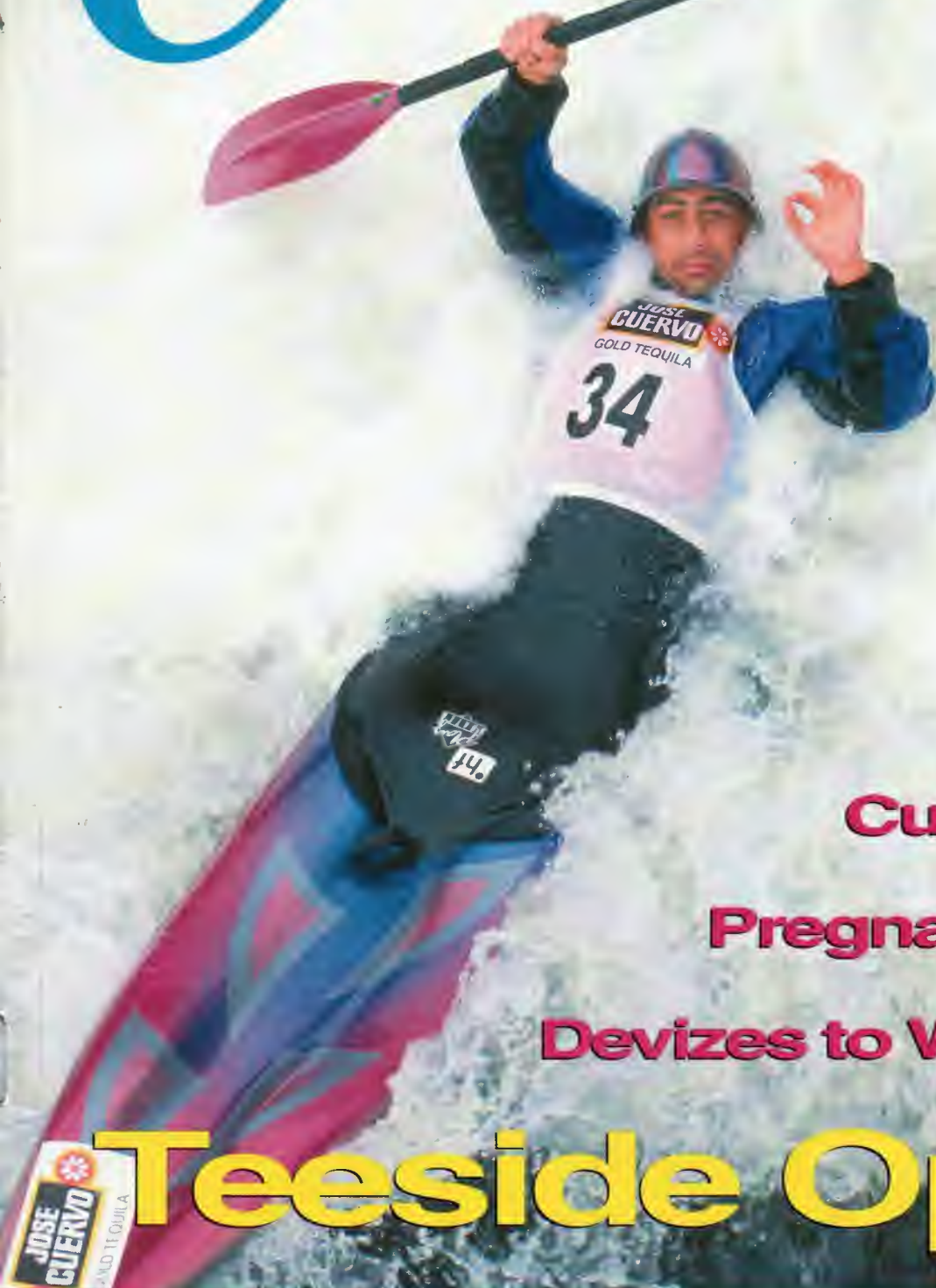


THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

# Canoe focus

No 95. JUNE 1995

Price £2.00



**Cuervo Rodeo**

**Pregnant Paddling**

**Devizes to Westminster**

# Teeside Opens

**PLUS**

**CANI Coaching Conference, Falls of Lora,  
VHF Radios for Sea Kayaking  
and all the usual features.**



# AVONCRAFT

## GIVES YOU THE WORLD'S FINEST CHOICE AS ALWAYS

**DIABLO - A NEW GENERATION KAYAK.** The DIABLO is Schnappinger's greatest innovative step forward yet. Designed and engineered for serious wild water and playboat paddlers. Honed to paddling perfection by Jan Kellner, this dream machine is built for discerning paddlers who are looking for the ultimate paddling thrill only to be found in a low volume kayak. The DIABLO is manufactured from Prijon's superior blown HTP.

**TORNADO - THE LATEST PRIJON CLASSIC WILD WATER KAYAK** that comfortably accommodates the widest range of body size. The new seat configuration can be adjusted to obtain the best ergonomic fit. Yet another first for Prijon is the bulkhead footrest system that adjusts to the aperture of the kayak, thus eliminating the possibility of 'slip through'. The TORNADO is equally suited to small or large volume wild water rivers. Manufactured from Prijon's superior blown HTP.




Prijon-Eskimo continue their unrivalled Rodeo success for 1995. Congratulations to the winning paddlers at Hurley, and the Bitches, paddling the unchallenged Avenger/Hurricane, Topolino-Spud and now the Diablo.

T SLALOM, INVADER, CANYON, AVENGER, ODYSSEE, SEAYAK, TORNADO

Prijon Design

Eskimo Design

DUO-TOPOLINO, GATTINO, GAMBLER II, DIABLO, TOPOLINO

Make the  Decision and choose a Prijon Kayak. Appreciate the superior and unique blow moulding process ensuring unequalled strength and longevity

# AVONCRAFT

Largest stockist warehouse for London and the South East for **PRIJON, SCHLEGEL, GRUMMAN, H.F., ROMER** and many other leading world products.



MAIL ORDER



SEND FOR PRIJON'S MAMMOTH BROCHURE, 49 PACKED ILLUSTRATED PAGES. 52p STAMP

Opening hours Mon-Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm

### PRIJON '95

Burrowfield Industrial Estate, Welwyn Garden City,  
Hertfordshire AL7 4SR.  
Tel: (01707) 330000 Fax: (01707) 333026

AVONCRAFT North: Carlisle Canoes, 41 Wigton Road,  
Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 7AX  
Tel: (01228) 31703

**Canoe Focus**

The official magazine of the  
British Canoe Union

**John Dudderidge House,**  
Adbolton Lane,  
West Bridgford,  
Notts NG2 5AS

Tel: (0115) 9821100

Fax: (0115) 9821797

ISBN 0953-010X

**BCU Enquiries &  
Editorial to**

above address

**Director**

Paul Owen

**Editor**

Kevin Danforth

**Publishing  
Contractors**

RMG Publishing

Raven Marketing Group

New Road, St. Ives,

Cambs. PE17 4BG

Tel: (01480) 496130

Fax: (01480) 495514

**Advertising Sales**

Dean Coulter

**Printed by**

Southern Print, Poole, Dorset.

**Colour Repro by**

RMG & SRS, New Road, St.  
Ives, Cambs

**Magazine Designer**

Peter Tranter - RMG

**Typesetting and  
Page Make-up by**

RMG Design, St. Ives,  
Cambs.

**Annual**

**Subscription Rate**

UK inland: £13.50.

Overseas: £18.

Supplied to BCU members -

adults: £15 basic,

£25.50 comprehensive;

under 18's: £9.00 basic

£15.00 comprehensive.

Canoe Focus encourages  
contributions of any nature but  
reserves the right to edit and  
condense to fill the space  
available and unless otherwise  
stated the Publishers assume no  
responsibility for the return of  
unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or  
photographs. Opinions expressed  
in this magazine are not

necessarily those of the British  
Canoe Union, its committees or

members. The printing of an  
advertisement in Canoe Focus  
does not necessarily mean that  
the British Canoe Union endorse

the company, item or service  
advertised. All material in Canoe  
Focus is strictly copyright and all  
rights are reserved. Reproduction  
without prior permission from the

Editor is forbidden.



**BRITISH  
CANOE  
UNION**

# Contents

**comment: from HQ**

page 5

**noticeboard:**

page 6

**book & Video:**

page 12

**feature: falls of lora**

page 14



**An undiscovered playboating site?**

**pregnant canoeing:**

page 19

**devizes to westminster:**

page 20

**Speed of a racehorse, stamina of a carthorse,  
brains of a rocking horse.**

**leeside opens:**

page 22

**Teeside opens: more white water!**



**feature: sikkim**

page 26



**Collin Hill in Eastern Parts.**

**CANI: conference**

page 29

**access:**

page 31

**top tips: whitewater paddling**

page 32

**feature: sea radios**

page 33

**yakety yak: more letters**

page 36

**feature: argentina**

page 38

**South America's toughest  
marathon test.**



**paddlers gear:**

page 41

**members classi:**

page 46

**feature: rodeo**

page 48

**The '95 season kicks off with a fizz!**



**ender:**

page 50

Your contributions make Focus happen. The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers. Please don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers.

**Technical Information.** Contributions are acceptable in clear handwriting or typed (double spaced). PC disks (3.5 or 5.25) can be read from most Word Processing programmes especially if saved as an ASCII file. Macintosh files saved as DOS or ASCII can also be scanned. Photographic images are preferred on transparencies (colour slide). Artwork and line drawings should be clear and large. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and its agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. A help sheet is available for potential contributors. Please send a SAE to the Editor.

**The next Copy date is the 20th JUNE 1995. Material arriving at FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the AUGUST issue.**



**POLO**

Revenge International  
Revenge RS2  
Revenge Poly

**SEA**

Icefloe/Icefloe LC  
Orion/Orion LC  
Sirius/Sirius HF  
Outlander  
Baidarka

**GORILLA GRIP PADDLES**

Slalom KI  
Slalom CI  
Rodeo  
Polo

**SLALOM**

Maverick  
Quattro  
Mystique

**RETAIL**

We have a large fully stocked showroom with a wide range of canoes, accessories, and watersports clothing from many major manufacturers.

**WETSUIT WORLD**

Recently opened, Wetsuit World stocks a wide selection of wetsuits at a range of prices.

Please contact us for a brochure/price list for any of the above.




**ADVENTURE • COMPETITION • EXPLORATION**

Station Road, West Hallam, Derbyshire DE7 6HB  
Tel: (0115) 9320155, Fax: (0115) 9327177

# Comment



## Teeside White Water Course

 I write this Focus comment as I return from the opening ceremony and first International event on the new White Water Course at Stockton on Tees, Teeside- a most exciting and impressive facility. A report and pictures appear in this issue.

## European Canoe Association

Congratulations to Albert Woods, our President, who was re-elected as President of the European Canoe Association at it's second Congress held in the University of Teeside on April 22.

## Direct Debit

The Direct Debit method of paying BCU Subscriptions is running well and it is certainly far more convenient for all concerned; the office and above all our members. Over 2000 BCU members have found it more convenient to pay by this method. It ensures continuity of your BCU membership benefits and above all, it saves you time. If you are yet to sign up then Direct Debit forms are available from the BCU Office.

## World Championships

The countdown continues towards the World Championships in Wild Water Racing and Canoe Slalom. The organising committees are planning spectacles of which we can all be very proud. The final ingredient to make the events particularly special will be your attendance. The dates again are :

*Wild Water Racing - Bala, August 26 to 27*  
*Slalom, Nottingham, September 2 to 3*

## BCU AGM

The BCU elections saw Albert Woods returned unopposed as our President and Jerry Rogers as Treasurer. The election of Councillors is reproduced below saw David Gent, Helen Mullineaux, Alan Laws, re-elected to Council and Roger Fox returned after a year away. Particular congratulations are due to Kevin Mansell who topped the pole and I am certain will make a major contribution to future BCU debates. Sadly, someone had to lose and on this occasion it was Mike Wood. Mike's contribution to Council has always been sharp

and to the point; personally I have had deep respect for his ability to sum up and grasp the debate. He will be sadly missed.

Following the AGM the first BCU Council meeting of the year elected David Gent to continue as Chairman of Council.

## NVQ

The Coaching Service is making progress in the implementation of National Vocational Qualifications thanks to the hard work of BCU Coach Nigel Timmins. Nigel is employed on a short term contract to adapt our system to the NVQ mould, and to help train and verify key personnel in the early stages. The first assessors training course has taken place and soon the Coaching Service will be able to offer NVQ level 2 Assessment and Certification as an option for those who use BCU coaching qualifications in a professional context.

## Coaching Development Officer

The bad news is that we are losing our Canoe Focus editor, Kevin Danforth. The good news is that Kevin has been appointed as the Coaching Development Officer. His prime job will be to assist the Director of Coaching, Geoff Good, in servicing the coaching needs of our members. He will also be particularly involved 'out in the field', improving BCU contact with the 'grass roots' of canoesport.

## PR and Marketing Group

A new initiative between ourselves and the trade. The BCU PR and Marketing Group is a 'think tank' set up to discuss the way forward in marketing our sport. It is primarily a discussion vehicle, and the first two meetings have been very productive in sharing information and ideas. The key topic of the moment is the next International Canoe Exhibition and Canoe Focus will keep you informed of progress.

## Touring Recreation Development

As part of our continuing progress and review of BCU Development the Touring and Recreation Committee are updating their plan. Any comment and or suggestions are welcomed and can be sent to the Touring and Recreation Committee c/o the BCU office.

## And finally...

### Concrete Wellies

Mysteriously overnight a pair of wellington boots encased in concrete, have appeared outside the BCU Office. They are positioned worryingly between the office and the Winfield pool. Are we being lined up for some Mafioso reprisal? Have they been placed there as a warning? Does anyone know? I think we should be told.

**Paul Owen,  
Chief  
Executive**



# Notice board

## Marathon Photography Competition

To improve the profile of Marathon and Sprint Racing in the canoeing press and at exhibitions good photographs are required. To offer an incentive to photographers to show off their best work, a monthly competition starting in June to choose the best photographs in the following categories will be run:

- Domestic Racing
- International Racing
- Race Coaching
- Introduction to paddling.

For the best three pictures in each category the photographer will receive a copy of the new Marathon Racing Poster. Further details from Richard Ward

## Whitewater Guide to the Thames Weirs

At last, a whitewater guide to the Thames weirs is on its way. The book, featuring some 50 weirs from the source to the mouth of the Thames is being written by Shaun Baker and Heather Gunn and published by Rivers Publishing.

The guide will include access maps, structural diagrams and whitewater action photographs as well as details of individual characteristics at different water levels. Killer weirs will be clearly identified and the guide will include safety notes, teaching points and some tips on playboating equipment and manoeuvres. It will also come with a glossary of terms and suppliers directory. (Further trade adverts are welcome)

The guide will be on sale in time for Christmas and it is a must for all playboating enthusiasts.

## Midland School of Sport

The Midland School of sport will take place again at Holme Pierrepont from 13-18 August 95. The School caters for those of high potential living in the East or West Midlands who are under the age of 18. Slalom and Racing are the disciplines concerned.

The Regional Coaches will be issuing direct invitations to potential candidates. If you feel that you merit inclusion, please write to the Director of Coaching at the BCU Office.

## Sports Council Cash Boost for North West Water and Countryside Sports



Five water and countryside sports in the North West Region are to benefit from cash to boost much needed training initiatives for leaders and coaches as a result of a grant aid package made available by the Sports Council.

The five sports concerned - Orienteering, Canoeing, Sailing, Skiing and Water Skiing - all have significant needs for leader and coach training in the region which have been identified in their recently-produced Development Plans.

David Heddon, Acting Regional Director of the Sports Council (North West) says: "Objectives set out in those Plans for improvements to the quantity and quality of coaches and leaders available in the region have given rise to the Sports Council initiative, which gives impetus to

training provision."

"These initiatives will result in a much needed injection of expertise into community based leader and coaching provision in the region, in line with the recommendations of the North West Regional Council for Sport and Recreation which were set out in its Topic Study 'Into Wild Country.'"

Potential leaders or coaches wishing to obtain further details should contact the Chair or Secretary of the Sport's Regional Governing Body direct.

Among the benefits which the grant package will provide are:

For the British Canoe Union, 50 instructors familiar with disability and special needs issues to be trained; 120 young people and 40 women to be introduced to Canoe Polo.

## Tryweryn - New Centre Building

Wales' latest sports venue - a top class white water canoe centre in Bala, North Wales - has opened its doors for business in plenty of time for the World Wild Water Racing Championships in August this year.

The new canoe centre, which has been built by North Wales and Liverpool based construction firm, David McLean Contractors, includes changing facilities, showers, a refreshment area and offices, as well as an administration centre for the Welsh Canoeing Centre.

The project was undertaken in conjunction with a variety of organisations including the National Rivers Authority (NRA), which owns the land, the Sports Council of Wales, the Wales Tourist Board, and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, all of which provided financial support.

The new White Water Centre is located close to the site of the existing Canolfan Tryweryn Canoeing Centre, and fits in perfectly with its beautiful Welsh surroundings, having been constructed using locally quarried stone cladding underneath a natural Welsh slate roof.

According to Sandy Buttle and Celia Hayward, the new Centre will provide a tremendous boost for the sport of canoeing in Wales, especially with the staging of the World Championships later this year.

"Competitors from all over the world will take part in the competition which will be staged on the Afon Tryweryn, starting at the new Centre and finishing in Bala", explained Celia Hayward. "We are delighted to see our years of planning reach fruition. It is a tremendous achievement for what is a voluntary organisation."

## Water for Life Appeal



The Royal Victoria Docks Watersports canoe team staged a sponsored eskimo roll to raise funds for a water tank in Kenya. The team were allowed to do any form of roll they wished i.e.: Paddle, Hand, Float as long as it was a full roll.

The team of 14 had one hour to complete as many rolls as possible. The amount of rolls varied greatly from Tim Dorset who did 2 rolls to Alan (canal) Trueman who managed 305. The team completed a record 2058 rolls, in one hour and nobody was sick.

They also raised over £400.00, for the Water for Life appeal so well done to: Denise, Kenny, Mark, James, Ross, Alan, Des, Barbara, Tracy, Paul, Lora, Joanna, Dave and Maria. The adjudicators were Meron, Adie, Hope, Ben and Fathia.

## Foundation for Sport and The Arts Beneficiaries

- Spring 1995
- North Norfolk Canoe Club £500.00
- Teesdale District Council £3,250.00
- Stirling Canoe Club £1,750.00
- Lochaber Centre £6,000.00



# DESPERATE MEASURES

Latest demos from Pyranha, Dagger and Perception  
 'Try before you buy at Holme Pierpont'  
 39-41 Trent Boulevard, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BB  
 Tel: 0115 9816815  
**Mail Order a Speciality - Open 9am till Dusk**



1. PADDLE ON THE WILD SIDE

You've Seen the AD's

Now

Buy the T-shirt  
 4 FULL COLOUR DESIGNS  
 (BACK + FRONT PRINT)



2. Hang Loose

£14.95  
 INC. POST & PACKING

AVAILABLE IN:  
 BLACK, WHITE, NAVY, RED,  
 OATMEAL & TEAL.



3. GET A GRIP... IDEAL FOR THE SUMMERTIME



4. ATTITUDE...

## South West Regional Treasurer

Bob Ottley has agreed to fill the position of Treasurer which was left unfilled at the AGM. John Westlake of ADJ Canoe Club has been co-opted onto the Regional Committee to complete the numbers.

## Paddling for Disabled People in the South West

With major financial assistance from Wessex Water PLC, there are now three pools of equipment available for use by disabled people situated at Weymouth, Salisbury and Frome. The SW Disability officer, Dave Cooke, 3 Kingdom Lane, Norton, Fitzwarren, Taunton has full details and is also circulating a questionnaire to all SW Clubs in an attempt to determine what other facilities and expertise are available.

## South West Region Grant Aids Coach Training

Nine paddlers from the SW have signed up for the revised Coach Development Course which is presently being proposed in the region. This six month course is involve the candidates meeting together at least once a month under the directorship of Loel Collins and involve some of the best known names in coaching. The SW Committee is pleased to recognise this important development and has made a grant of £900 from its Development Funds.

## British Standards

The British Standards Institution has issued for public comment the revised document BSMA 91 - Code of Practice : Safe Construction and Design Features of Canoes and Kayaks. Members are invited to send £1 (4 x 25p stamps) for a copy of the BCU/BACT draft.

## IN BRIEF

### Canoeists Have Lucky Escape

The crew of a Queen's University rowing team had a lucky escape when their canoe broke in two during a race on the River Foyle. The eight-man crew was rescued by a British Army patrol boat shortly before 2.15pm on Saturday after they were thrown into the water near Craigavon Bridge in the "Head of the River" race. "....."

An ace reporter on the Irish News Belfast, is responsible for the above gem. I suppose a capsize was inevitable....they were all facing the wrong way!!!

# BCU Expeditions

## Perception Sponsorship



perception®

The following expeditions have been approved by the BCU Expeditions Committee. The Committee is grateful for the financial and practical support of Perception Kayaks.

### Dutch Antilles

Focus Editor Kevin Danforth and Nottingham paddler Mike Devlin will be leading a small trip in the winter to these hot, hot, hot islands, fifty miles off the coast of Venezuela. The aim is to complete the open crossings between the islands of Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba as well as the crossing to mainland South America.

These islands will also be circumnavigated and the arid climate, wind and wildlife will present particular difficulties. Landing in the wrong place at the wrong time will probably involve a Robinson Crusoe type scenario, and an enforced diet of cactus and iguana stew.

### University of East London Altai Expedition

This summer a group of kayakers from the University of East London will travel to the Altai mountains to attempt the first kayak descents of the Argut, Shalva and Dzhazator rivers. The group will be accompanied by local rafters during their two month expedition. Whilst in Siberia they will promote the sport and donate gear at local clubs and universities.

Any questions or problems please contact Rob McCarthy or Malcolm Stephen on 0181 743 2976.

### Sheffield University Mackenzie River Expedition 1995

Eight weeks on the River and a budget exceeding £20,000 undoubtedly ranks as a major trip. The twelve strong team of Sheffield students will be paddling open canoes for over a thousand miles through the wilderness of north west Canada. The final two hundred miles are north of the Arctic Circle. Although the river is not technically difficult it is 4km wide in places and one major rapid is over 16km long. The remoteness will allow no errors of ms and every team member will be pushed to their mental and physical limits.

As canoeing expeditions go this one is rather unusual as it has a number of definite scientific objectives and has gained Royal Geographical Society approval. The team will be collecting leaves from Arctic Willows and recording their location by using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Researchers at Sheffield will compare these samples with fossilised specimens, and hope to model the long term changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

### Exeter School

In July of this year the Exeter School Canoe Club will be descending the river Coruh which is in North East Turkey. The expedition has had the official backing of the BCU. This is one of the first expeditions that we know of to descend this river.

We will paddle 150 miles of the river which should take us ten

days. The expedition party includes 16 'A' level pupils, one teacher and a doctor. Accompanying the party will be 3 'Current Trends' staff. A raft will be with us from 'Adrift Rafting'. All paddlers have over two years canoeing experience and we all have our 3 star and Proficiency qualifications.

The money we have to raise will be around £8500 of which we have already raised £7500. Each paddler pays £500. Money has come from Trusts and fund raising events in our school. We raised £1000 in sponsors by climbing the height of Everest on a climbing wall. The first £250 raised at this event was given to our local Cancer research centre.

We are borrowing camera equipment from Sony to make a video of the expedition which we hope to have shown on Westcountry news when we return.

## Award for P & H?

The P & H Company are pleased to have been chosen as finalists in the Derbyshire Innovation Awards. Over fifty companies have entered for the awards, five having been selected for the finals.

Julian and David Patrick from P & H will be attending a dinner and awards ceremony, hosted by the Duke of Devonshire, at Chatsworth House in the Derbyshire Peak District.

The Crystal Palace swimming pool provided P & H with plenty of publicity this year. Helen Barnes used Gorilla Grip paddles and set a new woman's rolling record. This feat was televised for the TV programme 'Record Breakers'. Chris Akabusi was also involved in the TV programme using a P & H Revenge pool kayak in a televised attempt at learning to roll. Revenge polo kayaks and Gorilla Grip paddles were also used by every member of Viking polo team, the winners of the 1995 Crystal Palace polo finals.

Gorilla Grip rodeo paddles were recently chosen and used by members of the Waghi kayaking expedition.

## Do you have this photo?

This photo was once the cover of the magazine "Canoeing" in July 1963. The paddler shown is the late Jean Roberts, at one time British Open Youth Champion, in her class. Malcolm Richards, her husband, would like to trace the negative, or original whether or not they can help trace the photo, he would be delighted to hear from them. His address is Hope Cottage, Cardington, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7JY





# NO GIMMICKS!

**YOU FIND THE PRICE WE'LL TRY TO BEAT IT**

**AND ALWAYS BEAT THE SERVICE!**

- Massive showrooms and workshops
- Comprehensive stocks of most leading brands
- Superb displays to give you a genuine feel for the products
- Full main dealer backup
- Canoe trailers etc, manufactured in house to your requirements if required
- In house trailer repairs and conversions.

