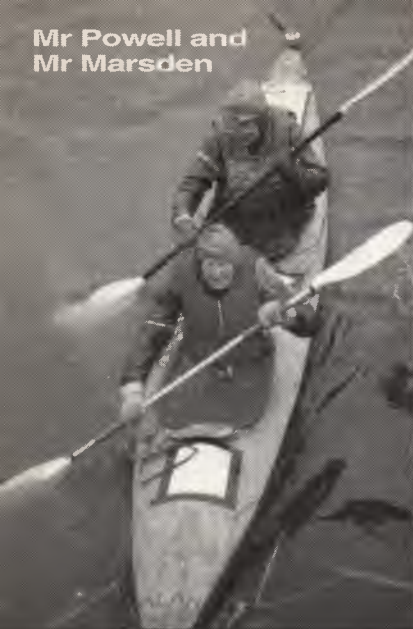
We pulled into the bank and trying to keep our spirits up ran for while then we came across a group of people watching the race (at 1am!) They didn't have a long stem rudder but they did have a pen knife with a serrated edge so it was off with the hatch cover and the attach on the fibre glass rudder stem began. I asked if they could go to Old Windsor to collect our support crew as it was obvious that we were going to be able to cut away enough fibre glass to put a short stem rudder in. These people turned out to be 1st Twyford Venture Scouts who were out cheering on a friend but they were really high spirited and cheered for everybody who went past. The temperature began to drop so they lent me jackets to keep warm and then got out the survival bag as well. They stayed with us making sure we were alright. Suddenly like the US Calvary three cars arrived and running over the hill came our support crew with bags, food and flasks flying in the air. In no time at all they had put dry warm clothes on us and repacked the survival bag whilst Rob, Colin

and Steve "fixed" the rudder. The next thing we knew we were back on the water and paddling. That's what I call a support crew.

Once back on the water we had time to reflect what had happened. Although we had been on the bank for well over an hour it was the Venture Scouts kindness and willingness to help which had resulted in our support crew being collected and us being able to continue the race. (If anybody knows them please, please pass on my heart felt thanks). Surprisingly we were not too downhearted.... our support crew made sure of that. Their smiles and encouragement never faltered regardless of the fact that they had done so much running around they were exhausted.

Gradually the miles were being eaten up and you could still hear us talking to the crews we met up with (Dave did wear a hat to try and muffle the chat!) Dawn broke and we carefully manoeuvred the slippery portages of Sunbury and Molesey. With Teddington and the finish rapidly approaching along with day light things certainly seemed to brighten up. We were a lot later getting to Teddington than planned but from there it was just 17 miles to go (just!). Tiredness was beginning to hit us and when it does the bridges seem to be numerous and all look the same. However our support crew were always there cheering at us from the bridges. (You probably heard Jennifer, and Chris, let alone Paul Owen's singing!). We pulled over on to one of the beaches and changed places (I had been too stubborn





to take any food at Teddington and now not only was I cold but exceedingly light headed) so Dave would "take" the boat to the finish.

At last Big Ben was in sight and so was Westminster Bridge.... we slid in as the clock struck 8.15.... we had achieved our goal and made the finish at Westminster. We had completed the race in 20 hours and 54 minutes (thanks to our support crew) as well as raising a several hundreds pounds for charity.

It must not be forgotten that The Devises to Westminster Canoe Race is considered to be the "Canoeists Everest" with many people taking part to raise money for charity with the aim of completing the event. The race proceeds along the Kennet and

Avon Canal a distance of 53 miles with 56 portages. The remaining 72 miles are paddled on the River Thames making a total of 125 miles. The race attracts a wide variety of competitors and one of the special

attributes this race is the camaraderie which exists between participants. Due to the nature of the race one can not paddle past a crew in distress and support crews help the other competitors if they have lost their support crews.

However the race is all about the competitors and there are people who come back year after year to compete.... so there must be something magic about it so never say never again!

**Tamsin Phipps**

## UP FOR THE CUP

Here we were once again, the Annual Pilgrimage to Devises. Leaving husbands and family behind we made tracks for the Castle Hotel, intentions of an early night and two glasses of Bernie's Carbohydrate Solution were soon forgotten as we heard the sound of glasses clinking and merry banter in the bar. Training wouldn't be training without a lager or two! Anyway, it was a chance to sound out the opposition!

The alarm rang loudly at 5.30am – was it really morning – did we have to get up – it was raining – "What about our hairstyles".

Once round at the wharf the adrenaline flowed – the heart pumped. All of a sudden it hit us – this was it. The kit was duly checked and stowed away, wrist tags fixed, a quick shake of hands and we were off, to cries of 'Good Luck' we paddled off at 7am.

Once paddling we soon settled down, talking to anyone who came near. We overtook a Police crew – Do they breathalyse on the river?

We rounded a bend and there he was – a male swan looking extremely cross – he let us pass – then came the familiar sound of wings flapping – he had lift off. We could have made the Olympic Sprint Squad the speed we reached – luckily we out ran him and he slid in alongside the boat – but we'd broken his spirit and he let us go!

As we approached Pewsey the whinging started – "The straw in my bottle is scratching my face" she cried from the back! Support crew duly produced Vaseline and created a skid pan on her chin.

At Crofton we attempted to portage, but wait – a camera was mounted on a tripod, quick lipstick on – we might make the front page! As we approached Hungerford, Kevin (Head of Centre Pangbourne) was standing with Video Camera – "Sit up, get those paddles up" came the cry from the back – with eleven crews in the race we had

to look as professional as the rest. However, with my partner wearing a bright pink ski hat (trimmed with fur) it was mission impossible! Necks and shoulders were beginning to stiffen up as we left Newbury this time a massage with Transvasin Cream brought instant relief and we dug in and headed for Reading. Just before County Lock we were warned of a fast flow of water, as we hit it threw us sideways, but Quick Thinking saved the day, we grabbed a moored dinghy and held on tight – we weren't swimming just yet.

At last we hit the Thames – Home Territory. Marsh Lock had all its gates open – the water flow was incredible. We staggered over the bridge, couldn't someone take pity on two old dears and carry our boat! Once the other side, we though we'd stumbled on a Roman Orgy – Bare bodies everywhere! – This was other crews night change. Poor souls – not for us – our clubhouse was just along the bank – we had the luxury of a warm room – a bowlful of hot chicken and pasta soup – Did we really have to go on?

Passing under Henley Bridge, my partner observed we were halfway did we really have to do it all over again! The people on the bridge gave us a hearty cheer – but didn't realise we were women – who said we are the weaker sex?

Marlow was a hive of activity so many support crews, we could hardly get the boat out of the water. Friendly faces from circuit training came forward – "Keep it up girls" they cried. "Tamsin Phipps is close behind". Knowing she had left about 4 hours after us we paddled away hard – determined to put a bit more distance between us – It wasn't long before those dulcet tones were heard singing – "Hallo Dollies"! She had caught us – words of praise and encouragement were offered and then she rammed her boat into overdrive and was gone!

Romney Lock was priceless – we had to get in on 'white water'! A quick prayer, eyes

shut tight and we went between bank and trees – we'd done it – we stayed upright and went with the flow.

Coming into Old Windsor Lock the paddle sliced in – the boat was going over – Quick thinking saved the day. A quick smack on the water with the hand – with partner at the back leaning over to the right, with leg out just in case – we righted ourself – another close shave.

By now my arm was playing up. The result of lifting too many lagers.

We changed over. I'm sure my partner had lager in her water bottle. She started talking to shadows, paddling round trees growing in the river – a wide berth was given to a Bridge Support – the moon was playing tricks on us.

At last Teddington it was 7.15am – we had been paddling nonstop for 24 hours. The last 17 miles – it could have been 117 – could we do it? My arm by this stage felt like it had left my body, but my partner had strength for two – slowly we got out into what flow there was.

Inch by inch we crept our way towards Westminster. Rounding a bend we spotted the enemy – Rowers – They shouted at us to get into the middle of the river. Was that for our benefit or theirs? Bridge after bridge – but where was Westminster?

At last – after what seemed like a lifetime we saw Big Ben – under two bridges and we were there – The siren sounded – it was 10.30am – we had done it. Absolutely shattered – elated that we had done it – too tired to cry.

Up the Festival Steps to claim our 'Gold Medals'. Two very senior veteran ladies that had paddled non stop – taking 271/2 hours to arrive at Westminster. Not a world record time but maybe the powers that be will recognise veteran ladies and commission a trophy – Recognition for our age group would be the "Icing on the Cake".

**Leslie Addington & Jackie Mullins**

<b>Senior Doubles</b>	
① HMS 1 K. Bowerbank & A. Freeman	17 16 25
Bradford on Avon Fitness	
② M. W. Stubbs & T. A. Williams	17 35 30
Dorset Police & Fire Service	
③ P. M. Fielden & J. Treadgold	17 42 25
Bradford on Avon CC	
<b>Senior Mixed K2</b>	
① Tamsin Phipps & D. Green	20 54 15
Reading & Leighton PK CC	
<b>Veteran/Junior</b>	
① B. R. Greenham & G. J. Wallis	16 55 00
Wokingham Scouts	
② E. K. Oliver & D. Oliver	19 00 00
Warren Canoe Club	
③ D. J. Roberts & Catherine Reay	20 24 00
Bishops Stortford CC	
<b>Junior Doubles</b>	
① D. Ricketts & M. Starkey	16 18 45
Leighton Park School	
② D. L. Beazley & M. Russell	17 21 04
Barking & Dagenham CC/Stoke Hammond CC	
③ D. S. H. Jones & B. K. Price	17 42 05
Bryanston School CC	
<b>Senior Singles</b>	
① A. J. Faiers	17 00 19
Stoke Hammond	
② M Martin	17 15 07
Wey Kayak Club	
③ F Murray	17 23 58
Duke of Wellington Regiment	





# OLYMPIC GAMES 1992 CANOE SLALOM

Nottingham based slalom canoeists form two thirds of the newly announced Olympic Team and the family connection continues.

The proud Fox family boasts two of the nine member Team with Richard Fox MBE, 4 times World Kayak Champion and current World Cup Champion heading the Men's Kayak Team and sister Rachel, aged 23 next month leading the Women's challenge.

Both Richard of West Bridgford and Rachel, Physiotherapist, living in Cotgrave will represent Great Britain in the forthcoming Olympic Games to be held on the

newly opened Slalom Course at La Seu d'Urgell just three hours drive from Barcelona.

They will be joined by Melvyn Jones living in Gamston, Ian Raspin, the 25 year old from Skelton but living also in West Bridgford and 21 year old Lynn Simpson, student at Nottingham University.

Last of the Nottingham six is Gareth Marriott, 22 in July and former Junior World Champion and current World Cup Champion. Originally from Mansfield but now living with his family in Holme Pierrepont will represent Great Britain in the Canadian Singles Class.

Shock omission from the Team, current World Champion Shaun Pearce of Basford, Nottingham finished fourth overall in the Men's Kayak category – just one place outside the "top" 3 – so near but so far. Shaun, now 22 commented philosophically after the two Selection races "there's always the next time – I've plenty of time, knew what I had to do and just didn't make it".

All the above competitors took part in two final Selection races in Spain over the Easter weekend. The Selectors task was made relatively easy as the Policy dictated a "first past the post criteria".

They may also be joined by competitors from the Canadian Doubles Class who to date have not managed to reach the tough standard set by the Selectors in conjunction with the British Olympic Association. This group will have to wait until early June to know whether they can fulfil their Olympic "dream".

All the above athletes will also be representing Great Britain in the prestigious world cup event being staged at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham May 29/31 1992 and sponsored by Royal Ordnance Nottingham and Manchester 2000 – The Olympic Bid.



Photos: Pete Astles

## Kayak Men K1M

Richard Fox	Nottingham
Melvyn Jones	Nottingham
Ian Raspin	Nottingham

Lynn Simpson	Nottingham
Karen Like	Gloucester

## Canadian Singles C1

Mark Delaney	West Lothian
Martyn Hedges	Windsor
Gareth Marriott	Nottingham

## Kayak Women K1W

Rachel Fox	Nottingham
------------	------------



Photo: Bill Horsman

Nippon Steel Computers, a subsidiary of the World-wide Nippon Corporation have loaned the British Olympic Slalom Team one of their latest laptop computers for the run up to the Games in August. The A4 sized Librex 386 not only allows Alan Edge to replace his outdated machine, but can be used anywhere, even on the banks of the Olympic course at Seu D'Urgell in Spain (picture).

Bill Horsman, who works for Radan Computational, and narrowly missed selection for the Olympics himself, negotiated the loan of the equipment, with a view to further assistance from Nippon in the future.

"Nippon are very keen to show the portability of a machine which is more powerful than a lot of full size desk top systems, and if the Librex can withstand the demands of a trip across Europe in the grubby hands of a canoeist it can withstand anything."

## SPRINT RACING MECHELEN 92

The 12th International Mechelen Regatta was held in Belgium over the weekend 1-3 May 1992. A total 31 countries were entered with over 600 competitors taking part. This year saw the first appearance of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Croatia on the International circuit. The only major canoeing countries missing were Hungary and New Zealand, and with two entries per Nation, the event produced some very exciting and close racing.

The most notable British results were as follows:

In the 1000 metre events Eric Jamieson was 9th in the Final of the canoe signals event. Eric was our only finalist in Seoul in 1988 and looks like being a Games finalist again in Barcelona. In the ladies events the K4 crew of Hillary Dresser, Andrea Dallaway, Alison Thorogood and Sandra Troop produced a new British record,

but just missed the final with a 4th place in the semi-final. Their time of 1.39.30 is a new British record and places them in the top half of the competition and qualifies them for Barcelona. The mens K4 1000 crew of Andrew Maycock, Peter Maycock, Gary Quittenton and Simon Horsley produced the fastest British time for a K4 1000 for six years, their 8th place in the semi-final in a time of 3.04.36 placed them 17th overall.

In the long distance events the team won two silver medals. Ivan Lawler had a very good race in the K1 10000 metres coming second to the US paddler Greg Barton. In the K4 10000 the crew of Hayden Kirk, Mark Adams, John Elliott and Steve Harris also won the silver medal in the Saturday evening event.

Steve Jackson

## wild water racing 1992 world cup

The following will represent Great Britain in the 1992 World Cup in Lipro, Czechoslovakia, Landeck, Austria and Mezzana Italy, the latter also being the Pre-World Championships.

### K1 Men:

Neil Stamps,  
Chester CC,

Melvin Swallow, Chester CC,  
Nick Gatland, Herts CC,  
Neil Blackman, RAF,  
Alan Tordoff, Chester  
Ian Tordoff, Chester

### K1 Women:

Andrea Clayton Crookes,  
Karen Porter,

Cynthia Berry Forth,  
Tina Parsons,  
Jenny Hands,  
Julie Ashton,  
Nichola Weaver,  
All Notts KC

### C1 Men:

Mackon Singh  
Mark De Freitas, Royal CC  
John Willacy, RAF

### C2 Men:

Belbun/Caunt  
Scott Simpson/Simon Twigger  
Notts KC

The races will be held on  
18/21/25 June.



## CANOE BUY A BETTER KAYAK?

For slalom information including craft from Perception - Reflex, Nomad, Pyranha and Arrowcraft together with accessories from Wild-Water, Freeblades, Propulsion, MI, Diamond, Bushsport etc.

**Please contact Melvyn Jones**

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

**Please contact Tim Houghton**



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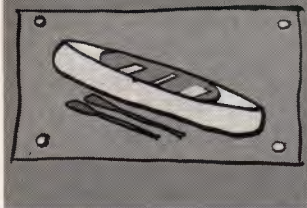
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# Notice board

## buoyancy aids: the latest news

The European Directive on Personal Protective Equipment was due to become effective on 1 July 1992. At the time of going to press, however, there was indication that the implementation date would be moved to the end of the year.

Thus, it is not until 1 January 1993 that manufacturers will have to produce only buoyancy aids and life jackets which conform to the new standards.

Remember, following the implementation date, retailers may still continue to sell existing stocks of buoyancy aids and life jackets until those stocks are exhausted.

The European Directive applies to the workplace – not the voluntary organisation or private individual. Where a per-

son's occupation demands the wearing of protective equipment, that which is issued must conform to the relevant European standard, provided one is available.

Where buoyancy aids and lifejackets are concerned, however, there is no alternative for the private individual or the voluntary sector, as legislation will be enacted to ensure that only devices conforming to the Standard may be manufactured or offered for sale within the EEC.

Existing equipment can continue to be issued for the duration of its 'reasonable life'. There is no requirement for the immediate replacement of buoyancy aids, lifejackets, or other items issued to staff or

paying customers, unless of course the equipment in question has deteriorated beyond a reasonable standard.

A leaflet has been produced, which is available upon receipt of a SAE at the BCU office, setting out the BCU guidelines concerning the new EEC standards for lifejackets and buoyancy aids.

At the present time work is continuing on the preparation of standards for 'immersion suits' and 'survival suits'. It is not clear whether wet-suits will fall into the category of 'immersion suits' or what the effect will be on 'dry suits'. It is unlikely, however, that any firm proposals will be coming forward much before the end of the year.

