

Oct. 1995

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

# CANOE FOCUS

No. 97 £2.00



## World Champs

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

**Sprint: Seniors & Juniors**

**Rodeo**

**Wild Water**

**Slalom**



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BCU





# 140001

**LYNN SIMPSON**  
Womens Kayak World Champion



**The world at her feet.  
LENDAL in her hands.**

**All individual gold medal winners used LENDAL**



Well done RACHEL CROSSBEE,  
Team Silver and 4th in the individual

LENDAL



Issue 97  
October 1995

# Contents

## COMPETITION

**Junior Racing World Championships** 12  
The sixth championships from Japan

**Marathon World Cup** 14  
Two days of competition from Spain

**Senior Racing World Championships** 16  
The 27th Championships from Germany

**Rodeo World Championships** 22  
End to a gruelling year from Germany

**Wild Water World Championships** 28  
Four pages of action and news from Bala

**Slalom World Championships** 30  
Another four pages of thrills from Nottingham

**National Sailing Championships** 36  
A large part of qualification for the worlds in 1996

## FEATURES

**Arctic Canoe Race** 38  
David Enoch covers the events from Finland

**Cheshire Ring Race** 48  
95 miles, 92 locks and 5 tunnels in 24 hours

**Whitewater Rafting the Blue Nile** 54  
A white knuckle ride down the Nile

**Paddling For A Tall Ship** 56  
Raising money for the Sail Training Association

## INPUT & IDEAS

**Comment** 5  
From Chief Executive Paul Owen.

**Yakety Yak** 34  
Readers Letters Page.

## NEWS, INFORMATION & EVENTS

**Noticeboard & What's On** 6  
Latest news.

**Wrist Risk** 18  
A paddler's guide

**Water Diseases** 20  
A paddler's guide

**Taunton Canoe Club** 24  
A guide to making an application.

**A Major Input to Sport?** 27  
Geoff Good examines the government's sports charter

**Access** 40  
Access joins the Internet

## REVIEWS

**Video and Book** 42  
The latest in books and videos

**Paddler's Gear** 46  
Items reviewed for the paddler

**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

**Chief Executive**  
Paul Owen

**Editor**  
Wendy Blackman

**Publishing  
Contractors**

2b Graphic Design  
29 Greenfields, St. Ives,  
Cambs. PE17 4HB

Tel/Fax: (01480) 465081  
Eves: (01480) 382488

Peter@twobdesn.demon.co.uk

**Advertising Sales**  
Peter Tranter

**Printed by**  
Southern Print, Poole, Dorset.

**Colour Repro by**  
Colour Design & SRS, New  
Road, St. Ives, Cambs

**Magazine Designer**  
Peter Tranter

**Typesetting and  
Page Make-up by**  
2b Graphic Design

**Annual Subscription  
Rate**

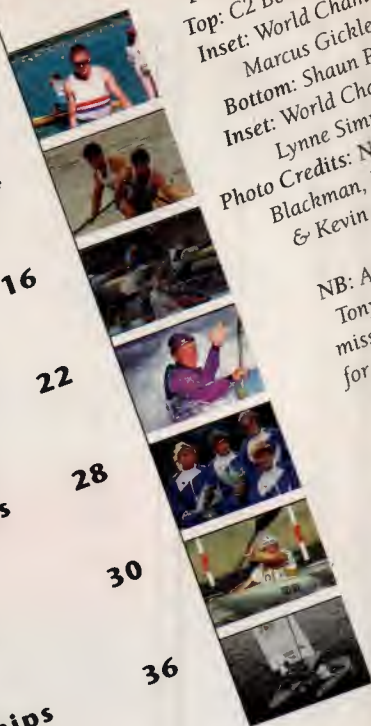
UK inland: £13.50.  
Overseas: £18.

Supplied free to BCU members -  
adults: £15 basic;  
£25.50 comprehensive;  
under 18's: £9.00 basic  
£15.00 comprehensive.

Rates change on 1st November

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  
Focus is strictly copyright and all rights  
are reserved. Reproduction without  
prior permission from the Editor is  
forbidden.

**BRITISH  
CANOE  
UNION**



Front Cover Pictures  
Top: C2 Belbin & Caunt  
Inset: World Champion  
Marcus Gickler  
Bottom: Shaun Pearce  
Inset: World Champion  
Lynne Simpson  
Photo Credits: Neil & Wendy  
Blackman, Ian Greig  
& Kevin Danforth

NB: Apologies to  
Tony Tickle for  
missing his credit  
for the front cover  
picture of the  
August issue.  
Thanks Tony.

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 it's agents cannot be held liable or  
responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard  
material. Next Copy date is the 20th NOVEMBER 1995. Material arriving at  
FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the DECEMBER issue



**AVONCRAFT**



# AVONCRAFT

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

## Prijon:

World leader in HTP blowmoulding. For quality and strength that others can only dream about.

Prijon and Eskimo offer the largest selection of wild water recreational and rodeo kayaks in Europe. Send a 52p stamp for the mammoth brochure.

**Largest stocked  
warehouse for  
London and the  
South East:**

For Prijon - Eskimo -  
Schlegel - Grumman - H.F.  
- Romer - Nookie -  
Playboater - Rasdecks etc.

Opening hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm.

Sat: 9pm - 1pm

**MAIL ORDER**



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



# Lynn Simpson

## Champion of the World

Words cannot describe how we all felt as Lynn Simpson lifted the World Ladies K1 Slalom title at the Championships in Nottingham. Lynn, the World Cup Champion from 1994, confirmed her place at the top of the world with a clean and scintillating second run.