## FAST EFFICIENT MAIL ORDER SERVICE

YOUR ORDER WILL BE PROCESSED IMMEDIATELY AND NORMALLY DISPATCHED THE SAME DAY

TELEPHONE MAIL ORDER HOTLINE

**0114.2.488688**

OR FAX ON 0114.2.488689



**SIMPLY THE BEST**

66-70 STATION ROAD, HALFWAY, SHEFFIELD S19 5GW

## SPECIAL OFFERS

- RESCUE SAW NOW £9.48
- YAK SUMMER CAGS NOW £24.00
- 42ZALI PADDLES NOW £60.00
- BUGTER RIBBED B/AID NOW £14.00
- POGIES NOW £33.00
- KOLJAK BUOYANCY AIDS
- 44" CHEST NOW £39.00
- WILD WATER DRY TOPS NOW £58.00

### STARTER PACKAGE

- DANCER CLUB £255.00
- SPRAY DECK & B/AID
- VALUE £78.40 ONLY £50.00
- YOU SAVE £28.40

PLUS MANY MORE BARGAINS!

Overseas & BFPO orders welcome.  
 VAT Free exports handled.  
 VAT Reclaim service for personal shoppers.  
 Special prices for groups, organisations and university's.  
**0% FINANCE**  
 AVAILABLE OVER 6 MONTHS  
 Low cost finance over 12, 24 & 36 months



## WE'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK AND WELL WORTH A VISIT!



### OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Mon - Fri ..... 9.30 - 6.00pm Saturday ..... 9.00 - 5.00pm  
 Late Night Thursday .... 9.30 - 8.00pm Sunday ..... 11.00 - 4.00pm

# PHOENIX OF NOTTINGHAM

**THE BEST QUALITY DECKS, USING THE FINEST QUALITY JAPANESE NEOPRENE - UNRIVALLED VALUE FROM ONLY**

**£39.00**

For nearest dealer contact:

**Unit 2, 39-41 Trent Boulevard, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BB**

**Tel: 0115 9816815**

# Obituaries

## Graham Palmer (1922-1995)

Graham Palmer a distinguished member of the Royal Canoe Club, passed away on 4 December 1994 in hospital in Hove, where he had lived since retirement. Graham will be remembered by the post-war generation of members, as larger than life, a genial man of many talents, who could remain cheerful in any situation. He joined the Territorials in 1939 and was despatched to France early in 1940, and he was just eighteen when he was captured in June 1940. After an 18 day march through France and Belgium, he and his fellow prisoners were sent to a forced labour camp in Upper Silesia. His first attempt to escape was betrayed and he found himself before a firing squad but was reprieved. After escaping from a camp in Poland in 1941 he found himself in the midst of a battle as the Germans invaded the Soviet Union. He was rounded up with Russian prisoners, unable to convince anyone that he was British. Eventually the mistake was discovered and he was sent to a camp for British prisoners. Later, with his acquired knowledge of Russian and German he was sent to a hospital for Russian prisoners, as interpreter. At the end of the war he was liberated and the aircraft carrying him back to England crash-landed, but Graham scrambled out of the wreckage and spent many months in hospital. Many years later Graham wrote a book "Prisoner of Death" on his experiences and the book has been described as "An outstanding and gripping memoir of mans inhumanity to man, and a remarkable testament to courage and survival"

Graham overcame his disabilities and, amongst other activities, took up canoeing and in 1952 was selected to compete for Britain in the Helsinki Olympic games in the Kayak Pairs 10,000 metres. He also went into business and some years later extended his business interests into Holland, Belgium, France,

Germany, and Austria, and then the Middle East and finally the Far East.

In his retirement Graham continued to be active, spending many hours walking and swimming and also following his deep interest in Philately acquiring a great depth of knowledge.

Graham was a family man, and he and his wife enjoyed a long and happy marriage with there children and grandchildren.

## Dave Crowley

It is with a sense of deep personal loss that I am reporting on the sudden and tragic death of a canoeist and climber Dave Crowley.

Dave who had his family roots in the West Midlands, spent most of his time living and working in North Wales.

Dave had been a canoeist from an early age and had shared his love for the sport with many beginners, upon completion of his teaching qualifications.

He had devoted many a hour helping beginners and experienced paddlers in the sport and was a keen slalom and white water paddler as well. Dave will be remembered by friends as someone who would unselfishly devote his time to helping others. He took great satisfaction from helping the handicapped groups on the water and his infectious enthusiasm for anything that he did shone through his teaching.

Dave was well respected by climbers and paddlers alike and although it was a climbing accident that curtailed his brief life, it is with fondness and affection that he will be remembered. Dave possessed a quiet unassuming good nature, a unique sense of humour and a love for all that he did. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and family, and not least by his wife Charlene, who our best wishes go out to her at this most difficult time.

Peter Whyley

## Raft Guide Training Course

The English White Water Rafting Committee will be providing the following courses in May and June 1995.

### a) One Day Taster Courses

The objective of this course is to offer the chance of hands on helming experience under the guidance of professional guide trainers. The courses are of one days duration and will take place on the following dates

Friday 12th May

Friday 19th May

The venue for the courses will be at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

The cost of the course will be £30.00

### b) Raft Guide Training Course

The object of the course is to provide training for individuals who wish to join the established training and coaching scheme. The course should also provide the opportunity to grade individuals with previous rafting experience at an appropriate level within the scheme.

The course is of five days duration and will commence Wednesday 7th June finishing Sunday 11th June.

The venue for the course will initially be at Holme Pierrepont Nottingham but an intrinsic aspect of this course is guiding on at least one other river (which will be decided according to conditions at that time).

The cost of the course will be £285 inclusive.

For more details of the above courses ring Leo Beaumont on Nottingham 0115 9821691 or Mike Devlin on Nottingham 0115 9818844.

## The New "SW Regional Marathon Committee"

This year sees the setting up of a regional group whose aim is to promote and develop racing in the region and to start with we are aiming to buy a Video Camera. Pie in the sky?... Not if all the paddlers in the region collect Esso and or Shell Petrol tokens and let us have them. If you use either brands of petrol and collect the tokens then we need them. For example 5250 Esso Tokens will get us a Camcorder

WE NEED YOUR ESSO TIGER TOKENS & YOUR SHELL SMART POINTS !

If you have any already then send them to: James Asser, The Whitehouse Farm, Prideaux Rd, St. Blazey, Cornwall PL24 2SR or Cail James on 01726 67434 to arrange a transfer of tokens or take them to the next race.

The South West Regional Marathon Group have also put together a small booklet which includes details of all the marathon activities for the current year. Although copies have been distributed to most clubs and many individuals, further copies can be obtained from Richard Ward, 3 Gordon Terrace, Park Street, Crediton enclosing a large sae.

## What's On Diary

### BCU Suffolk Tour

The BCU Suffolk Tour is being held on Sunday June 4th on the River Deben, Suffolk, starting from Felixstowe Ferry, and finishing at Woodbridge. This is a 9 mile tidal river trip, but paddlers may do a shorter trip finishing at either Ramsholt or Waldringfield if they so wish. For further information please call Adi Flitsch on 01473 725095 or Pat Ramsey on 01394 385707.

### River Leven Open Days 1995

The River Leven (Cumbria) open days for this year are as follows:

**Sundays Nov 5, Nov 19, Nov 26, Dec 3, Dec 10.**

The system will remain the same as previous years ie numbers limited to sixty on the water, all paddlers to wear a bib: bibs bookable in advance from Sten and Angela Sture 01229 466063. The cost is £1.00 per day with a deposit of £5.00 per bib. All money payable on the day.

### East Midlands Derwent Rally

The Derwent Rally takes place this year on June 4th. With 10 miles of clean water, starting at Darley Abbey this tour is an open navigation. There is also the possibility of an overnight camp. Details on 0115 9850930 Or 01332 874186

### South West Canoe and Kayak Rally

On 15/16 July, paddlers are invited to come to the Cotswold Water park, nr Cirencester for a Rally. Events will include a Giant Canadian Slalom, a chance to try racing boats with the SW Racing Team, a lifeguard demo and a chance to have a go yourself, trade stands and other events including tours on the nearby Thames and Wye.

Full details from Terry Cripps, 9 Grindal Drive, Grange Park, Swindon.

### Welsh Raft Races

Taking place on the River Tryweryn, on June 10/11 the slalom and sprint races are open to teams of up to seven. Details from Ian Bebbington at 4 Cae Groes, Stryd y Fron, Bala Gwynedd. Proceeds will be given to charities.

### BCU Sea Touring Meet and Coquet Island Race.

The round the island race will take place on June 25 at 11.00 am. Coquet Island lies one mile offshore from the small harbour of Amble on the beautiful Northumberland Coast. There are three classes of race and you can paddle anything from a slalom boat to a sea kayak, although class 1 is open only to sea kayaks. Lots of prizes and the entry is only £2.50 (£1.00 for juniors)

Also based on the same coastline that weekend is the BCU Sea Touring Committee meet. There will be organised, led trips, including the Farne Islands. BCU members £5, non members £10.00.

Details from John Rae, 33 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick, Northumberland 01665 603176

### Shetland Sea Kayak Meet.

Dave Gardner is organising the Shetland Sea kayak meet. The Shetland Isles are a fascinating area for kayaking with spectacular cliffs, beaches and wildlife. Papa Stour, where the weekend begins on the 30 June, is particularly interesting to paddlers because of it's many sea caves, birds and archaeology. Details on ferries and accommodation can be had from Dave at Spindrift, Ireland, Bigton, Shetland ZE2 9JA 01950 422404



# PADDLE SPORT

## waveform

### WATER SPORT

## Canoes & Kayaks - whatever you paddle

# WE HAVE

## one of the largest retail showrooms in the UK and full workshop facilities

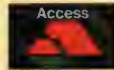
plus

## 20 acre teaching and demo lake all within a country park setting

### GROUP BUYERS PACKAGE DEALS

EG. 6 kayaks + decks + paddles + buoyancy aids from £1595 inc VAT and delivery.

### INSTANT MAIL ORDER SERVICE



All stock orders despatched same day - free delivery on most items



### OPEN CANADIAN CANOES

Choose from the best available in the UK - We supply all the major makes.

### BEGINNERS COURSES *plus*

BCU Star Test and proficiency training and assessment - Canoe & Kayak - phone for details and dates.

## INTEREST FREE CREDIT

12 months to pay THE BEST DEAL IN THE UK (retail purchases over £295)

# ACT

association of canoe traders

# ATTENTION!



## Bulk buying means more than good prices

Delivery dates, quality and good after sales service are just as important...Waveform understands. Our contract services division offers unbeatable rates, first class delivery and a friendly helpful team to select the best equipment for your organisation.

We supply the best deals to H.M. Forces, Outdoor Centres, Schools, Colleges, Scouts and Guides. So don't get caught out when you buy in bulk. Contact Waveform and you can stand easy.



### WE ARE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

STRATFORD	10 MINS	WORCESTER	30 MINS
WARWICK	10 MINS	EVESHAM	20 MINS
COVENTRY	20 MINS	CHELTENHAM	45 MINS
BIRMINGHAM	30 MINS	CLOUCESTER	45 MINS
NORTHAMPTON	40 MINS	LEICESTER	35 MINS
OXFORD	25 MINS	LONDON M40	60 MINS

**PARK FARM ESTATE**  
COMPTON VERNEY, NR. STRATFORD UPON AVON, WARWICKSHIRE CV35 9HJ  
TEL/FAX: 01926 640573




# b ook & video review


All Books & Videos reviewed here are available at discount from BCU Supplies. Ring 0116 283 0659 and ask for a brochure if you have not received one in your Focus Mailing

All reviews by Kevin Danforth

## Performance Sea Kayaking: The Basics .... and beyond


 Kent Ford, the producer of several good instructional videos previously featured in these review pages, has now turned his talents to sea kayaking. As a long term salt water addict I began to view this offering with some scepticism . I have to say that I was more than pleasantly surprised . This video hits the mark quite neatly as a promotional tool for this eco-friendly branch of the sport. As a tool for self-learning it is also better than I expected. Any one watching this could not fail to pick up the most important points of long boat handling, navigation skills, and some basic rescues. The

arguments on high versus low forward paddling styles are presented in a reasoned, balanced way and, importantly, rough water and surf techniques are not ignored.

The video is so good overall as an incentive to go and sea paddle, that it seems churlish to pick fault. However, minor flaws for me are the coverage of rescues (see 'Over and Out' video for a more comprehensive European perspective) most of which would be dubious in rough water, and the absence of good advice on the importance of weather forecasting and understanding of weather patterns. 




## Building the Bear Mountain Canoe


 This video is a comprehensive and informative instructional aid on building stripper open canoes. As after-dinner entertainment it would be very dry, but as a nail by nail account of building a beautiful craft from nature's own materials, it is truly excellent. A labour of love produces a work of art.

One day I would love to do it, wood shavings, steaming, sanding, glassing, varnishing and all. This is, I have to say, a pipe dream. I have two left hands and ten thumbs when it comes to DIY. Do you remember the boy at school who built the bookcase in woodwork? The one with no straight sides, structural strength, or flitch bits you would trust with a book? That was me; I was that boy. Sadly, all I can do with evidence of real skill like this is watch and envy. Those of you with a full set of tools, a shed full of wood and the will to own a craft like this, should grab the video and do it. Respect.





## Vertical Addiction

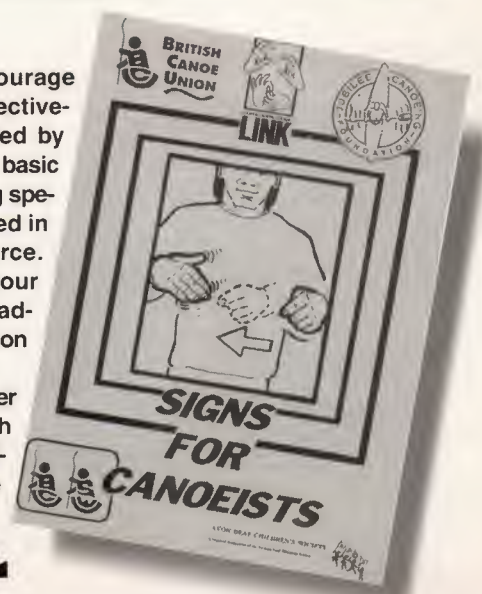
 More waterfall fun and action from the irrepressible Southerner Wayne Gentry. If you like your video action with lots of thrash and bash you will enjoy this. As an English person I am appalled that these American chaps have so much good quality steep water to mess about on. Spoilt for choice and no access problems. It's not fair. What I find unnerving is that Wayne

has the same accent as those "Deliverance" fellows. I understandably watched it with the sound off. With the sound off I wasn't scared a bit. The interviews with the paddlers was as revealing as John Motson interviewing goal scorers on "Match of the Day".....not very. Don't articulate, just do it. Rivers were great, paddlers watchable; likewise the video. 

## Signs for Canoeists

 The primary aim of the booklet is to encourage hearing canoeists to communicate more effectively with hearing impaired paddlers. Compiled by Keith Ripley and Simon Scandrett the content covers, basic signs, the finger spelling alphabet and some canoeing specific signs. If you have contact with hearing impaired in your club or centre, then this is a useful resource. From personal experience, you can usually busk your way through some sort of makeshift dialogue in paddling situations, but a few standard signs as a foundation helps enormously.

After all, in some canoeing environments, white water for example, we all become hearing impaired. Worth a thought. Whether you are teaching canoeing or paddling with friends this is well worth having. The publication is supported by the BCU, the Jubilee Canoeing Foundation, Avon Deaf Children's Society and Communication Link. 



See the NEW  
**MOUNTAIN 300**  
& **MICROBAT 230**  
at your dealer NOW!



In '94 we introduced the planing double concave hull to a disbelieving world.



Now from paddlers and dealers all over the world, the performance is described as

**"AWESOME"**

**"BY FAR THE MOST ADVANCED DESIGNS"**

If you haven't seen them yet, see your DEALER soon.

**pyranha**  
*State of the ART*

Pyranha Mouldings Ltd., Marina Village, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3DW, England.  
Telephone: 01928 716666 Fax: 01928 714399

For further information fill in the tear off slip and return with SAE to:-  
Pyranha Mouldings Ltd., Marina Village, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3DW.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# New Kayak Play S



**W**ell, okay, it's not new, but it's certainly lesser known to the hoards of boaters who descend upon Fort William and beyond from south of the border. If Scotland's usually prolific rainfall does not materialise, then check the tide tables because the Falls of Lora near Oban are a force to be reckoned with.....

It's a fine, mild Saturday in February, and there's nothing coming out of the sky. However, a quick glance at the tide tables reveal a 3.2 metre tide - just enough for the Falls to run at a playable level. Anything above 3.2 metres and you can expect all the standard water features to get more interesting!

Tim, Rea and myself head out from Outward Bound towards Connel Bridge under which the Falls run. The drive from Fort William to the bridge takes us about an hour - it's usually longer but I think that Tim is looking forward to his first experience of Lora! We've timed our arrival for about 2.5 hours after high tide. As the sea pours out of Loch Etive, so the hydraulics develop. It's just possible to see the waves and stoppers forming, and there getting bigger.

## Roaring, Foaming Mess

We rush to change, and get on the water. The north side of the bridge sports a very convenient lay-by for changing and an indistinct but muddy path down to the water. From the water's edge you start to see the fun. The nearest bridge span is central to the entertainment. On it's north side, down stream is a great little warm up wave. The wise words of Chris Spelius in the Ocoee Rodeo video

echo round my head... "You use exactly the same techniques in that little small wave as you do in the 14 foot monster..." (or words to that effect!) We get stuck in to loosen up, and to quell any nerves about the roaring, foaming mess lurking on the south side of the bridge span.

It's going well, we relax and wave to Rea on the bank, today's photographer and getaway driver. She soon gets bored, (who can blame her) and walks up to bridge for those "taken from a helicopter" shots. There's currently a lot of scaffolding on the bridge and some major work going on, but the workmen kindly let Rea out onto a platform where she gets a clear view. Meanwhile, it's time to meet the bigger stuff. Around the south side, everything has formed nicely.

## Big Green Wave

Firstly there's a big green wave on which you can surf all day, and practice all those tricks with juggling balls and cola you see in the magazines. Unfortunately behind that there's another less friendly wave/stopper that gets big at 3.5m tides plus. Next stop after that is a set of angry diagonal waves, and finally a few whirlpools. These really are the piece-de-resistance!

# Spot Discovered in the Western Highlands!



The overall scenario goes something like this. You're in the eddy by the bridge. You confidently burst out onto the green wave. All's looking well. You lean forward, water sprays up in pearlescent waves from the front of your boat. You lean back and start dancing on the wave, using your hips to carve left and then right. You reach for your juggling balls - oh no...your off the back of the wave! Regain a half descent grip on your paddle 'cos your going to need it. Into the stopper, usually side ways. Work your way to the end (ender out for the flash.) It's okay, your out, but it's not over yet. Into the tricky diagonals. Oops, loss of concentration, and a quick roll. Hey that's not so bad - wait, why am I looking at the underside of the bridge, and why is it spinning around like a 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>? .....The whirlpool has got you!

## Revolving Sky

On one memorable largish day, I recall myself and a not-so-short boat (that should have known better) disappearing completely from view vertically into one of the whirlpools. I was looking up at the revolving sky, from a cone of water. My head wasn't submerged, and I was bracing on one wall, going round and round...it eventually changed shape, harmlessly releasing me. I

emerged with a wide grin stretched tight across my face!

One of the bonuses of the Fall of Lora is that having survived the run down the hydraulics, there's a very convenient feeder eddy that takes you back to the top of the bridge span and that lovely green wave. Get on, tune in and ride back to the top!

Eventually after what seems like a solid hour of energetic paddling, we return to the car to find Rea asleep. She tells us we've been on the water for three hours. It's been that engrossing.

So that's the Falls of Lora - it's fun, it can be big, and it's safe for those with a solid roll. Go with a competent party and surf 'till you puke!



## The Team

**Jeremy Ebb**  
**Tim Picketing**  
**Rea Collins**  
from  
**Outward**  
**Bound**  
**Scotland**



# Paddling During Pregnancy

**L**ast year, in the middle of planning a trip to British Columbia, we had to confess to our friends that I was pregnant so we wouldn't be able to go. We had decided to postpone trying for a family, until after the trip, but we had too good a weekend when everybody had got together to plan it! Our life up until then had focused around Canoeing, climbing and sailing with work somehow squeezed in between. When I became pregnant I imagined that it would be a big change to our lifestyle, and I wanted to find out what would be wise and realistic to do during my pregnancy. However, I found a distinct lack of positive information concerning sport during pregnancy, especially in outdoor pursuits. So in this article I have set down my experiences, which I hope may be of encouragement to others.

## Queen Ant

"Sit down and put your feet up" this is what most family and friends say. You could follow this literally and sit on your backside for nine months, becoming like a Queen Ant - unable to move under your ever increasing weight. (But without the advantage of the worker ants!) As this tended to be the norm, there was very little encouragement for somebody as active as I was. So what I decided was to stop lifting heavy objects (i.e. let someone else carry the boat, and repay them with lots of flapjack - Thank you Simon.) but continue with everything I did before, gradually reducing the pace as my body dictated.

## Dangerous Sports

The medical profession in my experience said to take it easy, don't start a new sport, and stop if any discomfort occurred. Later in pregnancy my doctor advised me to stop climbing and canoeing, on further questioning this appeared to be because he viewed them as dangerous sports - A popular misconception, especially if you are participating a grade below your ability for canoeing, and only seconding climbs, when there is little possibility of

falling. Sudden impacts are the things to avoid. It seemed sensible to decline an opportunity to Water Ski at 5 months pregnant!

Concern for the baby means you want to know how much activity you can expect to do with minimal risk at each stage of pregnancy; at the same time keeping sane yourself by continuing with full participation in your sport. I aimed to be as fit as possible to ease the strains later in pregnancy and birth. The longer you can keep going, the easier it will be to get fit again after the birth. This leaves you better able to cope physically with looking after the baby, and mentally, because you can get back to the things you enjoy. To a competent canoeist a short paddle on easy water (to that canoeist) is equivalent to an easy walk. And who says you shouldn't go for a walk???

Physically it was a learning experience for me. I was all set to give up canoeing within the first few months. However I let my body dictate, and although my performance slowly declined this was not inconsistent with what would have happened had I put on 3 stone through overeating!!! I avoided exerting myself unduly at any time. Afterwards I was surprised to find my performance returned relatively quickly; this was probably due to suddenly losing 2 stone yet maintaining the fitness I had previous to the birth.

I carried on using my Jester for surfing, with an Avenger for white water and general use, up until 2 weeks before the birth. It became more difficult to sit correctly in my canoes towards the end, due to the size of my tummy. Had I got any larger, I would have had to change to a higher volume boat. After 7 months - a Drycag, neoprene spray deck and buoyancy aid, put too much pressure on my tummy. I changed to a large ribbed buoyancy aid, nylon spraydeck with adjustable waist and a summer cag (luckily it was August). Any larger cag with an adjustable waist would be OK. The gear you might need to use is typical club equipment or your old beginner kit. You should find it easy to borrow what you need from someone.



## The Table

The table is to give you an example of what I actually did, and was happy with. What you choose to do will depend on your initial paddling skills, be you more or less experienced than I. Also I was lucky in having a trouble free pregnancy. Obviously if you have medical problems during your pregnancy, you will have to reassess the situation in consultation with your Doctor/Midwife.

To sum up "take it easy but if possible don't stop completely".

**Penny Allan & Baby Jane. (6 months old).**



## Paddling Diary for my Pregnancy

### 0-3 months (December-February)

River paddling as normal. Local Rivers, Grade II-IV.

### 3-5 months (March- April)

Not carrying my Avenger. River paddling as normal, passed Advanced Proficiency. Surfing as normal, up to 4 ft. breaks with easy paddle outs selected. Surf competitions.

### 6-7 months (May- June)

River paddling- down one grade in the French Alps. Small surf with little power or with an easy paddle out.

### 7-9 months (July- August)

Changed gear I wore. Very, Very Gentle surfing- less than 2 ft. Flat water paddles e.g. up an estuary

### 4 weeks after

**Back in canoe, gentle surfing.**

### 6 weeks after

Competed in Home Internationals-Surfing.



Since 1946,  
the canoe  
for serious  
outdoor  
enthusiasts.

# GRUMMAN CANOES

The Original Aluminum Canoe.  
For nearly 50 years Grumman has  
strived to build the toughest, most  
durable line of professional-quality  
canoes for outdoor enthusiasts.

Tough As Nails. Designed to last  
and perform, every Grumman®  
canoe is handcrafted from a special  
age-hardened, stretch-formed  
aluminum alloy 25 percent stronger  
than traditional alloys.

Each Grumman canoe is hand  
riveted with specially designed T-6  
Alumilite rivets for maximum  
strength along gunnels, keels and  
ribs. The Grumman stretch forming  
process permanently shapes the  
curves designed into the bow, stern  
and sides for maximum strength.

For added rigidity and unbeatable  
strength, Grumman uses die-formed  
aluminum ribs and thwarts, and  
solid aluminum extruded gunnels.



## AVONCRAFT

The largest stockist for London and  
the South East for **PRIJON,**  
**SCHLEGEL, GRUMMAN, INKA, H.F.,**  
**ROMER** and many other leading  
world products.