## Maxim Fuel for sport

**Maxim, the sports food has increased in price from £13.99 to £15.95. Accidents/incidents Some members are concerned and have written for details on statistics and reports of recent canoeing fatalities. We will shortly have a comprehensive up to date report for distribution on receipt of the usual SAE.**

## Trevor Bailey Biography



Simon Bailey has written a touching biography of his father's life which was on sale at Crystal Palace, costing £1. Proceeds go to the Jubilee Canoe Foundation. Copies are still available from BCU HQ. Please include a SAE. Visitors to Headquarters will see a newly erected plaque in Trevor's memory overlooking the view the late Director had from his office.

## FATALITY ON THE BITCHES

Nick May aged 22 was drowned whilst paddling solo on the Bitches Tide race, Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire on the evening of 3rd April. Nick was reported missing by other paddlers who had seen him earlier and was not found by the rescue services until the following morning after a long night search. Tragically, it

appears he swam and lost contact with his boat around Horse Rock. Andy Middleton of Tyr-y-Felin was involved in the search and reminds paddlers that the Bitches is a difficult sea environment; conditions on this occasions were rough but as a matter of course kayakers should carry flares and lights, particularly if solo and be prepared

to treat the sea with caution and respect. The popularity of the Bitches as a playspot often attracts river paddlers who although highly skilled playboaters, are not always prepared for incidents at sea. Consideration is being given to an information notice at the Old Coastguard Station, highlighting the potential problems for the inexperienced.

## around wales by canoe

By the time you read this Ray Goodwin and Robert Eglestaff, both Open boat specialists will be attempting to circumnavigate Wales by canoe. This has never been done before. The journey will

be self-supporting and the 500 miles includes the Bitches, Bardsey Sound, the Menai Straits and the Bristol Channel which has the largest Tidal Range in the UK. Their adventure should last from the

6th May to the 22nd May and we hope to feature the full tale in the next issue. They will paddle the Revelation, a 17' Mad River Canoe, used for journeying in the most remote region in Canada.

## LOBBY OF MPS

Have you read the Access Committee's briefing paper "Management of Access" circulated with the April Canoe Focus? If not, please do read it! Those who have will know that the next stage is for us to pro-

vide members with a lobbying document, so that they can go and see their MPs, discuss the needs of canoeists and leave the document with them.

When the Access Committee met on 25 April it was

decided that members would find it useful to have some guidelines on contacting their MPs. As these could not be produced in time for this issue of Canoe Focus, we now plan to circulate both items with the August issue.

## international slalom.

**29-31 MAY 1992, NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE HOLME PIERREPONT, NOTTINGHAM**

Calling all canoeists – your chance to see the World's best competing against each other in the run-up to the Olympics.

**29th May**, 3.0 pm to 5.30 pm Official Practice, **30th May**, 11.30am to 4.00pm K1 Ladies and C1, **31st May**, 11.15am to 4.00pm K1 Men and C2.

Car parking payable on entry £2 per day, Saturday/ Sunday Programmes/entry fee 50p. for weekend

Refreshments on site, lots of space to move around enjoy yourselves and appreciate the spectacle of Canoe Slalom in the World Cup.

Please support your Olympic Team.

Enquiries to Roger Fox – The Byre, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch, LE6 5TY or Sue Wharton, 117 Preston Road, Chorley, PR6 7AX.

Peter Revis has identified the mystery fall shown on the contents page of Focus 76 as he was the paddler disappearing down it. The river is the Rio Ara near the town of Torla, in the



Spanish Pyrenees. Peter can supply details on this river and others in Spain : 92 Westbourne Ave, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7QJ or on Tel No. 0243 371995

Barry Clark of Haverfordwest thought it was an unusual shot of the Bitches in Ramsey Sound, and Alistair Senior thought it was Chapel falls on the Tryweryn. Alistair was absolutely correct in another aspect in that he was the only reader to spot that 'Dangeroux' is Franglais and that 'Chute d'lipra' = April Falls/Fools and that 'espece de con' is to play the fool! Prizes to Alistair and Peter.

#### ALAN EDGE COMPETITION

Only one reader cracked the Edge photo riddle : Tony Tickle of Bury rang to tell me that the Slalom was World Championships, Skopje, 1975, Alan's team mates were Nicky Wain and Ray Calverley and that the photo was taken by Milo Duffek, the man credited with transferring the Bow Rudder stroke from Canadian to Kayak in modern Slalom. I suspect inside knowledge here Tony, but I will buy you a pint as your prize.

EDITOR



### GRANTS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Tampax are offering grants through the Womens Sports Foundation for girls aged 11-19 in the categories Young Sports individual, Young Sports Team/Club; Young Sports Coach; Young Sports Official. Please send sae to the BCU Office for details and entry form. Tampax are also offering a free kit and information booklet for all 11-15s or 16-19s on application through the entry form.

### 1992 PADDLERS CONFERENCE

Incorporating the BCU National Coaching Conference Friday 30 October - Sunday 1 November Based at Lakeside - on the shores of Windermere FAMILY FRIENDLY - costing from £15 - choice of accommodation. White water tours (grades 1-111) - Canoe Orienteering - Night paddling (overnight!) - Lake Tours - Open Canoe Workshops: sailing, catamarans, poling, slalom, kites; Mini-marathon/time trials; Sea trips; Voyageur 24' Canoe Racing; Illustrated talks; Conference dinner; Coaching Scheme AGM. Licensed bar; Family/children's non-Conference activities (obstacle course, zip wire, rock climbing, abseiling, archery). Send sae to Keith Morris, Lakeside YMCA, Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 8BD for full information.

## quick diary

### SHETLAND SEA PADDLING

Dave Gardner of Shetland Canoe Club is running a sea Kayak weekend around the islands on the 3/6 July. Ring 0595 5096 for details

### CROESYCEILIOG ON THE USK

Croesyceiliog Canoe Cub are organising the River Usk Canoe Race on Sunday the 31st of June over 7 miles. There is also a Bat Polo and Buffet evening. Contact Ian Rogers on 0633 273092 or 0633 273360.

Remember the definitive guide to what's on in Britain for Canoeists is The BCU Yearbook. If you are wondering now where you have put your free copy, or need a second copy they are available from BCU Office at £2.50. It is surprising how many non-members have requested one!

### ROUND COQUET ISLAND

This years round the island race (and hopefully back) is again run by Coquet Canoe Club. Dave Burke is the organiser, 6 Heather Grove, Warkworth NE65 0YS or 0665 711311 on Sunday June the 28th. Three Classes and three distances, safety boats and good, good prizes. Local sea paddlers will guide visitors on the previous around the Farnes Islands, a classic sea paddle.

### THE CHESHIRE RING

This event is fairly unique in that it's touring class presents the opportunity for paddlers who do not normally indulge in Marathon to enter relay teams, large enough for the distances paddled by each pair to be reasonable and within the ability of the average person. This does not detract from the high level of competition enjoyed by the K2 teams. Like the Devises to Westminster the paddlers continue during the night. For full details on the Le Mans of the Canoeing Calendar contact Michael Weaver or Susan Thornhill of Macclesfield Canoe Club 43 Old Field Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4BH

### MEDWAY SPONSORED PADDLE

Pirates Canoe Club is organising a sponsored paddle on the River Medway in aid of two worthy causes; Hi is the Kent association for Deaf and Hearing impaired people, and Kent Kids Across Europe, aiding holidays for sick and handicapped kids. The pad-

dle is not just about raising funds for charity, it is also about having fun on the day. There are three routes and there are some lessons for beginners available. Contact Jane Wilmshurst, Pirates CC 4 Prospect place, Warehome Road, Hamstreet, Nr Ashford, Kent TN26 2JR.

### OXFORD BODY TONIC KAYAK TRIATHLON

This event is a paddle-peddle-pound round historic North Oxford. There is a tandem/K2 section and the organisers are looking for 150 competitors this year. Contact Peter Travis on 0865 727388

### BATH TO BRADFORD ASCENT

Sunday the 21 of June at noon sees the start of this challenge, one of the toughest in the racing calendar. The long course is 12 miles, upstream! Raced under BCU Marthon rules there is also a short course for newcomers. Contact the organiser, the Boathouse, Barton Farm, Bradford on Avon, Wilts BA15 02216 4642 or 0225 766552

### MERSEYSIDE INTERNATIONAL CANOE POLO TOURNAMENT

Liverpool-based Friends of Altonby CC are the hosts for over sixty teams on the 30/31 May. The venue is the Albert Dock Complex in Liverpool and the event is sponsored by Merseyside Development Corporation as part of the 1992 Mersey River Festival. Contact Gerry McCusker on 051 526 4493

### HULL CANOE POLO CHALLENGE

Another Club International is being held on 27/28 June at the Albert Avenue Pools Complex in Hull. Contact Mrs S Pell, 309 Messingham Road, Borresford, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN17 2OZ 0724 867341

### BCU TOURING AND RECREATION DATES

**Brentford** A half day paddle up the Brent (Grand Union Canal) from Brentford will take place on June 13. The tour ends at Ealing Canoe Club for a barbecue Contact Brin Hughes, 14 Reeves Avenue, Kingsbury, London NW9 8LP

**Holland** Colin Kempson, Touring and Rec Chairman has information on the 'Stad en Ommelandtocht' tour from August 10 - 16. Write to Colin at 108 East Street, Olney, Bucks MK46 4DJ



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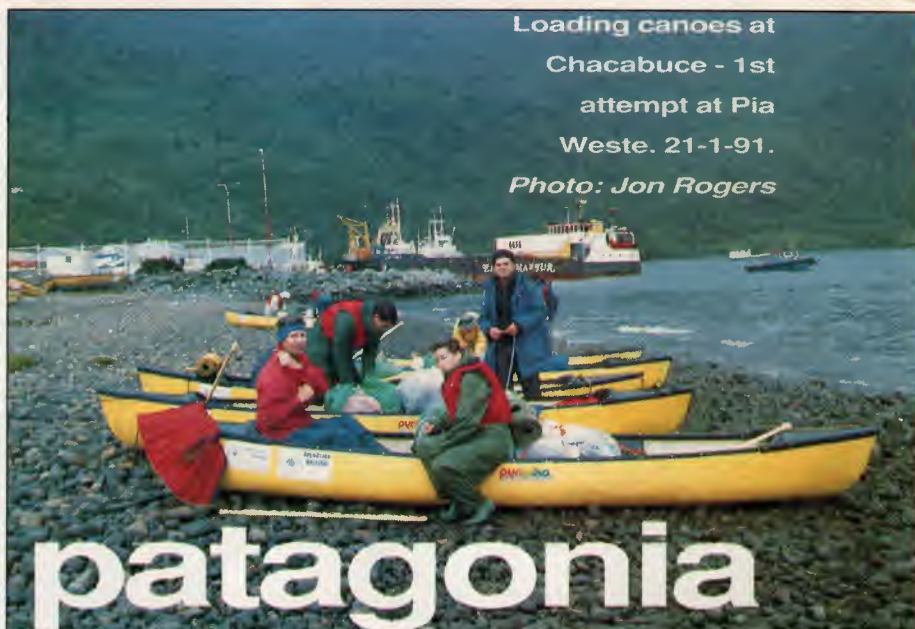
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# chilean patagonia



**S**ANTIAGO had been a bustling metropolis bathed in sunshine and with temperatures around 30°. Two weeks' later we were 1300km further south on the edge of "frontier country" in Chilean Patagonia; it was cold and was set to get very wet.

## CONDOR FIVE OH

Our first false start came as we were dropped off at Puerto Chacabuco, the small port which is their terminus for the ferry from Puerto Montt, the gateway to Aisen District and Tierra del Fuego. There were "problems" with the truck bringing our canoes and kit so we sat on the harbour wall watching the fishing vessels and hoping that the rain would hold off. Operation Raleigh has been active in Southern Chile for several years and were about to start phase one of expedition "Los Canales" with Chacabuco as our starting point. Our brief was to take our canoes from Puerto Chacabuco to the out of the Rio Condor some five kilometres away, follow the lake and river system upstream for approximately 40km and cross the landbridge into the next valley. Then we would follow the Rio Ciervo downstream until it merged with the Rio Huemules, which is fed by outwash from the Black Glacier, and continue down to the sea to await a pick up by fishing boat. A handful of hardy families farmed along our route but otherwise the area was uninhabited. Communications for these people are difficult and they rarely see a doctor so we were also asked to assist the local medical authorities by monitoring the state of health of those we met. Our team was code named "Condor Five Oh", inspired by the hope we had of seeing some condors and the sight of open canoes ploughing through the surf. We were twelve in all – ten venturers; Andres, Andy, Ben, Craig, Emma, Jo, Phil, Rob, Sarah and Sean; Anna the team doctor and myself as project leader.

## CHILEAN NAVY

Eventually our equipment arrived, six Pyranha open canadians, our personal gear, camp equipment, HF transceiver and rations for four weeks. As we loaded the canoes the Navy, who administer Chilean ports, took an interest in our activities. We were considered foreign vessels and needed permission to move in coastal waters which was easy to obtain but thankfully it was not the last we saw of the Navy.

The first obstacle was a four kilometre stretch of relatively open sea where the prevailing westerly wind was funnelled against us. On this day it was impos-

sible to make progress into the swell with our laden canoes so we returned to Chacabuco. It took us five attempts over two days before, thanks to the efforts of Andres and the Navy, we managed to get a tow from a local fishing boat for 1000 peso (ú1.50) per canoe. We lashed the canoes into two rafts which allowed them to be towed whilst remaining stable, even though they did take-in a lot of water and needed continual bailing on the short passage.

We were released a few hundred yards from the shore and paddled our rafted canoes to a long sandy spit marking the end of the Rio Condor. Ahead of us the river wound its way through a deep tree lined valley for some ten kilometres to Lago Condor. We managed to paddle 4km upstream until the flow became too much and a short grade 5 rapid blocked our way. It took us the best part of a day to find the "path" and reach the route ahead. The 5km portage took a further four days. This was the most exhausting stage of the entire project as we carried load after load along the muddy, steeply undulating and tortuous path, which rapidly becoming more of a quagmire than it had been at the start. We did manage to perfect a method of carrying the canoes between a team of four. Paddles padded with sleeping mats were lashed between the seats and strengthening bars far enough apart to allow a head to put between them and the paddles to rest on the shoulders.

On easy ground it was possible to walk good distance without break albeit being unable to see more than 6 feet ahead. However, on this path assistance was required front and back to guide and help those carrying the load. We bore a strong resemblance to large yellow turtles and moved at a similar pace, receiving some bemused looks from one of the two families from Lago Condor who were making one of their quarterly journeys down the path on the way to Chacabuco.

## LAGO CONDOR

Eventually, a week after our arrival at Chacabuco, we enjoyed the luxury of an afternoon paddle along Lago Condor. The lake is 15km long and 1km wide and surrounded by steep hillsides shrouded in temperate rain forest. The higher peaks, even in midsummer, were still topped by snow and at this stage the rain had stopped and we were enjoying "sunny intervals". That evening we found a perfect bivi site where we spent four nights while we rested for a day in glorious sunshine before completing the next 4km portage to Laguna Clara.

The afternoon of day twelve saw us finishing the "uphill" leg as we moved up Laguna Clara and Laguna Ellis towards what had been described as the "difficult landbridge". Here the map showed a 5 to 6km strip of marshland interlaced by countless small streams. It was the watershed where the valley stopped rising and started descending on its 55km journey to the sea. Somehow we had to find a way across to the Rio Ciervo.

We set up camp at a far from ideal site on the edge of the marsh on the least wet ground we could find, the intention being to find a route across to the Ciervo before moving on any further. Two recce parties went out the next day; one by canoe to explore a route through the narrow channels and one by foot to try and find a small lake which, according to the map, drained into the Ciervo. Both parties were unsuccessful – the waterways were too shallow and narrow, bearing little resemblance to the map, and the lake was no more than a mud pan.

The group who had stayed behind to consolidate the camp and to build some shelter from the now persistent rain had more luck. They were found by Don Roberto Lagos who farmed cattle on the eastern side of the landbridge. Without hesitation he invited us to go to his farm the next day where we could stay whilst he showed us the way to the Ciervo.

### TORRENTIAL RAIN

That night the rain was torrential and by moving our camp was a muddy morass. It rained on us all day as we dragged our canoes up the swollen river towards the farm which proved to be a haven above all other havens. Don Roberto lived in a small wooden house with his wife, Rosa, and young son, little Roberto. We set up our bivis in his yard and were given use of a refugio with a trove for shelter and warmth and invited to cook on the large stove in the house. We spent 3 nights at Don Roberto's farm whilst he showed us the way to the Rio Ciervo and whilst we portaged the canoes and remaining rations to the start point for our descent.

We received a level of hospitality with the family that we had never experienced before and began to worry that we may be a burden on their limited supply of provisions as we were fed generous portions of fresh bread, milk and meat. Don Roberto seemed particularly bemused to find girls in our group and they were treated with the special courtesy and hospitality which is customary in the area. Rosa certainly appeared to appreciate having some female company for a change.