This was the only individual medal for GB at the combined White Water World Championships in Bala and Nottingham. However, the GB team took four team medals, in Wild Water Racing and Slalom, the individual performances show that we remain amongst the favourites for Olympic success in Tennessee next year.

There are so many people to thank, not least the competitors for making the event so exciting, and the organising teams that have so competently put the championships together. Special thanks are due to the Sports Council - both GB and Welsh - and the Top 100 Club who support many of our paddlers as they strive for international success.

### Junior World Racing Championships

Paul Darby-Dowman and Timothy Brabants became the first Britons ever to win a medal at a Junior World Racing Championships, taking first place in the 500m K2 event. Timothy also won the Bronze in the 1000m K1.

### Marathon World Cup - Spain

Ivan Lawler and Steve Harris won the K2 class, while Stephen and Andrew Train came first in C2. Anna Hemmings was second in Ladies K1, with Sonja Bapty third.

### Canoe Polo - European Championships, Rome

The GB men's team are European champions, with the Ladies becoming the Silver Medallists.

### Rodeo

Congratulations to Bob Campbell who took Gold in the Squirt class, with other GB team members taking 2 silver and 2 bronze medals.

### Sports Club of the Year 1995

The Foundation for Sport and the Arts has reaffirmed its commitment to the Sports Club of the Year Award for 1995 and the BCU have been invited to make two nominations for the competition. In the 1994 contest for this prestigious award Salisbury Canoe Club took the £10,000 first prize. Application forms for this year's competition are available from the BCU office for completion before 20th October.

### BCU Young People's Initiative

An important get-together is planned for Sunday 22 October, when a forum will consider the issues involved in recruiting and retaining young people to our sport - particularly competition. In recent years, in spite of the overall increase in canoeing and membership, we have seen a decline in regular junior participation. There is now a new initiative by the government to emphasise the place of sport in schools. This involves the forging of links between schools and clubs, and is allied to the TOP SPORT scheme run by the Youth Sports Trust. These factors, and the availability of money from the lottery and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts hold potential to assist the BCU as it develops strategies for outreach among young people. Please send to the BCU office for details.

### Olympic Qualification

Congratulations to Steven and Andrew Train who by their fifth place in the C2 1000 metres at the Sprint Racing World Championships in Duisburg succeeded in providing our first qualification for boats at the Olympic Games. Additionally, in Nottingham, our Slalom team qualified two men's k1's, two women's K1's and a C1.

### 1996 International Canoe Exhibition

The National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham is the venue for the 1996 International Canoe Exhibition on Saturday and Sunday 24/25

February. Joint ticketing with the National Boat, Caravanning and Leisure Show presents an ideal opportunity for an outstanding day out. Whether travelling by Air, Train or Car, the centre is conveniently sited with FREE Car Parking, serviced by a shuttle bus throughout the weekend.

### Regional AGMs

The Annual General Meetings for all of the BCU Regions will take place as follows:

**Eastern Region**, 20th November, Gosling Sports Stadium, Welwyn, 7.30pm for 8pm.

**East Midlands**, 23 November, (Supported by) Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Pie and Chips available! commencing at 8pm.

**London and South East**, 29 November, St John's School, Caterham, 8pm

**Northern Region**, 19 November, Tees Barrage, 1pm

**North West Region**, 18 November, The Burrs, Bury, 7.30pm

**Southern Region**, 14 November, Liston Hall, Marlow, 8pm

**South West Region**, 24 November, Bridgewater YMCA, Friers Avenue, Somerset, 7.30pm

**West Midlands**, 6 December, Malthouse Stables, Hurst Lane, Tipton, 7.30pm.

**Yorkshire & Humberside**, 7 December, Queen's Hotel, Pontefract, 7.30pm

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

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

Regional Secretaries, whose names and addresses are in the BCU Members Yearbook, can provide more detailed information.



### And Finally...

Back to the World Championships. The British Canoe Union has just completed organising its third World Championships in two years. These events have all been run to the very highest of standards, but none of it would have happened without the outstanding voluntary efforts of so many individuals. The Union owes a great debt of thanks to all involved.

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive



**Crewe & Nantwich Canoe Club**

Youngsters who helped to clean up the River Weaver at Nantwich have received a pat on the back from their town's Civic Society. The watchdog organisation had recently highlighted acts of mindless vandalism by local teenagers. But canoe club members have restored some of their faith in the young by scouring the river, collecting rubbish. Senior and Junior members of the club took part in the clean up but most of the participants were from the youth section with the youngest participant being 8 years old.

The Society has thanked the Canoe Club of Crewe and Nantwich for their work, and in particular organiser Mike Bridge.

**Peter Duckworth - Secretary.**

# Canoeists Guide to the River Severn

**A**s BCU Local Access Officer for the River Severn and one of those involved in producing the Guide I feel that I should offer an explanation and dispel officially the rumour and speculation surrounding the guide.

Some twelve months or more ago my husband, Roger and I agreed to co-operate with the NRA, Severn Trent Region, Shrewsbury in producing a canoeist's guide to the River Severn covering the length of the Public Navigation. The guide was to be a companion to the very popular Canoeist's Guide to the River Wye and was to retail at around the same price. The development officer of the BCU was informed of our intent and he requested that the BCU be given a mention. At a later date permission was sought and granted to use the BCU's then current information on Leptospirosis.

The guide was launched at Crystal Palace in February by the NRA and duly went on sale at £4.95 - a price reached by the NRA and BCU Supplies. Copies were initially available from NRA Shrewsbury, BCU Supplies, Drummond Outdoor and Canoeist.