MAIL ORDER



DISTRIBUTOR FOR ENGLAND  
AVONCRAFT  
BURROWFIELD IND EST  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY  
HERTFORDSHIRE, AL7 4SR  
TEL: (01707) 330000

DISTRIBUTOR FOR  
SCOTLAND/NORTH  
OF ENGLAND  
AVONCRAFT NORTH  
CARLISLE CANOES  
41 WIGTON ROAD  
CARLISLE, CUMBRIA,  
CA2 7AX  
TEL: 01228 31703

DISTRIBUTOR FOR WALES  
WHITEWATER CONSULTANCY  
THE OLD SHOP,  
WILKS HEAD SQUARE,  
PONTWELLY, DYFED,  
S. WALES, A44 4AA  
TEL: 01559 362083

**NEW 48 PAGE  
SPRING/SUMMER  
BROCHURE  
OUT NOW!**

**MASSIVE RANGE -  
DON'T MISS OUT**

**PHONE 01243 672315  
NOW FOR YOUR FREE  
48 PAGE BROCHURE  
OR SEND THE  
COUPON BELOW  
FREE  
STICKER  
WITH  
EVERY  
BROCHURE  
ORDERED!**

**PLEASE RUSH A BROCHURE TO:**

Name .....

Address .....

Send to: **SHORE WATERSPORTS 20 Shore Road,  
East Wittering, Chichester, W Sussex PO20 8DZ**

DISCOUNTS  
AVAILABLE FOR  
ADVANCED BOOKINGS



# THE MAIN EVENT

## The Wild Water & Slalom World Championships

**Wild Water Racing - Canolfan  
Tryweryn, Bala, North Wales  
Mon 21st - Mon 28th Aug 1995**

**Slalom - Holme Pierrepont,  
Nottingham  
Tues 29th Aug - Sun 3rd Sept 1995**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

**The British Canoe Union,  
Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford,  
Nottingham NG2 5AS United Kingdom  
Tel: 0115 982 6434 Fax: 0115 982 1797**



Enjoy the biggest Wild Water competition to take place in Britain for over fourteen years.

Come and see over thirty nations compete for the world's most coveted prize.

There are lots of other events happening during the competition.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy the excitement.

# Special Discount Motor Insurance Scheme For All BCU Members



**The Scheme offers a fast and efficient claims service with discounted insurance premiums.**

**SPECIAL FEATURES:-**

- \* £5 voucher towards BCU membership.
- \* FREE £200 worth of cover for equipment in vehicle.
- \* Up to 15% discount on certain policies.
- \* New car replacement for cars in first year of registration and where damage exceeds 50% of its original purchase.
- \* FREE "uninsured Loss Recovery" service
- \* Legal advice or assistance up to £25,000 (including personal injury) following accidents in the UK.
- \* Contribution towards hire or replacement car.
- \* Payment by instalments - spread the cost over 10 months by payment through Direct Debit facilities (full details supplied on request).
- \* Payment by Access or Visa cards.
- \* Breakdown Recovery Insurance.
- \* 24 hour accident helpline.

**FILL IN AND SEND THIS COUPON TODAY**

Send to: Boncaster Ltd, Freepost, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4ZP

BCU

Mr/Miss/Mrs/Tide \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Car Model \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Engine Size/cc \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Cover (Please tick) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comprehensive \_\_\_\_\_ Third Party Fire & Theft \_\_\_\_\_  
 Third Party Only \_\_\_\_\_ NCB Protection \_\_\_\_\_

Use: Pleasure \_\_\_\_\_ Pleasure & Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drivers (Please tick) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insured Only \_\_\_\_\_ Insured & Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Any driver over 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Any Driver \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please list all drivers under 25 separately \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ I am presently insured with \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ No Claims Bonus \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date of Present Policy \_\_\_\_\_

Period of residence in UK \_\_\_\_\_ Present Premium £ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Excess: Nil \_\_\_\_\_

Licence and how long held \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ FULL/PROV

Any previous accidents, losses or convictions? YES/NO \_\_\_\_\_ I will pay first £50 £75 £100 of own damage  
 If YES, please attach details \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require loss of use cover? \_\_\_\_\_

**RING LINKLINE**

**0345 616161**

**FOR THE COST OF A LOCAL CALL**

## EURO KAYAKS SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTORS

### CANOE AND KAYAK SPECIALISTS

**Norfolk School of Canoeing**  
Coltishall  
Tel: 01603 737456

**Board Talk Water Sports**  
Lowestoft  
Tel: 01502 517992

**Wimbledon Canoeing Centre**  
Wimbledon  
Tel: 0181 543 4576

**Marsports**  
Reading  
Tel: 01734 665912

**Mega Performance Kayaks**  
Rustington  
Tel: 01903 772463

**D & S Marine**  
Southampton  
Tel: 01703 473379

**Alpine Waves**  
Poole  
Tel: 01202 665533

**Rock And Rapids**  
Stoke, Plymouth  
Tel: 01752 227264

**A.S. Watersports**  
Exeter  
Tel: 01392 421831

**Simons Kayak Shop**  
Port Talbot  
Tel: 01639 813107

**Beans**  
Bicester  
Tel: 01869 246451

**Wye Dean Canoe Centre**  
Symmonds Yat East  
Tel: 01594 833238

A Personal  
Account

report:  
Tamsin Phipps

photographs:  
Allan Bennett

# Devizes to Westminster Race 1995

**T**he 125 mile race has been organised for nearly 50 years and now takes place over the Easter Weekend each year. The start point is Couch Lane Bridge, Devizes on the Kennet and Avon Canal. The course follows the 54 miles of the canal with occasional stretches on the River Kennet to Reading where it joins and follows the River Thames for a further 71 miles to finish under Westminster Bridge.

To actually get to the start line for me this year was a challenge after 12 months of ill health .... a spell on crutches and yet another stay in hospital. However, I seem to have selective hearing and I was determined to be on the start line with my partner Brian Greenham. Brian has long been associated with the race and holds the record of 15:34:12 with Tim Cornish set in 1979. He also holds the Junior Veteran Record with Glynn Wallis (15:42:31) and the Scout Record again with Glynn (16:31:06) so I was looking forward to the event. For Brian it was to have been the first time he would have competed in the mixed event.

There had been high hopes about the river conditions for the race as most of the winter the River Thames had been in flood but sadly a very hot long spell put paid to that. It also meant that the first 15 miles of the race were shallow and covered in weeds and green slime. Never-the-less undaunted some 140 Senior Doubles, 44 Junior Doubles and 40 singles took part. The numbers over the last few years have been declining and sadly this year was no exception.

For many the race is a question of undertaking it for the challenge, to beat a record, to win or to better their time from the last time they completed the event or/and to raise money for charity. What ever the reason the event is hard and good preparation is needed not only in the form of training but also having a reliable support crew who can cope with

any situation which can come their way is a must. Also setting off from Devizes that morning were the individuals involved in the four day singles race and the junior K2. There was a strong K1 contingent from Leaside who were hoping to try and take the K1 team record which was set by Reading and Leighton Park Canoe Club in 1987 (50:38:44). Whether K1, K2 or canoe there is some fun to be had. On the start line 20 seconds before her start Jenny Hands suddenly realised she had not done her hair so fellow Nottingham Kayak Club member Dave Enoch found himself leaning over the wharf trying to fix combs and clips into her hair!! The attempt was not too bad as it survived all the way to Newbury.

Brian and I arrived in Devizes at 12.15 with our support crew of Paul Owen, John Wallis and Brian's former DW partner Glynn Wallis and my former DW partners of Dave Green and Paul Toomey. (You

can still remain friends even after the race!!!) By this time all the singles and juniors had left leaving a few remaining K2 yet to start. The temperature had soared and was certainly now beginning to be a problem for some. We actually set off at 1 o'clock, unfortunately in the middle of the heat, as we were aiming to be at Teddington 2 hours after high tide. Further up the canal in front of us were other members from our canoe club and information on how well they were doing was being relayed back to us.

Jacqui and Lesley were having equipment problems but were keeping their spirits high by chatting (not unusual for them) to Rose Purkiss and Jeanette Collinson who were trying to compete the course in a Canadian canoe and hopefully break the ladies C2 record of 30:47:52. (which they did by a couple of hours) Rose is a DW veteran and has completed and won the race before but it was her first time down the course in a C2 and she had certainly received some ribbing because of her chosen craft. Jacqui and Lesley pulled out at Tyle Mill, because of their equipment problems, but went home got changed and came back to cheer or Rose and Jeanette and their voices could be heard booming down from Henley Bridge. It was to have been their last DW but now they didn't complete they will be back!

It was also lovely to see Beverly Hunter and Mike Phillip from Royal Canoe Club on the water. During DW race training in 1994 Paul Gilbert a member of Royal had died in a tragic accident at Romney Weir so Royal had out of respect stayed away from the race that year. The race was undertaken in part as a tribute to Paul.

Close to Beverly and Mike all through the race were Danielle Sellwood and Sandra Troop who were out to break the long standing ladies record. All through the race they were four minutes up on the Royal K2 and the support crews cheered each pair on helping where necessary. Danielle and Sandra paddled extremely well and broke the Ladies record by over 1.5 hours. Danielle now holds the mixed and the Ladies DW records.

The first fifteen miles I always think are the hardest and none more so than this year. The thick weed and slime were definitely an added hindrance. For Brian and I unfortunately illness had already begun to creep in but our omnipotent support crew were there as ever to attend to our every need .... even to assist with weed removal from the bow of the boat. Wotton Rivers couldn't come soon enough and out of the boat running was a welcome relief even if the ground was rock solid from all the dry weather.

Our support crew transformed themselves in to gazelles and Dave, Glynn and Paul ran alongside occasionally telling us jokes and keeping our spirits high. Even the long run at Crofton seemed minor with them there. Brian and I had trained well for the event so despite Brian's deafness communication was not a problem (my other DW partners thought that that was a blessing in disguise as I do like a good chat/sing song as I am going along) and we knew exactly where we were going to portage, run or change places. I was aware that things were not going according to plan and that Brian was feeling unwell. After adding some more clothing at the lock in Newbury a few hundred yards later alongside Newbury Wharf my fears were realised. Poor Brian was very ill. Undaunted we continued and began to pick up. Darkness fell but we both know the route so well that it was not a hindrance.

Brian and I had overtaken crews all the way up the course but were now doing so more frequently and with a quick hello and a good luck cheer we soon passed them. A couple of crews over took us and only one of them spoke. It was actually quite funny having a conversation with the eventual winners Tony Alan-Williams and "Foggy" Phillips paddling along with a "hello Brian" and a "oh you must be Tamsin" followed by a conversation about Canoe Focus in the middle of a race.

For us though the race was nearing the end and as we



canoeing  
water  
skiing  
winds  
sailing  
kayaking  
judo

## PROTECT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF GEAR. YOUR BODY!



**TOTAL PROTECTION FROM GLARE & DANGEROUS ULTRAVIOLET A & B at £37.75 + P&P at 75p**

- Full 180° optically perfect wrap round vision
- Blocks at least 99% UVA 99% UVB (12% UVA graduated tint)
- Lightweight but shatter proof
- No metal hinges to corrode
- Vented sides to resist fogging
- Floats with float straps at £2.50
- Does not distort colour
- Neoprene case with carrying clip included
- Shields eyes from wind, spray and debris
- Available in 5 colours - Teal, Magenta, Blue, Gold & Silver

ZURICH SPORTS GLASSES give excellent protection for people who wear contact lenses and will fit over normal size prescription glasses (54 eye or less)



FOR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE PHONE OR FAX

**RAVENS SPRING LTD**

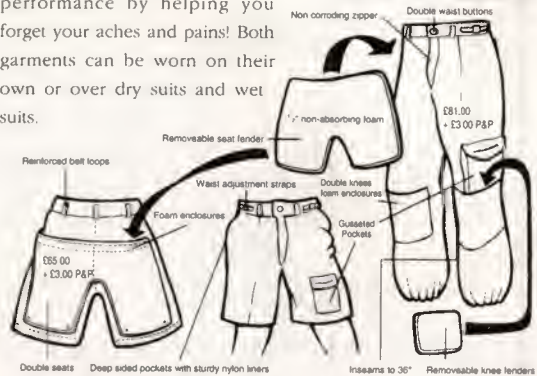
Ford Road, Totnes Industrial Estate, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 5LQ. PHONE/FAX 01803 867092

### BREAKER SHORTS AND LONGS

Made from Supplex™ with Cordora™ seat and knees. Supplex™ is windproof and breathable, cotton soft yet light and strong, water repellent and quick drying. Cordora™ has outstanding wear and tear performance. The non absorbing foam fenders will increase your comfort and performance by helping you forget your aches and pains! Both garments can be worn on their own or over dry suits and wet suits.

### OTHER QUALITY PRODUCTS

Dry Suits  
Tops  
Breathing Dry Suits from \$219



**ACTIV-SYSTEM** clothing for those who seek out and enjoy the harshest conditions - combining lightness and endurance - used by professional guides, expedition members and serious activists - an alternative, flexible and affordable insulation system.

#### FEATURES:

**Action cut** pit zips, deep front zips, double slider zippers, vented cuffs and adjustable elasticated drawcords provide quick and effective venting.

**A-P 6 Pile** traps body heat and its low water absorption allows rapid wicking of water away from the skin.

**Airflow 600** microfibre shell fabrics are durable, highly water repellent and windproof due to the use of extremely fine fibres in their construction

Send for details of the full range which includes Guide Pullover - Guide Jacket Salopettes - Salopants Pile Shirts - Leisure jackets - Trousers - Caps - Mitts



**VALLEY**

VALLEY CANOE PRODUCTS LTD  
Private Road No. 4, Colwick Ind Est  
NOTTINGHAM NG4 2JT

TEL (0115) 9614995 FAX (0115) 9614970

You can stay drier and warmer with a  
made to measure spraydeck to  
a classic design

Prodecks Topdecks  
Bushdecks Bushpants  
Kayak/Polo gaskets Longs  
Lycra Wear **BUSHSPORT** Shortcord  
**DESIGNS** Canadian  
Vest-tops Marathon  
Bib & braces Sea Kayak  
Deck Cags WWR  
Plastic gasket

for prompt friendly service phone today



Brigstock Manor, Brigstock  
Nr. Kettering Northants, NN14 3HG  
Tel/Fax No 01536 373038

**30th JULY 1995**

**Come, enjoy the fun!  
Race or participate in the**

# Sea Kayak Classic Anglesey



- 12 mile course for expedition sea kayaks between Cemaes Bay and Amlwch
- Cash prize for overall expedition winner who will also receive a trophy
- Outrigger canoes over the above course
- Slalom Kayak Race within Cemaes Bay (4 mile course)
- Dragon Boat class course within Cemaes Bay
- Dramatic cliffs and picturesque bays
- Regardless of age or gender, if you win you'll receive a trophy
- Comprehensive safety boat cover, including a doctor aboard one of the boats
- For non-paddlers, there are 5 separate uncluttered beaches in Cemaes Bay

FOR YOUR RACE PACK CONTACT IRENE WILLIAMS NOW!

TELEPHONE: 01407 710 103,  
OR WRITE TO HER AT: PARK LODGE,  
CEMAES BAY, LL67 0HF, ANGLESEY



## WHITEWATER THE CANOE CENTRE

Shepperton Marina, Felix lane, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8NJ

Tel: 01932 247978 or 01932 241368

**FUN  
DAY**



DAGGER  
PERCEPTION  
PYRANHA  
PALM  
WHITEWATER  
ACE  
MOBILE  
ADVENTURE

# OPEN DAY

**Sunday JUNE 25th**

DEMO BOATS AND MANUFACTURERS FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS  
COME ALONG AND TALK, PADDLE, WATCH, LAUGH, OR JUST BUY ON THE DAY  
**IT'S A KNOCKOUT**

passed through Marlow and on to Cookham I decided that this was it. There was no point in continuing even though we were still on for under 19 hours as we knew we could complete the course and both of us had won the event before. Brian and I both love canoeing and Brian is a triathlon fanatic so why just complete the course and perhaps injure ourselves which could put us out of action for a while. At Bray I told Paul that this was it. We had paddled 79 miles (about 75 through illness) and it was time to call it quits so we could both live to fight another day. Whilst we were changing sadness crept in but all the best planning and preparation can't help when someone is sick. Brian did say to me once we were changed looking wistfully at the Thames "I think we have some unfinished business Tamsin" but we'll have to wait and see.

Back home for a couple of hours sleep, stick the kit in the washing machine and up with the lark as Paul and I had decided to go out and support Dave Enoch and Jenny Hands who were staying at our house whilst taking part in the four day event. As we were getting up my thoughts (tinged with sadness) turned to Westminster where friends of ours would be finishing and where we would have been. However there was no time to waste as we had to get out on the course.

The K1 team of Leaside were doing well and could possibly break the record but they wanted first, second and third place too but were in competition with Steve Rance and Richard Kent (Woodmill). They were paddling well and at the end of Saturday were lying in first, second and fourth.

The junior K2 pair of Tom Baxter and Robin Pearson from Leighton Park School were well out in the lead in the junior event but the race there was for the team prize and the competition was keenly being fought between several schools.

The finish on day 2 is at Longridge and whilst we were there a kayak was run over by one of the support crews. Anyone supporting or entering a carpark or field where canoeing is taking place is always vigilant of canoes etc which may be around but sadly the boat and paddles inside were badly damaged. John Cooper who owned the boat (was someone that Brian knew well and I had got to know through our training sessions) was not only undertaking the event for the first time at the age of 48 having not long been canoeing but also had £3,000 of money for cancer research riding on the completion of the event. He was

devastated at the sight of his paddles and boat. Paul Owen and Allan Bennet soon whisked the boat away to try and repair it. Fergus Murray helped patch the paddles and after the addition of a significant amount of extra fibreglass and resin we left the boat to dry over night.

The DW to me has always been about camaraderie and I was beginning to have my doubts with some of the things I had heard (like support crews not helping paddlers in distress etc) during the 1995 event but suddenly there were offers of help, spare left handed blades and later that weekend there was whip round and another £68 was raised.

Sunday morning was a telling time for the boat but the repair had held and with lots of black tape John went on his way if a little drained by the whole sad experience. The Leaside crew had decided to work as a team and pull up the fourth member of their team in to third place. With fantastic teamwork and skill they managed to not only be first, second and third at the end of the day but also help other people by giving them washes and encouragement. The over 50's race was hotting up but both Dave Enoch and Doug Knowles began to suffer. At one point Doug saw a lovely patch of grass out of the wind and climbed out of his boat and laid there. Feeling refreshed he went on to complete the day.

Monday morning saw the usual chase through London to the finish once the mass start has taken place. It is actually great fun (even getting up for the 5.15am start) to lean over the bridge and cheer on the competitors. For Tom and Robin in the Junior K2 race they were able to chase the Leaside team and despite being off the wash for some of the tideway they pulled back through to cross the finish line first. Sonja Bapty having lead the entire race was the first lady across the finish line to win the singles race in her first attempt. Whilst standing on Westminster Bridge with the first boats looming in to view we suddenly realised that there was noone there to do the finishing so scrounging a pen, using a receipt paper and Tom Hollins watch we timed the first 20 boats across the line before the time keepers turned up. We had to ensure that they had a finish time especially after all that way and the new record being set by Leaside.

The cheers and emotion at the finish were as loud and freely expressed as ever but they reached crescendo point when John Cooper actually finished. He had done it .... not only completing the race in the face of adversity but raising £3,000 for charity.

To quote David Hunn from his article in the Sunday Times he says "in the whole of the sporting calendar there cannot be a more fearful test. If you have the stamina of a cart horse, the speed of a race horse and the brains of a rocking horse, it has been said then sign here. Unfair, of course, but to tackle the race competitively you do need the determination of a kind that obliterates reason".

Thoughts begin to turn to next year (no I won't be on the start line) but after a long discussion we came up with a new experience.... virtual reality DW from the comfort of your own

home!

## RESULTS

### Senior K2

1st M.C. Phillips/A.K. Alan Williams - RMCF (17:24:39)  
2nd M.J. Pointer/C.A. Grimshaw - Elmbridge Canoe Club (17:32:16)  
3rd P. Lanighan/P. Quill - Falcon Canoe Club/Woodmill (18:08:00)

### Women's K2

Danielle Sellwood/Sandra Troop - Richmond Canoe Club 18:47:05 (new record)

### Mixed K2

Heather Brough/James Treadgold - Reading Canoe Club/Falcon Canoe Club (18:25:05)

### K1

1st D. Hallam - Leaside - 15:56:09; 2nd R. Bushell - Leaside - 16:02:06;  
3rd G. McKeand - Leaside - 16:31:00

### Women's K1

Sonja Bapty - Reading and Leighton Park - 18:35:33;  
Jenny Hands - Nottingham Kayak Club - 19:24:59

### Over 50's K1

1st A. Chapman - Poole Harbour - 17:52:21;  
2nd D. Enoch - Nottingham Kayak Club - 18:52:40

### K1 Team

Leaside - 48:29:15 (new record) D. Hallam, R. Bushell, G. McKeand

### Junior K2

1st T. Baxter/R. Pearson - Leighton Park School (16:21:11);  
2nd S. Garson/M. Parsons - Wey kayak Club (17:34:56)  
3rd S. Hayday/W. Crawford - Barking and Dagenham CRS (17:55:16)

### Junior Team

Kimbolton School

### Women's C2

Rose Purkiss/Jeanette Collinson 26:28:10 (new record)

### Wanted! Your D-W anecdotes

Everyone who enters or supports this classic race has a tale to tell, usually embellished in the relaxed atmosphere of the local hostelry! I am currently collecting and compiling amusing and unusual experiences - please add yours for future publication. Please send written details or contact me at the Eclipse van at races, or by telephone. Allan Bennett - 38 Poplar Street, Romford, Essex, RM7 7JD. Tel 01708 724171

### Found in the Devides Wharf car park on Good Friday

A delightfully embroidered card, signed by Maddy. - contact Allan Bennett and it will be returned to its owner.



# LEIDAL HASLER FINALS 95

*Exciting next to event*

*Exclusive use of the water*

*Lots of space for the competition*

The British canoeing and kayaking scene is taking over the summer festival. The event will feature Loch Tay, the Grand Slalom, Downstream & Slalom, Triathlon & Canicross. All the excitement of their programmes will be on display by the water's edge. Enjoying the event. Please contact the organisers for more information. You will be delighted to see the canoeists. They will not miss the best canoeing ever.

Dates: 24-25 September  
 Location: Leidal, Leidal Road,  
 Baden, Strathclyde, Scotland  
 Tel: 01234 957083

# *White Water* CONSULTANCY & CANOEING EQUIPMENT

**MAIL ORDER A SPECIALITY**  
*Probably the UK's fastest*

Open 9-10 - 5-30 Mon - Sat.  
 Sunday by arrangement

**CREDIT CARD HOTLINE**  
**FREEPHONE 0500 118051**

**White Water Consultancy,**  
**The Wilks Head Square,**  
**Llandysul, Dyfed, SA44 4AA.**

**Tel/Fax: 01559 362083**





# Teeside White Water Course

**B**ritain's new top class artificial canoe slalom course at Teesside is open. With the Cleveland Hills to the south it is set in an amphitheatre with the course winding its way around the stage.

Richard Fox stood with me on the bank and admired what had been achieved and looked forward to its great potential. As Richard said, "it is good, special and different". There is an imaginative use of the site, layout is good and there is flexibility in moving obstacles. It is the beginning. Referring to the Olympic course at Seo d'Urgell, Richard reminded me that the Spanish found out what was best and worked and changed the less successful bits.

In the world arena this white watercourse has the best stadium-like setting. It is good for recreation, for spectators and as a competition venue.

The weather was bad, diabolical is a word in the dictionary. On Saturday, 22 April it was cold, wet and windy.

Fortunately by Sunday, 23 April, the clouds cleared and hot sun cheered up the large crowd who had come to watch the International Slalom. Nine countries had entered teams as well as the British paddlers competing in the Pan Celtic Cup. The event was run to ICF rules with qualification races on Saturday and finals on Sunday.