The morning of our departure was relatively dry and we were willingly delayed by a surprise breakfast of porridge and beef. Rosa accompanied us to the canoes bringing little Roberto to have his photograph taken in one of the canoes.

Initially the river was only six feet wide but soon widened to a fairly steady and shallow ten yards. Progress was relatively easy as we wound through the marshlands but things deteriorated fairly rapidly as the river began to hug the western side of the valley and enter the temperate rainforest.

There was much evidence of undercut banks and as a result the river was littered with fallen trees, loose branches and stumps, many just below the surface. This hazard was to be with us for the next two days' and was one of the main causes of anxiety on the descent. Progress was slowed dramatically as we were forced to take things slowly and weave our way between the obstacles. With monotonous regularity the river would be completely blocked by fallen debris and we would be forced to clamber onto the obstacle and haul the canoes over. There was a limited ability to recce the river ahead from the eastern

bank where there was evidence of a very old path cut in the bamboo. Even though the path usually stayed within 5 yards of the bank the river could rarely be seen because of the density of the vegetation but we tried as best we could to get advance warning of any more log jams.

We were on our own, the river was our only way of escape and it was unlikely that anyone would have been able to get upriver to us. In short, we just could not afford to take any more than the minimum risks. The river was quite swiftly flowing with the occasional small grade 2 rapid but it still took us all day to cover 5km.

The only swim occurred on that first day of descent. A collision between two canoes forced one onto a fallen tree. The canoe promptly tipped over downstream whilst its occupants clambered onto the branches. Fortunately the tree was close to the bank and it was possible to get a line from shore secured to one end of the canoe and use the canoe itself as a lever to free it from the hold of the current. The result was, thankfully, just wet kit and dented pride.

From the beginning of the Rio Ciervo all the way to the sea the supply of fresh water is a paramount factor in selecting a bivis site, the river itself being fairly heavy with sediment. On the ten kilometre reunion down from the mountains to the west and these essentially become targets for each days paddling.

We reached the first stream by late afternoon on the first day and opted to stay there rather than continue downstream and risk not finding fresh water by nightfall. This risk became real for us the next day. Despite an early start an even greater concentration of obstacles than met the previous day slowed us to crawling pace and by 6.00pm, with only 3 hours to sunset we had only managed 3km with 1km more to go to the mapped position of the stream. We were tired and hungry but the prospect of an uncomfortable night amongst the bamboo and having to filter water was a motivating force to continue downstream. Spirits became high as the river began to clear and we began to make good progress. Then, at 8.30pm we came across the biggest blockage yet and there seemed to be no way round or over. I was beginning to contemplate a struggle up the bank for a night in the bamboo when Anna spotted an opening in the logs towards the east bank. After a bit of log hopping it was confirmed that a route was possible but complicated, involving twists, turns and unorthodox use of branches and stumps as aids to steering. Complicated as this was it only took 15 minutes for all six canoes



**Sarah, Sean and Phil arrive with last canoe at Lago Condor. 27-1-91. Photo: Jon Rogers.**

to wind their way through and spirits were again high as we could only be a few hundred yards from supper. More trees, another blockage. We were so busy looking for a way through it took a few minutes to notice the babbling brook flowing in above the blockage. Supper, bed, sleep!

We set up camp in failing light on a narrow rocky beach and cooked supper by torchlight, eventually turning in to the noise of the river tumbling over the fallen trees and down the 100 yards or so of grade 2 rapid beyond.

For the last few kilometres before the Ciervo joins the Rio Huemules the river enters a deep gorge and we suspected that this would be the last opportunity to abandon the river, should we have to, and portage to the glacial plain below the Black Glacier.

An early morning recce was the order of the day.

### DOCILE

The old path could just be found and wound its way upwards with the eastern bank, getting further away from the river. The recce went far enough to catch a glimpse of the glacial plain and only saw the river three times. It looked fairly docile so we continued downstream shortly before midday.

There were few obstructions after the first log barrier and we enjoy a widening river that swept in wide arcs through the forest, the beauty of which was heightened by the bright sunshine glinting through the canopy. As we came clear of the trees and the banks showed evidence of volcanic deposits, the river became swifter and littered with rocks. These were easy to negotiate compared with trees and we thoroughly enjoyed the relative exhilaration of the grade 2-3 stretch to the confluence with the Rio Huemules.

The Rio Huemules marks a dramatic change in the scenery from dense temperate rainforest to a wide open plain covered with glacial and volcanic deposits, Volcano Hudson, 15km to the east had erupted in 1971, wiping out the six families that lived in the area and the glacier coming down into the valley from the Patagonian ice cap, now known as the "Black Glacier", was impregnated with volcanic debris causing the glacial outwash to be thick with grey silt and to smell pungently of sulphur. The valley is wide and has an almost desert like appearance, consisting predominantly of pumice stone and volcanic ash. It was now day nineteen and we had reached one of our preplanned stopping points. We intended to loiter for a few days to await a promised air drop of mail and "goodies" as well as explore the area around the glacier and find the local farmer to pass a message from Don Roberto.

### LOS CANALES

That night it rained and we discovered just how poorly the ground drained, the camp earned the name "Los Canales" due to the numerous drainage channels which we dug around our bivis to divert the considerable surface water. This was supposed to be the day for our air drop but the regular drizzle and low cloud base gave us little optimism. We passed regular weather reports to Raleigh Base but similar weather at Coyhaique prevented the flight getting off the ground. This was a bit of a blow but we had the hope that tomorrow the mail might get through, "Tomorrow" dawned grey and drizzly but with the cloud base higher and steadily rising. We continued to pass hourly weather reports back to base but I could not imagine anyone flying in the mountains with such low cloud. My imagination must have been limited. At 1100, after we had all given up hope our ears pricked to the sound of an aircraft coming up the valley – the magnificent Ricardo was skimming between the

**Start of the  
day on  
Glacier  
Huemules  
12-1-91  
Photo: Jon  
Rogers**



clouds and the trees and turning towards us. He made two low passes at less than two metres and on the second pass out came our "goodie bag". We learned later that the bag should have come out on the first pass but that the "bomb aimer" was so "gobsmacked" at how low they were that he forgot to push it out.

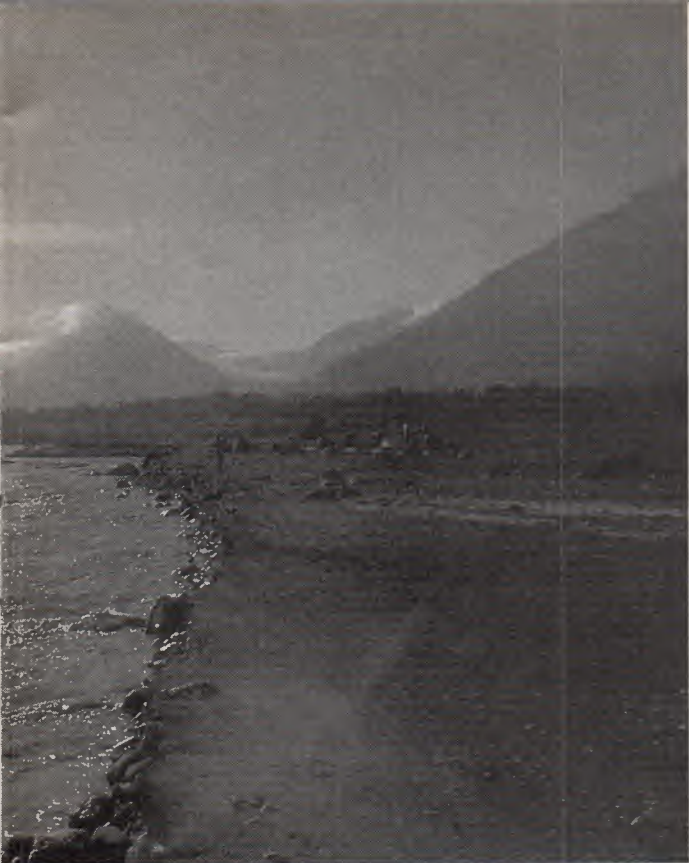
That day we enjoyed mail, newspapers, fresh fruit and even liqueurs. We reported the success of the air-drop to Raleigh Base with a message for Ricardo that we all wished to have his babies.

We had failed to find the farmer but the next morning he found us as we were preparing to depart. Yet again Chilean hospitality came to the fore as Don Manuel invited us to come and stay at his farm that evening, and invitation we readily accepted. This day provided some exciting paddling as we covered the 5km from the confluence of the Ciervo and Huemules to where the glacial outwash joins the main river.

The river at this stage is an almost continual and irregular boulder field as most of the smaller debris has been washed away – grade 2 with the occasional grade 3 and grade 4 stretches. We could happily negotiate most of the grade 3 areas but experience and the loading of the canoes dictated that we lead the canoes down or around the grade 4 sections. Somehow we had to cross the glacial outwash, which was our major obstacle of the day. It flows fast, deep and very cold and has considerably more power and volume than the Huemules that it joins. At this stage the Huemules is some 50m wide but the outwash firmly scythes across its entire width and piles up on the opposite bank to a height of around two metres. Paddling across the interface was out of the question – the risk of being swept onto this huge cushion and being tipped into the icy water to swim along with the lumps of glacier ice was just too great. We opted to try and ferry glide a few hundred yards up the outwash where there was a gravel bank in midstream which we could use as a staging post. The flow was relentless – no eddies or other break-outs – so we attempted to set up a rope system to pendulum weaker paddlers into the bank. It proved too difficult to get the rope across and all the canoes were eventually ferry glided across, much to the credit of the whole team. Even the strongest paddlers ended up a good distance downstream compared to the width we were crossing.







We left the canoes high on the bank and retired to Don Manuel's farm. He was not yet home but his wife greeted us and invited us in for coffee, bread and beef after we had set up camp among the pigs and chickens. That evening the clouds cleared and we were treated to magnificent views as the setting sun cast an orange glow over the Black Glacier. It also heralded the start of an unprecedented and unrepeatable five day spell of glorious sunshine.

The next day we left our kit drying at the farm and took the opportunity to paddle relatively unladen canoes down the next stretch of rapids. The first four kilometres were an enjoyable grade 2 to 3 with the main hazard being the coldness of the water but the following 4km the rapids became heavier, more relentless and less forgiving. Anyone falling in would have had little opportunity to get out for a couple of kilometres. We roped the canoes down most of this section which was backbreaking and hot work and somewhat morale sapping. However, we had got the canoes down what we had been told was the most dangerous stage and we looked forward to paddling the rest of the river unhindered. Don Manuel took his cattle downstream from here by raft all the way to the sea. If a rafter could do it, so could we! It was now early afternoon and we returned to the farm to strike camp and move down to the canoes, delaying any decision on moving further downstream. In the end we realised that the day had taken its toll and we stayed that night at "Camp Casualty", so named as the site where Anna lanced half golfball sized infected mosquito bites on Sarah's shoulder and Jo's wrist – without anaesthetic. Water could have been a problem but we found a slow running stream where the sediment had been filtered out. We appreciated the rest, the early night, the stunning sunset and were well prepared for a full day the next morning.

The sun was rising as we prepared breakfast on a cool and overcast morning. We had decided to go for an early start and try to cover the last 35km before dark. Progress was fairly slow for the first 5km as the rapids were still running at grade 2-3 but the river steadily levelled out and the flow became more even. As the gradient levelled, the river became shallower and deltaic and route selection became almost a matter of luck – on several occasions we had to drag the canoes over

shallow banks. It became obvious that the Huemules is a continually changing river. Our 1:50,000 maps had been compiled from aerial photographs in the mid 70's and the actual river bore only a slight resemblance to the map. We suspected that the river changed its route each spring when massive meltwaters would come down from the mountains. In the event we checked our progress against the mountain features on each side of the valley.

By mid morning the sky had cleared completely and we were in brilliant sunshine but we still needed to be wrapped up in fleeces and windproofs due to the almost uncanny cooling effect of the water.

We celebrated moving onto the last map by having lunch – progress was good, averaging 8km/h over the last few hours.

By now the rapids had all but gone and we were swept down by the strong current, dodging the numerous tree stumps, relics from the 1971 eruption. The fast flow continues all the way to the sea. The river does not gradually slow down into an estuary but runs onto a mud flat where the river abruptly stops and deposits its load.

### DON ALPHONSO

We were looking for Don Alphonso Vera, a farmer whom we knew lived on the northern shore and who had long been a friend to Operation Raleigh. We had conflicting evidence as to the location of his farm and spent a tense hour wondering if we had overshot – it would have been very difficult to get back upstream. We found his boat first, then his footprints and then the small wooden cabin which was his home and the barn Operation Raleigh had built some years before, Don Alphonso was the second hero of our expedition. We stayed for three days at his farm, bivvying in the shade of the windbreak which protected his buildings from the weather coming off the Golfo Elefantas.

Again we were struck by the level of hospitality offered to complete strangers; we were invited to use the house whenever we wanted – to sit, cook or drink matte tea. He gave us fresh bread at least twice a day and was always ready with a smile and a joke. We tried to share our rations with him but he did not seem that keen on dehydrated spaghetti bolognese. Understandable – if we had had the choice we would not have eaten it either.

The three days at the end of the Huemules were just what we needed to recover our strength, tend to the "wounded" and prepare for the next project – driving inflatables and conducting scientific support at Lago Presidente Rios on the Taitao Peninsula and in the vicinity of the San Rafael Glacier.

On an overcast Sunday morning we took our leave of Don Alphonso and paddled and dragged our canoes across the mudflats to rendezvous with the Ventisquero, a converted fishing boat, which was to take us further south.

We had enjoyed an exciting and challenging project which had us more isolated and dependant on ourselves than any of the other projects that took place concurrently. There had developed a unique bonding between the members of the team, having been partners in adversity with nowhere to run.

Three of the canoes were named after vessels from Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill fated attempt to reach the South Pole in 1914-1916; Endurance, James Caird and Dudley Docker. Our exploits were a Sunday stroll compared to Shackleton's, but his thoughts after the epic trek across South Georgia seemed appropriate. "We had seen God in his splendour, heard the text that Nature renders. We had reached the naked soul of man".

Jonathon Rogers.



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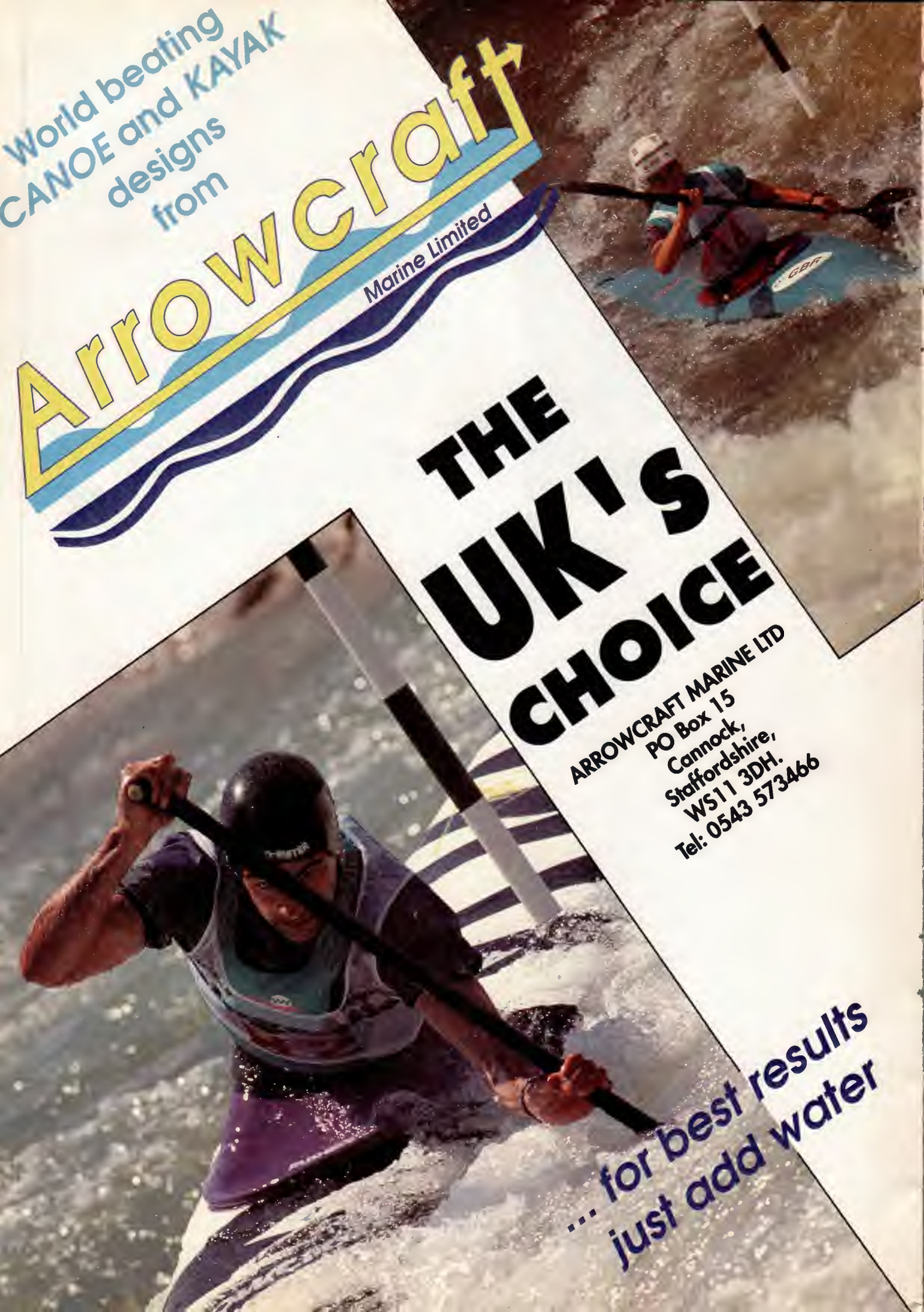
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# top tips

and handy hints

Floating  
sea shells  
by Nigel  
Foster

## floating sea shells

**A**n often asked question is 'what age can you start canoeing?' My daughter first sat on my lap in a kayak on her first birthday. She has since graduated to the sea kayak hatch and last year at the age of three (her second alpine season) made her first faltering solo strokes in a kayak (a borrowed squirt kayak). The low volume helped and she (as youngsters do at this age, rejected coaching in favour of discovery learning. If they like water and the family canoe; let them canoe; age is not important. Advice is and Nigel Foster relates his similar experiences with daughter, Kate.