**Change of Policy**

For various reasons the NRA had a change of policy and decided to distribute the guide free of charge. This decision was made without our knowledge and we were not involved in discussions leading to this decision.

We have since been involved

with fresh discussions with the NRA, we have received an apology from the area manager in Shrewsbury and have come to an amicable agreement with them that the guide is distributed free for this print run. Future editions, in common with other publications, will depend upon demand.

Neither Roger or I have received or sought any payment for any information contained in the guide, for our time or for the involvement of our staff and equipment for photographs, etc. We did, however hope to make a small profit from sales, as indeed, did the other suppliers.

**Good Faith**

I would like to point out that copies of the guide sold by ourselves, NRA, BCU Supplies and Canoeist were sold in good faith. There was no intention to 'con' people and anyone having a complaint should take it up with the supplier in question.

Those who have been involved in producing a publication will be aware of the time involved in putting together even a modest guide of this nature. The Severn Guide has been well received and early reports are positive and encouraging. Do not dismiss it because it bears no price tag, just get out there and enjoy.

**Local Access Officer**

I am aware that there are certain parties who have suggested that I have used my voluntary position as Local Access Officer to further my

business interests. This I totally refute. The Severn has for many years been my work, pleasure and my hobby. Many will have noticed that the only telephone number missing from the guide is that of the LAO for the River Severn and Drummond Outdoor.

As LAO I am currently sending out copies of the guide in response to enquiries in exchange for an A5 envelope with a 29p stamp. The guide has replaced my former information (which comprised several photocopied sheets and which I sent at my own expense). I will continue to give detailed information on specific stretches of the river when requested.

**Sue Drummond  
LAO River Severn.**

## Groundwork Gets Afloat

The Outdoor Activity Initiative at Groundwork Merthyr & Cynon recently received open canoes and canoeing equipment to the value of £8,500 in a sponsorship deal with Outdoor Leisure Supplies of Ruthin, Clwyd and "Sportsmatch" the governments Business Sponsorship incentive scheme for sport.

The Outdoor Activities Initiative is a pilot partnership scheme between the Sports Council for Wales and Groundwork Merthyr & Cynon that develops outdoor activities for young people as part of Groundwork's wider role of community and environmental regeneration in the South Wales valleys.

The canoes are available for use by any youth based group in the area and qualified instructors can be arranged to run the sessions. Contact Andy Cummings at Groundwork Merthyr & Cynon on 01685 883880 if you are interested in developing canoeing or any other outdoor activity.

## Canoeing on the Wild Side

**Wanted - Competent paddlers with an interest in the wild side of canoeing, particularly the idea of doing some bird survey work on lakeland rivers and estuaries.**

Mike Mills, Regional Access Officer, Cumbria is enthusiastic about paddlers potential to do some really worthwhile and enjoyable survey work. He would welcome other enthusiasts contacting him if they would fancy getting together in the Lakes on 9th/10th March 1996. The aim would be to get out and do some fieldwork, and hopefully stir up a bit of enthusiasm to carry on. Mike says the emphasis would be on a cheap, enjoyable weekend covering a good few miles between us, swapping ideas and looking at the potential. Contact Mike at 2 Greenbank Cottages, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4SA for more information or with your ideas.

**Mike Mills - RAO, Cumbria**





**BRITAIN'S  
No. 1  
MAIL ORDER  
WAREHOUSE  
HAS MOVED**

*MASSIVE NEW SALES AND STOCK SPACE  
HUGE NEW CAR PARK  
GREAT NEW STRETCH OF WATER  
RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR*

**STILL THE BEST SERVICE YOU CAN GET**

*NEW WAREHOUSE OPEN FROM  
OCTOBER 1ST*

*500 METRES FROM THE GWILI RAILWAY  
JUST OFF THE A484 TO NEWCASTLE EMLYN*

*OPEN 9 - 5.30 MONDAY to SATURDAY  
Sunday by appointment*

**SPECIAL OPENING OFFERS  
FOR THE TEIFI TOUR WEEKEND  
OCTOBER 28th/29th**



**ORDER HOTLINE: FREEPHONE 0500 118051**

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 01267 223555**

**FAX: 01267 223666**

**WhiteWater  
Consultancy**

**BRITAIN'S NUMBER ONE  
MAIL ORDER WAREHOUSE**



**ACT  
association**

**BRONWYDD, CARMARTHEN, DYFED. SA33 6BE**



## Canoeing and the Wildlife

Reports have been received about disturbance caused by river users, including canoeists, to swans and their cygnets on the river close to Shepperton. As river users we all have a responsibility toward wildlife. Please be aware and attempt to give birdlife a wide berth, do not split up their groups by paddling between them as this causes them great distress. Part of the enjoyment of a river trip is watching the wildlife so let's keep it that way.

## Foundation for Sport and the Arts

Successful applicants for May grant releases were: Carnethy Canoe Club £4,500 to replace part of the club's fleet of canoes. Forth & Clyde Canoe Club £8,700 purchase of canoe equipment. 1st Plympton Scout Group £8,125 provision of mini-bus and canoe trailer equipment. 15th Middlesbrough Scout Group £6,250 for provision of canoes, trailer and associated equipment. 2nd Jarvis Brook Guide Unit £2,925 purchase of canoeing equipment.

# Bowles has won the Lottery!

Your one pound tickets have actually gone to a worthy cause despite the disappointment of your own dreams of untold wealth! Bowles Outdoor Centre (BCU Approved) has been awarded a £103,000 grant by the National Lottery Fund. This will finance the completion of a new residential block which will include seminar rooms, restaurant, bar, en-suite bedrooms and easy access for the disabled.