Jennifer Fox



## Final Results

### C1 Men

- Ives NARDUZZI (Fra) 117.7
- P ESTANGUET (Fra) 117.80
- Herve DELAMARRE (Fra) 119.58

### K1 Women

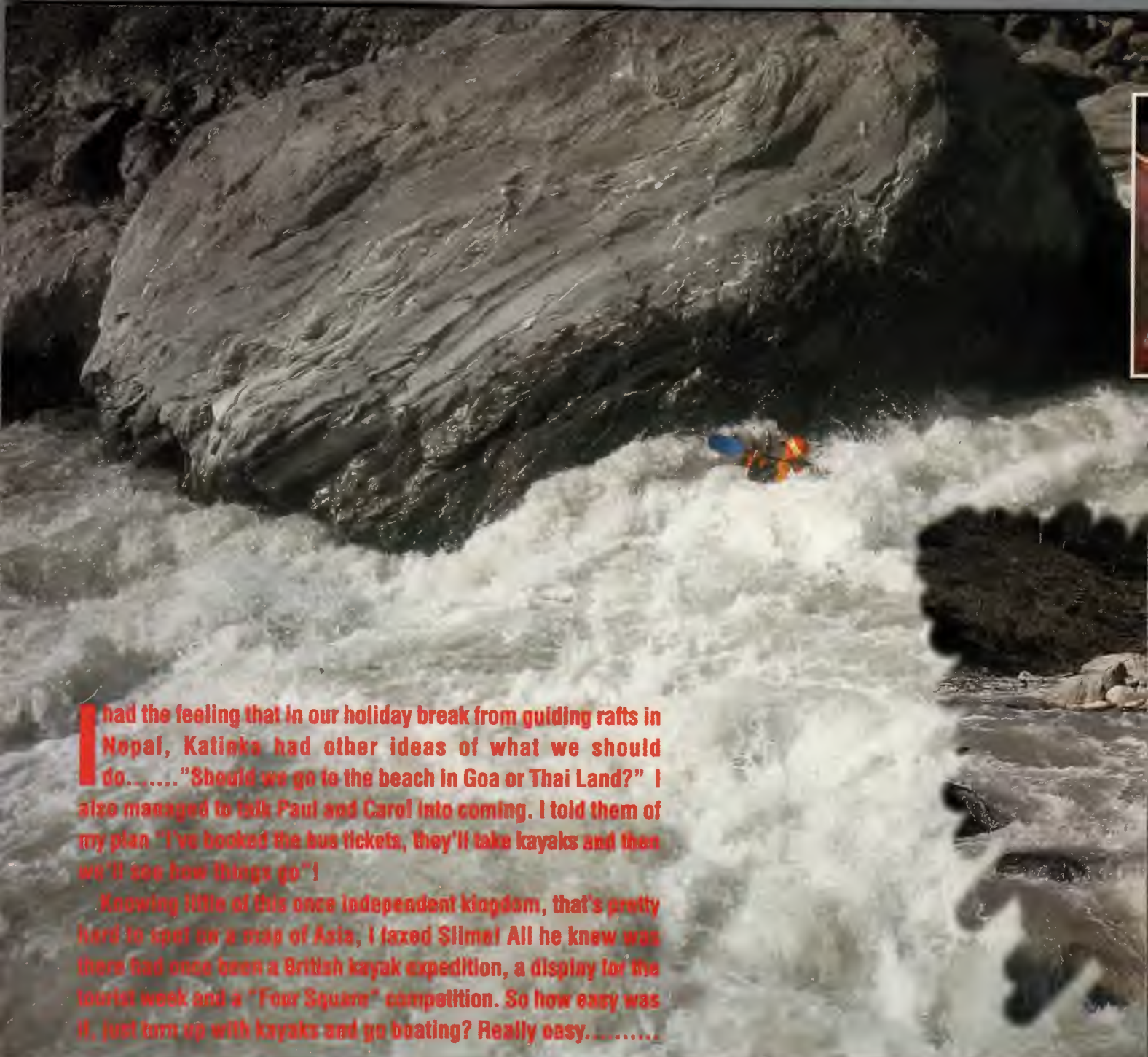
- Sandra FRIEDLI (Sui) 130.58
- Sheryl BOYLE (Can) 134.16
- Giai PRON (Ita) 135.48

### C2

- GREEN/GREEN (Gbr) 141.37
- MILLAR/ PITT (Gbr) 144.79
- JANES/DANCER (Gbr) 156.38

### K1

- Shaun PEARCE (Gbr) 111.77
- Ian RASPIN (Gbr) 112.16
- Paulo FERRAZZI (Ita) 113.35



I had the feeling that in our holiday break from guiding rafts in Nepal, Katinka had other ideas of what we should do..... "Should we go to the beach in Goa or Thai Land?" I also managed to talk Paul and Carol into coming. I told them of my plan "I've booked the bus tickets, they'll take kayaks and then we'll see how things go"!

Knowing little of this once independent kingdom, that's pretty hard to spot on a map of Asia, I faxed Slimel All he knew was there had once been a British kayak expedition, a display for the tourist week and a "Four Square" competition. So how easy was it, just turn up with kayaks and go boating? Really easy.....

# KAYAK SIK

## The Capital of Sikkim

With Kanchenjunga mountain as a back-drop we walked around Gantok. You can't help but get a feel of what an amazing history Sikkim has had with all of it's four bordering countries and of course the British Raj (I found it well worth reading up on). We used the helpful Tashila tours (the only rafting company), to help us obtain our permits and hire a jeep. They understood that we were on a tight budget (as rivers guides tend to be) ! It almost seemed a little like Vietnam four years ago, when they were switching from a country used to organised tours to independent travellers. But it all worked

out quite inexpensive and soon we wound our way through the green lush foothills to the put in of the river.

## Tista River

"Nothing would make me go down there" ! said Carol. That was the first rapid at the Managan. Lower than where the British team put in , but with the time and money restraints a good option (we also heard there were a few epics upstream). The first day and a half we were challenging enough for Paul and myself, continuous white water keeping our necks well stretched. We ran everything down to Singtam. Time for the ladies to take the



# SIKKIM

water for the last two days. One of the first rapids we came across was like No5 on the Zambezi, Katinka went for it, Paul rescued! The rest was lots of 3-4+. The larger volume mentally tired the paddlers more used to smaller rivers, but the beauty of the valley kept us all in high spirits. Jeep support proved it's worth as we were picked up every night where we wanted; we then travelled to the other side of the country when it became time for those permits to come into action.

## Rangit River

Starting below the hydro station (always a good idea),



we descended down the river. Carol felt more at home on with the low volume and we stopped at a steaming sulphur spring by the river side. Paul stripped and joined the soup

of bodies, as the rest of us were happy with the play waves beside. The river was 4+ for the first 12km where a bridge was ideal to put in or take out. The rest of the day to Jorethang is a pleasant grade 3, the last day picking up slightly to the confluence with the Tista.

It was interesting that we all varied in what we liked to paddle from enjoying 3+ to loving huge gnarly rapids, but we all really enjoyed what we kayaked there. If you were to go higher, there would be so many smaller rivers to paddle!

Kayaking aside Sikkim is a beautiful country with strong Buddhist links, and fine monasteries such as the one we visited at Rumtek. Famous for its flora and unspoilt area for trekking and heard mountain biking.....a destination to think about.

## Hints on visas etc.

You need an Indian visa, but try to get Sikkim on that visa. Once in Sikkim you then need a permit for certain areas (obtained from tourist board or Taishila tours). A group of four or more makes it easier. We obtained our permit from Darjeeling; it only took one day and it's a really cool place. Sikkim is only a mere 20 hour bus ride from Kathmandu! We didn't hear of any of kayaks available in Sikkim.

Colin Hill



## Holiday Paddlers:

Carol Thomas,  
Paul Cripps,  
Colin Hill and  
Katinka Van  
Der Brug

My personnel  
thanks to:  
Pyranha  
Kayaks and  
Palm Canoe  
Products



# ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS

EST. 1981

# MEGA STORE

MAIL ORDER SERVICE  
BEST PRICES FOR WATERSPORTS GEAR IN THE UK!

Advice from Experience

0% FINANCE

**PERCEPTION**

CORSICA OVERFLOW } dep £52  
CORSICA S } + £63 x 6  
PIROUETTE F } TOTAL £430  
PIROUETTE SF }

DANCER XT  
dep £43+ £52 x 6 TOTAL £355

DANCER CLUB } dep £33  
MIRAGE CLUB } + £36 x 6  
TOTAL £255

**PYRAHNA**

MICRO 230 } dep £51  
CREEK 280 } + £63 x 6  
MOUNTAIN 300 } TOTAL £429  
ACRO 270 }  
ACRO 300 }

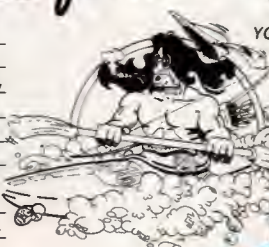
ARTLINE SINGLE SPECIFICATION  
dep £49+ £70x 6 TOTAL £469

ARTLINE MULTI SPECIFICATION  
dep £59+ £75x 6 TOTAL £509

MASTER CLUB  
dep £40+ £37x 6 TOTAL £262

**YAK SPRAYDECK**  
ORIGINAL NEOPRENE  
with reinforcing **£49.95**

PYRAHNA,  
TUFFY  
PERCEPTION,  
MI, PRIJON,  
COLEMAN,  
OLD TOWN,  
WILDWATER,  
PALM, YAK,  
AINSWORTH,  
SCHLEGEL



DEMO BOATS - TRY BEFORE YOU BUY - INCLUDING CREEK, MICRO 230 & OVERFLOW

**STARTER PACK**  
PYRAHNA CANOE, PADDLE, SPRAY DECK  
**£269.00**

MAIN AGENT FOR

HUGE STOCK **WILD-WATER** CALL FOR DETAILS

EQUIPMENT YOU CAN RELY ON

Price Promise... "we guarantee to beat any advertised price in the U.K."

**Yorkshire's Premier Canoe Centre**

152 Leeds Road, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire WF16 9BJ  
Tel: 01924 443843 Fax: 01924 474529

**WETSUIT sale**

100's to clear

SOLA LONG JOHNS  
ankel zips & knee pads **£45**

TYPHOON EDGE LONG JOHN - kneepad flexible **£45**

GUL SHORTIE **£49.95**

GUL SHORT JOHNS **£35**

GUL CAGS  
neoprene cuffs & collar **£25**

ROHO WETSOCK **£11**

TYPHOON EDGE BOOT **£19.95**

ROHO DRYSUIT **£209**



**LONDON/KENT**

discover **scuba** PADI

You've always wanted to try it!

FREE brochures Tel/Fax 01474 326072 day/eve

**PROFESSIONAL DIVING INSTRUCTION**

Excellent facilities/flexible timetabling  
Full range courses to instructor level.

Pool session Sundays. 15 mins Dartford crossing  
Tel/write 29 Denton Court Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2HS

**REEF SCUBA**

DIVING SCHOOL

TEL/FAX: 01474 326072 day/eve  
MOBILE: 0836 328135

**PADI**  
DIVER TRAINING

HSE/DES REG.

**DICK DAVIS**  
SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
MASTER INSTRUCTOR 47448  
MEDIC FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR  
DIPLOMA OUTDOOR EDUCATION

**Capel Canoes**

FIVE OAK GREEN, NR TONBRIDGE, KENT

Tel: 01892 832128

**LARGEST SHOWROOM IN KENT**

BARN FULL OF CANOES AND KAYAKS



**MAIL ORDER**



# CANI Coaching Conference

January 1995

The CANI Coaching Conference was held from 27-29th January at Tollymore Mountain Centre at the base of the Mourne Mountains in County Down. The theme for the conference was water safety and rescue. More than 40 members took part in an excellent stimulating and enthusiastic event. The atmosphere throughout the weekend was very positive and the crack was mighty!

The weekend began with a talk on: "All that can go wrong with designing and manufacturing paddles and yet still come up with a top class product" by Alistair Wilson from Lendal Products. This was a superb talk which gave tremendous insight into paddles designs, productions and innovations. Alistair stayed throughout the conference and was extremely helpful to those who were constantly bombarding him for advice and answers to queries.

### Safe WW Paddling

Steve White from Palm Canoe Products kicked off on Saturday morning with an input on gear for

safe WW paddling. Again, an excellent session in which Steve highlighted the fact that gear was being designed more and more for comfort and performance to keep you out of trouble - rather than being something to fall back on when you botch it!

This was followed by Steve Brown's silly grades slide show and a short debate on grading and attitudes among WW paddlers. By this stage we all needed a large injection of caffeine as the boring aul sea canoeists were on next!

After coffee Oisin and Mike looked at sea safety from a canoeists point of view which was followed by the same theme from the Coastguard.

### Coastguard

Alan Pritchard - our local sector officer - gave an excellent and informative chat on the workings of the coastguard in N Ireland with particular reference to canoeists. Alan's positive and helpful approach did much to win over the paddlers and to improve canoeists and coastguard links. As a result of the input at the conference CANI and Belfast Coastguard have been looking at methods of further improving links - through drawing up pro-formas for trips and registering clubs and paddlers through a specially designed CG66 registration form. Joint exercises, VHF operators and coastal navigation courses (free!) specifically for paddlers are also in the pipeline.

Saturday after lunch was the opportunity to see if all the hot air that had been expelled in the morning really worked - so workshops were organised on :

### WW Safety and Rescue

WW safety and rescue - Down on the local river to look at reading water assessing risk problem solving and playing with bits of string and pulleys!

Open Canoe safety & rescue - Looking at the specific problems associated with open canoes both on moving and open water.

Sea safety and rescue - With the Coastguard - playing with real live flares in real live boats on real water, dealing with a "genuine" accident and communicating relevant information on VHF to CG ie playing on the radios while afloat!

Try any boat session - Speaks for itself really - playing in boats!

### NVQ's

After dinner and complimentary wine Geoff Good (BCU Director of Coaching) gave us an input into NVQs and the way forward within the coaching scheme! It may have been the wine - but he survived this unscathed and actually got a fairly positive response - well done Geoff - only you could manage it!

Next Ray Rowe (canoeing fame generally) gave us our Keynote lecture on the develop-

ments within safety and rescues over the last . . . years! This was brilliant - both highly entertaining at times while very serious at others. It put into context many of the things we had been exploring over the weekend and tied everything together in a way that only Ray can do.

Sunday morning was spent back at the workshops where we played on the water again. After lunch Geoff came on again with "NVQs and the way forward within the coaching scheme" - Part 2. Again Geoff's humorous and practical approach won the day and everyone felt more assured that the BCU hadn't entirely lost it's way!

### NVQs within CANI

Our final open forum looked at the implementation of dreaded NVQs within CANI and debated (further) the even more dreaded implementation of the CANI guidebook. Concerns were raised that by producing a guide we could incur access problems through a greater influx of paddlers from across the water and the border. However we came up with a solution - a sliding scale of cost for the book:

- Free to CANI members
- £5 to non members
- £10 to the Scots
- £15 to the Welsh
- £20 to the English
- £30 to Southerners and £50 to those from Dublin!!

On such a note the Conference ended and we all went home.

Mike McClure



## Many Thanks

to our contributors and Sponsors particularly to: Tollymore Centre staff, Hilltrekker, Alistair Wilson (Lendal Products), Steve White (Palm Canoe Products), Alan Pritchard (HM coastguard), Geoff Good and Ray Rowe. Thanks guys - you are what made it!



# Less Paddle Strokes per mile...

## Specifications:

Length: 5.18m (17' 0")  
 Gunnel Width: .87m (34")  
 Depth, Centre: .36m (14")  
 Rocker Bow: .03m (1")  
 Weight: 38kgs (84lbs)

**Options:** Centre Seat for Passenger or Solo Paddling

**Colours:** Red or Green

**Suggested Usage:** Fast and Efficient Family Touring, Cruising, Flatwater, Lakes, Rivers, Light Whitewater.



Photo: Ray Goodwin

Available from



& all good canoe shops

Bridge Works • Knighton Fields Rd West • Leicester LE2 6LG • UK

**TEL: +44 (0)116 283 0659**



CREWE+ALSAGER FACULTY

## INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE OUTDOORS?

BSc (Hons) Education or BA/BSc Combined Studies

studying Core Science, with Environmental Science or Life Science or Outdoor Studies. Other subject combinations are available in Combined Studies eg PE or Geography. Outdoor studies units include Mountain Leadership, Rock Climbing Supervision and Canoe Instructor Training. Staff qualifications include British Mountain Guide and B.C.U. Inland Kayak Coach.

Also available:

BSc (Hons) Environmental Studies

HND in Science (Environmental Analysis and Monitoring)

Further information available from Division of Environmental Science,  
 The Manchester Metropolitan University, Crewe+Alsager Faculty, Crewe Green Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1DU.  
 Tel: 0161 247 5250 Fax: 0161 247 6372

**EXTREMELY FRIENDLY**  
**KAYAKING EQUIPMENT**  
 from **nookie**



**N**ookie kayaking 'softwear' is designed to be out there with you when you're playing in an inherently hostile environment; there for moral support, and for your safety and protection. It's comforting to have equipment you can rely on; that's why we design our gear to be user-friendly and tough, as well as delivering the best in performance. It looks good, too.

For a brochure, prices or technical information contact:



HEATHFIELD • CLEARBROOK • YELVERTON • DEVON PL20 6JD

**Tel/Fax 01822 855400**



# Access news

## Upper Conway

The Upper Conway access agreement for 1994 - 1995 has now concluded (28th February). Preliminary analysis of the logbook returns made at Cotswold Camping, Betws y Coed show the following figures:

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total	Days Used	No. of Canoeists	
10	13	21	16	10	70			
125	211	298	222	164	1020			
Percentage of WCA Members							16%	
Percentage BCU Members (excluding WCA)							42%	
Others (Non-members/indeterminate)							40%	

There have been few problems this year but the parking arrangements with Conwy Falls and Cafe seem to have helped. The logging-in system at Cotswold Camping once again worked reasonably well. The WCA wishes to thank the National Trust and the other riparian owners, the owners of the Conwy Falls and Cafe and the management and staff at Cotswold Camping for their help and cooperation. Thanks is also due to many canoeists who benefitted from the agreement and whose generally excellent behaviour on and off the water make next year's negotiations a little easier.

The considerable cost of maintaining this agreement is borne solely by the members of the WCA. This year Cotswold Camping provided the opportunity for canoeists to make a voluntary donation to the WCA access fund. The sum of £57.80 was raised and this will appear in the accounts of the WCA as donations to the funding of the access effort. Many thanks to the those who obviously felt that this agreement needs to be supported.

Also for the first time this year the closed day on the 18th of January was used to inspect the river with the National Trust and the NRA. There was some erosion on the bank at the seal launch fall upstream of Penmachno bridge, probably because the ladder washed away some weeks before had not been replaced, but not enough to cause serious concern. The site is expected to recover fully in the 'close' season. Generally relations remain good, though parking on the Penmachno bridge on Sundays has again attracted comment from the Penmachno Community Council. This is a serious issue which will have to be resolved before next October.

### CONDITIONAL CANOEING FROM BARTON STAITHE ONTO BARTON BROAD

Someone amongst us who came canoeing from Barton Staithe with a group of teenagers last year has allegedly used such unacceptable behaviour involving intimidation of visitors and some parishioners that complaints received have been acted upon by the Barton Turf Parish Council Staithe Management Committee resulting in a minuted ban on canoeing.

I have been told of the incident and the unaccountability and seriousness in which the matter has been considered because I am both a parishioner myself and am thought to have some influence and respect in canoeing circles. So much so, that after much negotiation and assurances given by me, the Barton Turf Parish Council Staithe Management Committee have endorsed a public notice stating the following:

### BARTON TURF PARISH COUNCIL STAITHE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that any activities involving the launching of kayaks or canoes may only take place from this Parish Staithe under the direct authority and supervision of the BRITISH CANOE UNION SENIOR INSTRUCTOR CLIVE GRITTEN Tel 01692 536877. Any infringement of this notice will lead to the total cessation of launching from here. Dated March 1995.

The public notice is self-explanatory, therefore groups wishing to canoe from Barton Turf Parish Staithe must make arrangements with me to maintain this fragile access agreement.

Clive Gritten

### NEW REGIONAL ACCESS OFFICER

We have a new Regional Access Officer for the counties of Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire in the South West Region. He is John Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2LU. Tel 01452 531218.

John is already well known in access circles having attended one of the BCU Access Training Seminars as Local Access Officer for the Lower Wye. Many thanks to John Moore, who has held the fort since John Cockram stepped down as RAO Wessex.

### BETTER CHANCES FOR ACCESS AGREEMENTS

Access agreements are all about local contacts and local discussions. To make these possible we need a team of well informed access officers. Special courses are being run to give new and existing voluntary officers the necessary skills. Two very good courses were run in 1994 and two more have been arranged for this year. If you are a Local Access Officer and have not been on a course (all expenses paid) please reserve 7/8 October in your diary and contact your Regional Access Officer straight away for more information.

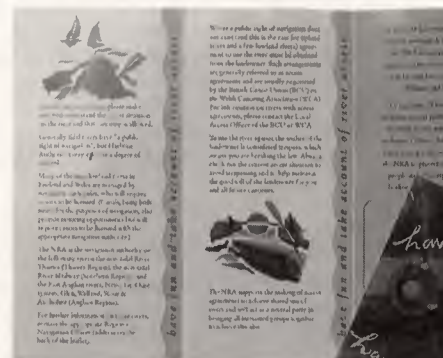
### UPPER BRISTOL AVON CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Access Committee have just received the final plan for the Upper Bristol Avon. The "Recreation" section includes the sentence: "We (the NRA) will liaise with the BCU and Angling Clubs to increase access arrangements where appropriate." This NRA support is very welcome. It would be good to get an equivalent commitment in all future catchment management plans. The Access Committee is liaising closely with the NRA officer with national responsibility for catchment management plans as a whole.

### HAVE FUN, HAVE A CARE - INFORMATION FOR RIVER CANOEISTS

This is the message that the NRA is giving to young, inexperienced canoeists. The NRA have produced an exciting leaflet which gives advice and information for newcomers to our sport.

The four main subject areas that the leaflet covers are Access, The Environment, Other River Users and Health and Safety. The leaflet also carries a removable, handy, plastic "credit



it company" which gives details of 24 hour telephone lines providing information useful for canoeists such as; access information, river levels and major events.

The leaflet is available from BCU headquarters or your local NRA office and is fully endorsed by the BCU and WCA.

### STANLEY EMBANKMENT ACCESS PROBLEM

Over the Easter weekend Police have been cautioning and booking kayakers and spectators who have been walking on Stanley Embankment and who have crossed land to launch their kayaks on the Inland Sea.

Apparently this can now be done under the new trespass laws, it is not clear yet but they have been told to expect fines of up to £1000.

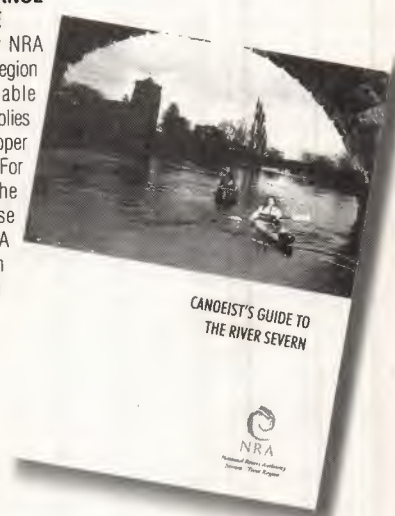
The week before kayakers had been seen carrying their kayaks over the main A5 and over a 6' wall that separates the road and the main London - Holyhead railway line, and over the lines.

Obviously if this sort of behaviour continues we may find it harder to use this excellent facility. It would be appreciated by all, if kayakers used the public footpaths, kayaker from Four Mile Bridge on the Holyhead side of the Stanley Embankment.

If anyone would like advise on access please phone Nigel Dennis at ASSC Tel 01407 762525.

### THE RIVER SEVERN CANOE GUIDE

Produced by NRA Severn Trent Region is now available from BCU supplies or from the Upper Severn Office. For a copy of the guide please contact the NRA Recreation Office on 0 1 7 4 3 272828 or call BCU Supplies 0116 283 0659



### ANGLERS AND CANOEISTS MEET AGAIN

The Angling and Canoeing Liaison Group has met again for the first time in several years, with the National Rivers Authority taking on the responsibility of chairing its meetings and acting as an honest broker between the groups.

The first of the new series of meetings was held earlier this month to consider the relationship between anglers and canoeists and areas of common interest, such as river access.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the British Canoe Union, the National Association of Fisheries and Angling Consultative's and the National Farmers Union. It was chaired by NRA board member John Wheatley.

Much of the first meeting was spent reviewing the present situation. The relationship between the two user groups was held to be a generally good and creating new access agreements was held to be the best means of establishing and managing shared use of rivers where a statutory right of navigation does not exist. It was agreed that the group should continue to meet to address issues associated with the debate over the management of future demands on rivers.

The next meeting of the group will be held in October 1995.



# top tips

and handy hints

## An Holistic Approach to Whitewater Paddling

### The Lead In

Whitewater paddling has been pursued as a recreational pastime for over eighty years, as the skills and technology have developed so has the difficulty of the rivers attempted. There are many sections of rivers which less than ten years ago were the domain of a small number of whitewater paddlers. Today such rivers are often frequented by the masses. While some critics have claimed that such increases in numbers paddling severe whitewater are due predominantly to the plastic revolution, the fact remains that many of today's plastic boaters have greater handling skills than their predecessors.

The level of boat handling skills are probably at the highest that they have ever been, though no doubt the future will see further developments leading to even better skills. The development of such skills is undoubtedly a good thing, yet the story does not end there. In order to further expand on this an observed case has been used to highlight the main points.

### Moving Into Position

This article came about due to observations made on a number of Scottish rivers. On one such case, which is by no means typical, I watched nine paddlers from two universities paddle the right hand fall on Eas a Chataidh on the Orchy. The Orchy is a relatively big volume river, as far as the UK goes, of which the majority of the water goes over the fall in question. Easa Chataidh, at most flow levels, has two possible routes the left and the right. Both are serious propositions but protectable, though the left hand side is prob-

ably easier to protect as this has the main track by which many people portage the rapid. Both drops fall into a large amphitheatre-like pool that is drained by a flat but moving current through a narrow exit some 30-40m below the falls. Once into the pool the swimmer could easily be picked up or make their way to the side.

The river was at reasonable height forming a powerful stopper at the bottom of the 17ft drop. Out of those whom I watched, four swam while the others escaped lightly with a fairly nasty trouncing in the hole. The decision that the paddlers made to paddle the fall is not the point of this article. Everyone has the right to make their own decision whether to paddle or not. The point of this article is about the way in which these paddlers took on the fall.