Kate Foster



What can you do when your 4 year old daughter tells you that she doesn't like sitting in the hatch of your double sea kayak because she can't see past you, and when she sits in the oval front hatch of your Vyneck, she wants to take your paddles from you so that she can do the paddling? Martin overheard me talking about Kate's cries of joy and delight when I lean-turned the Vyneck, throwing her shoulder into the water. "Well, you know what she needs!" he said. "Her own kayak. Do they make kayaks small enough for children her size?"

"Well, there are junior kayaks on the market" I replied, "But I'm not sure whether they're small enough for 4 year olds". "If you can find me some plans, I'll build her one out of plywood." Martin offered, and it was no idle offer. After a couple of reminders, I contacted Allen in Dorset, who collects plans for kayaks, and he sent me plans for the Dennis Davis DK8; a 'junior' kayak that requires just a little more than one sheet of ply, with GRP seams. Martin disappeared into his garage and we heard little from Avon for a while.

In the meantime we continued to take Kate out on the sea, rivers and lakes in our sea kayak and open canoe. She was getting quite used to being afloat.

We stopped at Martin and Sue's house on the way back from the Canoe Exhibition last year. There in the hall was a gleaming bright yellow kayak sitting on its own tiny trolley, the whole beast just eight feet long overall. Kate's face beamed.

Kate was by now 4 years old. With layers of warm clothing beneath her waterproofs and buoyancy aid she climbed into her kayak at the edge of the lagoons in Padarn Lake, North Wales, while I held the kayak steady. It was a cold but windless day. The kayak wobbled wildly, and Sharon fretted. There was a familiar feeling in my stomach that I remembered from floating seashells out onto calm seas. Hold your breath while you place them gently on the water, then blow them carefully from the shore. The slightest ripple and they sink! Right! Ready now.... float her out gently! I leaped into the open canoe, anxious to be close enough to fish out a sodden daughter. Then she was away, catching crabs with the paddle, slicing the water and wobbling endlessly, but with such a glow of achievement on her face!

What can you do with a daughter who replies impatiently "I know, dad!" to your eager instructions? Just keep your mouth shut and see how she copes I suppose. Away she went, from bank to overhanging tree, to the opposite bank; not much control. "Paddle backwards" I heard myself suggest. Well, that command obviously means put the blade



in at the front and pull it backwards. Start thinking again Foster! "Paddle wide like this" and I demonstrate a sweep stroke to turn. Kate's shoulder nearly touched the water. Oops! The tiny kayak seemed to have very little initial stability but a surprising amount of secondary stability. Reassuring!

That session ended dry, much to my surprise and relief. The phone rang on April the first. "It's Martin here.... about six o'clock this morning I suddenly realised the obvious.... I have bent the hull wrongly.... I've made it a tippy V shape rather than a more stable U shape. Best thing to do would be to burn it.... I've ordered the wood for another one". This turned out not to be an April Fools hoax. A new red and yellow kayak, with a more stable hull shape duly arrived, with KATE painted on the deck, a pair of bright eyes and a tiny compass. Yes, it was more stable.

As time went on, Kate's control increased despite my futile efforts to teach her. When Martin and Sue arrived to collect their new sea kayaks recently, we took Kate out onto the sea in her own boat for the first time. It was breezy, but she coped well until her fingers got too cold. Then we lifted her and her kayak into the open canoe, and continued to a small beach, where we lit a fire and had lunch. She seems more tolerant during longer trips now that she knows the work involved in paddling her own craft. We have circled Iona, with Kate in the front hatch of the Vyneck, spent a week cruising the Western Isles in an open canoe, camping on islets, and watching otters, whales and seals, spotting red deer ghosting across the islands and keeping "jellyfish watch". Now when she bumbles around in her little seashell she points out oystercatchers and ringed plover.

Introducing "tots" to kayaking is a soul-searching experience. I am very well aware that this precious little person could so easily be put off the way of life that I love if we handle it wrongly. But isn't that something we have to think about every time we introduce a newcomer to the sport?

On the practical side, the kayak plans may be obtained from Dennis Davis, The flat, Himbleton Manor, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 7LE. Paddles; I built my own, using a broom handle for the shaft and lam-



inating small GRP blades at about 80 degree feather. I am now certain I should have shaped the hand grip to an oval. The buoyancy aid we bought was by Busta. It is a good idea to try "tots" swimming in their buoyancy aids before introducing them to kayaks; a warm water introduction, for your own peace of mind.

Our on-the-water sessions are always short, although the memories are vivid for ages! We do not use a spraydeck. I cannot see the need for one in the sorts of conditions we would go afloat, which are flat. And I always paddle alongside, normally in an open canoe so that I can lift Kate and her kayak aboard for a rest whenever she needs one, and so that I have a big stable base should I need to fish her out of the water. As yet she has not capsized accidentally, and I am content not to push it, but a play session in a swimming pool sometime will probably do the trick. Junior canoe paddles (not kayak) are available in suitable sizes from Mobile Adventure.

Martin has now built a second kayak for us so that Kate can take a friend paddling with her. Look out! It's catching!

*If you would like further advice on equipment for "tots" or advice on going afloat with your little ones, please contact Nigel or Sharon at 5 Tan-y-Bwlch, Mynydd Llandegai, Bethesda, Gwynedd LL57 4DX.*

**Top: Kate Foster and above with her father Nigel Foster**



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# Paddlers gear

## new dagger reflection 16

**T**his spring as I was preparing to set off to run an open canoe course in Snowdonia, Dave Crooks of Mobile Adventure turned up at my house with a demo bat, Dagers new Reflection 16. Being a traditionalist I was not altogether sure I liked the sound of the canoe he had previously described to me over the phone using words like asymmetric, computer plotted design and specially constructed Royalex hull sheets. However, when the canoe arrived I realised how wrong my preconceived ideas had been. The Reflection 16 is most definitely a canoeists canoe with traditional versatility.

Dagger describe the canoe as "....Designed to be used tandem or solo.... easy for the novice to handle.... ideal for family use.... capacity for Boundary Waters type trips.... can handle the winds and shed the waves that kick up open water.... sufficient manoeuvrability for river use...." I can certainly say that the canoe lived up to the companies literature and would be well suited to Scottish style lightweight tandem canoe camping (windy lakes, rocky rivers and long portages). However it was it's solo potential for the British paddler that really caught my imagination.

The Reflection 16 is a complex design with each feature included to perform a specific task. Nothing has been added "Cause canoes are supposed to look like that" which gives this canoe a rare functional elegance. The hull has an asymmetric 'delta' shape to reduce paddling resistance. At 16ft 4ins the Reflection 16 is no 18ft kevlar cruising canoe but it certainly pushes less water than most other ABS canoes I have tried. The bow is well flared for a dry run through waves and white water. That flare is carried back to the wide point (18ins aft of centre) giving excellent secondary stability and good seaworthiness when loaded. Tumblehome exists in the canoes middle third where Dagger have turned the top 3

inches of hull inwards to considerably reduce gunwale width whilst still maintaining flare at the water line. These features combine to give a stable, easy cruising hull which will style paddle beautifully when the canoe is cranked over on one gunwale. The tumblehome makes the Reflection 16 narrow enough for comfortable offside strokes in moving water. There is rocker in the front third of the hull enabling quick, dynamic turns especially when solo paddling. The canoes bottom is shallow arched with of course no keel. I got the feeling that the Dagger canoe companies white water heritage has played more than a small part in this canoe design.

The Reflection 16 has good load carrying capacity but is not excessively deep nor does it have a raised prow or stern. I was happily surprised to discover that this canoe cheats the wind, a capability that all solo paddlers desire. Playing around on some open water I found the craft handled the wind easily and when I added about 90lbs of cargo (2 of my children) it sat even more solidly with the flared bow taking care of on coming lake waves. In moving water the reflections manoeuvrability was impressive particularly when sideslipping and eddying out. Again the flared bow and rocker gave the canoe a dry run.

The construction is Royalex with vinyl trim, a proven, tough, lightweight combination making the Reflection 16 a very manageable 65lbs. The test canoe was fitted with 2 cane seats, portage yoke, tandem end air bags and a kneeling thwart about 18 inches aft of centre.

The canoe was quite 'lively' when paddled by complete beginners tandem, unloaded. However, a couple of day sacks stashed on board soon sorted out the problems. I have still yet to come across a Dagger canoe that you could describe as tame!

So who would I recommend this canoe to? Well take a long hard look if you are an expedition minded solo paddler who

wants a craft to give confident performance on exposed lakes and grade II/III white water particularly if you require tandem tripping capacity. Also the Reflection 16's great versatility and ruggedness make it the most ideal canoe I have seen for coaching scheme/instructor use in Britain. It is very much a 'go anywhere' canoe that I felt straight away at home with. I am seriously considering buying one as a 'no nonsense' work boat. Finally over the test period I had difficulty keeping my wife and kids out of the canoe so I could paddle it! There must be a moral to that tale somewhere.

**Robin Clark**  
(BCU Open SI)



Dagger Reflection 16  
Photo D. Crooks.

## TRIPPAKS

**T**he re-admission of South Africa into international sports and trade after a long absence has revealed some interesting developments in canoe kit from the southern hemisphere. Marathon and surf are the two big disciplines in S/A and the first imports reflect this. Next issue FOCUS looks at some wing type racing paddles : this issue the test gear is the Trippax range of drinks feeder bags. The system looks well made and is lightweight with a hardwearing ripstop outer and fixtures and fittings of good quality. I was given one

of the two bag systems to test on the DW, not the fairest of reviews as the kit was designed for unsupported events where helpers are not allowed to help competitors, or bush marathons where bank feeds are impractical.

At first glance the Trippax looked like some bizarre sort of surgical sporran and it took a bit of fiddling about to get it filled and strapped on, bearing in mind that I am not usually at my best at 7.00 am in the morning at Devises.

The DW showed up the bags only limitation in that you cannot refill on the run. However, for the first fifteen miles it was comfortable and easy to use, with cool drink sump fed from the bottom of the bag. The manufacturers claim that this method eliminates cramp inducing bubbles (some of us just burp!).

I did not burp and the big advantage of this system is that I had plain water in one bag and electrolyte in the other. Could Bitter and Mild be an option for the non-competitor? Triathletes would probably benefit best from the system as running with bags was good. I always seem to get the old cycle bottle tubes up the nose, or worse, on portages : the soft Trippax tubes are very user friendly.

There is a full range of sizes of the Trippax (re-named from Tripper for the Euro market because of an unfortunate German translation) and prices range from £14.95 to £39.95. Overall a good bit of gear, probably most useful to marathon and sea paddlers in the 3 litre single tube version. Available from J & W Industries Ltd, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP. 0303 814018 



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**Moving  
across Prince  
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Sound by sea  
kayak**

# kayaks across the sound



Photo: Steve Burge

**T**ell a friend you are going to Alaska and you will get a furrowed brow, a look which says "You're off your trolley", and a glazed face full of popular images – Ice, Eskimos, Polar Bears, Whales and Oil.

Raleigh International, (formerly Operation Raleigh) organised an expedition to Alaska for three months in 1991 (May to August). Raleigh sends over 1,000 young people to carry out community and environmental projects in remote parts of the world each year. The object is to develop their self-confidence, teamwork skills and a heightened awareness of the needs of others.

The Alaska expedition had 3 major projects and adventure (glacier climbing and mountaineering) forms an integral part of the programme. The remaining projects were:

- Construction – Building of trails, public use cabins and a salmon weir on behalf of the State Forest Service.

- Scientific – Stream classification surveys for the State Forest Service.

- Environmental resource surveys for the State Parks Service in Prince William Sound.

All projects run concurrently, with 'venturers' spending 10 days on the glaciers, 10 on stream classification, 21 on construction and 21 on the environmental resource surveys.

Due to the fragile nature of the resource survey sites the groups moved around Prince William Sound by sea Kayak. Each group was completely self contained for their 3 week 'phase'.

The State Parks Service has been given 12 marine sits which have been designated 'State Marine Parks'. These will become protected areas and will be carefully managed. The aim of Raleigh's project in this area was to collect baseline information which would highlight sensitive areas and record the effect of existing human use. Each park was mapped, marine biology surveys were carried out, studies of upland vegetation were conducted and suitable campsite areas were identified.

Most of the venturers had no previous kayaking experience so they spent three days training in the pool at Seward High School. The logistics of this were horrendous. My colleague, Mark Bridgeman, and I managed to teach 80 people basic techniques, support strokes and a very effective rescue in the short

time available (I also managed to lose my contact lenses and was informed on the last day that my trunks were see-through – 80 people)! We also gave a series of short lectures and took everybody for a jaunt up Kenai Lake which is 20 miles long and is by no means Alaska's longest.

So there we were, ready to go.

## COLUMBIA GLACIER

The first group set off from Whittier on 22 May heading for Valdez. It only rained twice in the first week, once for 96 hours and once for 52! I could tell it was going to be one of those trips where you learn which pieces of your kit actually work and which ones to junk as soon as you get home (the Buffalo stuff stays with me, as do Thermarest mattresses and Ortileb sacks).

On the first phase we paddled across the face of





Columbia Glacier which is the largest tide water Glacier in the world. It is now retreating (much like my hairline) and the face is obscured by bergs and bergbits. Many of Alaska's glaciers are in a retreating phase which is most likely part of their natural cycle than due to the onset of global warming.

On leaving Columbia Bay we came across a pair of gray whales, a mother with her calf. They seemed to be as inquisitive about us as we were about them and stayed with us for one and a half hours. I soon learnt to stop taking photographs and to experience what was happening – a lesson which stood me in good stead for the rest of my time in the Sound.

The final survey site of this phase was at Shoup Bay. This is an amazing bay where the retreating Shoup Glacier is leaving a new and delicate soil behind which is slowly being colonised by lichens, mosses and dwarf birch. Walking from the sea to the snout of the glacier gave the impression of walking back through time to when the earth itself was still young a very humbling experience. The results of our survey showed that the glacier had retreated 4 miles in the past 20 years – so far in fact that it was no longer in the park! This was a little unfortunate as it looked like the park would have to be renamed 'Was Once Shoup Glacier Park' or the like. The last I heard was that State Parks are trying to obtain more land so that the glacier will be included. Due to the fragile nature of the environment within this park we could not identify any suitable campsite areas so 'commuted in' from a neighbouring bay and put this forward as a recommendation to the Parks Service.

We paddled into Valdez and the awaiting press on the 9 June. We had a little time to clean up and pay a visit to the launderette for the obligatory thermal shrinking competition (Jacqui Higgs- Merkel won this by a leg-albeit a rather vestigial one).

## PHASE 2

This was change over time and the venturers of the first phase packed their bags and medic (complete with short legs) and caught the ferry back to Whittier. Eight hours later phase 2 arrived with the provisions for their trip and with the boats packed we set off back into the Sound.



Photo: Steve Burge



Photo: Steve Burge

The weather for the second phase could not have been in greater contrast to that of the first. We had virtually constant sunshine (except when it got dark – 2 hours per night) for the next three weeks. We saw fewer whales but lots of Dalls Porpoises and had several sea lion 'encounters' (a good laxative!).

All the way through the trip we had been mesmerised by the sea otters. As one guy said "They have got to be top of the list for reincarnation-floating around all day waving at people and eating (he didn't actually say eating but I cleaned it up a bit)".

This phase also coincided with the return of the salmon (which would account for why we didn't catch any earlier). We were fortunate to be able to supplement our army comporations with quite sizeable fish which would happily take a bare hook on 10 feet of line.

Because of the better weather we were able to cover a greater distance than on the previous phase visiting College Fjord, Blackstone Bay, Perry Island and a brief look at Knight Island Passage before arriving back at Whittier for a four day 'rest'.