The building is designed primarily for management development and team building courses for industry, the demand for which is once again increasing now that the recession has bottomed out. It will also be used for BCU courses and as an overflow for children's multi activity courses (canoeing, climbing, skiing,

orienteeing) which cannot be fitted into the dormitory block. The completion of this block will mark the end of a period of intensive development at Bowles. In addition to the new residential block the last few years have seen the completion of an indoor canoe training/swimming pool; the rebuilding of the dining room area; and the development of

staff from activity instructor into Development Training tutors and NVQ Assessors. Along with most of the outdoor industry Bowles struggled during the recession but now the future looks a lot more healthy with demand for courses often outstripping availability.

Mike Thompson -  
Bowles Outdoor Centre

## More Lottery News

In the fourth round of Lottery Sports Fund grants water sports feature strongly with the regeneration programme in London's Dockland receiving a £3,750,000 boost from lottery funds in addition to enabling millions of pounds of developmental funding to be released by London Docklands Development Corporation. The Royal Albert Dock Watersports Centre proposes to build A 2000 metre regatta course and competition training centre for rowing, canoeing and dragon boat racing.

The BCU South West Region Canoe Polo Committee also received £9,605 for their project to convert locks into a two pitch canoe polo site.

# "off-river" Access Problems

## River North Tyne

This unique river is a canoeists dream! 45km of Grade II-IV, white-water, no portages, good access, regulated flows, unspoilt scenery, clean water and the home of England's largest canoeing event the Tyne Rally. So why am I writing this on the access page? The increasing popularity of the North Tyne is causing a couple of problems and in common with so many access related issues in England, the North Tyne has "off-river" problems rather than "on-river" problems.

The main area of concern to the local access team is Warden Gorge (on the Chollerford to Hexham section) which is the classic "hard bit" on the North Tyne. Problems occurring are due to the following reasons:

- 1 Paddlers using "Private Notice Rock" at the top of Warden Gorge (river left) for lengthy and noisy inspections. This is private land so please respect and try to avoid landing on the rock.
- 2 Due to the rivers popularity, group size has become a big problem e.g too many people using Warden Gorge at one time. Please leave some space between yourselves and the next group. Groups also tend to congregate at the top of the Gorge to contemplate the horrors below. Why not congregate at the bottom of the play wave?
- 3 Novice groups who are unable/unsure about paddling Warden Gorge are dragging their boat through this SSSI (site of

specialist scientific interest) site as they portage. Warden Gorge is also the home for otters and unique flora and fauna and we are damaging it/them.

- 4 Paddlers dragging their boats up the gorge to shoot it again. (see no 3 above).

These types of "off-river" access problems are becoming a national phenomenon as canoeing grows, whereby canoeing is generating some of its access problems even before it gets on the water, in the form of portaging through land, indiscriminate car parking, large groups etc. Its ironic that once a paddler is on the water and stays there its OK.

To summarise, please paddle the North Tyne within the Tyne Agreement (see below) but stay on the water if you can especially at the top of Warden Gorge and pass downstream.

Access teams top tip. If you have a novice group(s) then why not try other North Tyne sections such as Bellingham to Wark or Wark to Chollerford which are more suitable for beginners and then all you expert paddlers can go and paddle Warden Gorge afterwards. You will be surprised how good the upper sections are.

## The Tyne Agreement

This agreement is between the Tyne Occupiers and Riparian Owners Association and BCU Northern Region and is a very successful agreement which runs as follows.

1st November to March 31st.

Unlimited paddling anywhere.

1st April to early July.

Paddling in high water conditions only e.g brown water.

July and August.

Try to avoid paddling in these months in all but the very highest conditions.

September and October.

This is the crux of the agreement that we keep off for two months only and this means no paddling at all especially on the North Tyne. Please go sea-canoeing or go to Scotland.

## Other North Tyne related matters:

- 1 There is a new fish pass being installed in Chollerford weir on the North Tyne. This new weir will be safe for canoeists to pass down although the original shoot on the weir just left of centre will remain and we would recommend canoeists still use it.
- 2 The Tyne Rally will take place again this November 4th and 5th and access to the Warden Gorge section will once again be from Barrasford where there is ample parking. We arrange special access for the Tyne Rally so please follow the signs on the weekend, bear the above points in mind when in Warden Gorge and have a good time.

Simon Banbury,  
RAO Northumbria



## A Great Summer and Now for a Good Winter

The summer not only had record temperatures, but it was great for canoeing action.

Franco Ferrero Plas y Brenin

We had a fantastic time supporting many events, big and small, Four that were particularly good were



Photo - Pyranha - Augsburg

### At the Augsburg World Championships

we would particularly like to congratulate Paul Robertson, and Steve Block who won silver and bronze, plus Clay Wright, Paul Currant, Jason Buxton, Bill Mattos, Vicky Young, plus many overseas paddlers who made the Acrobat 270, leading production kayak in the Championships. We have proved that the Acrobat 270 concept and not heavily dished deck designs, is the future.

Watching 7000 scouts in our canoes and kayaks, trying canoeing at **Peak 95;**



International Derbyshire Scout Meet



Photo - Tom Corden

**Tryweryn Rodeo.** Seeing the development of paddling and river running skills at the Tryweryn and seeing use being made of the natural river. Congratulations to Loel Collins, Jay Cooper and Andy Phillips, who placed 1, 2 & 3 in Acrobat 270's.