On arrival at the fall some paddlers, who were walking back to their boats, were asked whether they were going to shoot the falls. They replied 'yes'. On questioning which side they were going to do they said that they had just seen someone shoot the right hand side cleanly. They then went on to say that they had never seen anyone shoot that side before and that it looked quite easy. With the morbid curiosity of any spectator I went to watch them.

The safety cover provided for the paddlers was appalling. There were a number of paddlers with throwlines situated in the flat water at the exit of the pool. Considering that the falls were 30-40m away the usefulness of their siting (bearing in mind that most throwlines are rarely longer than 25m in length) was only to pull

swimmers out who were floating by and was of no use should anyone have ended up stuck in the stopper at the base of the falls.

Sure enough a number of people were caught in the stopper or in the towback, albeit for a brief time. It may be that the accumulated mental power of everyone on the bank shouting 'SWIM' to the swimmer, who was getting sucked back in to the stopper, worked! However, it is not a technique widely accepted and may be a while before telekinetic extraction becomes part of the advance proficiency syllabus. Setting up protection for the stopper below the drop was possible, however, it would have meant that someone would have had to paddle over to the opposite bank next to the fall.

Those throwlines that were used were at times more of a hazard to the swimmer than a help. One swimmer had three throwlines thrown at him, there was a fourth but it was tangled so it did not make it further than 10ft from the thrower, which seemed to confuse the swimmer enough to allow him to get one rope wrapped around his neck.

Luck was certainly with that group that day as they appeared to suffer little from their experience bar a cold swim, yet others have not been so lucky. There have been cases of swimmers being pulled out of the stopper and having to be resuscitated. The 'What If?' game does not bear thinking about in this case. Luck was on their side this time but what about next time? The technical learning points from this case are too many to cover in this article. any good advanced whitewater course

should cover those points and more, so if you want to know those learning points were, get on a course.

### Finding the Sweet Spot

From observation the actual boat skills of most of those paddlers were good, however, their river sense was most definitely dubious to say the least. The whereabouts of where and how they learnt their boat skills may prove useful in understanding why there was an apparent lack of river sense. The advent or rodeo paddling has no doubt played a major part in improving boat handling skills, as has the use of such sites as Holme Pierrepont. A mistake at Holme Pierrepont may lead to an embarrassing swim but little else. The whole idea behind such a site is that paddlers can practise their boat skills in a safe environment. Every instructor and coach that knows that a student's learning ability is seriously affected if they feel threatened. The job of the coach is to create a safe environment for the student in order for them to develop. The water features on artificial sites such as Holme Pierrepont are inherently safe which means that paddlers can learn and practise their whitewater boat skills with little fear. Likewise rodeo promotes the peak of boat handling skill in a 'safe environment'. If someone swims they are likely to suffer the derision of their fellow paddlers for a while but in reality little harm is done.

Both rodeo and artificial sites are essential for the development of whitewater paddling but they generally concentrate on one aspect of whitewater paddling, i.e. boat skills. Boat handling skills,



while an integral part of white-water paddling, is but one part of a whitewater paddlers' make up. The remaining part comprises of what could be called river sense. This encompasses such knowledge as river reading, whitewater leadership, site protection and rescue. Boat handling is skill oriented, while river sense is oriented towards understanding the environment in which whitewater paddling takes place and minimising the risks found in such an environment. By definition rivers are inherently hazardous environments, a hazard being a situation or set of circumstances

which can cause harm to people. Whereas a risk is the chance, great or small, that someone will be harmed by the hazard. The risk taken by a paddler is in how they can overcome those hazards. River sense is about risk assessment and how to minimise the risks by implementing any number of tools gained through experience or tuition, e.g. whitewater leadership.

#### Ender!!

This has not been written as an attack against rodeo paddlers or Holme Pierrepont boaters. We all know that there are play boaters

who are expert in both boat handling skills and river sense, likewise we have all seen paddlers who seem to be aware of what the river is capable of doing but do not have the boat handling skills to cope. What this article is attempting to do is to raise the awareness about the seriousness and complexity of paddling whitewater. Becoming an advanced whitewater paddler does not stop with the rise in your boat skills. These are but one aspect that is needed to become a safe whitewater paddler. Recognising and reinforcing this in our own paddling and amongst those whom we pad-

dle with, will help us to become safer paddlers in our approach to whitewater paddling.

***It could well be that this is preaching to the converted, but only through reinforcing this point amongst informed paddlers will the message get out to those keen yet uninformed paddlers. Safe whitewater paddling is not just about boat handling skills it is about understanding the environment and its associated hazards and how to manage those hazards so as to minimise the risk.***



# VHF Marine Radio Transceivers in Sea Kayaking

## Why Use a VHF Radio?

**If you choose to paddle to escape from the buzzes, whirs and clicks that seem to punctuate modern life, and never want to make contact with another human soul while you're out; a radio is not for you. Alternatively, when you go offshore, you might get a little peace of mind and enjoy yourself more if you take a VHF radio with you.**



Modern marine hand-held radio transceivers (transmitter/receivers) are compact, water resistant, easy to use, and affordable. Designed for (point to point) transmission and reception of speech, they make remote two way conversations on pre-set channels easy. This system is dedicated to maritime users, its operating procedures are well proven and very effective. As a VHF operator, you become part of a network of seafaring people who look out for one another and can relay open distress calls to the rescue services. If you have an emer-

gency, you can talk directly to the rescue co-ordinator; who is familiar with the sea, and will understand what you say and your situation (the international language of the sea is English).

Although basic sets now retail at less than £100, you get what you pay for. A much better option is a modern synthesised transceiver. In early 1995 you can buy a fully synthesised, water resistant (splash proof), reliable and versatile piece of kit for something under £200, its waterproof (submersible) equivalent will set you back around £400.

Although you need an operating licence there is no operating charge (except for radio telephone link calls). VHF radios can be used for many things, including:

- Making calls to other boats (including other kayaks)
- Obtaining weather information
- Obtaining traffic information
- Leaving passage plans
- Updating passage plans (whilst on the water)
- Making 'telephone' calls
- Obtaining position advice (by request or in emergency)
- Distress calls

#### Getting Licensed

You need to go on a course to get trained and take a test before you qualify for a licence. These courses are very straightforward and are aimed at the ordinary person. They are non-technical, and include all the training you need, including all the operating procedures, and the necessary test. A typical course is usually only one day long (often a Sunday). Yacht clubs actively encourage their members to get licensed, so lots of cheap courses are available. Don't be put off from using a radio because you need a licence, if you can get yourself around on the sea you'll have no problem qualifying for a licence.

#### Calling Other Craft

With a radio you can keep in touch with other groups in the area and out on the water at the same time. Before you go on the water, it helps to agree on a working channel (after checking on availability and suitability) and the rest is simple. If you want to talk to a boat you encounter on the water (and

assuming you both have radios), you make a brief initial contact on channel 16, the called vessel then nominates an appropriate operating channel for your traffic.

#### Weather Reports

Your VHF radio can be used to get a weather forecast for a particular sea area, or details of the current weather out at sea. Coast guard stations, Maritime Rescue Co-Ordination Centres (MRCC's) and Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres (MRSC's) give scheduled weather forecasts covering the usual sea areas. The forecast is broadcast at a time published in almanacs, broadcasts are repeated every four hours (or every two hours during gales). In general an announcement is made on channel 16, and the forecast follows on channel 67. Similar arrangements are made for warnings about shipping hazards and shipping traffic. Examples:

- Brixham CG (Devon) MRSC, gives forecasts at 0050 and every four hours afterwards
- Holyhead (Anglesey) MRSC issues forecasts at 0235 and every four hours afterwards.
- The coast guard will also issue warnings of severe weather, as dictated by the weather, by means of an All Stations broadcast on channel 16, the actual forecast will usually follow immediately on a named channel, usually channel 67.

#### Making Telephone Calls

British Telecom International (BTI) operate a number of coastal radio



stations and offer many services including the facility to make telephone calls from your kayak. These are known as YTD calls, for Yacht Telephone Debit, or link calls. Other services offered by BTI coasts stations are weather forecasts, and sometimes radio direction finding. The following are a few examples of BTI stations and services offered.

#### **Lands End Radio:**

Operating on channels 16, 27, 64, 85, 88 Weather on ch 27 or 64

#### **Anglesey Radio:**

Operating on channels 16, 26 28, 61, weather on ch 26 at 0703 & 1903 and on request

#### **Skye Radio:**

Operating on channels 16 and 24 weather on ch 24 at 0703 and 0903 and on request.

### **Passage Plans Via VHF**

Many paddlers drop route card into the coast guard or telephone to advise them of a particular trip. Remember that this will not be used to initiate a rescue, your shore contact must do that if and when needed. However, using VHF radio is even simpler and more effective. Use the radio to call the coast guard as you are about to set off. You can then be sure of the number of people in the group; the number/types and colours of boats, the prevailing conditions and the final passage plans.

If your circumstances change, you can easily call the coast guard to tell them. If you are on an extended trip or engaged in an open crossing, a quick call ashore or to a 'mothercraft' to say that all is well and you're just a little late will out concerned minds at rest.

When you end your journey and before you go ashore, a radio call to the Coast guard to confirm that you're safe is efficient, quick and simple. It is also courteous to thank them for their vigilance. This also avoids the risk of getting comfy in the pub and forgetting to make the call.

You may see some unusual traffic, and suspect a rescue or search is on going. With a radio, you can actively help by switching-

on and listening-in to channel 16. You can call back if and when appropriate, to eliminate your group from the search. This releases the rescue services to focus on the real problem.

Two features are useful for this, the dual watch facility (which lets the receiver share its time between two channels) or alternatively prioritised scanning (which lets the receiver share its time between many channels but with half the total time set to a priority channel (usually channel 16), typically about one tenth of a second is spent on each channel).

### **VHF Distress Calls**

We take great care to minimise the risks involved in kayaking. However, some day we might be in real need of outside help and want to raise the alarm. On sea trips, I carry a number of distress flares for use in an emergency. However, it has to be said that each flare is a primitive firework, a one-off device, which may not be seen and is only really tested in anger.

In comparison, the radio can be tested whenever you like. The battery on a VHF radio usually lasts about six hours if left on standby, but will give about 30 minutes of continuous use when transmitting full power. If you limit each mayday call to 30 seconds, you have up to 60 opportunities to raise the alarm. You can tell someone else (not necessarily the coast guard) of your problem and it is a great relief to have your call acknowledged, you know that you have got through! No system is perfect, so take flares and a radio; they complement one another.

### **Position Advice**

Did you know that the Coast Guard can quickly and easily get a bearing on your VHF transmissions? The equipment used for this is a DF (for Direction Finding) receiver. This facility is always available for use in an emergency and is sometimes available by request.

### **Some Technical Questions Answered**

#### **Q How Far Out Will It Work?**

**A** A good transceiver will have a performance which complies with the appropriate European Telecommunications Specification. Most handheld sets offer two transmitter power settings (Low: about 1 Watt, and High: about 5 Watts).

**Using a VHF radio, the normal maximum communications ranges from a kayak (with a 3' aerial height) are:**

- 4 nmiles to another kayak (3' aerial height)
- 15 nmiles to a large cargo vessel
- 23 nmiles to coast guard stations on high cliffs (aerial at 300')

**This assumes fair weather**

**conditions! Sometimes the weather may help the signals along a bit, giving unusually extended range (this is when we have those special announcements about getting continental TV on top of our favourite domestic TV programmes.)**

#### **Q How Many Channels Should A Receiver Have?**

**A** There are 57 separate channels in the mobile maritime band, but you can get-by on much less. All sets must have Channel 16 and Channel 6.

- Channel 16 is the maritime distress and safety channel, it should be used wisely and sparingly.

- Channel 6 is the working channel on a set with only two channels.

- Channel 67 is the intership channel and most usefully, the small craft safety channel.

- Channel 12 and 14 are often used for port operation, so these are highly desirable.

- Charts produced for yacht cruising (eg Imray, Laurie et al) show the recommended channel for coast guard stations, Port Authorities and marinas. A quick look at the chart for your area will be a useful guide to the channels you need, alternatively look in that old standby, the nautical almanac. Even the most basic modern sets offer 12 channels, and this is often acceptable. Some radio transceivers have frequency synthesisers to create the signals. These synthesised receivers are very stable and accurate and are push button operated (less chance for operator error when tuning). By design, these actually have all the available channels. Synthesised sets are worth having and are now very competitively priced.

#### **Q How Waterproof Should It Be?**

**A** an ideal world your set would float, be waterproof and cost next to nothing. Several good, ruggedised, waterproof sets are available, and even some of these float, but they cost a fair sum. As more waterproof sets enter the market, their price is steadily dropping. A good alternative is a splash proof (water resistant) set in an aquasac (ie see-through dry bag). The bag keeps the nasty salt water out, makes these buoyant and offers some protection against sand, fuel and the like. You need to take reasonable care with the radio in a dry bag, but I think a little respect and a regular check on condition is a small price to pay. In general, and for about the same specification, a splash

proof set will cost you less than half the price of its submersible counterpart. You pay you money and take your choice!

#### **Q What About the Mobile Phone?**

**A** Mobile or portable telephones are an option which is becoming popular with inland paddlers and some centres. Probably because you don't need a licence and because of the low cost of sets. The VHF marine radio system exists exclusively for the seafarer, the mobile phone system does not. In my view the mobile phone is not an ideal option for sea kayaking. The main disadvantages of the mobile phone are:

- - No Safety Network
- When in distress, no one other than the number called can hear your call. If your signal is weak and cannot reach the called number, tough luck. Call relays via nearby users are not an option.
- -No Direction Finding Facility
- Your transmissions won't be used to find out where you are!
- -Uses the overloaded public telephone system
- Now that Ford are giving mobile radio telephones away with new cars, the utilisation will boom. As a result, you may be put on hold because the system can't cope (eg whilst Del boy closes his latest deal from the back of the Capri Ghia).
- -High System charges and call charges
- You pay to call-up the weather, you pay to call the Coast guard. . . in short the more you use the phone the more you pay.

### **Summary**

Sea kayakers would be wise to adopt the modern synthesised hand held VHF transceiver. The sets are very useful and affordable, complementing the range of equipment good paddlers already carry. You can; keep in contact with other paddlers, contact the authorities to tell them of your journey, find out about the weather, find out about traffic, find out where you are, and raise the alarm in an emergency. These days there are fewer working coastal look-out posts, but lots of eyes and ears aboard boats on the water, including yours. This radio network exists for you, become part of it.

**Andy Stamp  
Senior Lecturer in  
Electronic  
Engineering  
University of  
Plymouth.**

The most comprehensive Mail  
Order Catalogue 95

covering  
**AFFINITY SHOP  
STOHLQUIST  
WATERWARE**

**NOW OUT**  
RING 0161 833 1500

**HOT NEWS**

**Stohlquist Cataract Dry Cag**  
Now only £69.95



in Redhill, Surrey  
01737 644288

The Aquasports Company is the ideal teaching environment. A 50 acre lake set in a beautiful country park just 5 minutes off the M25 Junction 8 in Surrey

**Courses** 1, 2, & 3 ★ training every weekend. Inland proficiency, safety tests, T.I. & Instructor assessment weekends and pool training available.

**Membership** Available all year round. River Trips, Thursdays b.b.q.s, Canoe Polo, Surf expeditions.

**Sports Shop** Fully stocked shop. Boats, cags, paddles, accessories galore.

For further details phone:

**01737 644288**



BRITISH  
CANOE  
UNION

Wiltshire  
County Council  
YOUTH &  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

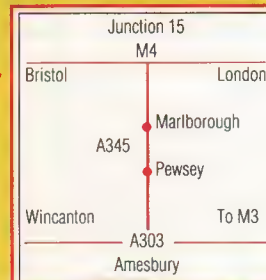


**ADMISSION**  
Individuals  
Adults - £2 Childrens & OAP's -£1  
Under 10's with parents "free"  
**CARS**  
Car parking on site - 50p per car  
Free parking in the town centre

**SWIMMING POOL**  
Various activities in the pool  
including:  
Come and try canoeing for beginners  
test paddle traders boats  
All free  
Bring your swimwear and a towel

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**17th & 18th JUNE**  
**10.00am - 5.00pm**

PEWSEY SPORTS CENTRE • WILCOT ROAD  
PEWSEY • WILTSHIRE • SN9 5EW  
TELEPHONE: 01672 62469



Pewsey is 6  
miles from  
Marlborough &  
12 miles from  
Amesbury

**NATIONAL CANOEING EXHIBITION**

# BCU Handbook

## Dear Focus

Can I make a request to the BCU that they produce an abridged version of their canoeing 'handbook'. My dictionary's description of a handbook is a 'short manual or guidebook', but the BCU's epic of over 500 pages is more on the scale of, and from what I have read so far, could more properly be called the 'BCU Canoeing Bible'. I do however think that it's well written, and as a fountain of knowledge is a fine piece of work, and from my limited experience it would appear to encompass most canoeing eventualities, and I'm sure I'll while away many more hours thumbing through its pages. However, it's not what I thought I was purchasing, which was a 'handbook'.

The present format is OK as a full blown reference book on canoeing, but would you please produce a corresponding handbook, which is brief and to the point, with any excess flannel removed and without any unnecessary repetitions. This could be culled very easily from the present book, and as an incentive, I would expect selling two publications side by side could well increase BCU revenue.

Finally, one specific point I would like to make is that I found the sections on the BCU paddling standards/qualifications/coaching levels particularly difficult to follow. Having read them two or three times, I'm still left confused about what exactly is required, and the reasoning behind all the different standards. I suspect that if I had some form of canoeing background, all would be clear as daylight but the point I'm trying to make is that a handbook should be both clear and self explanatory.

p.s. Your report on the Lyme Bay tragedy in the February issue referred to the recognised method of drawing attention by 'waving paddles'. If that is the case, I am disappointed that I have so far been unable to find such a reference in the handbook.

**John Bates**

*Ed. Most paddlers view The Canoeing Handbook as a useful basic reference which gives a good grounding in most aspects of canoeing. It would be difficult to cover every aspect of the sport in a more concise way, given the diversity of the sport.*

*What you would find useful is the BCU booklet 'How to be a Canoeing Star' which is available from BCU supplies, or the BCU Office. The book is very much aimed at beginner, and guides the paddler through an easy progression of skills (Star test syllabus)*

*As far as waving your paddles to attract attention is concerned, this is so commonplace and natural that it has not so far been documented.*

## Dear Sir/Madam

On Monday 19 December our group of paddlers from Wigan paddled a section of the river Lune in Cumbria. About half a mile before the junction with the river Rawthey we found a canoe high on the bank amongst trees. As the river had been in flood that weekend and there was nothing to suggest the canoe had been deliberately left we have brought it to the above address. There is a clear name Rob Lee and a telephone number which has faded. I have tried combinations of telephone numbers without being able to trace him.

**Yours hopefully  
Robert Andrews**

**Ed Give the BCU office a ring Mr Lee and we can arrange for you to be re-united. Is there a good story here?**



# YAKety

## YAK Letters Page

Your opportunity to write in and comment on what is going on in canoeing today.

# Canadian Friends

## Dear Focus

I would like to thank all the people who helped us out with our visit to the UK. After an all day ferry and 767 jet ride from Canada, we finally touched down at Heathrow, very tired and sore. We were met by our saviour Kevin Mansell who after saying our "How are you's" we followed at a brisk pace through a maze of people and never ending stairs, escalators, sub-ways and finally a train to come out to the core of London. We were put up at the Scott's house where along with about a dozen other paddlers from the UK, Germany and Scotland, we had a place to lay our heads for the next 2 nights while we took in the Canoe Exhibition. Shirley, Ruth and Peter Scott kept us fed, warm and mobile. With our own chaperon Kevin, we met all the familiar names in the canoe industry from many of the manufacturers to BCU people. Now we can attach a real person to the names we've read about for years.

After the exhibition, it was off to Jersey where Nicky, Sarah and Lisa Mansell entertained not only us, but our daughter Ernette. They helped us celebrate Ernette's first birthday (we hope she'll remember it).

Kevin Mansell rounded up some good people from the Jersey Canoe Club and had us go through our BCU Instructor Assessment. The guys were great. We exchanged stories over a few beers and compared Westcoast of North America to the UK with canoeing skills and certification etc. We were refreshed for canoeing again in seeing how structured the BCU system is and how it benefits the sport of canoeing. Back home seem flat, boring and chaotic with the absence of guidance from a regulating body. We feel rejuvenated to pick up the paddle once again and feel good about offering better run courses for our customers. We know we'll be back, in fact I'm going to the Scottish Symposium in May where I'll participate in my first ceilidh.

So we thank everyone that we met who helped us on our travels. You also gave us a goal to go for - to keep up the good work back home knowing that we have the support in the UK to keep us motivated for a better paddling world out here.

**Cheers from Gordon, Janice and  
Ernette Hutchings - Sea Trek  
Sports Ltd**

# Inuit Poetry

## Dear Focus

Whilst reading through some poems not related to canoeing at all, I came across this Inuit poem which just goes to show that composition of kayak poems is not new. Thought you may be interested:

*And I thought over again  
My small adventures  
As with a shore-wind I drifted out  
In my kayak  
And thought I was in danger,*

*My fears,  
Those small ones  
That I thought so big,  
For all the vital things  
I had to get and reach.*

*And yet there is only  
One great thing,  
The only thing:  
To live to see in huts and on journeys  
The great day that dawns,  
And the light that fills the world.*

**Nuala Mullholland**

# Police get a result on Stolen Canoe

## Dear Focus

I am fortunate to work in a building with grounds stretching to the River Thames and during the winter, I kept my green Perception sea canoe in the grounds so that I could have an occasional lunch time paddle. In January this year the boat disappeared! This seemed a little strange because the ground were patrolled by Group 4 and the riverside is not accessible by road. The river was flowing fast in January so a theft over water by anyone but an experienced paddler seemed unlikely, particularly as all the hatches and fittings for the boat were still in my room.

Somewhat surprised that a 5 metre long 25 kg. sea kayak without hatches could have been stolen, I went through the formalities of reporting the theft to the police and started filling in insurance claim forms. Not anticipating that I would ever see the boat again and needing a replacement, I phoned various manufacturers for catalogues. All the manufacturers had friendly and helpful people answering the phone, and at Perception they told me that they hadn't made boats like mine in the green for some time. They took my name and address, sent me catalogues and said they would let me know if anyone tried to buy replacement hatches in green.

Several weeks later, I had a call from Uckfield CID who needed information from me. Someone had tried to buy green hatches from Perception. Unfortunately he had refused to give his address and left a doubtful name and telephone number. It was still unlikely that anything would happen - this was hardly the biggest crime that the police were trying to solve and the information that might enable them to find the thief looked unreliable. To my frustration I now knew that there was someone out there with my boat - almost useless without its hatches, and I was unlikely to see it again.

Then came the "Big Surprise". Early one morning I had a call from the Marine Division

at Maidenhead Police station. -Would I please go to the police station, identify a sea kayak that fitted the description of mine and make a statement. The kayak was mine. The police had visited a house early that morning, found the boat and arrested someone who had admitted taking the boat without the owner's consent. (As it happens the officer concerned with the arrest is a competitor in the Devises to Westminster race this year and used his own 'V' bars to collect the boat).

I now have my boat back. The person who took it is now fingerprinted, photographed and part of criminal records. Having no previous convictions he received a formal caution.

My thanks to Perception and to the police for a very efficient service and initiatives beyond the normal course of duty.

**David Bagshaw**

## Dear Editor

I am secretary of the Liverpool University canoe club, and I, and a sizeable contingent had an extremely enjoyable weekend on the Tyne Tour last year. We were however concerned about the implications of the letter from B. Chapman in the last issue. I would like to clearly state that no member of Liverpool University canoe club was responsible for the removal of Mr. Chapman's flag if that was in fact his implication. Thanks to all for a very good weekend

**Audrey Hodge  
Liverpool University**

*Ed Well, that's another University beginning with L\*\*\*\*\* ruled out!  
Come on ; we know who you are,  
you know who you are - give Chapman  
his flag back, please!*



# Form and Function

How ever you paddle YAK delivers  
powerful performance  
with scintillating style - find out more



For your 1995 Colour Brochure write to YAK, Crewsaver House,  
Mumby Road, Gosport, Hants PO12 1AQ ENGLAND Tel: +44 (0)1705 528621

## MESSAGE TO ADVERTISERS



Canoe Focus is now designed and produced completely on Apple Macintosh DTP, using QuarkXpress 3.3. For the benefit of advertisers who send their disks to bureaus for output to film or bromide, you can now send your finished design on disk direct to Raven Publishing, where the studio can place the image direct on the page, if the file is in QuarkXpress 3.3, or run to film via our imagesetter and conveniently stripped in if the file is Pagemaker 5. Please remember, when sending a disk to Canoe Focus all TIFF and EPS files have to be included with the file. Regarding fonts please phone Raven Publishing, to confirm that we hold the same faces on our system.

## NUCLEUS

### THE ESSEX SUPERSTORE

Ace, Coleman, Mi, Palm,  
Old Town, Perception,  
Pyranha, Yak, Dagger,  
Circle One, Wild Water,  
Valley, Prijon, Schlegel &  
Wave Skis

Individuals, families & bulk  
supply for the hottest prices

**We consider P/Ex of  
any watersport item  
including windsurfers  
etc against any new  
kayak.**

Centres & groups send your  
list of requirements for  
special quotes.