This 'rest' involved writing up the venturers reports (used later for references), repairing damaged equipment, preparing damaged equipment, preparing for the next phase and taking part in the Alaskan Mount Marathon Run. This little gem involved running up a 3500 foot scree slope, into the snow line and back down again. The 'coming down' bit was fun but I'm not sure about the ascent. This was 4 July in the 'States' has to be experienced to be believed!

The 6 July found us back in Whittier looking forward to a really good trip for the last phase, and we were not to be disappointed.

The staff on a Raleigh expedition are there to ensure safety, motivate the group where necessary, pass on their experience and expertise and see to it that the venturers get what they expect from their expedition. The venturers were given a framework in which to work but basically it is their decision as to where to go, how to lead and how the group dynamics will develop. My final group decided to become a 'Watchless Society' and to lead by committee. The committee idea unfortunately doesn't work with a group of 12 in this situation but the watchlessness does. We found that our biological clocks actually adapted to fit in with tides – it didn't matter if we got up to paddle at 2am if we didn't know it was 2am! Although we covered a greater distance and were paddling for longer than any previous phase we finished the trip refreshed. It's an idea which I can strongly recom-

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mend to anybody doing a wilderness trip where there is no contact with 'civilisation'.

### PHASE 3

This phase did not visit Valdez or Columbia Glacier but did a circuit of half of Prince William Sound including a circumnavigation of Knight Island (whale paradise) and a visit to Blackstone Bay where we found an advancing glacier complete with vertical face calving into the sea. We also visited the village of Chenega. This was a Haida Indian village which was devastated in the 1964 earthquake and has been abandoned with the survivors moving to New Chenega 60 miles away.

Whilst in Knight Island Passage we were examined at very close quarters by a humpback and her calf. This experience is simply indescribable, a 45 ton whale, with her calf, gracefully 'flying' through the water just a few feet away from our boats, but fully aware of our presence had to be experienced to be believed. There is no sense of threat or danger on either side which is all the more remarkable when you consider our historical association with these amazing creatures and the numbers butchered.

We finally returned to Whittier for the last time on 27 July.

Between the two groups we had covered almost 1300 miles, we had spent over 700 person days on the 12 project sites and introduced 80 people to the joys of sea kayaking. We had also proved the benefit of these craft for this type of work and Raleigh intends to use the boats for similar work on future expeditions. The boats were doubles and by applying a generous dollop of open mind almost anything is possible with them, they can be lashed together to make a floating survey station or the raft can be sailed successfully using a tarpaulin, bury the paddles in the sand and guy the tents to them or lash tow boats together



Photo: Steve Burge



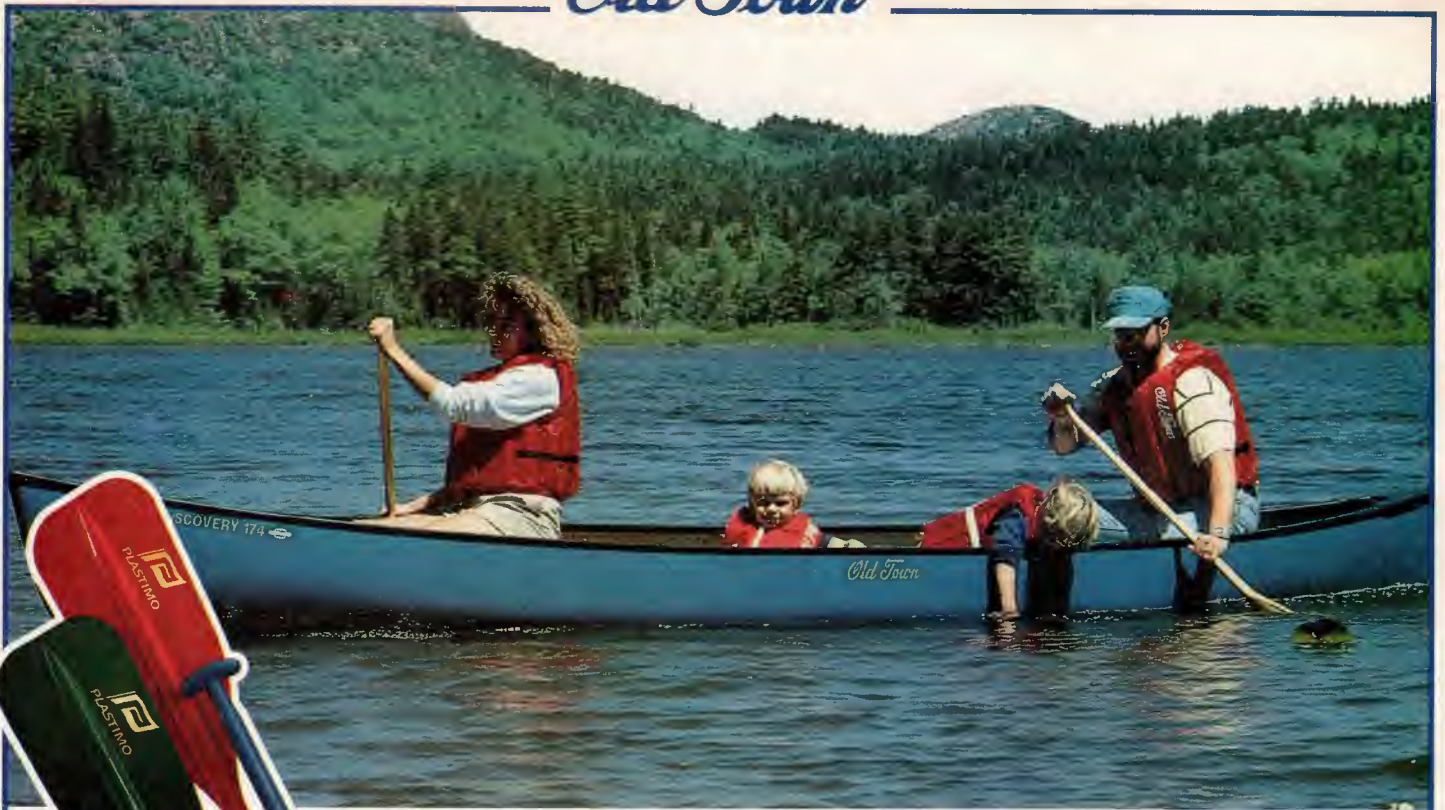
and tow them around collecting drifting wood. The possibilities with any boat are endless if we look upon them as more than just a boat. I am very grateful to Raleigh for giving me the opportunity of carrying out some very worthwhile work using kayaks and I am also grateful to all the people who provided help and support whilst I was away and to the new friends made on the trip. Cheers.

*(Steve is a British Canoe Union Senior Instructor with 16 years experience).*

**Steve Burge** 

Photo: Steve Burge





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4.40 m

**158**  
4.75 m

**169**  
5.10 m

**174**  
5.30 m

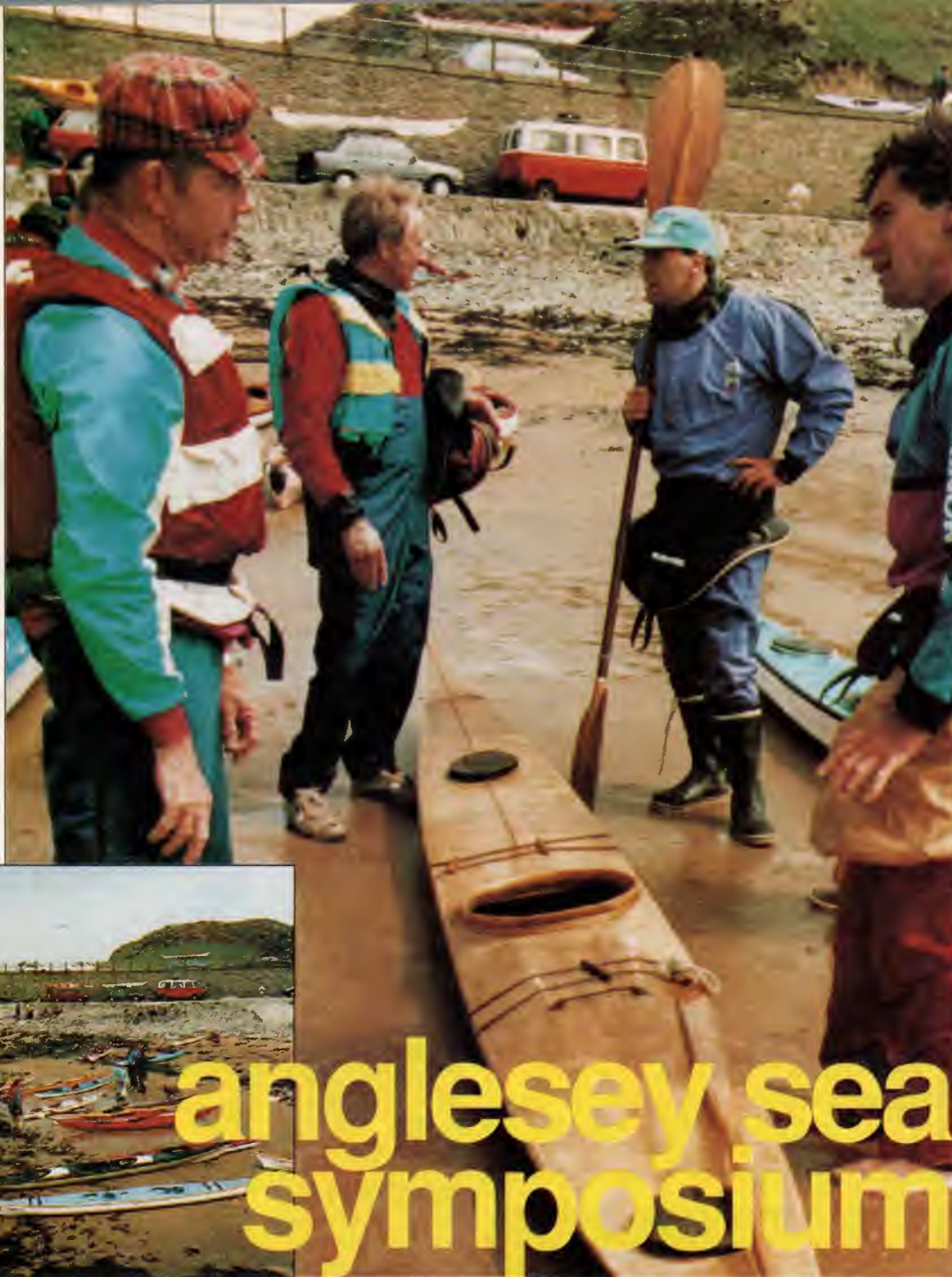
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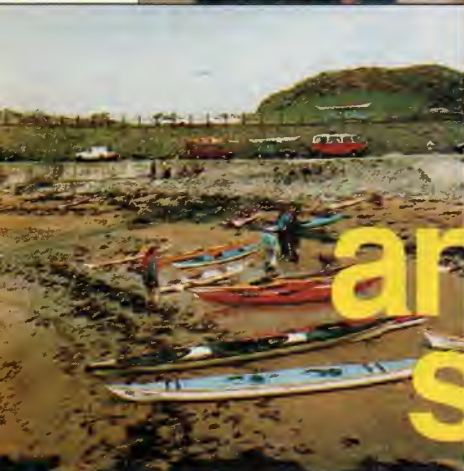
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**Left: Crowd around Kayak "Geoff Good, John Driver and Alan Wearmouth discuss Richie Lennox's East Greenland Kayak and paddles. With Svend Ulstrup he is running a traditional kayak building workshop at ASSC this autumn. Details from Richie at 42 Hill Road Benfleet, Essex SS7 1HL or ASSC, Anglesey.**



# anglesey sea symposium

**Bottom left: 'Kayaks on the beach: doubles and singles at Port Daffych' Photos: Kevin Danforth**

**T**he Second Anglesey Sea Symposium proved as successful as the first with an excellent turnout of sea paddlers from all over Britain, Holland, America, Canada and Germany. Over 100 paddlers booked in as residents at Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre and many more came along as casual visitors to paddle and take part in the workshops and listen to the lectures.

The weekend started very positively with a warm and stirring welcome from Frank Goodman at 7.30pm on Friday evening. But since he was stuck in a traffic jam in the Conway tunnel at the time no one actually heard it. When we did eventually hear it after breakfast on Saturday, the Marquee was full and primed for action. The Programme had something for everyone and included the following Coaching at all levels, Sea Fishing, Rescue Training, Trip Planning, Sea survival, Navigation, Kayak Design, Kayak sailing, Satellite Navigation, Night Paddling, Camp fire Cooking, Boat Trials, Pool sessions and more. If by now you feel you have missed out by not being there, you did !

## KEYNOTE LECTURE

The keynote lecture by Mike Watts was excellent. His

'holiday shots' in paddling terms described committing expeditions in the Americas. In the year of the 500th anniversary of Columbus discovery of America it was appropriate to have someone from the other side of the pond. Mike is an English doctor who moved to Canada twenty years ago and discovered kayaking as an alternative to the deckchair summer holiday. On the subject of discovery he did point out that the Vikings discovered at least the Northernmost end of what we now call America. Mike's American adventures stretch from the Galapagos Islands(!) through Baja to the Arctic. Lucky man. He finished with his philosophy of kayaking and world peace. If the Los Angeles rioters had occupied their time with kayaking adventures they would feel fulfilled and not have to riot to express themselves. An interesting thought! Mike is a speaker from the loud and clear school and was very well received.

Sunday's star lecture was the Anglo Soviet Northlands expedition (covered in Focus 74) and John Driver and Alan Wearmouth gave good account of their Soviet double kayak trip. The abortive coup took place during the trip and the slides illustrated a bleak Soviet landscape of Tundra and ice-floe. A





good effort and a step forward in anglo/soviet paddling relationships. The CIS as it is now, looks like receiving more trips as the Red Red tape dissolves. Overall the symposium is a focal point for sea paddlers and looks like being well supported in the future. Congratulations to the organisers, the Nordkapp trust and especially Nigel Dennis, Howard Jeffs, Frank Goodman, John Ramwell and Robin Goodliffe. Nice One. See you next year.

**Kevin Danforth**

**David Tyrral of Richmond Canoe Club gives his impression of some of the sessions from a participants point of view.**

### GROUP RESCUES

Saturday : Group Rescues A sunny but chilly Saturday morning deterred all but the real men from going on the water – however those who decided to swim around in the group rescue session agreed that they had learnt a lot (well they would say that wouldn't they – what other possible, sensible excuse could you give for voluntarily baling out of a nice dry boat into a horrible wet water)? Those of more delicate constitution opted for very crowded lectures or navigation (in Scottish) in a warm room. Doubles Paddling In the afternoon the sun shone brightly thus proving the wisdom of those who avoided the water in the morning while rewarding the tough for their earlier endeavours. Thirteen people (3 in singles!) went on a doubles paddling session led by Howard Jeff and Kevin Danforth and learnt to go round in ever decreasing circles. By the end of the session the doubles had the ability to avoid the romantic, but tedious fate of paddling into the sunset in an undeviating straight line by the simple expedient of turning round.

### BEGINNERS COACHING

Meanwhile the beginners began to do whatever beginners begin to do. This is basically learning not to disappear off into the sunset in an undulating straight

etc, etc, etc. Wind, water and Tides But what about the detailed description of wind water and tide I hear you ask – or at least Nick Hurst said you would all be dying to know. I told him that nobody cares that the wind was north westerly force 5 to 6, decreasing to force 3 to 4 and producing a swell of indeterminate size and that I was blown (geddit?) if I was going to include any of that technical stuff in this article.

### MENAI STRAITS TRIP

Much more interesting were the attempted structural alterations to the Menai Bridge. One member of the Menai Strait trip apparently experienced difficulty in squeezing his sea canoe through the tiny 40 foot gap between pillars on the Menai Bridge (they are big boats these sea canoes). He collided with the pillar, capsized, swam and generally had a good time.

### MIKE WATTS: KEYNOTE LECTURE.

The keynote lecture took us on a rapid pole to pole tour of the Americas with wonderful photographs from the arctic ends and the warmer middle bits.

Sunday was bright, warm with only a light breeze and a small swell. Lots of people who had improved a bit on the beginners clinic the previous day pushed their skills further at the improvers clinic. Two longer trips were also organised, one round the Stacks and the other to the Skerries. At the Stacks it was possible to see five recreational activities simultaneously -sea kayaking, rock-climbing, diving, fishing and breeding (though this last was strictly for the birds).

### BOAT TRIALS

One of the best things about a meet like this is the opportunity to try out lots of different boats. There were at least 12 different types which various manufacturers had brought along ranging from the new traditional Nordkapp to the much newer Pintail and the Calypso (double). There was even one wood and canvas kayak which brought much admiring comment.