### Reno '95.

At the N. American Trade Show in Reno, it was great to see many paddling dealers, who recognise that not only are our designs the worlds best, especially the double concave hulls, but that the fittings (adjustable thigh grips, seats, backstraps) and strength of plastic are proving to be the best as well.

For the Autumn we are developing a new "Sit On Top" version of the Acrobat 300, plus new deeper thigh grips.

The Orca (the world's only Royalex Kayak, offering low weight and rigidity) has proven to be a very popular concept, so we will add to that with a Touring double.

*Thanks again to all Pyranha paddlers and customers, lets have a great winter.*

If you're not up to speed on Pyranha's fast moving world, visit your nearest dealer soon.

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: \_\_\_\_\_



**What's On ● What's On ● What's On ● What's On**

**Breath Of Life**

St John's Ambulance aim to train 55,000 people in vital lifesaving skills in one week. The two hour Breath of Life course will be offered free throughout England and Scotland during 30 October - 5 November. During the two hours people will learn how to recognise when a person is suffering from a heart attack and carry out the correct treatment. Secondly, recognise when a person is unconscious and carry out the correct treatment and finally recognise when a person needs resuscitation and perform the correct treatment. These skills save lives.

*For more information or to book a course contact your local St John's Ambulance County Office, listed in telephone directories, or write to National Headquarters at: 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EF*

**New Training Opportunity**

Coaching Disabled People - A two week course for qualified Instructors and Coaches who are involved in one or more of the following sports: canoeing, windsurfing, dinghy sailing.

The training will develop existing skills and provide knowledge and experience to prepare you for working in an increasingly important field of outdoor activities.

**Dates**  
 3-15th December 1995.  
 14th-27th April 1996  
 26th May - 8th June 1996.  
 Price £570 per person fully residential.

**To reserve your place contact:**  
**Jeff Gill, Outdoor Adventure, Atlantic Court, Widemouth Bay, Nr Bude, Cornwall.**  
**Tel: 01288 361312**

**River Leven Open Days**

**Sundays 1995 -**  
 Nov 5th, 19th, 26th.  
 Dec 3rd, 10th.  
**Sundays 1996 -**  
 Jan 6th,  
 Feb 11th,  
 Mar 10th and 24th.

The system will remain the same as in previous years, i.e numbers will be limited to sixty on the water, all paddlers to wear a bib, bibs are bookable up to two weeks in advance.

**Bookings can be made by telephone to:**  
**Sten and Angela Sture**  
**Tel: 01229 466063 at £1 per bib per day with a deposit of £5 per bib. All money payable on the day.**

**Tees - Premier Slalom Event**

The Premier Event on the Tees Barrage Sept 30/Oct 1st has been reinstated as a National Ranking Slalom. The event will be split over two days, with the Men's kayak on Saturday and the other classes on Sunday.

**Peter Hanover - Event Organiser**  
**Llandysul**  
**2 Slalom Event**

Please note the change of organiser, all entries for this event to be sent to:

**Bristol Canoe Club, in conjunction with Llandysul Paddlers, c/o Quentin Nichols, 23 Seventh Avenue, Filton, Bristol, BS7 0QD.**

The Slalom Executive Committee have allowed the event ranking status.

**Trent 2 Wild Water Race**

All entries to the Sunday 8 October race should be sent directly to Nottingham Kayak Club as the Secretary will be out of the country. Send entries to **Nottingham Kayak Club, Trentside North, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.**

**The Scottish Traditional Small Boats Festival**

The first and second of July brought twenty thousand people to a small fishing village in the North East of Scotland. The Portsoy Festival draws over 50 traditional sailing boats to the 17th Century harbour for two days of rowing and seamanship in the Moray Firth. Vessels on show range from mail luggers to a streamlined small boat made by aircraft manufacturer Fairey in 1959. The festival also has a number of maritime crafts with demonstrations of boat building, creel and net making, knot and hook tying and fish filleting alongside traditional crafts and music and an excellent ceilidh. This year Neil Ironside (LCO) along with Paul Gibson provided a "Come and Try It" canoeing session which proved extremely popular with positive feedback from participants and spectators. The success of the festival has brought the accolade of a registered national event by the Royal Yachting Association. For next year Neil would like to increase the canoeing presence by having a historical display or if possible a demonstration of vintage canoes and kayaks. Being a "plastic" canoeist Neil is looking for advice or access to boats.

*If you can help, contact Neil, home number 01358 720767 or work number 01771 622254. Next years event takes place on 29-30 June.*

**Wild Water Racing-Coaching for All Abilities**

Wild Water Racing coaching will be available at a number of races towards the end of 1995 these dates are:

28 Oct Washburn,  
 29 Oct Wharfe,  
 4/5 Nov Dee,

11 Nov North Tyne,  
 18/19 Nov Teme,  
 25/26 Nov Lakeland Series,  
 2/3 Dec Tees Barrage,  
 9/10 Dec Dee.

Please contact Andy to book your coaching spot, if you require use of a Wavehopper for an event please book it at least one week before you require it. For more information contact:  
**Andy Parry, National Development Coach, 3 Beechmount Cottages, Mount Pleasant Terrace, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LB Tel: 015242 62680.**

Andy will also be running coaching courses in the school holidays for junior paddlers. Paddlers are invited to attend for the entirety of their holidays or just for a few days. There are four courses over the winter period: **21 to 29 October, 16 to 22 December, 27 Dec to 2 January 1996, 10 to 18 February 1996.**

All courses will be held on white water in the Lancaster Area. Food and accommodation will be provided plus boats and paddling equipment if required, the cost will be £5 per day.