**VISIT OUR CANOE  
SHOW  
on 1st & 2nd JULY**

**Thurrock Outdoor  
Centre open days  
Grange Waters  
Watersports Centre  
Buckles Lane,  
South Ockendon,  
Essex**

★ **LOTS OF SPECIAL  
OFFERS** ★

**Follow AA signs  
from Lakeside**

## NUCLEUS

204 Frinton Road,  
Holland on Sea,  
Clacton

**01255 812146**

★ **OVER 40 MODELS  
USUALLY IN STOCK** ★



# Regatta Rio Del

**O**ver the years at Leaside Canoe Club we have had a number of foreign visitors join us: in 1993 we had our first Brazilian. He was a sprint paddler and had never raced further than 10km. We immediately introduced him to the Waterside series and other marathon races in this country, he was hooked. On his return to Brazil he found himself a willing partner and entered the Regatta Rio Del Negro in Argentina, one of the longest races in the world. He wrote to tell us of his achievement and his claim to being a more experienced marathon paddler as he had now completed a longer race than us. We took the bait and began to make arrangements and learn more about the race.

## Rio Del Negro

The Regatta Rio del Negro is a 6 stage race held over 9 days and covering a distance of 500km. The race starts at Nequen on the Western side of Argentina, 200km from the Andes mountains, and travels alongside the Patagonia Desert to Viedma on the eastern side of Argentina. With little more information 6 paddlers and 3 supporters were enticed to leave a British Winter to spend January in South America.

The flight from Heathrow to Buenos Aires took 18 hours. We were met at the airport by three of the organisers who took us to a sports centre where we were to spend the night. The next day we were taken back to the airport to get a three hour flight to Nequen where the race starts. The internal flight was on a very small 19 seater plane. As we flew over Argentina we were given an insight to the spectacular scenery we were likely to see, none. This entire area of Argentina is flat and barren, being one of the driest areas in South America, only the dead straight roads neatly dissecting the land into huge squares.

From now on the accommodation was to be camping and we arrived at the campsite late to be given new tents, sleeping bags and thick foam mattresses. The next morning we had our first look at the river and our boats. The river flows very fast, around 8-10 mph, with no rapids or obstructions but with some large boils. It is totally unpolluted throughout its length and this was proved to us by a local happily drinking the water. The boats were glass Regina's all fairly new and in good condition, Kevlar boats are not affordable in Argentina with a glass K2 costing over £1000.

We spent two days at the campsite before the race began on the Saturday. 40 K2's had entered the race, mostly local crews but including 1 from Spain 2 from Uruguay and a strong team of 7 paddlers from Hungary, 1 teaming up with a local paddler. The Hungarians use the race as a winter training camp and send their strongest marathon team, which included a ladies crew who were the only ladies in the race. Each stage of the race is held as a time trial with each boat starting at 15 second intervals. The order of starting is decided by a daily draw with a mid way



we get there quicker, then what will we do?"

The food was provided by the organisers, it was always good and plentiful although this is definitely NOT a country for vegetarians. The Argentineans live on a stable diet of beef and chicken with very little or no vegetables. Barbecued chicken is a tradition, marinated wonderfully over a wood fire and is a regular occurrence on the menu.

As the race progressed all of our crews moved higher up the ranking as we became used to the river and heat. The fourth stage though lost two of our crews a lot of time. Steve and Andy both woke with stomach illness, they did very well to finish the stage, although pulling out in an area as barren as this was never a welcome alternative, but lost some 20 minutes. One hour into the 4 hour stage Danny and Richard's tiller bar collapsed with the only possible repair being for Danny to hold it tightly in position with his feet, they too lost over 20 minutes.

### Charlie

By now Charlie had caught the attention of the media, "What was he doing still racing at the age of 57?". One of the newspapers were so "full of admiration" they devoted a half page article to him. Needless to say he lapped up the attention.

The final stage, held on a Sunday, finished in Viedma. For this stage the leaders started first with each crew following in race order. The finish had a carnival atmosphere with hundreds of local people lining the river. We were reminded of the 1982 world cup finals, no not the Hand of God, passing under a large bridge the sky was filled with ticker tape. A police band played as each crew crossed the line accompanied by the cheers of an enthusiastic crowd.

The race was won by an Argentinean crew with another coming second. The Hungarians were 3rd and 4th. Andy and Steve were 12th with Danny and Richard close behind in 13th, Charlie and Marcus finished in 28th place. Each competitor made their way onto a stage to receive a medal accompanied by loud music and lots of cheering. The winners were greeted by an almost ecstatic crowd to receive numerous accolades and trophies.

### Party

The race still had one last celebration, a large party was held that evening where, following a meal, each competitor received a certificate and souvenir. This produced 90 minutes of raucous clapping, cheering and smashing spoons on tables. Finally after dancing and copious handshaking the race came to an end.

The final two nights were spent in an hotel in Viedma before flying back to Buenos Aires. The organisers had provided everything for us, accommodation, food, both internal flights and all other transportation for the 14 days for just \$60 (about £40), this was value for money on a huge scale.

All in all it was a tremendous time, the race was very hard, but the warm weather and friendliness of the other competitors helped to ease the pain. For anyone wanting to avoid some of the British winter and do some hard training this race comes highly recommended but, be warned, it is HARD training.

Richard Bushell 

# Negro, Argentina 1995

draw being most favourable. Steve Rance/Andy Noakes had drawn 2, Richard Bushell/Danny Beazley 16 and Charlie Newton/Marcus Panayi 34.

Hundreds of local people turned out to see the start, along with television and press reporters. The first stage was quite shallow in places and it was not always easy to find the quickest route as the river was often very wide. A very strong head wind made paddling difficult but we were to quickly find that the Argentineans were very good at this type of racing. Despite the strong head wind the 70km stage was completed in around 2 hours 30 mins. Our crews finished 11th, 16th and 33rd respectively.

### Patagonia Desert

The race continued with stages between 2 hours 30 mins and 4 hours 30 mins, the length of the stages averaging 65km, with the current gradually slowing as the river came closer to the sea. Passing alongside the Patagonia desert the river had very few tributaries so it was as wide as the start as it was at the end, between 100m and 200m. With no portages during the race the longer stages became very tough, backsides were sore and the soft water caused hands to blister.

The 3rd, 5th and 8th days were rest days with the race moving camp after the previous day's stage. Not only were these days a grateful rest they also gave us plenty of time to talk to the people and have a look around the local towns. The Argentinean people were amongst the friendliest any of us had met and were always happy to chat for ages even if neither person understood each other. This area is sparsely populated and life in the small towns is slow with the car drivers happy to drift along at about 15mph. When asked why they drove so slowly they replied "if we drive faster



# WIRE OUT

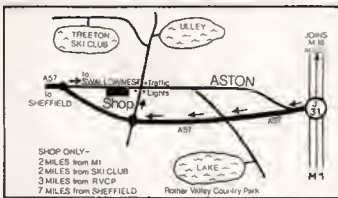
7 Park Hill, Swallownest, Sheffield, S31 0UN  
Tel & Fax 0114 2692739

## PERCEPTION & PYRANHA BOATS

### KAYAKS REDUCED TO CLEAR

TYPE			PRICE
MOUNTAIN BAT	(ex demo)	yellow	£279
MOUNTAIN BAT	(ex display)	red	£369
STUNT BAT	(ex demo)	yellow	£269
STUNT BAT	(ex display)	red	£369
TUFFY MASTER	(ex demo)	yellow	£169
TUFFY ODYSSEY	(ex display)	a/marine	£199
DANCER	(ex display)	magenta	£279
PIROUETTE	(ex display)	magenta	£339
CORSICA	(ex display)	magenta	£349
CORSICA S	(ex display)	magenta	£349
TUFFY MASTER	(secondhand)	a/marine	£165
TUFFY ODYSSEY	(secondhand)	cerise	£165

#### Discounts: Groups/Clubs/Quantity Purchase



Shop only 2 miles from M1; 2 miles from Ski Club; 3 miles from Rother valley Country Park; 7 miles from Sheffield; 4 miles from Rotherham

MAIL ORDER with FREE DELIVERY on mainland UK.

**0% FREE CREDIT** on purchases over £300 ring for details



THE NATIONAL WATERSPORTS CENTRE

CANOLFAN CENEDLAETHOL  
CHWARAEON  
DŴR

For further details of all our courses contact Plas Menai National Watersports Centre, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1UE

01248 670964

AT PLAS MENAI WE ARE COMMITTED TO GIVING THE BEST POSSIBLE VALUE FOR MONEY

In addition to the wide range of technical and instructor courses available throughout '95 we are able to offer the following expeditions and tours.

Introduction to Alpine Whitewater – French Alps  
Cost £350 9 days 23 June 2 July

Sea Touring – Scotland  
Cost £265 9 days 16 25 June

Sea Touring – Ireland  
Cost £300 9 days 7 16 July

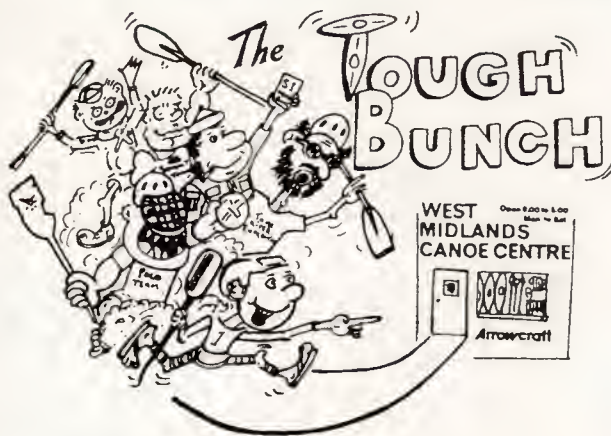
Anglesey Expedition  
Cost £240 5 days (dates available in brochure)

Sea Touring  
Cost £240 5 days (dates available in brochure)



**6 & 3 MONTH**  
**TRAINEE INSTRUCTOR**  
**COURSES**

Details available from the Centre Secretary



WE STOCK A TOUGH BUNCH OF ROTO MOULDED KAYAKS

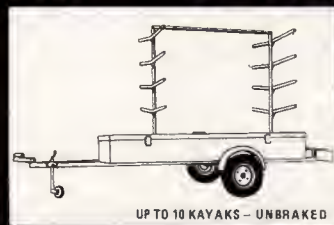
Glass Fibre Canoes PLUS Cags, spray covers, Paddles, Buoyancy Aids Crash Hats, Roofracks etc.

## West Midlands Canoe Centre

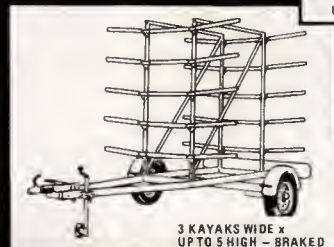
Sneyd Wharf, 401 Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2LT  
Telephone: (01922) 479279



## Hitch up ... and go ... with HAYLING TRAILERS CANOE & KAYAK TRAILERS



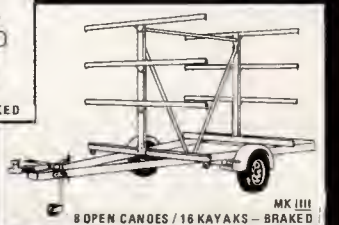
All models include lights and jockey wheels  
Standard Trailers Ex Stock



For details & FREE BROCHURE ring 0705 464176



Built to latest EEC Regulations  
Custom made service



THE SOUTH COAST TRAILER CENTRE  
254A HAVANT RD HAYLING ISLAND HANTS PO11 0LW.  
FAX 01705 463069 Tel. 01705 464176





# Paddlers gear

## Pirouette SuperSport Perception



**T**his boat has been in production in the States for some time now, the demo models came to the UK in about August of 1994 and has been getting well used over the last 9 months. Earlier this year the mold arrived in the UK and Gaybo are now producing them as fast as they can.

Those few that came from the States have been used extensively, already generating the SS a record of achievement. The most recent claim to fame was their performance at the Hurley and at the Bitches over Easter.

The fitting out of the boat has improved on previous ranges. The central buoyancy is still made of Minicell foam, however it is now sandwiched between an outer layer which has greater rigidity. This will in part reduce the water absorbency of the foam and more importantly minimizes the chances of the kayak folding. The buoyancy is bolted into position to avoid the foam twisting creating an entrapment situation.

The cockpit fittings have also advanced. The thigh grip molding comes in two sizes, cater-

ing for both the smaller and larger canoeist. The seat is adjustable front to rear, and the seat can use the standard Perception Minicell hip pads (available as an extra, the Perception foam customising kit), which are a quick and easy way to customize the seat.

There is no conventional back strap, instead a chiropractically designed lumber support. This consists of a Minicell foam block secured to the rear buoyancy block. It is very simple and comfortable, however not as adjustable as a back strap.

The full plate footrest is very sturdy with large wing nuts to secure the footrest in place. These are plastic with a metal nut inserted to thread onto the bolt. These make adjustment easy even with the coldest of hands.

The attention to detail in respect to the fittings is reflected in both how comfortable the boat is and how easily it is to move and adjust the seat etc.

That is the feature, so how does it perform?

The boat is very stable, and fast through the water. Although the same length as the



## Pyranha Acrobat 270 The Next Generation

**I**n recent years there has been an explosion of rodeo designs, with boats increasingly play-orientated, predictable river running characteristics sacrificed in favour of smoothly linked vertical manoeuvres. At the last World Rodeo Championships the top paddlers all used prototypes of boats like the Pirouette SS, Transition, and

### Acrobat 300.

Now Pyranha have unleashed a new Acrobat, the 270, taking this development a stage further. It has the same low-volume ends and mid-volume middle, but is slimmer and more waif-like than its extremely curvy cousin and a full foot shorter. It looks at first glance less radical, but less is more.

Paddling the Acro 270 for the first time at the Spring Bitches Rodeo, I found it comfortable and easy to get on with. The double concave hull has been refined and edge profiles revised, leading to even better surfing and a fast easy take off. But what we really want to do is get vertical, isn't it?

I wasn't disap-

pointed; in a stopper the 270 feels like a short boat (Spud/Microbat), responding well to weight shift, and I found it easy to control vertical and semi-vertical moves. The short length and squirtable tail let you surf and blast quite deep holes. All this combines to allow smooth linking of surf, spin and ender moves; the potential is incredible. The narrower hull makes it quicker to roll so you can stay in the hole after the inevitable wipe-outs, and also seems to make the 270 less twitchy on eddylines and in whirlpools.

The standard boat is supplied with a comfortable five point adjustable bucket seat and independently adjustable thigh grips, a system which works very satisfactorily even with minimal customisation. Strong polyethylene bow and tail cap are standard. The usual Pyranha refinements are already available, and rodeo options such as lightweight composite seat/footrest, multipoint adjustable backstrap, and sprung polyethylene end-stiffeners will be along by late summer.



## Pirouette SuperSport

### Perception

Acrobat it has a longer water line giving it the faster hull speed making catching waves very easy. The boat will track well on waves, depending on how the paddler shifts their weight around. The nose of the boat can be planted quickly producing forward vertical moves. Again in surf there is no need to side surf waves once broken as the back deck can be cut into the mush regaining a forwards direction.

Playboating is where the SS really shines through. The stern can be dipped almost effortlessly for tail standing moves. Once the boat is in a vertical position it remains stable allow rotational strokes, instead of slicing out

sideways. The bow of the boat has most of the volume and is rather rounded aiding bow stands, pop outs etc.

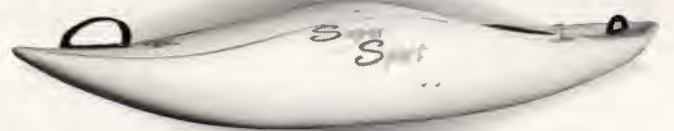
There are always some strange features that can't ever be explained. In this instance Perception like most other manufacturers use two types of screw heads - an Allen key head and a Phillips screwhead. This seems daft as two tools need to be carried to allow the bolts to be tightened. Another regressive step is that it does not have a drain plug.

### summary

This is perhaps the best off the shelf playboat available, requiring no immediate modifications, such as squashing the rear deck etc. It is a fun lively boat - just go try it.

by Paul Mackenzie

	Pirouette SuperSport	Acrobat 300 (Piranha)	Avenger (Prifon)
length	300cm	300cm	310cm
beam	58cm	59cm	65cm
volume	190Litres	195Litres	220Litres
weight	17.5kg	18kg	
Cockpit (len + width)	79/43cm	78/38cm	81/45cm
Moulded in graphics	✓	✓	
Full plate footrest	✓	✓	✓
Price from (inc. VAT)	£430	£439	



## Pyranha Acrobat 270

The Next Generation

So what are the boat's weak points? Well, it's not a sea kayak, or a raft. Paddling to and from the Bitches was slow and difficult, and sitting in surging boiling eddies wasn't a barrel of fun. But I was there to surf waves and play in holes, and doing so in the 270 put a grin on my face that even getting up at 4am for the finals couldn't dislodge. If you're looking for a dedicated acrobatic kayak, this Acrobat is the business. Pyranha anticipate that the boat will best suit the 64-86kg paddler; I think it will also be very good for smaller paddlers



(women/children) because of its small size, low decks, and responsiveness to relatively small weight throws. It combines the best points of 3 metre boats with those of the sub-2.5 metre ones and where playing is concerned it outperforms them both. Paddle one soon.

Bill Mattos

### Price

Standard £439  
Artline £479  
Art Multi £519

### Dimensions

2.70 metre x 59 cms

# Knoydart Clothing

The concept of a breathable Micro Fibre outer shell and a Pile or Fleece inner has been around for sometime, but generally these garments have been poorly put together and there styling has left a lot to be desired! Until now.

The Knoydart range has been put together by Dave Felton, previously a director of

Mountain Equipment, just a glance at the garments will tell you that this man knows what he is talking about.

The basic idea of the clothing is that as you get warm, the fleece wicks the perspiration to the outer layer where it is evaporated away. Likewise as the garment becomes wet with rain or spray, then body heat will soon dry it out.

I thought the only way to test the gear thoroughly would be to leave ALL my conventional paddling gear at home. No turning back!

On a choppy night paddle from the Les Ecrehous back to Jersey I wore the Sallopettes and the Guide Shirt with a long sleeve Lifa vest underneath. I became wet down one side through waves but remained dry underneath. The landing through small surf ensured that the whole of

the outer shirt was wet but I

was still warm and comfortable. I hung up the gear overnight to drip dry during our bivvi but a heavy dew greeted me to even wetter gear than the night before, inside and out. Once over the initial shock of getting dressed I was warm as toast and dry by the time we set off.

One of the most impressive features of the Sallopettes is the "Bum Flap" The shoulder straps are sewn on such a way that you do not need to remove all top outer layers before attending to that important call of nature, Ladies listen up, just a quick zip down each leg and the job is done!

Having listened to my wife curse and swear as she cowers behind some windswept rocks I have to admit defeat and buy her a pair. On a recent Open canoe trip I wore the same clothing and after a very heavy downpour was literally soaked to the skin, two hours later I was in the pub not only dry but looking smart too.

Only on the coldest of days did I have to wear the pile shirt and then only when not active. The Cape Wrath Cap is unique in that the sides can be folded down to keep the ear's and neck warm.

The only negative comment I could make about the whole system is that you could get too warm in some situations but use of the ventilation zips should help this. The style, cut and quality of the garments is excellent and I am impressed by its performance.

Valley Canoe Products has now taken on the UK distribution for the canoeing trade and public. Telephone 0115 9614995





AVONCRAFT NORTH  
**CARLISLE CANOES**

*Kayak & Open Canoe Specialist*  
EVERYTHING FOR THE CANOEIST, FROM  
BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED WHITE WATER

**KAYAKS IN STOCK**  
PRIJON, PYRANHA, PERCEPTION, DAGGER  
**OPEN CANADIAN CANOES IN STOCK**  
GRUMMAN, DAGGER, OLD TOWN, COLEMAN  
PLUS FULL RANGE OF ACCESSORIES

**MAIL ORDER**  
Carlisle Canoes, 41 Wigton Road,  
Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 7AX  
Telephone/Fax: (01228) 31703  
Mobile: (0836) 296431



FOR EITHER  
**SEX**  
ANY SIZE OR SHAPE

# Wet Suits

AT UNBEATABLE PRICES

Long John  
READY MADE FROM

**£36.50**

Also made to measure service

Write  
or phone for  
Free Brochure

## ACE WATERSPORTSWEAR

Beverstone Corner, Britannia Road  
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2BJ.

Telephone: Bristol (0117) 9675065

# CANOE WORLD

VISIT OR 'PHONE OUR  
**NEW SHOP**

For Prijon, Schlegel, HF  
and other quality equipment

**Canoe World**  
251 Mary Vale Road  
Bournville  
Birmingham B30 1PN  
Tel: 0121 433 5025



## Rapid Canoe Supplies

The new North West  
canoe shop.  
Stockists of all leading  
equipment and  
accessories.



**Rapid by name:  
Rapid by nature**



**OPENING TIMES**

Mon - Sat: 9.00 am - 6.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 7.00pm

Sunday and out of hours:

By appointment only

**01524 388850**

**Unit 17, Lake Enterprise Park,  
Caton Road Industrial Estate,  
Lancaster LA1 3NX**

Half a mile towards Lancaster  
from M6 Junc 34

*Kanu School  
and  
Canoe Suppliers to the North*

## FOUR SEASONS

*The Ultimate Adventure Store!*

*River Lake Sea  
White Water or Flat  
River Run : Race : Rodeo  
Slalom or Serious Fun*

*44 The Bank, Barnard Castle  
Co Durham Tel 01833 637829*

*Now open at the new  
Teeside White Water Course*

*Call us on our hotline: 01642 678000*

## CALSHOT AND WOODMILL CENTRES

**BCU AWARDS AND  
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING**

THE  
HAMPSHIRE  
*outdoor*  
CENTRES

**RING 01962 846855**

FOR A BROCHURE



Hampshire County Council



## EXPEDITIONING • TOURING • COACHING

OPEN CANOE & INLAND KAYAK  
FULL RANGE OF B.C.U. COURSES

SPECIALIST CANOE & KAYAK SALES  
CANOE RENTAL & OUTFITTING

TELEPHONE  
MAIL ORDER  
ACCESS/VISA

**DRUMMOND**  
*Outdoor*  
KAYAK AND CANOE CENTRE



SOUTH VIEW, 8 SEVERN BANK, SHREWSBURY, SY1 2JD 01743 365022

# Classified & directory

for advertising details 'phone (01480) 496130

## holidays and courses

B.C.U APPROVED CENTRE  
WELSH TOURSIT BOARD APPROVED

### OUTDOOR PURSUITS INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Oct - Dec 95

Gain qualifications and experience in Kayaking, Canadian Canoeing, Mountain Biking, Orienteering, First Aid, Life Saving, Climbing & Camping Craft.

'Some parts of this course will be spent on the island of Lanzarote so a passport will be needed'

Details.

Tyddyn Philip Activity Centre  
Brynteg, Benllech, Anglesey.  
LL78 8JF

Tel: 01248 853439

### LONGRIDGE Scout Boating Centre

Are running the following course  
Instructor Training Kayak

23 - 25 June

Instructor Assessment CST Assessment  
24 June

3 Star/Prof Trng & Ass Open Canoe/Kayak  
7 - 9 July

CST & rescue Test Trng & Ass  
11 - 13 Aug

These courses are open to everyone

To book on one of these courses or if you would like our 1995 Programme please contact, Longridge S.B.C. Quarry Wood Rd, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1RE. Tel: 01628 483252

**ADVENTURE** Courses B.C.U. approved centre. Specialist courses for schools training boards & management. February through to December. Canoeing, Sailing, yachting, water-skiing, climbing, caving, Dartmoor hillwalking, camping, assault course, archery, leadership courses. All led by qualified instructors. Courtlands Adventure Centre, Nr Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 4BN. 01548 550227.



### Birmingham School of Canoeing

1995 Brochure now Available.

Beginners to Advanced Kayak  
Beginners to Open Canoe  
Eskimo Rolling

Intro & Intermediate White Water  
Canoe Safety and Rescue Test  
Supervisor Award

Instructor & SI Training & Assessment  
Alpine White Water - French Alps  
Private Courses by Arrangement  
BCU APPROVED CENTRE

Please contact:

MIKE PHILLIPS,  
Birmingham School of Canoeing,  
21 Heathfield Rd,  
Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1JT  
TEL or FAX: 01299 401872.



### THE CHRISTIAN MOUNTAIN CENTRE

"Gorthwysil", Tremadog, Gwynedd, North Wales LL49 9PS

- BCU Instructor Assessment  
29 July..... £30  
19 August..... £30
- BCU Instructor Training  
15-17 September..... £69
- BCU Senior Instructor Training Inland  
10-12 November..... £80
- White water, sea & surf (canoeing week)  
1-8 September..... £225

Phone or write for full details  
Tel: 01766 512616



### KILLARY TOURS

Escape to the Irish Outdoors

1 week Sea-kayak tours of some of the Western isles and coast of Ireland.

Unique and unspoilt.

Other programmes incl. walking, cycling, diving.

Phone 00-353-9542276/Fax 43591.  
Leenane, Co Galway.