### REINDEER

Sunday night's lecture was a visit to Siberia (a step in the wrong direction?) in Aleut Sea II's. This looked a decidedly chilly experience but it did place mankind firmly in the food chain. The humans eat the reindeer. Then the polar bears eat the humans. Joking aside, the perseverance and the paddling were impressive as were the sunsets. It was a good opportunity to see what could be done even if it did not inspire emulation. Rescue Monday dawned cloudy and dull with winds of force 5 to 6 and a choppy sea. This reduced the appeal of paddling action but a large number rolled out to see the demonstrations of helicopter and Lifeboat rescues which proved interesting. The RAF failed in its attempts to capsize people with the helicopter down draught but a number of people had an exciting time. Most would be comforted by the speed and efficiency at which kayakers are plucked from the sea. Others went paddling off the north coast of Anglesey but the offshore wind made for hard work which induced an early lunch and an early return. This meet is a high light of the sea canoeing calendar. It can be especially recommended for the novice or intermediate paddler who has the opportunity to paddle with and be taught by the best in the UK, if not the world. How many sports can you think of where that is possible?

**David Tyrral**

*The RAF failed in its attempts to capsize people with the helicopter down draught but a number of people had an exciting time.*

**'Kayaks on the beach: doubles and singles at Port Daffych'**  
Photo: Kevin Danforth



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The table in Fig. 4 illustrates the range of properties of paddle shafts in current production.

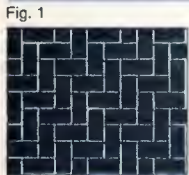


Fig. 1  
CARBON TWILL 50/50 WEAVE



Fig. 2  
GLASSFIBRE 70/30 WEAVE

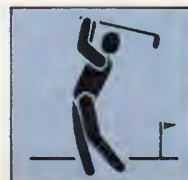


Fig. 3  
CARBON UNI-DIRECTIONAL

Fig. 4 Tube specification 27mm i/d – Wall thickness 1 to 1.5mm

Tube Type	Weight 127cm – 50"	Weight Comparison	← 130cm → 50kg Deflection	Stiffness	Critical Load	Crush Strength
Epoxy Glass 1	230G	6	62mm	1	1	2
Epoxy Glass 2	280G	7	52mm	4	7	4
Carbon Grade 1	220G	5	53mm	3	3	6
Carbon Grade 1F	172G	2	58mm	2	4	7
Carbon Grade 2	164G	1	35mm	5	2	1
Carbon Grade 3	212	4	29mm	7	6	3
Carbon Kevlar	200	3	32mm	6	5	5

SCALE 1 – 7 = 1 Low 7 High





Another trip reports from South America on the delights of spending Christmas time in Chile.

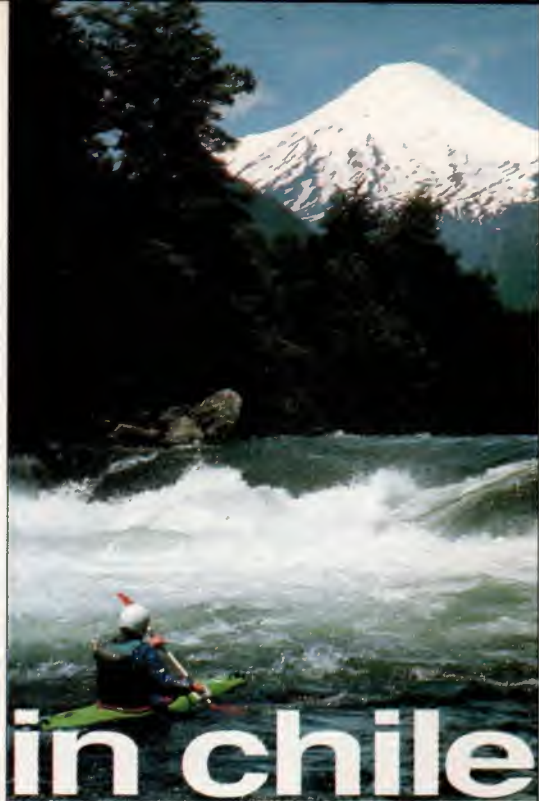


Photo: T Heath.

# christmas in chile

**T**he rain was filling up our porridge bowls, which meant breakfast took some time to eat. This pleased our cameraman Dominic Gribbin, his coat pulled up over the video camera as it peered at the watery gruel. He particularly wanted video footage of our first day paddling the Rio Futaleufu. Six weeks of high volume porridge making and white-water paddling taught us that apricots are perfect with porridge for breakfast, but video cameras are often problematic. Many other things were discovered on our Christmas trip to Chile.

One of the smallest territories in South America, Chile is also the longest. With its North-South orientation the climate is extremely diverse. The Andes mountains served to isolate Chile from colonial pioneers until the late 19th century and are indicative of the volcanic and seismic events that continue to thwart development. Buildings do not last here and so towns and villages appear makeshift and ephemeral. Yet they are also clean, modern, orderly and relaxed, without apparent scenes of destitution or any reflection of Chile's atrocious human rights record under the dictatorship of President Pinochet (now Head of the Armed Forces).

## SEVEN TEACUPS

Our stated objectives in Chile were: to make what we hoped would be the first British descent of the Rio Futaleufu and, what we hoped would not be the last British descent of the river Bio Bio, before the valley is flooded for a hydro-electric scheme. Our strategy was to practice on various rivers, including the Bio Bio, working gradually south wards to the Futaleufu, where we would tackle the stretch between the lakes Situacion and Yelcho.

Against all odds our team of six were paddling their first river; the Maipo within 48 hours of landing. It was not a polite introduction: high volumes of swift moving, muddy brown water sweeping into numerous large holes. From here our programme took in the rivers Teno and Tingurica, the Pacific Ocean (surfing at Pichelemu) and the waterfalls of the Seven Teacups National Park where as arranged, we met up with a party of eight canoeing friends from home.

The 'Teacups' are a series of seven sheer sided basaltic rock pools which form a cascade of shiny clear

water-falls between 5 and 40 feet high. Getting into the gorge above the teacups took considerable lengths of time and rope but we were well rewarded. The water poured from one deep blue pool to the next as if from a spout, making the drops smooth and safe, John Kennedy, our driver and a novice to canoeing shot all the falls showing that, with supervision, a knowledge of white water isn't essential for this kind of activity. The point was further demonstrated by Robert's new Rotobat which had never experienced white water but made a successful unmanned descent, leaving Robert stranded at the top.

## BARBECUED GOAT

That night we feasted on a goat, barbecued for us by the local farmer. Considerable amounts of jaw action were required to consume this dish, so the meal extended late into the night. Meanwhile, back at the tents our butchery was being repaid by a nocturnal cow visitation. The bovines feasted on all manner of delights from washing powder to my sewing kit. At dawn our camp looked even more like a landfill site but we failed to track down any bubble-blowing ungulates. Instead we found a beetle as big as a Snickers bar (and not a 'funsize' one either). The poor creature spent the next half hour surrounded by cameras whilst being prodded into various photogenic positions. That afternoon was devoted to video filming. I paddled the falls with a remote camera lens taped to my crash hat, while Dominic and his henchmen climbed/jumped/swam from one teacup to the next, carrying video equipment in dry sacs.

*"we found a beetle as big as a Snickers bar (and not a 'funsize' one either)."*

Within two days I was lying in a steaming hot spring with the Bio Bio running swiftly by, less than a metre from my side. From our campsite near Avolino we spent a day paddling each of the three canyons above the designated dam site. Our time schedule didn't permit us to investigate the current status of proceedings regarding the 3 proposed reservoirs. It appears however that construction of the first dam is to be postponed for at least two years since the present percentage rate of national economic growth is considered insufficient for the State either to fund or to benefit properly from the scheme. The only evidence of 'progress' so far is an abandoned test-site and newly metalled roads as far as Romeral.



The canoeing here was of course superb. Some of our group had paddled the Bio Bio last Christmas and noticed that the rapid called 'Jugbuster' was now completely altered by a landslide. The water level was vastly higher as well, giving routes down some rapids that are normally above the river bank. In fact most rivers in Chile were in spate this year and rainfall was unseasonably high.

### EL NINO

The reason for this had much to do with the current drought in Eastern Australia. Our visit happened to coincide with a climatic phenomenon called 'El Nino' which involves disturbance of oceanic and atmospheric circulation in the South Pacific. The last major El Nino was in 1982-3 when Easter Island received it's annual rainfall equivalent in two days. In normal conditions the Chilean coast is endowed with cold, nutrient-rich water which upwells from the deep ocean, supporting the marine life upon which Chile's fishing industry depends. This upwelling is part of an oceanic circulation, which falls during El Nino. The result is unusually warm water off the Chilean coast, causing heavy convective showers; essentially the rain which should have fallen elsewhere in the Pacific.

Just how much of other people's rain we were getting was impressed upon us in the Chilean Lake District. We camped at Lago Chosuelo which is the size of Lake Windermere in Cumbria and had risen over three metres in four days. It was fed principally by the river we'd come to paddle: the Rio Fuy. In the next few days grave lessons were learnt. The river had been straightforward to paddle last year and now the clarity of the water deceived us about it's extra volume. We decided to film the descent of a half mile section using our remote-len camera. The equipment was set up in Neil's boat and four of us got onto the river in the pouring rain. It will be interesting to see the video footage if we ever get Neil's boat back. We all paddled into a very large hole and three people came out of their boats. Swimming to the bank took up to three miles, through continuous heavy white water. Fourteen people spent several days searching, one and a half boats were retrieved. Alister's new Magic Bat was bent back into shape over a gas burner and patched using what remained of Chris's boat. John's management studies course required him to prepare an essay considering problems of working in a team. Our incident had provided a useful case-study for analysis and so we all sat solemnly round the firs (in a hotel for the first time) while John presented his appraisal. Reliance upon outdated information and preoccupation with matters other than safety were salient points.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Considerably wiser but suitably traumatised to merit a Christmas break, we headed to the tourist town of Pucon. A school classroom and kitchen were hired and preparations made for Christmas day. A 'Christmas Tree' was cut from the branches of a pine and my mother's 12lb 'extra brandy' Christmas cake was extracted from behind the car seat, where it had been berthed on it's side for the last three weeks. Midnight Mass was packed out with Chileans

singing carols set to Simon & Garfunkel tunes.

We woke on Christmas morning to brilliant sunshine and clear skies. This was the first sun for over a week so, after a large cooked breakfast which didn't include porridge we went out to celebrate. Some people went water-skiing. The rest of us paddled the lower Trancura, a beautiful clear river in a valley of poplar trees, with sparkling surf-waves set amongst the snow capped cones of perfectly shaped volcanoes. Christmas lunch was thus delayed until 6.00pm but, with 15 hours of daylight no body really noticed. The four-roast chicken dinner eaten, we filed out of our classroom and down to the lakeside to try out the



**Left: Bio-Bio!**  
**Photo: A. Hart**

**Below: One of the seven teacups.**  
**Photo: A. Hart**



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"Is this the line?" Rio Futaleufu.

Photo: A. Hart

Christmas presents we'd given each other. These included a set of dustbin-liner waterproofs, a Red Indian outfit and rather too many waterpistols.

After Boxing day the other group returned to Santiago to fly home and we went South to Puerto Montt, where we would take a ferry down into Patagonia (the south most region of the continent) and the Futaleufu. The docks at Puerto Montt contained a large craft market and an arcade lined with fish restaurants. Dominic brought a shaggy woollen cardigan of an indefinable colour. It had big nutshell buttons, wide lapels and smelt like a llama, but Dominic explained it was the kind of thing Jim Morrison would've worn, so we were all happy.

#### NEW YEAR

The ferry took three attempts and 48 hours to leave port, so we ended up celebrating the new year on board. The English canoeists became the main attraction of the 24 hour cruise. Everyone was very friendly, offering us coffee and aspirins on New Year's morning, and I had my wetsuit repaired for me by a catholic nun. As she stitched I sat on deck reading Bruce Chatwin's 'In Patagonia', gleaning information about the possible hazards we were to face on the Futaleufu, such as the "Yaquaru or water Tiger....a vicious creature that lived in whirlpools, and when it ate a cow, the lungs and entrails floated to the surface".

We arrived late that night and slept in a ditch. Next morning Robert awoke to wild and lonely scenery with a slug adhered to his neck. We drove for a day along dirt tracks through downland littered with rotting timber, the result of volcanic damage and pioneer settlers. They could claim land by clearing it of trees, and so burned and felled away as much forest as they could. The sight of so much unused timber depicted how different the notion of 'underdeveloped' was here to areas of Africa and Asia where overpopulated land is plied for the last piece of brushwood to burn. Patagonia has been colonised by a variety of nationalities, as European diseases wiped out native Indian culture. Chubut valley has been settled by the Welsh since 1865, when they became fed up with English persecution and perhaps river access agreements too.

#### FUTALEUFU

In the evening sun we glimpsed the Futaleufu for the first time: turquoise blue, set amongst high mountains,

in a valley of pasture and thick forest. In the next four days we covered the whole of the lower section, having to portage one rapid. We also descended a tributary river; the Azul. Rio Futaleufu was clearly the highest volume river of the trip and distinctly different in character, especially in the lower gorge where the water piled up in domes against rock faces. On one stretch of green water the whole river appeared to reverse it's direction, with the water surface sloping upwards ahead of us. This strange upwelling gave a slow moving, viscous character to the rapids and indicated a deep, uneven channel bed. In some ways it was more like a tidal rapid. The banks were thickly vegetated making inspection difficult, and the size of waves and other features were not appreciable until on the river and engulfed by them. Yet most of the rapids were more daunting than dangerous, often allowing a choice of different routes.

A complication with vehicle documents meant we couldn't drive to the Argentinian section of the Futaleufu, while time prevented our completion of the remaining Chilean section. This was certainly a disappointment but, with such unexpectedly high water levels we were fortunate to have paddled here at all. We met a pair of American canoeists who reckoned we had covered what they considered the hardest sections. We thus left the Futaleufu satisfied.

We returned to Puerto Montt via a different route. This involved taking a rather small ferry which we boarded at 2.00am. The cabin was crowded with people trying in vain to sleep so I sat up, reflecting upon the past six weeks. At this point an old lady came up and silently handed me a lemon. Unsure of the correct protocol under such circumstances and unable to speak Spanish I nodded with gratitude and ate the fruit. This mystic gesture has yet to be explained.

Before Santiago we revisited the Bio Bio and Maipo rivers, in scorching sun. It was necessary to drive day and night to earn the time for this.

At Heathrow airport it was dark and foggy.

Thomas Heath

The Cambridge Team was:

Alister Hart, Thomas Heath, Chris Lee, Neil Landymore, Paddy Thompson, Dominic Gribbin, John Kennedy.

*We met a pair of American canoeists who reckoned we had covered what they considered the hardest sections.*



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Congratulations to Shaun Baker with his outstanding win at the bitches, arguably the toughest event of the National Rodeo Circuit competing with the *Invader* and Topolino.



Photo Credit: Heather Quinn

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# Regional round up

## EASTERN

The Olympics and National Canoeing Day provide an opportunity for increasing the profile of canoeing everywhere. Within Eastern Region we need to seize this occasion to build up media coverage of local and club events. We also need to re-establish existing lines of communication. Whilst information on events planned for NCD is already pouring in, if canoeing throughout the whole region is to capitalise on this I need advance notice of all events, and follow up reports. I also need to hear from anyone who is already successfully publicising canoeing in their area through local newspapers. All clubs will have received May's newsletter, this is to be bimonthly; any information for inclusion should be sent ASAP.

**Judith Coffin**

## EAST MIDLANDS

One of the biggest problems for the Regional Committee is communication. Letting the BCU members know what is going on. To help solve the problem we have introduced a telephone information line. On calling Nottingham (0602) 850930 you will get a recorded message listing details of all the forthcoming regional events. The plans this summer involve river tours for beginners, families and the more advanced, and an evening of mini-slaloms. Phone for details. The years big event is the Regional weekend at Holme Pierrepont on 5/6 September. Plans include a river trip, fun events, competitions and a chance to try the slalom course on very low flow; ideal for beginners. Bring your family, club or group; camping available.

**Simon Dawson**

## LONDON AND SOUTH EAST

The London and South East white water training weekend at Holme Pierrepont will be

held on 8/9 August. For details contact Paul Newman, 20 The Rise, Hemstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SS. Phil McClintock organised a successful polo tournament in London on 11 April. Congratulations to Meridian, the winners, and Martlet who came second. Well done also to clubs like Clapham who – although relatively new to polo – made a very strong showing. What with all the candidates for referee training and assessment, the tournament demonstrated just how quickly polo is growing in our region. The touring programme is well under way. Several successful runs have been held already. Don't miss out! Consult your handbook for details of future events.

**Chris Childs**

## NORTHERN

Joe Stalker, 0946 691063 is organising the div 4/5 slalom, at Carlisle on 29/30 August and fun day on 31 August. Before paddling the North Tyne Chollerford to Hexham contact LAO G Thompson on 0434 602622; for the Eden book beforehand through Jim Wilson 0228 37658. Will all event organisers for National Canoeing Day on 5 September send details to Regional Coordinator, Mary Armstrong, see Yearbook. Northern regional newsletter "Northern Paddler" 50p from Regional Secretary Dave Pope and order the next issue. Full support please for the BCU coaching conference at Lakeside, Windermere on 31 October/1 November. Northumbria meeting 23 June, Cumbria 25 June – details from Regional Secretary. Contact Don Raspin, 0287 50668, about HPP 14/15 July.