**Obituary**

**Dave Neale**  
**1943-1995**

Members of Kinver Canoe Club learnt with sadness of the sudden death in July of Dave Neale.

Dave was a former chairman of the club. Until recently he organised the weekly pool sessions and as such introduced a countless number of paddlers to the sport over the years. His enthusiasm and encouragement of young paddlers will be remembered by them for a long time.

As organiser of many of the Kinver slalom competitions held at Martley and on the Tryweryn over the years he ensured that events were both enjoyable for competitors as well as being efficiently run. As a Section Judge, he officiated and served on juries at slalom events all over the country and brought a smile to all he met.

On behalf of the sport, our sincere condolences go to his wife Josie and sons Chris and Alastair.

**Andy Kozary - Kinver Canoe Club**





## INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Up to 12 months (retail purchases over £295)  
Ask for full details

## GROUP BUYERS PACKAGE DEALS

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



**LARGE RETAIL SHOWROOM**



**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

## 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.

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

### ROBIN HOOD WATERSPORTS

# MEGA STORE

EST. 1981

**LATEST RECOMMENDED CANOES**

0% FINANCE

PYRANHA	STD ARTLINE	ARTLINE CLUB MULTI
MICRO 230	✓	✓
CREEK 280	✓	✓
MOUNTAIN 300	✓	✓
ACRO 270	✓	✓
ACRO 300	✓	✓
MASTER	✓	✓

STD - dep £51 + £63 x 6 TOTAL £429  
ARTLINE - dep £49 + £70 x 6 TOTAL £469  
ARTLINE MULTI - dep £59 + £75 x 6 TOTAL £509  
CLUB - dep £40 + £37 x 6 TOTAL £262

**PERCEPTION**

PIROUETTE S5 - PROLINE	dep £52 + £63 x 6 TOTAL £430
PIROUETTE - PROLINE	dep £52 + £63 x 6 TOTAL £430
CONSCICA 5 - PROLINE	dep £52 + £63 x 6 TOTAL £430
DANCER - CLASSIC	dep £43 + £52 x 6 TOTAL £355
DANCER XT - CLASSIC	dep £43 + £52 x 6 TOTAL £355
DANCER - CLUB	dep £33 + £36 x 6 TOTAL £255
MIRAGE - CLUB	dep £35 + £35 x 6 TOTAL £245
KIWI 1 - CLUB	dep £28 + £32 x 6 TOTAL £220
KIWI 2 - CLUB	dep £39 + £51 x 6 TOTAL £345

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

ADVICE FROM EXPERIENCE

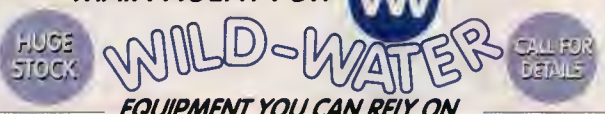
- PYRANHA • TUFFY
- PERCEPTION • MI,
- PRIJON • COLEMAN
- OLD TOWN
- WILDWATER
- PALM, YA K
- AINSWORTH
- SCHLEGEL



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

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

**MAIN AGENT FOR**



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 ankle zips & knee pads	<b>£45</b>
TYPHOON EDGE LONG JOHN - kneepad flexible	<b>£55</b>
GUL SHORTIE	<b>£49.95</b>
GUL SHORT JOHNS	<b>£35</b>
NEOPRENE SHORTS	<b>£20</b>
GUL CAGS	<b>£25</b>
ROHO WETSOCKS	<b>£11</b>
TYPHOON EDGE BOOTS	<b>£19.95</b>
ROHO DRYSUIT	<b>£209</b>

**MAIL ORDER SERVICE**

**BEST PRICES FOR SCHLEGEL PADDLES IN THE UK**

**FREE DELIVERY MAINLAND UK**





# 6th Junior World Canoe R

## Lake M

Thirty eight countries participated in the sixth Junior World Canoe Racing Championships which were held in the Far East for the first time. The Junior Men compete in 500m and 1000m events while the Junior Women race over the shorter distance.

the races in Japan that these expectations could be fulfilled when they won their K2 semi-final convincingly. In the final they paced their race so that they were accelerating for the finishing line. By half way they were fifth and at 60m from the end they were third. At the finish they were 0.07 seconds ahead of the Hungarian crew and 0.08 seconds ahead of the Poles to win the K2 500m Junior World Championship, in what was the closest and probably the most exciting race of the regatta. What a joy it was to see GB ahead of Hungary, Poland and Romania (who came fourth).

The next morning Tim Brabants had to compete in a semi-final of the 1000m singles. He found this a hard race but came third and qualified for

the final where he raced brilliantly to take the Bronze medal behind the Hungarian and Swede. These results are put

into context by the fact that British paddlers have rarely reached the finals at Junior World Championships which were first held in 1985. Prior to this and forerunner to the Junior World Championships were the Junior Open European Championships in which Jeremy West won a silver medal and the crew of Barbara Mean and Lesley Oliver also won a silver medal.

The Junior Women K4 500m crew of Rachel Train, Lucy Hardy (both Fladbury), Louise Cheyne (Leighton Buzzard), and Kelly McGee (Stort) missed reaching the final by 2.5 seconds and the Junior Men Crew of Andrew Morgan, Nick Fowler (both Fladbury), Daniel Golder (Banbury) and David Oliver (Lincoln) missed the 1000m K4 final by 1.8 seconds after qualifying for the semi-final directly from the heat. Mark

Hoile (Leighton Buzzard) had the misfortune to capsize 10m from the finishing line in the K1 500m repechage in what, until then,

**T**he Great Britain team consisted of seven kayak junior men: Paul Darby-Dowman, Tim Brabants, Mark Hoile, Andrew Morgan, Nick Fowler, Daniel Golder and David Oliver; one canoe paddle: Karl Yurkwich; and four junior kayak women: Rachel Train, Lucy Hardy, Louise Cheyne and Kelly McGee.