### Edale Activity Centre

Beginners, Improvers & Advanced Kayak  
Beginners Open/Canadian Canoe  
B.C.U. 1, 2 & 3 Star Tests  
B.C.U. Canoe Safety Test (Kayak)  
B.C.U. Instructor (inland kayak) Training,  
Assessment

Plus: courses in climbing, caving, orienteering, mountain biking, hanggliding etc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Edale YHA Activity Centre  
Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Sheffield S30 2ZH.  
Telephone: (01433) 670302

### TWR-Y-FELIN OUTDOOR CENTRE

### TRIED TESTED TRUSTED

BCU COURSES - PROFICIENCY  
INSTRUCTOR & SENIOR INSTRUCTOR  
TRAINING & TESTING  
ADVANCED WHITE WATER COACHING  
AUTUMN WET & WILD WEEKENDS

For a copy of our brochure, please phone or write to  
Andy Middleton, Twr-y-Felin Outdoor Centre, St Davids,  
Dyfed, SA62 6DS. Tel: 01437 720391. Fax: 01437 721838

### equip/services

**BEST DEALS** when you come to Collyer Smith Marine. We stock PERCEPTION, ACE, MI and all the best boat and accessories. PALM, ROMER, AINSWORTH, YAK, CREWSAVER, SCHLEGEL etc. Our buoyancy aid prices are hard to beat! Give us a ring, 61 Magdalen Street, Colchester 01206 797833.

### equip/services

### NORTHERN WETSUIT SERVICES

### WET & DRY SUIT REPAIRS

Carried out by UK's only full time specialist repair company to any make of wet or dry suits.

Also manufacturers of made to measure and standard sized Wetsuits

FOR PRICE LIST CONTACT:

4/5 Hanover Road, Scarborough  
North Yorkshire, YO11 1LS  
Tel: 01723 371819  
Fax: 01723 377760

(24 hr Ansaphone)

**Special Offers/Sea Kayaks.** We quite often have demonstration kayaks with a slight cosmetic fault. Send a SAE for our up to date list of Kayaks available. The P&H Company, Station Road, West Hallam, Derbyshire, DE7 6HB. Telephone 0115 9320155

## Plas y Brenin

The National Mountain Centre  
Advanced courses for advanced paddlers.

### WHITE WATER PADDLING, LEARN THE METHOD BEHIND THE MADNESS

An introduction to white water paddling in kayak or canoe is often an unsatisfactory affair. "Learn by your mistakes" you are encouraged. Usually though your disorientation and frustration makes this sort of advice irritating and next to useless. Particularly when your well intentioned companion is not expert in recognising the true causes of your difficulties.

Our instructors and coaches are experts. Listen to them and learn from them. Your paddling will never have been better.

Plas y Brenin, The National Mountain Centre, Capel Curig, Gwynedd, LL24 0ET. Telephone: 01690 720384/720366

COMPLETE  
PADDLING  
EXPERIENCE



MAIL  
ORDER  
SPECIALIST

CANOEES • KAYAKS • WAVESKIS • PADDLES •  
BUOYANCY AIDS • HELMETS • WETSUITS • DRYCAGS  
• SPRAYDECKS • SAFETY KIT • CLOTHING

FROM THE OLD:  
HISTORIC BOATS AND EQUIPMENT ON SHOW.

- THE MIKE JONES, EVEREST BOAT.
- SEVERAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING SLALOM BOATS.
- PADDLES THAT ARE OVER 100 YEARS OLD.

TO THE NEW:

- ALL THE LATEST, INNOVATIVE AND RADICAL DESIGNS OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE.
- KAYAKS, CANOES AND WAVESKIS FROM LEADING MANUFACTURERS IN STOCK.
- ALL THE LATEST AND MOST POPULAR BOOK AND VIDEO TITLES IN STOCK.

PLUS:


ON SITE DEMONSTRATION FACILITIES

SPECIALIST STOCKIST OF: PALM EQUIPMENT

• NOOKIE EQUIPMENT • PYRANHA CANOES AND  
KAYAKS • BUFFALO CLOTHING • Dr D's PADDLES

KAYAKS NORTHWEST, MARINA VILLAGE,  
PRESTON BROOK, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE, WA7 3DW.


TEL: 01928 710770 FAX: 01928 714399




**HUMPT CANOE TROLLEYS**

See the best range of Sailable Trolleys


HUMPT Canoe Buddy



HUMPT X FRAME



NEW SHORTER LENGTH AVAILABLE



HUMPT CYCLE TRAILER. Canoe/Sailboard

See your local stockist or send for further information to:  
**HUMPT TROLLEYS AND LANDSURFERS**  
 Alma Cottage 15 Glencoe Road Parkstone,  
 Poole, Dorset BH12 2DW  
 Tel: 01202 721221 or 01202 891899

**TOR, New Shop Opens.** We are now open Tues. to Sat 10am to 5.30pm. We sell waterproof fabrics breathable to 8000g/m<sup>2</sup>/24hr, fleece, Pertex, Ventile, Cordura, ripstop, tent fabrics, thinsulate, down, buckles, Velcro, zips, studs and much more. Patterns for all outdoor gear. Clothing, camping, climbing gear. Discounts up to 15%. For catalogue/prices stamp please TOR(C) 42 Widnes Rd., Widnes, WAB 6AL 0151 424 2225.



**HALGAR OUTDOOR PURSUITS EQUIPMENT**

Tel: 01274 880306

**DRY SUITS • £160**  
**DRY TOPS • £50**  
**CHEST HIGH TROUSERS • £30**  
**FIBRE PILE 1 PIECE SUIT • £24**

ALL TYPES OF CANOES AND KAYAKS, EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING SUPPLIED. CANOE & KAYAK REPAIRS. TRAILER REPAIRS. ADVICE ON EQUIPMENT. NO OBLIGATION



**POLY DRUMS**

19" x 15" watertight containers with screw-on lids.  
 £12.00 inc p+p (U.K.)  
 Sam Lawrence  
 Templefield  
 Temple Road  
 Dewsbury  
 WF13 3QE  
**TEL: 01924-461056 (Answerphone)**

**Cancarve Designs**, Hand made wooden canoe models and trophies. For details write or telephone 5, Shanklin Place, Beaconhill Green, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 8HA. Tel + Fax: 01670 713640

**personal**  
**PENPAL MAG** for adults: over 250 photos. APPROVAL copy from: MATCHMAKER, (T.71), Chorley, PR7-4BS. Or ring: 01257-480155 (24 hours).

**acomodation**  
**GLAN - Y - BORTH**  
 Nestles on the banks of the River Conway in the heart of Snowdonia.  
 Ranging from 2-8 berth Bungalows.  
 20 fully equipped Self Catering Bungalows.  
 Offers home from home comfort.  
**Please Phone Bill or Gill**  
**01492 641543**

**Nr River Wye, and Symonds YAT.** B&B in picturesque quiet situation. Good food, local pubs and drying facilities. canoe storage. £13 per night 01594 836900.

**RIVER DART, LANTERNS INN.**  
 Near Holne. En-suite accommodation, family room available. Groups welcome. Drying facilities. Food available 7 days. Spacious free parking. Special accommodation rates available to canoeists with this ad.  
**Tel 01364 652697.**  
**Knowle Hill, Ashburton**  
**Inchree Chalets & Bunkhouse**, Onich, Fort William, Inverness-shire. Tel/fax: 01855 821287. Situated in the midst of the finest white water. Suitable all grades. All facilities, pub restaurant.

**situation vacant**






**INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

20 WEEK COURSE, SEPTEMBER 1995 TO FEBRUARY 1996.

GAIN QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE IN KAYAKING, SAILING, WINDSURFING, ORIENTEERING, POWERBOATING, CANADIAN CANOEING CLIMBING, FIRST AID, CAMPCRAFT.

CENTRE ESTABLISHED OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO WITH A REPUTATION FOR HIGH QUALITY TRAINING.

Fee £2900, Grants available from some LEAs. Tel 0181 940 5550.  
 Thames Young Mariners, Riverside Drive, Ham, Surrey, TW10 7RX

**ACORN VENTURE**  
 An experience for life!

**PROVIDER OF HIGH QUALITY COURSES FOR SCHOOLS & GROUPS**

**BCU INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED TO START WORK IMMEDIATELY AT CENTRES IN NORTH WALES, FRANCE AND SPAIN**

**Contact Tim Boldry as soon as possible**

Send CV (stating NGB membership no. and contact telephone nos.) to Acorn Venture Ltd, 137 Worcester Road, Hagley, Nr Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 0NW.

**Fax same details on 01562 887091**  
**Telephone direct on 01562 887260**

**ROBINWOOD** Activity Centre for children require BCU qualified instructors to join their staff team. Robinwood runs activity courses for junior school groups and accommodates between 24 and 40 children, attending 3 or 5 day residential courses. We operate for a 10 month season from February to November, with national governing body staff training courses provided during January. Activities offered at Robinwood include Canoeing, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Orienteering, Climbing and Abseiling, Mountain Biking, Problem Solving, Stream Walk, Narrow Boating and Raft Building. Canoeing & General instructors receive £62 per week, with full board and accommodation provided. For details phone 01706 814554 or write to Robinwood Activity Centre, Jumps Road, Todmorden, Lancashire, OL14 8HJ

**CANOEISTS WANTED**

**Vacancies for highly motivated young people to train as outdoor activity instructors before working at our centres in Britain, France and Spain.**

Training courses start from February onwards and work continues until September. All posts are residential.  
 For a gateway to a career in outdoor activity or for a unique opportunity to build on your qualifications and gain valuable work experience contact: Recruitment Department,  
**PGL Adventure Ltd., Alton Court, Penyard Lane (B20), Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5NR.**  
 Telephone: 01989-767833



**ROGUE RIVER WEAR**

**Dry Cags/Trousers & Fleece Wear**  
 SEALS Replaced or D.I.Y.

ALBURY SALKELD ROAD  
 LANGWATHBY CUMBRIA CA10 1ND  
**01768 881003**


**BUYING or SELLING**  
 a used canoe? Contact:  
**The Canoe Trading Post**

For access or inclusion to the National Directory call 01363 775914 for details. For a free up to date copy of the craft for sale send a SAE to: 3 Gordon Terrace, Park St, Crediton Devon EX17 3EB

**Trade directory**

**south**

**Woodmill**  
 Canoeing & Outdoors Activities Centre  
 Woodmill Lane, Swaythling,  
 Southampton SO2 2JR Tel:(01703) 555993



Canoes, paddles and accessories from leading manufacturers. Demonstration boats available. Huge range of courses for all levels. Write or phone for full programme. BCU approved

**berks**

**PLAYBOATER**  
 DIABOLICALLY DEVIOS DESIGN FOR URBAN SURF BUMS!

For your free brochure, sticker pack and nearest dealer contact - Playboater, Haymill Centre, Burnham Lane, Slough, Berks, SL1-6L2, England. Tel/Fax (0)1628 602622.

**wales**

**WHITE WATER CONSULTANCY**

TEL: 0559 362083 General Enquiries  
 MAIL ORDER CREDITCARD  
 HOTLINE  
 FREEPHONE  
**0500 118051**


**DEE KAYAK & CANOE SCHOOL**  
 B.C.U. - W.C.A. Approved  
 65 Harwood Lane, Rossett, Wrexham. Clwyd. LL12 0EU  
**Tel:01244 570157 (24hr Ans)**  
 Courses for beginners.  
 Send SAE for full programme.  
 All BCU Coaching awards

**worc's**

**POLY PIPPIN 14**  
 The original polythene open cockpit kayak (ideal for beginners)  
**THE 'BELL BOAT'**  
 A totally new approach to teaching paddlesport.  
**For details contact Steve Train**  
 T.L Elliott & Co Ltd, Wolverton Hall, Peopleton, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 2AU  
**Tel: 01905 840813**  
**Fax: 01905 840002**

**greater london**

CANOE RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDING GREEN SLIME THROWBAGS



MAIL ORDER SERVICE AVAILABLE

**CONTACT: SUZY, 2 VICTORIA CLOSE, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY, KT8 9SQ**  
**TEL: 0181 941 2714**

**TWICKENHAM & WHITWATER Canoe Centre**

**Now the finest canoe shop in the known universe**

Canoe and kayak specialists. Courses, hire, instruction, equipment. The complete outfitters, mail order service available.  
 Shepperton marina, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8NJ. Tel: 01932 247978

**west country**

**Kirton Watersports ALTERNATIVE SUBT**

KIRTON WATERSPORTS and ALTERNATIVE SURF COMBINED TO MAKE THE SOUTH WEST'S BIGGEST CANOE SHOP. BESIDE THE EXE FOR EASY DEMOS FOR FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE. CALL IN or PHONE A/S WATERSPORTS, 15 THE QUAY EXETER. 01392 421831/219600

Suppliers of Kayaks and Canadian Canoes Paddles, Clothing and all canoe accessories also canoe hire



**HAZE ENTERPRISES**  
 25 Primrose Hill, Tockenham, Wootton Bassett, Swindon, Wilts  
**Tel: 01793 852904**

# Members classified

Please forward all adverts to appear in the Members Classified direct to  
BCU Headquarters in Nottingham.  
MEMBERS ADS FREE

## For Sale

**Original Aeroquatic** in good condition £275  
Prijon Invader Yellow good condition £250  
Gaybo WW Racer Old but watertight £50  
Phone Martin on 017687 78463 (Kewick)

**Thule 420** lockable roof bars. Used once, from  
VW camper elevating roof but would fit a large  
range of similar vehicles with gutters. Cost  
£200 accept £70. Southampton 01703 361315

**Proline Pirouette S** in blue/yellow stripes.  
Fully padded. Front & rear broach loops.  
Excellent condition £300 ono Tel 01860 139350  
**Slalom Kayak**. Brand New - unopened. Diolen  
construction. Ideal for newcomer to slalom  
competition. To clear £150 Tel: 01594 833039

**Dagger Reflection 15**, Good condition, comes  
complete with airbags and paddles. Offers  
around £450. Tel: Bill 01509 812759  
(Loughborough)

**Engima** - my legs are now too long, 1.5 years  
old. Used mainly on surf, very good condition,  
well looked after £180. Price includes Engima  
storage/carrying case, 2 x airbags, front and back  
foam buoyancy, knee padding. Tel: 0114  
2683687 or 01626 54071 ask for Douglas  
Machin (Sheffield)

**Coleman 13ft** + two paddles and two buoyancy  
aids £235 ono Call Dave or Andy 01935 21516  
(Somerset)

**Canoe Clear Out** - Tiger K1, blue, very good  
condition £150 ono. Slalom K1, Nomad Razor,  
carbon kevlar, foam deck new Sept. 1994 little  
used, good condition £350 ono. Bat, kevlar,  
never used, new 1994 £100 ono Tel: 01252  
617445 (Fleet, Hants)

**Mountain Bat**, white, Schlegel top line paddle  
with safety colours, Palm double seal dry bag,  
Palm B/Aid, Palm spray deck, L/John wetsuit,  
Helmet, throwline and extra accessories. Would  
suit potential instructor, reluctant sale £550  
ono Tel: Adam 01252 - 311374 (Aldershot)

**2 Joker C1** WWR, epoxy/kevlar £500 (may split),  
1 Bushdeck £20, 1 C1RR paddle unused £65  
1 wood/epoxy laminated wing kayak paddle £150,  
1 five canoe trailer with large 7/6 x 3/8 x 20 lid-  
ded box £120 Tel: 01502 711376 (Suffolk)

**Pyrantha x link Mountain Bat**, ww spec, pink,  
five years old but used twice, garage stored £200  
Tel: Colin 01477 534335

**Slalom C1**, Concept Revolution, kevlar hull, blue,  
good condition £100, Doncaster Tel: 01302  
532852

**Nomad Extreme**, carbon kevlar, very good  
condition £170 ono, Hasdeck to fit slalom £15,  
Palm slalom b/aid £20, Palm ribbed b/aid £15,  
Palm l/John wetsuit £20 Ainsworth K100 RIM  
paddles £15 contact: Michael 0181 395 7620  
(Surrey) or 0956 277154 (mobile)

**Slalom Kayak** - P & H TX1, kevlar carbon, hardy  
used, excellent condition £1750ono, possibly  
can deliver Tel: Steve 01386 831904 (Worcs)

**3 new design Mountain Bats**. All in VGC,  
with air bags and backrests, 1 in yellow, 1 red,  
1 turquoise £250 each. 1 Coleman 17ft open  
canoe. Good runner, body work needs slight  
attention £110. 1 Coleman 17ft open canoe. A  
little battered, no MOT £50. 1 red Gyramax C1.  
Fully fitted out with excellent quick release  
thigh straps and plenty of padding for a 'comfy'  
fit. Good boat for learning to roll, etc. £230. Tel:  
01874 665241 ask for Martin (Brecon)

**Dagger Legend**, 16ft open canoe, excellent  
condition, includes two Dagger air bags and seat  
covers £795 ono Tel: 0121 421 2956 (Birm)

**Nomad Mystery MS**, green slalom kayak,  
carbon kevlar 2 sandwich construction £220 ono.  
Energy asymmetric blades £65 ono. Phoenix  
Pro Deck used twice, small waist size £45.  
Aquadak buoyancy aid, small, black £25. Tel:  
0442 251914 (Hemel Hempstead)

**Ace Flipper**, safe and unsinkable maintenance  
free, open cockpit linear polyethylene  
unused kayak. Ideal for learners, new rollers,  
clubs and use with restricted mobility groups.  
£125 ono Must sell. Also, Alpha 295cm wind-  
surfer with all extras, Rotobat full plate footrest  
(old style) complete, 40" chest long john, rock  
boots and three sets of unused wild country rocks,  
and the rest of the garage including good con-  
dition Salomon SX82 335 ski boots, offers? Tel:  
Al (Icthorwort, N Herts) at work 0171 972  
9111, or Mobile 0370 277239 (voicemail) any-  
time.

**Mirage 3 K2**, fitted with handles and foot oper-  
ated pump. Excellent for DW £350 call Paul on  
Littlehampton: 01903 723413

**Pyrantha Creek 280**, yellow, full plate footrest,  
excellent 'as new' condition, has not seen a river  
yet, only used 4 times in the swimming pool.  
Reluctant sale due to back injury, bargain £325  
Tel: Dennis (h) 01527 575596 or (w) 0121 482  
2977 (Bromsgrove)

**Palm double** - dry bag, medium, hardly used  
£60 wild water combi helmet £20, Bushdeck,  
neoprene, unmarked to fit Dancer £25, Schlegel

Polo paddle (similar to Extreme) 206, hardly used  
£50. Pending divorce makes this gear surplus.  
Also Harrishok dry suit - large, needs new  
seals £50 Tel: 01525 717382 (Bedford area) may  
be able to deliver to Maidenhead or Bristol  
area.

**Prijon Invader** mark II 1992, little used £250  
ono, including paddle and gear Tel: 01992  
558911 (Herts)

**Prijon Gambler**, purple, ww spec, incl fullplate  
footrest and bow cap £250 Tel: tony 01245  
362784 or Lynne (Room 23) 01268 521624  
(Essex)

**Europa Kayak**, yellow, complete with pad-  
dlesport paddle £80 Tel: 0191 285 0573  
(Newcastle Upon Tyne)

**Slalom K1's** old designs but still competitive.  
Prem 2 built by Arrowcraft in a diolen con-  
struction; in very good condition; £90 ono.  
Extra built by Nomad kevlar construction; used,  
but still in good shape; £90 ono Tel: Peter  
Collins Oxford 01865 820907

**1 Pyranha Master**, yellow, full plate footrest (fully  
adj) new thigh grips, plastic nosecone, buoyan-  
cy in front of footrest and behind seat. Toggle  
handles. Extra's 1 New Pyranha neoprene  
grip deck to fit. £180 or near offers contact: Ben  
Foster 01442 67340 (eves)

**Three canoe trailers**, price neg. 13 kayaks, price  
neg. 5 double kayaks price neg. 6 Canadian  
canoes price neg. Tel: 01222 692108 (Cardiff)

**Canoeing/Sailing books** for sale, early authors  
included. SAE for list pre 1950 canoe titles also  
wanted. 9 great burrow rise, Northam, Bideford  
EX39 1TB.

**Concept Fury** slalom kayak, carbon epoxy  
sandwich construction. six months old, goal con-  
dition £300. Mack Reflex slalom kayak, well used  
but still light and watertight £150 Tel: James in  
Leeds (0113) 2750379 evening (0113) 2332164  
day.

**Pyrantha Rotobat**, ww spec, 2/3 years old,  
very good condition; airbags, adjustable seat,  
full plate footrest, etc £200 Tel: Catherine 0222  
340736 (H) or 0222 874970

**Mega Sabre** surf kayak, as used by Simon  
Discombe, nice condition. Too fast for present  
owner £125 ono Tel: 01626 54071 (Devon)

**Perception Mirage**, red, ww spec, good con-  
dition £150 Tel: 0191 264 4200 (Newcastle)

**Enigma Squirt Boat**, excellent condition,  
stored under cover, ideal for intro to squirt  
boating £200 Tel Mark on Nottingham (0115)  
9430757

**Granta Canadian Canoe**, flat bottom, stable  
and spacious, double seater with sealed com-  
partments, plus two wooden paddles, ideal  
family boat, excellent condition £200 ono Tel:  
Leics 0116 251 9495

**Mountain Bat Mk1** - £250, excellent condition,  
never used over grade 3. Linear construc-  
tion. Nose cap, back rest, air bags, full plate  
footrest. Paddle included Tel: Kevin Goode  
01222 497203 (H) 01639 871111 ext 4183  
(w) (Cardiff)

**North Shore Kayak**, good all round general pur-  
pose, excellent condition, eye catching black £222  
offers Davie 01923 285401 (Herts)

**Granta Classic**, large volume touring kayak,  
grp blue, spraydeck £95 Tel: C.Ardiff 01222  
693821

**Falchion 385 GRP** kayak (yellow & black) as new  
condition, offers or preferably swap for items of  
sea kayaking gear Tel: Brighton 01273 303956  
(H) or 01973 203567 (w) Paul

**Prijon T Slalom**, red, full plate footrest, ww spec  
£250 ono + Perception Mirage £180 ono,  
please Tel: Graham Harvey 01743 790232  
(Shropshire)

**K1 o/s rudder**, green and white, good con-  
dition £150 ono Tel: Steve 01386 831904 (Worcs)

**Fanatic C1**, Carbon kevlar, excellent condition,  
offers around £250 Tel: Nigel 0115 9862 891  
(5 mins from Pierrepont)

**Prijon T Canyon**, pink, full plate footrest, 2 x  
air bags, backrest, nose cap, £220 ono Tel: Roger  
(Crewe) 01270 584663

**Discovery 17**. O/S rudder, good condition, stable  
K1 £100 ono Tel Dave Love: 01903  
(Littlehampton) 713817

**Magenta Perception Dancer** (standard), ww  
spec, full plate foot rest, includes back rest, airbags  
and neoprene spray deck (very good condition)  
£280. Blue Rotobat (flat water only) useful for  
novice, includes back rest and airbags £60. Tel:  
01865 65388 Mon-Fri after 6pm (Oxon)

**Mi 370 Slalom**, purplish, good condition. New  
Wave paddles and neoprene spraydeck. All for  
£200 ono Tel: 01884 881234 Ask for Martin  
**Nordkapp HM**, 3 hatches, footpump, full expedi-  
tion, immaculate condition, only used for 7 one  
day trips £750 Tel: Dorset 01202 553855

**Tiger K1** w/r kevlar hull, good condition, offers  
around £100 or swap for Dancer or such like  
(Sheffield) 01742 308303 may transport

**Prijon Gattino** (purple) full airbags and full  
plate footrest £250 ono. Perception Chinook  
(yellow) Sea Kayak only used twice. Storage  
holds bow and stern, excellent condition £300  
ono Tel: Stuart Prosser 01443 202221 (South  
Wales)

**Thule Car** or Van roof bars: with traditional gut-  
ter fixing. Complete with four key lockable  
security knobs. Very strong/secure system  
£50 Tel: 01452 812845 (Glos)

**Perception Dancer XT**, excellent condition, com-  
plete with nose cone, back strap and padded  
hip and thigh supports (with spare thigh supports  
for the longer legged paddler). Has mainly been  
used on flat water, must sell as no room in car-  
port only £225. Also a glass fibre Snipe in as  
new condition. Very stable beginners kayak £50  
Contact Keith 01276 33021 Surrey area at  
any time.

**Kober Weltmeister** wooden paddle, length  
206 (right hand), not heavily used, £50 Tel  
0114 241 4346.

**Acrobat 300**, multi coloured red outline, 9  
months old, good condition, job abroad means  
quick sale needed, hence £250. Tel Andy  
01484 711619 or Sonia 01772 719327. Can deliv-  
er to North of England.