**Mary Armstrong**

## NORTH WEST

Grants are available for development type events, following close co-operation with the North West Regional Sports Council. Enquiries to Secretary

Barbara Hitchings, 64 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, Crewe. Chris Cleaver, Environment Representative, has had a lot of contact with the National Rivers Authority about the poor quality of river water in the region. If you would like to actively support Chris in his campaign, contact him at 39 Cavendish Road, Hazel Grove, Cheshire. Mini-slaloms are at Warrington 20 June, Garstang 8/9 August, Bury 26/27 September; contact Cathy Perkins, 6A Chatterley Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent. Team selection for regional championships will be based on the ranking list in September. There are six Mirages and a trailer for hire from the region.

**Mike Burt**

## SOUTH

There are three Southern Region tours left – River Thames and side-streams near Godstow, plus barbecue and try-a-boat session, 21 June (Bill Dodwell 0295 710123); Grand Union Canal near Stoke Bruerne, and visit to Waterways Museum 5 July (Ted Moulding 0908 676343); River Hamble starting near Warsash up and back on the tide, 27 September (Dick Faulder 0252 713818). Well done the Southern Region paddlers who took part in the 1992 Devizes/Westminster classic. See the write-up on Southern Region paddlers in the April Southern Region News, which goes to clubs. Please send SAE (A4 advised) to me at Canal Cottage, Crondall Road, Crookham Village, Hants GU13 0SY if you wish to receive a copy.

**Charles Hicks**

## SOUTH WEST

Congratulations to the K2 crews from Bradford-on-Avon and the C2 crew from Poole Harbour on their success in the DW.

Also to Peter Lacey of Axe Vale club on his English  
*Continued on page 39*

## Chairman's chat

A cabinet post for the leisure industry with David Mellor indicates the importance the new government is placing in this part of our lives. Reorganisation of the Sports Council, the English Council, stronger regions, the possibility of a National Lottery, all coming on top of the National Curriculum and the Olympics are indications of the possibilities for canoeing in the coming year. It is up to all of us, not just "them" the mystical BCU, to grasp these opportunities! All the BCU committees need extra help. Perhaps you can help, organise an event, do some publicity etc. Contact your local Regional Secretary with any offers. They will all be gratefully excepted.

Good Canoeing

**Ron Hodgson**





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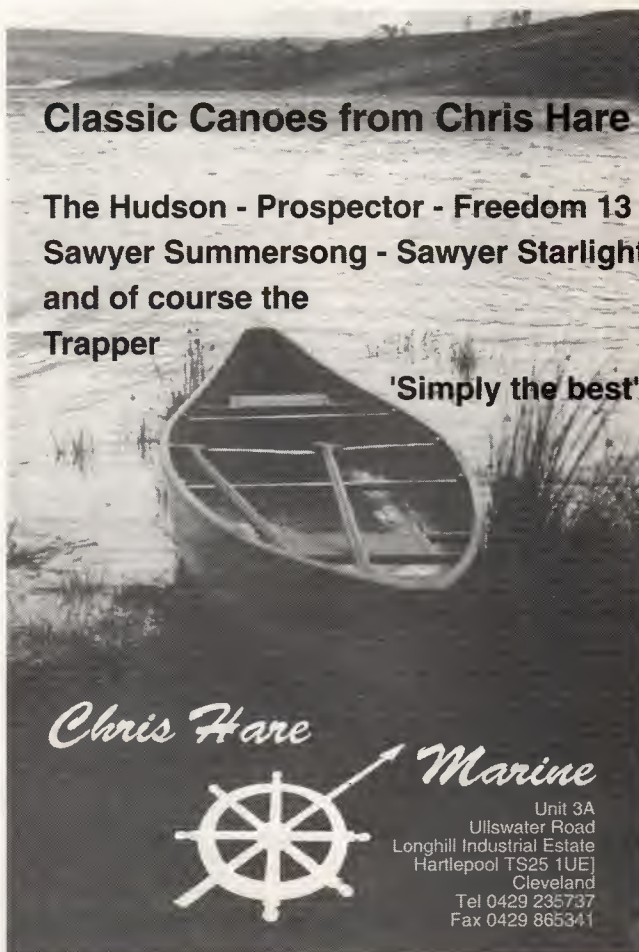
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Continued from page 37

Regions Award for services to canoeing in the SW region. Final reminder for June events – Holme Pierrepont 13/14, Youth Afloat 20/21. Open canoe open water (Axmouth) and Canoe 92 (Pewsey) both on 27/28. Clubs with an interest in or commitment to canoeing for people with a disability, including affiliated junior or youth clubs, please contact the Chairman for information on newly available funding. Proposals for National Canoeing Day needed by 1 July for compiling the regional programme. May newsletter now available. **James Cornwell A**

**WEST MIDLANDS** fun weekend was had by all who came to our region's **Holme Pierrepont rally; pity most of you missed it! Congratulations to Sandwell "A" on winning the West Midlands polo final and to Wolverhampton Youth on winning the ladies/youth League Polo Tournament. The River Avon placid water camping weekend is on 4/5 July organised by A Hall on 0386 553177. The River Severn tour is on 26 July from Hampton Loade to Bewley. Contact Mike Nicholls on 021 360 2136 for details and to let him know**

**you are coming. Don't forget National Canoeing Day on Saturday 5 September. Will you be canoeing? If not, why not?**

**Mike Male**

## **YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE**

Hopefully the weekend release at the Washburn, 6/7 June, the mid-week evening 17 and the div 1 slalom 27/28 will be luckier than the April series, cancelled by Yorkshire Water due to abundance of water. Full reservoirs and nowhere to put the release makes a change from too little water, but is just

as frustrating! To those who travelled in vain we extend sympathy, but do remember that is what the Regional Action Line is for; ring 0423 711531 anytime and check before you travel or ring Don Player 0532 667397 for greater detail. Remember the Washburn River bed has changed, especially the second weir – inspection is strongly recommended. Site improvements continue; the Washburn is no longer always the same.

**Don Player**



# women in canoeing at crystal palace

**A**n overview by Anne Palmer (Chair-Women in Canoeing Panel).

All the findings confirmed my experiences of womens complaints about equipment. It seems that the same points come up again and again. This is not to say that there are not women around who do not have equipment that suits them, after all we come in all shapes and sizes.

Many complaints were also borne out of ignorance of what products are available which are more likely to suit the individual paddler. Inappropriate purchases and product complaints could then have been avoided.

The following points cover the general complaints about equipment:

For most equipment the size ratios are incorrect for the female shape. The trade does not appear to cater for the smaller well – developed woman who has different requirements from youths who small sized equipment is generally designed for. Most comments were from the smaller woman. The most complained about items of equipment were buoyancy aids closely followed by cagoules.

Manufacturers are being invited to respond to the criticisms made and to specifically comment on their products and their suitability for female paddlers.

Winner of the raffle – Liz Gill, Merseyside. Thanks to Suzy for contributing the prize of a throwline.



## **GENERAL FEEDBACK**

### **BUOYANCY AIDS**

Too long in the body – the zip/top rub against my chin and up under my armpits when I sit down. The lower part of the buoyancy aid does not fit if you have large boobs. Trying to get back into an open boat with your buoyancy aid up under your chin is impossible! Expedition style buoyancy aid for the smaller sizes with pockets for small instructors. Flat buoyancy material too hard across the chest. Space required for the bosom. Too generous around the shoulders.

### **CAGOULES**

Generally, sleeves were too

long and waists too large on proportion to chest size and neck and wrist seals were too large. There was not a dry cag for smaller sizes. Dry cags – not available for smaller woman with appropriately small sized neck and wrist seals. Sleeves too long.

### **WET SUITS**

Impossible to go to the loo without stripping off. If they fit on the hips or chest there are too big elsewhere. Male length and chest size ratio means that they just don't fit. Have to buy made to measure as off the peg male shaped only. Legs too long for the 5ft size 10 female.

### **THROWLINES**

Too heavy to throw. Shape too big to fit onto a buoyancy aid.

**Women's stand kept busy at Crystal Palace.**

### **PADDLES**

Paddle shafts designed for people with bigger hands need smaller diameter shaft.

### **BOATS**

Kayaks too large for the smaller paddler. Unable to reach the footrests or the thigh grips. Seats and thigh grips for the larger women needed which allow for her shape. The higher volume kayak for the larger woman is too heavy for her to carry.

Individual manufacturers have been contacted with specific comments on their own products. Thank you to all the women who helped with the survey and to the manufacturers for contributing.



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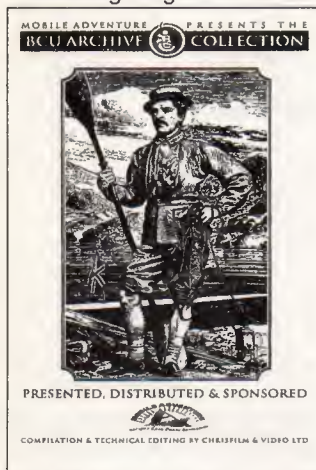




# b o o k & v i d e o

## The BCU Archive Collection.

Once upon a time the history of Canoesport in this country was stored in flickering images on celluloid and filed in dusty cellars deep in darkest rural North Yorkshire. Many pondered and wondered on their continued existence and how the Past may unlocked and viewed. Lo, a magician was sought to spirit the fading images onto tablets



of stone, lest they fade forever.... well, VHS actually.

It was not that simple either. The BCU film archives were on a variety of formats and differing quality and there was much concern that valuable material may be lost forever.

The first three offerings in this new series of videos are a result of collaboration between Mobile Adventure and Chrisfilm, and at £14.99 are a snip for a piece of history.

### Volume I Clarence 1947/9

Oliver Cock, the former Director of Coaching could have starred on the silent screen in Hollywood, such is his flair and talent in the tile role of 'Clarence goes Canoeing' This is an absolute classic and deserves showing at every BCU course, particularly at Instructor level. I am not sure that cuffing urchins around the ear is considered good educational practice but

it is a 'comedy basic' in the silent idiom. Look at the paddling: the kit is old and the paddles long but has that much really changed ?

### Volume II An eskimo and his kayak 1932

I had never seen the 1932 Gino Watkins film, although there were copies about. Having real sea kayaking in the living room : whatever next ? Watching the paddlers run through their repertoire for the camera I was struck by the familiarity of the rolls and the tricks. Again, our young tyros hand-rolling Rotobats could be gently told that sixty years ago the same scenario was acted out, and in deeper, colder water.

The equipment is the real thing, the paddling has a purpose. There is an astonishing bit of footage of one paddler being pulled sideways by a motor launch to simulate hanging onto a harpooned whale : he doesn't capsize, and he looks under control ! This is essential viewing: heritage and history available for all those whose kayaking career began with the products of resin and rotomold. Watch and feel humble.

### Volume III Competition 1963

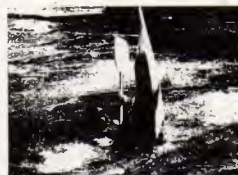
This volume was just as interesting in a quirky sort of way. Footage of watery athletes in their prime thirty years ago looked very dated but interesting. One for the real enthusiasts and fond memories for the older paddler. Perhaps those hankering after 'old rules slalom', reverse gates and all, may find refuge here.

The series has made a good start and I look forward to seeing the rest, some of which will have sound added. What was the Spey like in 1954: what was paddled in the French alps in 1953 ? Appetite whetted, more please.



## Squirt the Video

# Squirt the Video



British Canoe Union Touring and Recreation Committee

### Produced by the BCU Touring and Recreation Committee

The three dimensional and sub-aqua world of squirt boating is explained by Peter 'Bumble' Knight and Simon Dawson. This self-help aid is a step by step guide through the transition from float-boat to the wacky under water world of the squirtist.

Boats and design are discussed and moves broken down into easy to follow steps. Moves and terminologies are widened and expanded on and in simple terms, mysteries (including the moves) are unravelled.

The teaching is a little prescriptive for my liking but there is no doubt that the right stuff is presented here in a form that is readily understood.

This is not an entertainment video in the style of the American squirt videos but a TV tutor and a reference work. Buy it on those terms and you will not be disappointed.

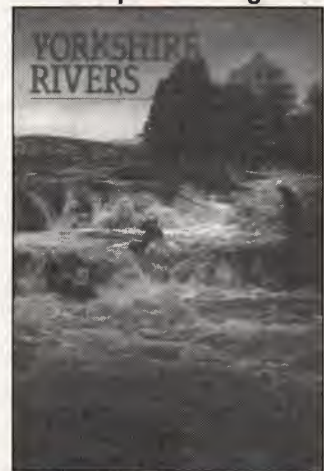


All reviews by Kevin Danforth

## Yorkshire River Guide.

By Mike Twiggs and David Taylor. Published by Cordee

£4.95 This is a comprehensive and definitive guide to the rivers of the Yorkshire Region. Mike is also the chairman of the BCU Access Committee and the guide reflects his depth of knowledge and expertise. The book is very well laid out and the well-informed authors supply clear maps and diagrams



and factual up-to-date text. The BCU position on access is clearly stated in the introduction and each river covered has the access officer listed too. There are those who would rather do without guides but the current access situation can only improve with time and understanding. While access remains an issue there is a need for information and communication, presented in a responsible and readable form. This guide provides just that. I know from experience that Yorkshire has many fine rivers. The guide also told me much I did not already know. Perhaps the way forward is for each area to publish a guide of this type written by locals. If they can match this fine effort we really would be making progress.



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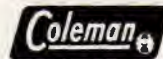
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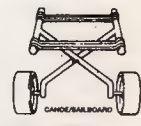
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122	OUTDOOR LEISURE SUPPLIES	38	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	THE P&H COMPANY	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	PADDLESPOINT	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	PALM CANOE PRODUCTS	IBC	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	PERCEPTION KAYAKS	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	PLAS MENAI	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
184	PLASTIMO	28	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	PYRANHA MOULDINGS	23	<input type="checkbox"/>
147	ROTHERVALLEY SPORTS	45	<input type="checkbox"/>
179	SDS WATERSPORTS	45	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	SLALOM SPORTS	38	<input type="checkbox"/>
187	SURREY & HANTS NARINE SERVICE	44	<input type="checkbox"/>
185	TWICKENHAM AND WHITewater	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	VALLEY CANOE PRODUCTS	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	WEST MIDLANDS CANOE CENTRE	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
138	WHITE WATER CONSULTANCY	45	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	WILD WATER OBC		<input type="checkbox"/>

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

# Members classified

British Canoe Union Members are entitled to advertise small sales and wants on this page free of charge. Please send your copy and quote your membership number. The Copy date for the August issue is June 24 1992.