### High Expectations

The Great Britain team travelled to Japan with high expectations. Paul Darby-Dowman and Tim Brabants from Elmbridge Canoe Club, where they are coached by Eric Farrell, had been performing well this year at the two international regattas attended by the GBR team as well as at domestic regattas at Holme Pierrepont (where they race in the senior events). It became apparent to those watching



Articles by  
**Laurence Oliver -  
GBR Junior  
Racing Team**

**Tim Brabants -  
Double Medal  
Winner's Views  
of the Event**

Photographs by  
**Laurence Oliver**



# Racing Championships

## Motosu, Japan. 22nd-26th July 1995



Above:  
Paul Darby-Dowman  
and his gold medal

Facing Page:  
Paul Darby-Dowman  
and Tim Brabants.

Left:  
The GB team

Below:  
Paul and Tim in the  
K2 - 500 metres.

Bottom:  
Tim Brabants - double  
medal winner.

had probably been his best ever race. In the C1 events Karl Yurkwich (Leamington Spa) found the opposition tough.

In the medal table Great Britain came sixth. Fourteen countries won medals but only seven of them won gold. They were:

- Hungary (4)
- Germany (3)
- Russia (3)
- Slovakia (2)
- Czech Republic (1)
- Great Britain (1)
- Australia (1)

**Laurence Oliver -  
GBR Junior Racing Team**

### Tim Brabants - Double Medal Winner's Views of the Event

As my alarm went off at 3:30am for the third time that week, I thought to myself, "I hope this works". The idea was that we should try to adjust our body clocks by about three hours before we left. This also meant training at different times and eating meals at different times.

Our plane left at 6:00pm for the 11.5 hour flight from a very chaotic Heathrow terminal 3. By then we had already been up for about 15 hours, so you would have thought sleeping on the plane would be easy. But combine tiredness, anxiety and excitement for what lay ahead and sleep is virtually impossible. However, many of us managed a few hours.

### Top Class Hotel

We were taken straight to the competition site from New Tokyo airport for accreditation. We then left with our passes, (each showing a bleary eyed, exhausted looking photo of our good selves) for the Hotel. What a pleasant surprise that turned out to be. We were lucky enough to have been upgraded to a top class hotel at no extra cost since our previous style of accommodation was full up.

After a good nights sleep and a so called 'Western Style' breakfast, it was back to the course for the start of what was to become a routine. The boats were unpacked, 3 k1's and a K2



all undamaged except mine, which was repaired that day.

### 3000ft above sea level

The competition site was set in a fantastic area of Japan called Yamanashi. We were at 3000ft above sea level, at the foot of Mount Fuji on the large lake Motosu. The course was immaculately set out with all the buoys in a perfect line.

The next days were spent light training on the lake twice a day up until the day before racing began. An impressive opening ceremony was put on, then it was back to the hotel for our last night's sleep before racing began.

Everybody raced to their best potential with a very professional attitude, all achieving P.Bs. Each evening we would spend about 10 minutes in the Japanese style communal bath (separate male and female baths) trying to relax, ready for the next days' racing. On the day of our K2 final, Paul and myself were like zombies, entirely focused on the race ahead. The following day I had my K1 final, By then, everybody else had finished racing but they all appreciated the fact that I was still to race and so didn't distract me. Those who weren't racing gave tremendous support, which really showed by the number of people losing their voices the following day.

### Well Organised

On the journey home, we all had time to reflect on how amazingly well



organised the Championships had been. There was never a late bus, the food was good, drinks were supplied free everyday and there were several demonstrations of Japanese Culture. Everybody found it an amazing experience which they will never forget. For most of us, I think it will be the best event we will ever attend and we all appreciate the hard work that our team manager and coaches have put in.

**The Junior  
Sprint Team  
were supported  
by the Jubilee  
Canoeing  
Foundation**



# Marathon World Cup

## Unquera, Spain



**Course:**

**Senior men**  
4.5 laps,  
4 portages  
(32km)

**Senior women  
& canoes**  
3.5 laps, 3  
portages  
(25km)

**Junior men,  
women & canoe**  
2.5 laps,  
2 portages  
(18km)

The small town of Unquera played host to the best marathon paddlers in the world for two days of competition in this year's World Cup event.

The race was based on a 7km lap including a 300m false portage on the tidal stretch of the river Deva in northern Spain. A solid team performance and some excellent doubles results helped Britain to four medals and the overall team prize for the second time in succession despite several of the teams boats sustaining damage in transit.

Lawler and Harris of Great Britain and Elmbride CC in a borrowed boat picked up where they left off in Crestuma to take gold in a close tactical men's K2 race. A large front

group for all but the last lap lead to numerous clag ups in a game of cat and mouse. Each time round the portage the group spread out only to reform as none of the crews were prepared to take on the pace. It was only at the final portage with 3km to go that the group finally split, the

Elmbride paddlers broke away with three other boats to set up a thrilling thousand metres. Lawler and Harris hugging the right hand bank, to avoid the current, raced head to head with Portugal's Gomes and Silva up the left, both crews cutting into the middle at the last minute to cross the line between the finish buoys. For the spectators it was difficult to see which crew had the upper hand till the very last, but the British pair ran out clear winners.