**Prijon T Slalom**, good condition, full white  
water spec, excellent for instructing, £200 Tel  
01922 417677

**Mega Juggler**, top of the range, Kevlar/Carbon  
construction with adjustable foot rests, back rest,  
airbags and neoprene spraydeck in excellent  
condition. £250 ono Tel 01895 253232

**Mountain Bat MK 2**, full ww spec, all extras  
included, good condition £300 ono Tel 01895  
253232

**Pyrantha Xlink Master** with adjustable (full  
plate) footrest, block buoyancy and manufac-  
turer's backstrap. £200 Tel 01323 730789

**CSC Pool Rotobat**, adjustable (pedal) footrests,  
Buoyancy bag. £100 Tel 01323 730789

**Coleman Canadian Canoe**, 17ft long, red,  
fibreglass, only used 3 times, as new VGC. Cost  
£520 now, selling for £420! Paddles and buoy-  
ancy aids also available. Tel 01491 577016

**MK35**, yellow, full ww spec, good condition £160  
ono Tel 01509 853660 (Loughborough)

**Corsica S**, VGC, full ww spec £335 Tel Brett  
01756 798651

**Pyrantha CSC** freestyle kayak, good condi-  
tion, suit beginner, £125 ono Tel 01293 771242.

**Canadian Canoe**, 15' 8" macgregor (laminated  
outrigger design) in glued clinker plywood,  
elegant design with good tracking, as new, 50lbs  
£650 ono Tel 01960 365918.

**Kiwi 2**, red with cartop, kiddie seat, no roof rack  
required, excellent condition only used four  
times £250 ono Tel Hastings 01424 753669  
(evenings).

**Old Town Tripper** (Canadian) 17' long, dark  
green, good condition, four years old, £570  
ono Tel 01923 231866/242574 Watford

**Baidarka Explorer Sea Kayak**. Top deck  
white with full deck rigging, full white, front and  
rear bulk heads, front and rear hatches,  
adjustable foot rest, kayak approximately six years  
old, £290 ono Tel 01376 320839 after 6pm

**Small Flat**, Nottingham £17,000, 7 minutes from  
H.P.P., cheaper than paying rent! Tel 01883  
714448 for more details.

**One Purple Prijon Avenger**, with spraydeck,  
airbags, footrest, back rest, good condition  
Tel Jon 01838 360322.

**Reflex Balconia**, 2 Seasons old, Turquoise  
Blue, excellent condition £160 ono Tel 0191 455  
1169 Tyneside after 6pm

**Perception Reflex**, purple plastic, vgc, with  
airbags and Yak neoprene deck, £200 ono  
Tel Campbell on 01823 274501 or 0171 6056240  
(office hours)

**Corsa S Red**, WW spec, 17 months old, good  
condition, £250 ono for quick sale Tel 0177  
2822519 (Preston)

**Perception Corsica S**, full white water spec,  
full plate, footrest, green £235 Tel 01642  
586224

**Europa Kayak**, good condition, £100 ono Tel  
Catriona on 0113 242 5299 (Leeds)

**Pyrantha Magic Bat**, full ww spec, excellent con-  
dition, plus Schlegel paddle and brand new neo-  
prene spraydeck. Only £300 Tel Ian 01744  
29911.

**Prijon Gambler**-Purple 1 year old, £350 ono,  
Tel Andy on 0171 956 6689 or 0525 717161  
evenings.

**Comanche** general purpose, vgc, yellow only  
£65.00 contact Adrian on 0181 950 4803.

**Canadian Canoes** two coleman RAM-X 15' in  
very good condition, one year old. Ideal for fam-  
ilies. New £520 each. Excellent value at £380  
each ono. Tel 01477 533855 (Holmes Chapel)  
or 0585 682862 (Mobile)

**Red Dancer** £80.00, White Europa £60.00,  
Yellow Europa £60.00, White Master £100.00,

Green Dancer XS £150.00 Tel 01594 834661.

**Corsica S**, excellent condition, airbags, full  
plate footrest and backrest, colour magenta  
£250.00. Contact Wayne Scott 0114 287 9782

**Dagger AQII** Multi-coloured (red and black) cross  
linked, full plate footrest, bow cap, one year old  
, excellent condition. £350.00 Tel 01784 464859.

**Racing K1** (no seat) £50.00 ; Gaybo sanna  
extreme slalom £60.00, both sound condition  
- suit beginners. Peugeot 205 (5 door) roof  
bars vgc £30.00 Tel 01737 226 887 or 01227  
721 589.

**Pyrantha Acrobat 300**, art version (main colour  
is red). Full WW spec with airbags, back strap,  
fullplate footrest. Only 6 months old but with slight  
damage to the nose which has unnoticeably been  
repaired. Offers around £350.00 Tel Darryl  
01268 556764.

**Dancer XT Red** gc, Neoprene deck, back rest,  
declines carabina loops, £180 ono Tel 01509  
267824.

**MK35 Pro vgc**, full ww spec, neoprene deck,  
nose cone quick release skeg. £200 ono Tel  
01509 267824.

**P&H Reflex kevlar carbon 3 gc**, lilac purple  
deck, neoprene spray deck, back rest £175 ovo  
Tel 01509 267824.

**Wet Suit vgc**, full length, purple green orange,  
removable sleeves. £45 ono Tel 01509 267824.

**Rosie Red Pyranha** stunt bat, nearly new,  
ww spec, back rest, nose cone, thigh braces,  
full plate, air bags, no hard use. £325 (01502)  
731176.

**BAT MKV**, with end grabs and fitted rear buoy-  
ancy, made in fibre glass, as new, great all round  
fun £100 Tel 01530 835771

**Eagle K1**, glass, s/s understem with spraydeck.  
£250.00ono - 015 395 32814

**Alpha Wavski**, with Trifin ans ankle leash £150  
ono Tel 015395 32814.

**Wanted or Swap**  
**Sea Kayak**, expedition model preferred must  
suit larger paddler and be stable. Also Open  
Canoe or large double open-cockpit kayak  
around 15ft suitable for sailing. Ring Jerry on  
0181 420 4757 (Watford)

**Original Mountain Bat** or Rotobat ww spec, cash  
wailing Tel: 01603 662245

**BCU qualified SI kayakers** wanted to work as  
guides in Turkey, May-November, grade 11/11  
white water experience required. Previous  
guiding experience an advantage but not essential.  
Fax your details on 010 90 252 413 3208

**Dancer XT** (red) good condition. Would like to  
swap for Pyranha Mountain Bat MK1 in similar  
condition. Tel: Dennis Burgess 01527 575596  
(Bromsgrove)

**Wood/Veneer Kayaks**. Older type kayaks, wood  
construction, preferably K1 or K2. Any condi-  
tion Tel: 01905 455007 (Worcs)

**Identify this man** and send stamped address in  
envelope for great photo of paddler in Lynton  
Falls (Hole) 5th March on Wharfe. Red & Blue  
Freefall, White Helmet, Schlegel paddle (red tips)  
with Wild Water Buoyancy aid. Do you know  
this man? SAE to Clive Mills 8 x 5 (50p stamp)  
10 Crossley Drive, Lower Heswall, Wirral, L60  
9UR

**Prijon Avenger/Hurricane**, any colour, prefer-  
ably with neoprene spraydeck, willing to pay up  
to £300. Tel Ian on 01243 572937 (W Sussex)

**"The Ultimate Run"** book by Bill Endicott  
(1987?) Tel Lawrence Chapman 0151 729  
0640

**Sail and Outrigger** for sea kayak, prepared to  
collect anywhere in mainland Britain. Tel Tim  
Bird - Walsall 01922 684811

**Sea kayak**, good watertight condition, prefer-  
ably anas acuta, could collect from Holyhead or  
Stranraer area. Tel. 01232 423487 N.Ireland.

**Pyrantha Acrobat 300/270**, must be good con-  
dition. WW spec essential excellent price paid,  
contact Steve on York 01904 760727

**Slalom K1** to suit 82kg 6'2 padded, such as  
Arrowcraft Fury, full bodied Nomad or similar.  
Prifer Kev/Carbon construction Tel Richard  
01889 568365.

**Lost & Found**  
**1 set of Schlegel** all rounders, mauve with Ras  
Dex sticker, on the Clywedog on 5th Feb. Tel:  
Doug Johnson 01375 675999

**Slalom Canoe**, at Mile End Mill in Llangollen  
in March 1995. The canoe is pink and yellow,  
on the inside of the canoe there are two patches  
with a phone no, written on it, if the boat is  
found (in any condition) please phone Ann Mc  
Ansple on 01722 332398

**14ft single seater fibreglass kayak**, blue  
and green, possibly hand painted. Found in  
Kegworth area floodwaters. Tel: Mr Kendall  
01509 673252 (Leics)

**Cag at Tyne Green**, Hexham, on Sunday 5th  
Feb. Contact Craig on 0191 384 3237.

# DELAPRE BLADES

Manufacturers  
of all types of  
paddles for all  
aspects of  
canoeing

Unit 6,  
Strathclyde  
Business  
Centre,  
Pottery  
Street,  
Greenock,  
PA15 2UH

Tel:  
01475  
743433  
Fax:  
01475  
745945

## KENT CANOE SERVICES AVONCRAFT SOUTH

NEW HOUSE FARM, KEMSING RD, WROTHAM, KENT

SPECIALIST CANOE SHOP  
MAIL ORDER SERVICE  
CANOE COURSES  
EXPERT ADVICE  
ACCESSORIES  
DEMO BOATS

 01732-886688

OPENING TIMES:

MON Closed  
TUES 9.30 - 5.00  
WED 9.30 - 12.30  
THURS 12.30 - 8.00  
FRI 9.30 - 5.00  
SAT 9.30 - 5.30



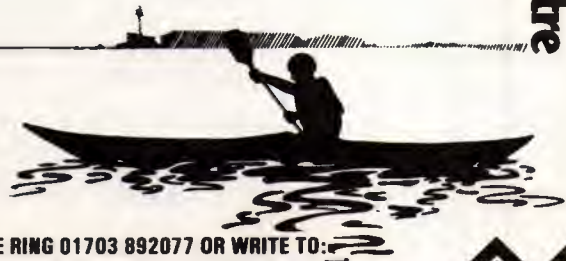
GOOD QUALITY CANOES CONSIDERED IN P/EX

*The Solent's Premier Watersports Centre*

# CALSHOT

activities centre

- CANOE COURSES AT ALL LEVELS
- COACHING, PERSONAL PERFORMANCE
- INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS
- ADULTS, CHILDREN
- SEA KAYAKING EXPEDITIONS
- WIDE RANGE OF OTHER WATERSPORTS/LANDSPORTS



FOR A FULL COLOUR BROCHURE RING 01703 892077 OR WRITE TO:

CALSHOT ACTIVITIES CENTRE CALSHOT SOUTHAMPTON SO45 1BR

# Cuervo Thames Wild Water Rodeo



**P**aul Fletcher and Shaun Baker were the joint championships of the Cuervo Thames Wild Water Rodeo, held at Hurley Weir over the weekend of March 25/26. Squirt champion was Bob Campbell, and Ladies champion was Lara Tipper.

**T**he very first event in the Cuervo Wild Water Rodeo Series attracted the largest entry ever for a Rodeo Event. Organised by Playboater, 133 paddlers turned up to compete. For spectators, there was an opportunity to taste the World's number one Tequilla, as well as watching some of the best Rodeo paddlers in the world.

This is not to include Paul Current, winner of both Float and Squirt in the Pre-Worlds at Augsburg last year. Paul who during practise on Friday was paddling extremely well, was taken ill and rushed to the local hospital, where he later had surgery for the removal of an infected appendix. Paul has made an excellent recovery, and may well be fit enough to paddle at the Cuervo Wild Water Rodeo on Tees in May.

Saturday saw the preliminary events, with the novice competition being won convincingly by newcomer Gareth Coltman. Gareth who was to go on to make the final in the main event is someone to watch as a potential paddler at international level.

The Squirt Competition was the first of the selection events, and with an entry of ten paddlers was fought out over two semi's and a final. First was Bob Campbell, second was Jason Buxton, with Chris Taudevin in third place.

The Old School Competition took place during the afternoon. This is a strictly fun non serious event, using equipment and software of a bygone era. To be within the rules of the competition, the boat has to be below £50.00 on value, and other equipment including clothing below £25.00. To discourage cheating (ie. wearing expensive thermals), any paddler may be challenged and have their gear sold off at the respective valuations. It is rumoured that to avoid this happening, one competitor paddled naked. Yes, he did take a swim! Competitors were judged on their ability to perform "old school moves" with moves like wriggle bums scoring quite highly, but new moves such as cartwheels being marked down. For the second year running, Chris Lowe won the Grandmaster award, and again for the second time Anthony Perkins was Spod of the Year.

First event off on Sunday, was the Ladies, again a selection event for the British Team. A few familiar faces were missing from the line up, with only six paddlers competing. Newcomer to rodeo, but well known in Slalom, Lara Tipper paddled brilliantly to take the Ladies title. In second place was Louise Wigmore, with Greer McKenzie third.



# Video - Hurley Weir



The Main Float Event attracted an entry of exactly 100. The standard of paddling was so high that the judge's job became more difficult as each round progressed. Under pressure were British Team members Antony Perkins and Jason Buxton. Antony not getting through his heat, and Jason going out in the Quarter Finals.

Only three of last years British Team made the Final, Chris Lowe, Paul Fletcher and Shaun Baker. They were joined by Colin Heald, Daniel Harris and Gareth Coltman, together with the Master brothers, Andy and Harley, 14 & 15 years old respectively.

The Judges with a difficult job to do started eliminating paddlers in the Final until they were down to four, Shaun, Paul, Harley and Chris. With Shaun (Topolino) and Paul (Avenger) both paddling strongly and well, it seemed that third place was between Harley (SS) and Chris (Topolino). Eventually the Judges giving third place to Harley.

Comparing long boat moves to short is very difficult, with Shaun displaying a wide variety of moves in the shorter boat and Paul in the longer boat pulling of equally technical difficulty. However try as they could they could not separate Shaun and Paul. It appeared that one Judge was going for Shaun, one for Paul, and one Judge undecided. The decision was finally made to share the honours, both being awarded joint first place.

A big thank you to Cuervo, sponsors of this Rodeo and the series, and also to Heather Gunn for organising it all.

The Cuervo Hurley Rodeo is part of the Cuervo Wild Water Rodeo Series, which is endorsed by the British Canoe Union, and includes three single discipline kayaking events in 1995, all of which are for team selection, Hurley (25/26 March), Teesside (13/14 May) and Nottingham (3-4 June).

The top 15 paddlers from the Series will qualify for The Cuervo Wild Water Challenge, an invitation multi-discipline event, at St David's Pembrokeshire, on 11 and 12 August. This event is the highlight of the sponsorship with the best European kayakers competing alongside the top British contenders for the title of The Cuervo Wild Water Champion.



## RESULTS

### Open Float

1. Paul Fletcher / Shaun Baker
2. Harley Masters
3. Chris Lowe
4. Daniel Harris
5. Gareth Coltman
6. Andy Masters
7. Colin Heald

### Squirt

1. Bob Campbell
2. Jason Buxton
3. Chris Taudevin
4. Simon Turnton

### Ladies

1. Lara Tipper
2. Louise Wigmore
3. Greer McKenzie
4. Vicky Young.

### Open Event

1. Shaun Baker
2. Jan Kellner
3. Tim Thomas
4. Bill Mattos
5. Andy Middleton
6. Harley Masters
7. Andy Stewart
8. Andy Masters

### Ladies Event

1. Louise Wigmore
2. Vicky Young
3. Julie Simpson
4. Sandra Schmidt

## BITCHES SPRING RODEO - APRIL 15/16 1995

In a fiercely competed Final, Shaun Baker in a Prijon Hurricane was judged to have the edge over his long term rival from Germany. Jan Kellner in a Prijon Dialbo. Shaun taking not only the first place but also commanding lead in the British Team selection process. With Jan second, the next best British paddler in third place was Tim Thomas.

In the Ladies competition, Louise Wigmore paddled convincingly to take first place with Vicky Young in second. German champion, Sandra Schmidt not at all on form only managing fourth place.

## BCU RODEO COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT THE BITCHES RODEO ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE, DYFED ON THE 12 AUGUST 1995 THE RODEO COMMITTEE WILL BE HOLDING ITS SECOND AGM.

Motions and Nominations for the post of Vice Chairman, Secretary for a two year term and officers in various positions for a one year term must be received in writing and signed by two voting members of the union no later than 22 July 1995.

TO: **Ross Faragher**  
91 Selbourne Ave  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey  
KT15 3RF

The agenda and nominations will be posted to any interested party who provides a SAE to Ross Faragher at the above address.



# Ender

Editor's page

## Lyme Bay - The Aftermath

**H**aving recently watched the re-screening of the channel 4 Despatches documentary on the Marchioness disaster, and making comparison with the outcome of the 'Lyme Bay tragedy' one could only wonder at the vagaries of the English legal system.

From the outset of the sad events in Lyme Bay it was obvious that there would be repercussions. That they should have gone on for so long, and be so widely embracing, is a source of some concern.

Quite clearly the totally avoidable deaths of four young people cannot be diminished or dismissed. However, the reasons for the tragedy, and its significance must be properly identified, and the reactions be relevant, otherwise quite inappropriate and unrelated concerns and measures will be introduced. The end result of such action is unnecessary interference with safe and legitimate activity.

The factors arising out of the situation fall into three main categories: Public Perception; The Legal Implications; and the Jamieson Bill.

### Public Perception

Had the group not drifted out to sea, nothing untoward would have occurred that day. Had the staff been anywhere near competent, they would not have drifted out to sea. Tragic as the incident was, the reasons for its occurrence are well established. The students did not just capsize and die. They drifted out to sea for some 2 hours before swappings began to occur. When all were finally in the water, it was again about 2 hours before hypothermia led to drowning.

There have been a number of incidents since where members of the public have noticed a fairly normal 'canoeing occurrence', and have alerted the emergency services, turning a straight forward rescue and recovery into a major happening.

Paddlers have been dragged off to hospital, given a cup of tea and released. If every canoeist who takes a short, cold swim, is to be hospitalised, we will bring the entire accident and emergency service to a grinding halt on most days of the year!

Many enquirers have expressed concern about the requirements for the safe supervision of canoeing, 'because of Lyme Bay', and have had to be asked 'how is it possible to get blown out to sea from a canal / river / swimming pool in the middle of the country'?

Did the RYA have this problem after the Fastnet disaster? Were the Coastguard called every time a sailing boat put to sea? Yet many more people were drowned in the Fastnet race tragedy!

This is not, of course, to begin to trivialise in any way the sad, totally preventable, loss of life in Lyme Bay. It should not have happened and must not happen again. The fact is, however, that learning to canoe in the normal way, in a controlled environment, and under competent staff, is actually a very safe pastime.

We need to get that message across. We need also to get across the message

that there are types and levels of canoeing which do have inherent risks, but that the participants know and accept those risks, and train and equip themselves to cope with them. We do not need uninformed sensation-seekers from the media making headlines out of incidents which are part and parcel of the sport, merely because they are incapable of understanding that as people learn any sport or pastime, they develop a competence, which ultimately leads to their being able to play in situations which, in many instances, could lead to the death of a novice.

It is hoped to establish an official dialogue with the Police and emergency services, to achieve an understanding, and perhaps a code of conduct, which should eventually 'take the heat' out of the situation.

### The Legal Implications

The case is considered to have established a precedent in that it was the first time in English legal history that a Company has been convicted of homicide, and the first time that a company director received a custodial sentence for manslaughter.

Prior to 1965 a corporate manslaughter charge was considered inappropriate. In that year, however, a prosecution did go to a full, but unsuccessful, trial. Although 19,400 people have been killed at work since that time, there has been only one prosecution - that of P&O following the Zbrugge disaster. That trial collapsed after only half the witnesses had been called.

There has, however, been a gradual acceptance within the law of a company having a 'controlling mind'. That is, certain key personnel could be regarded as embodying the 'mind' of the company, and therefore being responsible for its actions.

A difficulty has been, however, that there cannot be an 'aggregate of fault'. In other words, if a number of people were privy to information, which, if known collectively would have established that there was a potential for disaster, it cannot be regarded that they were corporately liable.

The reason that the prosecution of Active Learning and Leisure and its managing director was successful is believed to be mainly because it was a small company, the 'controlling mind' was therefore relatively easy to establish, that 'controlling mind' had had clear warnings about the potential for disaster at the St Albans Centre, and the risks were serious and obvious, not technical or obtuse.

### What about Canoe Clubs?

The question has been asked as to whether or not canoe club officers could be prosecuted. The situation is, in fact, unchanged, except that the increasing willingness generally, of people to sue, and the desire to establish 'blame' makes it that much more likely that a prosecution, or attempted prosecution, will follow an accident.

If a club is not a limited liability company, then it has no separate identity in law. Responsibility is shared among the mem-

bers. If a successful civil action is brought, and damages are awarded, then liability is unlimited and club members are personally responsible for any costs and damages which might be awarded in excess of the limit of the third party liability insurance.

It is usually recommended that clubs become limited liability companies, as has the BCU itself. Before too much alarm and despondency is spread abroad, however, it should be noted that nothing has actually changed in legal terms, and there are many thousands of clubs and societies which have existed for many years without all their members ending up in debt!

A recent circular from the Health and Safety Executive has reiterated the situation with regard to private members' clubs. This has endorsed the fact that adult members of clubs automatically accept the inherent risks of the sport, and are unlikely to succeed in an action against the leader, or presumed leader, of a journey or activity, if they fall foul of one of the known hazards of the activity, such as being pinned against an obstruction in fast moving water. This principle is known in law as 'volenti non fit injuria'.

The situation is not quite so clear cut where juniors are concerned, and it is important that parental consent is obtained, and that parents understand the inherent risks. Provided clubs have reasonable guidelines, with a system of monitoring the ability of juniors, perhaps using the obtaining of a particular level of test to indicate competence to participate, there should not be a problem, however.

Should a criminal prosecution be enjoyed, then club members or committee would be 'on their own' as it is illegal to insure against a fine arising from a criminal prosecution.

### The Bill

David Jamieson, the MP for South Devon, the constituency in which the victims of the Lyme Bay tragedy lived, introduced a private member's bill in Parliament, seeking to require that centres offering potentially hazardous pursuits would be required to register, conform to nationally accepted guidelines for the conduct of such activities, and be subject to inspection.

The Bill was at first resisted by HM Government, but had cross-party support, and finally Government acceptance, and has now had its third reading.

Currently the Health and Safety Executive are conducting a consultation exercise with governing bodies and others involved in the field. It is anticipated that the Bill and its regulations will be published for consultation in August/September. There will be a phasing in period of a year, with full implementation anticipated in 1997.

The Bill is to 'Provide for the regulation of centres and providers of facilities where children and young persons under the age of 18 engage in adventure activities and for the establishment of prescribed minimum standards of safety in the provision of such activities and the maintenance and use of equipment and premises for the purpose of such activities'.

The 'Adventure Activities' themselves have to be identified, and the definition of a 'Centre' also needs to be clearly determined. Representations have been made through the Central Council of Physical Recreation to keep clubs outside the scope of the Bill. The reason for this is that a club (for whatever sport) incorporates a body of expertise and competence in the activity (regardless of formal qualifications) which is not necessarily the case with a 'Centre'. Many centres obviously do employ staff who are paddlers of the highest calibre. But at present any 'Tom, Dick or Harry' - or 'Theresa, Davinia, or Henrietta' - can set up a centre offering potentially hazardous pursuits, and employ people as 'instructors' who have no formal qualification, or even any ability, within the sport concerned.

We would wish to avoid the situation which could arise, if the scope of the Bill became too wide, that no-one could go on the water without a 'qualified' person present. Already we have situations where elite paddlers are not supposed to train, unless an Instructor is with them - struggling to keep up, and upright!

The Earl of Mar and Kellie, who happens to be a canoeing instructor, has spoken to the Bill in the House of Lords and sought to ensure that where centres which come within its scope are willing to offer free training facilities for elite performers, that this is not negated by the necessity to always have 'qualified' staff present.

Exactly who will provide the Inspectorate is not yet clear, nor is it clear as to what will happen to the existing governing body approval schemes.

As information becomes available, however, we will seek to keep you informed.

**Geoff Good**

## IN YOUR AUGUST ISSUE

The return of My Favourite Paddle

The Lead in to the Slalom and Wildwater Worlds

Equipment for Sea Kayaking

Placid Water Progressions

Sit-on Kayak Reviews

and all the usual news, views and reviews.....

# Dancer

## CLUB

 **perception**

The classic favourite... tried, tested and loved by paddlers the world over; is now available in a 'club' version. Excellent manoeuvrability, easy control, simple rolling. NB: For use on water up to grade 2 only.



FOXY AND REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY

**Ideal for beginners and leisure seekers.**

Great for centres, schools and, of course, clubs.

New easy access cockpit configuration means paddlers have more room and added comfort.



PH: BIRBY/OUTDOOR IMAGE

**... If this is your idea of fun - The White Water Dancer is available.**



FOXY AND REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY

Relax... and see the world from a different perspective.

Two variants are available:  
Option 1: With 'Keepers' adjustable footrests £255.00  
Option 2: With adjustable bulkhead footrests add £35.25 to option 1.  
The above prices include VAT

**Perception Kayaks**  
Bellbrook Business Park  
Uckfield, East Sussex  
TN22 1QU  
Tel: 01825 765892

FOR RELIABILITY IN EQUIPMENT

# A Natural Edge

"Palm equipment takes you places"



WAGHI, KAYAK, EXPEDITION  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA



## NEW & EXCLUSIVE

This extremely waterproof coating system offers flexibility, durability and tapeability. And out performs other coated fabrics

PALM CANOE PRODUCTS LIMITED, HARBOUR ROAD, PORTISHEAD, AVON, BS20 9BL, ENGLAND  
TEL: 01275 842740 FAX: 01275 842262