## FOR SALE

**Ace Flash 365** WW spec paddle, helmet, spraydeck and buoyancy aid. Tel: 0938 83303

**Ace flash 365** WW spec, GC, plus paddle, helmet, buoyancy aid, spraydeck £275. Tel: W Hutchins 093 883 303

**Aleut sea II**, 3 oval hatches, 2 compact 50 pumps, C-trim rudder, 28 RDF's only £995. Tel: K Steer 051 494 1682

**Aquaterra sea lion** sea kayak plastic including neoprene spray covers for hatches plus spraydeck. Equipped as new (sealed bulkhead buoyancy chambers) plus basic paddle (right hand). Little used excellent condition £325. Can deliver - reasonable distance if sale guaranteed. Tel: S Hodgkinson 0625 878302 (eves) 061 480 6571 (work)

**Blenheim stable K1**, good condition, no repairs. Blue deck, white hull £150 OVNO. Tel: E Flint 081 542 8376

**Brand new** unused Pyranha roto bat £370 ONO. One pair New Wave carbon paddles £20. Tel: B Love 0460 20046 evenings or weekends

**Buoyancy aid**, wild water expedition, small, unused £15. Bushsport spraydeck, to fit argoe whitewater kayak, neoprene £20. Wild water competition helmet £8. Tel: D Heath 0932 346970

**Concept designs** squirt boat - pro jet 1/2" chop, orange yellow and black rad deck and hull design. Excellent condition £200. Tel: P Greenway 0793 432685

**Concept designs** Ziggy Flyer kevlar II hull, glass deck. J and R footrests, reasonable condition £70 ONO. Also MI blades, 204, glass shaft, metal edges any reasonable offer accepted. Tel: N Allen 031 445 2893 or 041 889 7778

**Corsica**, teal just one year old, in excellent condition, £275 ONO. Tel: M Minchin 081 693 6223 Dancer XS teal green used 6 times only. VGC, one lady owner. £265. Tel: L Canneth 081 599 0740

**Derwent Blitz**, excellent condition, diolen hull, blue metallic glitter deck. Tel: C Lodge 0702 522714 Explorer 17 granta/ottersports GRP (bamboo colour) double canoe, large open cockpit, built in buoyancy, complete with jointed paddles, rudder assembly, keeper footrests, portage trolley, spare backrest and seat moulding and special custom made alloy outboard motor bracket. All in excellent condition £350 ONO. Tel: D Brandes 0933 50274

**Junior kayak:** Imp 20 orange/black/white. Will fit child up to 4'6" tall VGC £75. Tel: J Davison 0332 872669

**K1 racing kayak** with two racing paddles and three spray covers. All in excellent condition £150. 4 left hand slalom paddles £50. Tel: W Hanham 0253 392541 (day) 0253 882405 (eve)

**K1 racing kayak** VGC 17 foot, custom built, blue, nice lines, very fast. Power master paddles included, cost £300+ will take £180 ONO. Tel: Mrs Chapman 0420 83379

**Large canoe trailer** will carry 5 Canadians or 14+ kayaks. Has box and brakes etc £450. Also 2 Canadians, 1-Coleman 17' £150, 1 Pyranha lake Traveler £50. Tel: D Moore 0606 48917

**Laser dinghy** as new with every extra possible. Sail no 139237, used twice, returned to canoeing! £1400 OVNO. Tel: C Lodge 071 254 4996

**Magic bat** WW spec £325 ONO. Hardly used. Also Dancer, yellow, two years old £150 ONO. Tel: J Firth 061 761 7373.

**Mcnuity Kodiak** sea kayak front and rear bulkheads and hatches. Orange with black trim, fast and stable, one year old. Excellent condition £450. Tel: C Evans 0970 615386

**MI waveski** (220cm) with 2 paddles (one brand new - cost £35) excellent condition £135 ONO. Tel: S Cosh 0703 477723 (eve)

**Mountain bat**, yellow white water spec £275. Tel: C Hodgson 05395 61337

**Mustang marathon K1**, complete with 'V' bar. Excellent condition £150 ONO. Tel: A Showell 038682 664

**Odyssey WWR K1**, full kevlar epoxy carbon reinforced VGC. Very fast and light. Any offer considered Marc 0392 214697.

**Open canoe** Old Town pathfinder, in good condition £450 ONO. Tel: B Otley 0460 63812

**Open canoe** 16ft GRP VGC £250. Sprint C1, light GC £70. WWR C1, diolen, sound £40. KW7 general purpose kayak, diolen, good order £50. Tel: A Davison Ipswich 310923

**Palm Aquabat** red with knee supports. 6 months old in VGC £200 also helmet spraydeck and cag with neoprene neck and cuffs £60. Tel: N Parkinson 081 881 8658

**Perception Gyramax C1**, 2 hours use, complete with air bags, spray deck. Shoulder dislocation forces sale £300. Tel: S Allin 0257 270449 after 5.30pm

**Perception reflex**, blue, approximately 2 years old, good condition, £200 ONO. Tel: S Dawson 0733 203314

**Premier 4** slalom canoe full kevlar £250. Marathon C1 full kevlar £100. Marathon ICF C2 full kevlar £800, all excellent condition. Swap, stunt bat for full white water roto bat. Tel: S Reeves 0525 377909

**Prijon Taifun**, orange, bulkhead footrest, complete with bow cap, spare airbag and Prijon neoprene spraydeck. Good condition £190. Tel: R Cunnington 0434 632039

**Prijon T slalom**, yellow, bulkhead, footrest, good condition £195, Kober allzweck extreme paddles £35. Tel: R Sanders 0992 582633

**Prijon T slalom** with anti-implosion spraydeck £305. Concept Edge slalom, all kevlar £225. Ziggy Flyer slalom, carbon kevlar £120. All in good condition. Tel: D Sears 081 464 3512

**Pyranha Master** choice of 2, yellow or green. Full white water spec. VGC careful lady owners £250 ONO. Tel: L Rhodes 0647 61038

**Pyranha Master** full WW spec excellent condition £230. Tel: N Brock 05242 21349

**Pyranha roto bat** - green whitewater spec. Good condition £23 ONO. Pyranha day 2 deck to fit, used once £30 ONO. Tel: P Shaw 061 248 6408

**Pyranha stunt bat**, white water spec, purple 4 months old excellent condition and hardly used £320. Tel: 0706 82 5893

**Racing K1** VGC custom built in blue, very light and fast- overstern, Powermaster paddles included. Cost over £300 accept £200 ONO. Tel: A Chapman 0202 290964

**Raider wedge** wave ski 7'2" long. VGC £110 ONO. Tel: D Baldwinson 0724 854975

**Reflex full kevlar** canoe hardly used £350. Many other good bargains including Propulsion paddles, decks, buoyancy aids, cags. All GC and high standard equipment. Tel: R Soan 0708 768066

**Savage slalom K1** excellent condition yellow with red trim £200 ONO or swap for prijon T slalom or similar. Tel: A Baron 071 733 8585

**Sea kayak**, VGC, lovely bright colour, 18 foot long approx, fitted hatches fore and aft, deck lines, end toggles, footrests and seat. Ready to use; used once at sea around the Isle of Man. Reluctant sale due to injuries at work. Cost over £450 for sale at £400 ONO. Tel: F Jones 0256 525559

**Snipes two**, both blue excellent condition little used need to sell for space £110 ONO including paddles will deliver within 100 miles free. Tel: J Dunn 0272 863791

**Stunt bat**, yellow, linear, brand new £350 ONO. Tel: K Hume 0279 726990 9am to 3pm weekdays or 0279 757997 other times

**Surf ski Zappa 7' 6"** suit beginner up to 14 stone. Includes knee tree yellow/red stripe £75 ONO. Also paddles LH £10. Tel: A Martin 0636 815557

**Surplus to requirements:** various racing and touring kayaks, singles/doubles, some with rudders. Conditions vary from well used to very good. All types of construction: glass/wood/veneer on glass/canvas. Some may be collectors items. Please phone to discuss/haggle/exchange for sea kayak(s). Tel: C Fretwell 0202 408394 (day) or 0243 829326 (evenings)

**Three Soar valley** touring/slalom kayaks £40-£60. Bat polo canoe, well used £20. Also paddles, hel-

pets and buoyancy aids. Tel: G William 0629 650716 T slalom kayak and paddle, buoyancy aid and spray deck £170. Tel: S Smith 08444 5558

**Two fibreglass** bats in need of repair, hence £20 each. Tel: C Lodge 071 254 4996

**Two Kayel** touring single kayaks good condition, hardly used, stored insides, offers. Tel: D Jarvis 09547 441

**Two Snipe** general purpose kayaks each in excellent condition and each with paddle, buoyancy aid and spray deck. £95 ONO each or both for £170. Tel: A Roddan 0780 53536 (after 4.30pm)

**X lancer K1** kevlar/glass construction, immaculate condition, £320. Jaguar racing K1 glass construction good condition £200. Hawk slalom/general purpose canoe with spraydeck good condition £50. Tel: M Daughters 0784 460841

## WANTED

**Companion/s** to share car ferry costs etc. Two weeks organised canoe camping tour in Holland. 2nd August to 16th August. South London start. Tel: P Minch 081 304 2330

**Kleeper**, Aerius 1 or similar folding canoe. Tel: R Lucas 071 622 5167

**Mirage 4**, Makker or Stiletto K2, preferably with understern rudder. Tel: A O'Sullivan 0227 721589

**Sealion**, ice flow or skerry, radius 60 miles Heathrow Airport. Tel: R Woodgate 0895 449638

**Tiger K1** in GC suitable construction for marathon. Tel: S Smith 0905 55007

**Trailer** to carry two kayaks and one Canadian canoe (min) can collect. Tel: C Day 0483 578 490

**Two cheap surfboards.** Anything considered. Tel: M Reynolds 0392 214697

## EXCHANGE

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## ACCOMMODATION

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# dear focus

## SCOTS ACCESS

Dear Focus

The SCA are in danger of losing the new access point at the beginning of the White Water Course at Grandtully. The reason for this is the fact that canoeists have been walking up to the pool above the rapid at the access point and launching their canoes in the Church Pool, a very popular fishing area. When reprimanded by the fishermen for this they were extremely rude. If you wish to paddle above the access point please launch at Aberfeldy to do

so. This complaint has been made at the same time as the annual influx of English paddlers to Scotland! The Friday before the WW Championships canoeists have been reported for bad behaviour towards fisherman. Now, we have more complaints of more illmanneredness from Slalomists staying in the area to compete at the Easter Slalom. Please let Scotland continue to have a reasonable access situation, do not foul it up for all of us.

Access Officer SCA

## POLO LITERACY

Dear Focus

OK. I know you've heard it all before. Yes, it's just another rampant nationalistic Scot, raving on about lack of equality. Well, I'll tell you this, boy! I would like to know who scored Scotland's goal in the Mens final of the Scottish Polo International last December. I could ask a friend, but if we're going to be told (February Issue) exactly who the England A team were, and which of

them scored, surely another few character spaces, for the name of Scotland's (lone) scorer wouldn't hurt - would it?! Not only does Focus have Scottish readers too, but it does take two teams to play polo. Or were we just "Some Foreign Opposition (names unknown)"? No hard feelings, Brian Barfoot. But we can read up here.

Chris Atherton

## BCU SUPPLIES

Dear Focus

I am writing regarding an advert for BCU Supplies, which appears in every issue of CANOE FOCUS. The advert consists of a phot of two smirking adolescent boys with their arms around a busty 'dumb blond' tailor's dummy. Is this the image we want to project? If so, can the claims of the BCU to want to attract more women into the sport of canoeing be taken seriously? The advert is not just sexist - it's gross!

Mr R Willis  
Balsall Heath

*Yours is the second such complaint regarding the ad. Interestingly, our own women's panel have not made adverse comment: perhaps they did not feel that schoolboy humour was worthy of a second glance, or given status beyond it's importance. The offending advertisement has now been withdrawn.*

EDITOR

## WELSH ACCESS

Dear Focus

Having just returned from an excellent paddle on the Abeglaslyn Gorge, I feel it is necessary to warn fellow canoeists of an anomaly that exists regarding the egress point on this section of water. As I canoe purely for pleasure I always try and adhere to any local access agreements in order to avoid upsetting any landowners. Like many other canoeists, most of my information regarding Access is obtained from local river guides. The guide I consulted for my trip on this occasion was British White Water by Terry Storry which suggests "getting out at the bridge on the left, or relaxing in the placid meanders for a little, until it is possible to scramble to the road on the right. If you do this you will be confronted by the local river bailiff who lives over looking the bridge. Having had the pleasure of a lengthy discussion with this extremely well informed gentleman. I got the distinct impression that the locals are looking for any justification for a total ban on canoe

ing this excellent stretch of river. Apparently egress at the bridge or travel beyond this point disturbs the fish and interferes with spawning. An alternative egress point was suggested on the right bank in the slack water just as the difficulties of the gorge ease. As no rapids of any consequence follow this point I would suggest that "discretion is the better part of valour" or in other words lets try not to get any excuse to interfere with the current availability of the stretch of water.

Malcolm Horner

*The gentleman who challenges most paddlers on egress is well known for putting across his point of view. Guide book information cannot always be up to date. All paddlers wishing to paddle the Aberglaslyn Gorge should contact the WCA Office 0490 2786 for clarification the access agreement with the National Trust. It should be noted that the agreement is seasonal.*

EDITOR



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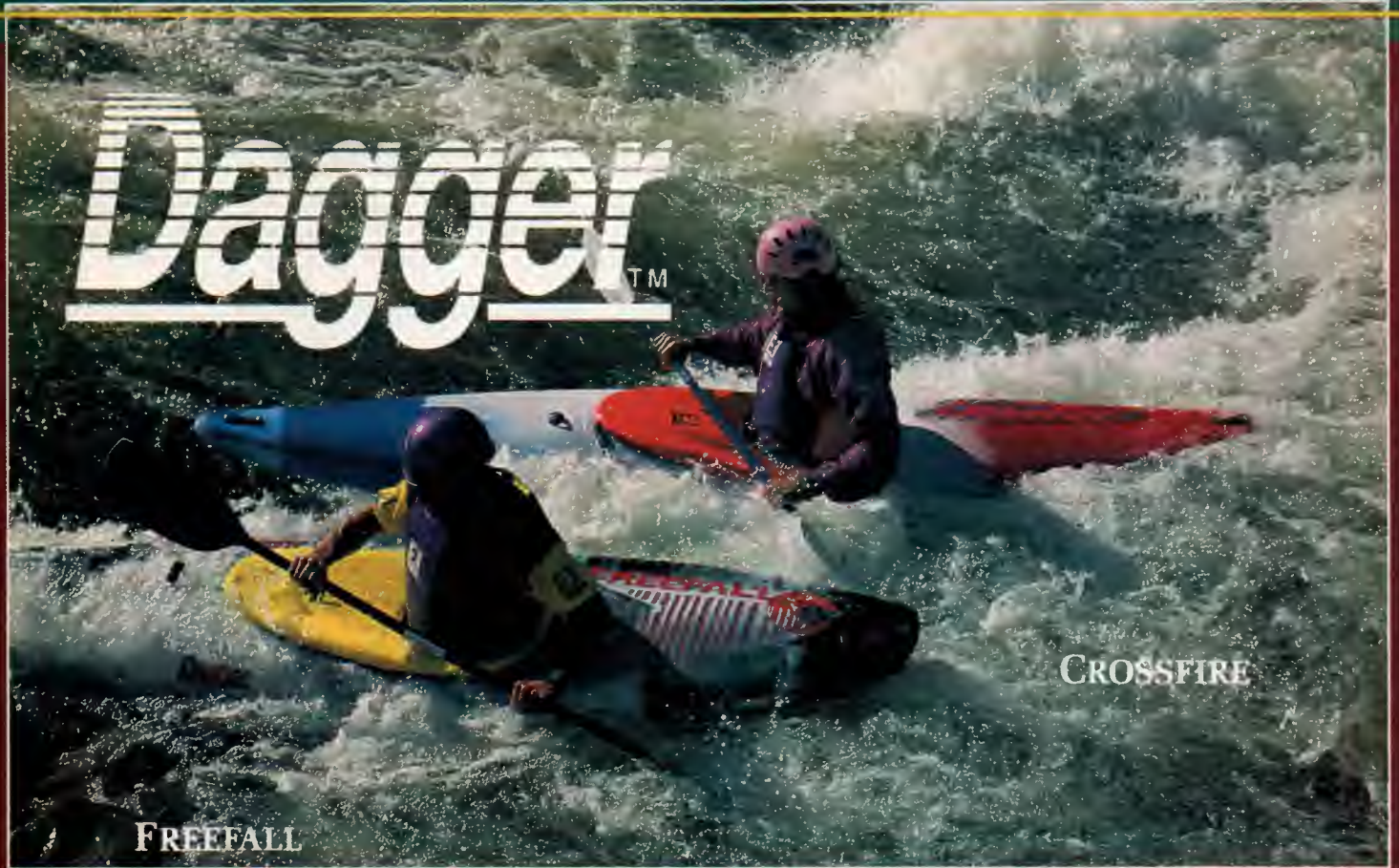
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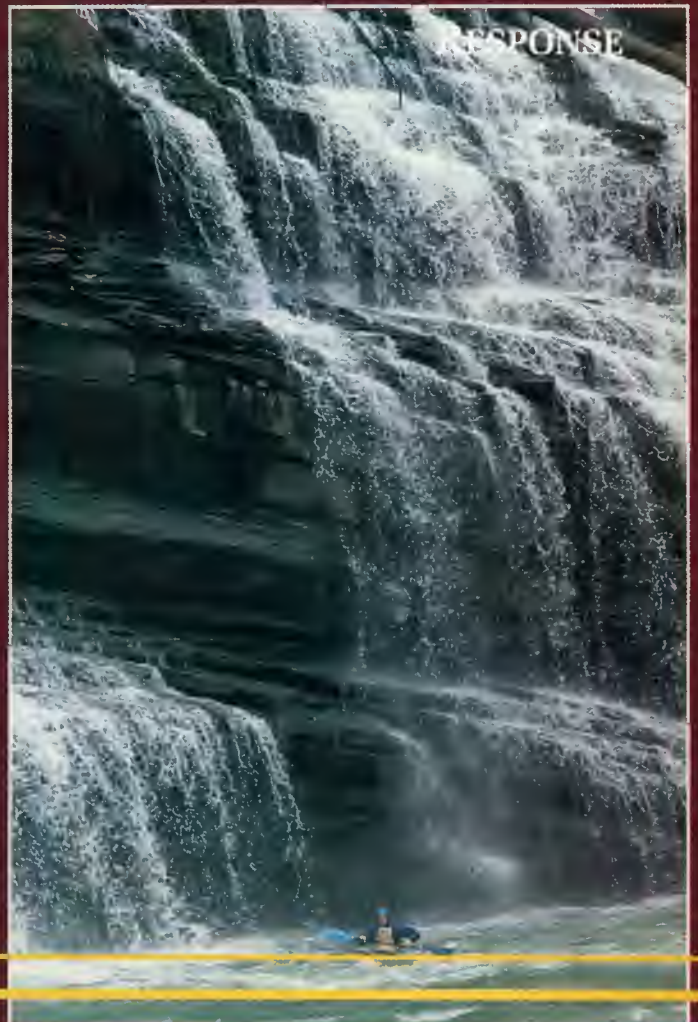
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