**Blistering Pace**

The Trains C2 race was an altogether different story, but none the less impressive. Even the Hungarian World Championships were unable to contend with the blistering pace set by the Fladbury pair from the start. By the end of the first lap they had opened up a comfortable gap on the second place Cuban crew, a gap they continued to extend over the whole race which they eventually by over 2 minutes.

In the women's race Anna Hemmings made an excellent start to break away with Dutch Girl Nicole Bulk to open up a clear lead

over the rest of the field. The two girls stayed together until the final portage when Hemmings ran away from Bulk to open a thirty metre lead only to see it cancelled out by an unfortunate slip climbing in. The final thousand metres was lead out by Hemmings, but she was just unable to hold the Dutch girl in the final 50 metres and finished second. In the second group of three women Sonia Bapty followed her debut fourth in Crestuma with a well deserved Bronze medal as she was able to get the better of the south African and Hungarian over the last lap.

In the other senior classes Greg Slater battled gamely for three laps to catch the front group after a poor start but although coming close on three occasions was unable to make it back. Slater finally finished sixth in a race won by Rui Cancio of Portugal. Debutantes Linda Dawe of Exeter and Tricia Davey of Richmond also battled hard to finish strongly in the women's K2. They pulled up three places in the final lap to finish 4th. Completing the team performance Derek Hall of Reading in the C1 finished 11th in his best performance of the season.

**Local Knowledge**

The Junior Race over the same course was a very different story, racing on the bottom of an incoming tide, local knowledge of disappearing sand banks and shallows proved decisive. Tim Brabants finished 4th and although he closed the gap on the front group dramatically during the last lap he was unable to repeat his Sprint Worlds 500 metre Bronze Medal success. Doubling up with club mate Paul Darby-Dowman for the K2 on the second day of racing the Elmbridge pair managed fifth place just holding off a spirited challenge from Golder and Chapman who took sixth on the burn in. Kerry Watts turned the tables on Silva of Portugal, winner of the junior women's race in Crestuma earlier in the year but a strong Hungarian team which took five of the first eight places left Watts with a creditable ninth spot.

Congratulations should also go to Alan and Jackie Williams on the birth of their baby daughter. Alan flew home early from Unquera just in time to attend the birth!



Upper left:  
Ivan & Steve after the portage

Below left:  
The Trains approach a portage

Below:  
Anna Hemmings



Article by  
Richard Ward -  
Marathon  
Development  
Coach



# MAKE WAVES (not just paddle)

## with a Ravenspring Breathing Drysuit



The suits give the greatest levels of style and comfort, made possible by the latest generation of breathing fabric, which is lightweight yet strong enabling us to bring you 3 suits that perform in all conditions.

The UNO at £219, the DUO, a two piece suit, at £240 and top of the range RAPIDE at £259.

Also (not shown), Breathing Dry Top with covered latex waist seal, wrists and neck, to convert wet suits to virtually a dry suit; at only £87.

The glasses are fully UV protected and are made to safety glasses standard. The lens is optically perfect over 180°, cutting out glare, spray and debris. The glasses will fit over standard prescription lenses and float with the optional float strap.

Available in 5 great colours for only £39.50.

For the ultimate style and performance on the water give us a ring for our free colour brochure.

### RAVENSRING LTD



Ford Road,  
Totnes Industrial Estate,  
Totnes, Devon TQ9 5LQ

Tel & Fax: 01803 867092



# Kent Canoe Services

If you want the best choice, service & advice in

## LONDON & THE SOUTH EAST

If you are fed up with visiting Canoe shops with tiny premises and minimal stock! -

**PAY US A VISIT!**

Our newly expanded showroom offers an area of over 1300sq/ft crammed full of canoeing equipment



- ▶ **We stock boats from:**
  - PRIJON** including the Diablo!!
  - DAGGER** including the new 'Blast'
  - pyranha** including the Acrobat 270
  - perception** including the Pirouette S.S.
  - Ace** including the Falchion.

*Our Demo fleet includes the above and much more:*
- ▶ **Paddles from:**  
Dr D, Prijon, Schlegel, Ainsworth
- ▶ **2nd hand boats taken in P/X for new**
- ▶ **Starter Packs from £299 Including!!**  
Canoe, paddle, spray deck and buoyancy aid
- ▶ **Accessories from:**
  - 
  - Peak, Chang, and more!
- ▶ **Our Canoe School is run by a B.C.U Coach**  
Instructor Assessment 8th October.  
S.I. Assessment 28th/29th October.

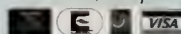
**We are only:**

5 mins from the M20/M26; 10 mins from the M25; 20 mins from the Dartford Bridge; 45 mins from the Channel Tunnel;

**We are open:**

Tues 9.30 - 5.00, Weds 9.30 - 12.30, Thurs 12.30 - 7.30, Friday 9.30 - 5.00, Saturday 9.30 - 5.30, other times by arrangement.

We take all major credit and charge cards



We are **KENT CANOE SERVICES** Avoncraft South, Unit 1, New House Farm, Kemsing Road, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7BU Tel: 01732 886688





# 27th World Canoe Ra

**The Germans can always be relied upon to organise a good event, and this occasion was no exception. The course at Duisburg was used for World Championships in 1979 and 1987 and has been a top site for International regattas since the 1950s.**

**Article by  
Di Lawler**

*Below:  
Andrew and Stephen  
Train qualified for the  
Olympics by coming  
5th in the C2 1,000  
metre final, this is  
their best ever  
Olympic distance  
result, they are  
serious contenders for  
an Olympic medal*

*Right:  
K2 200 final about  
half way*

**I**t is one of the older courses and has the advantage of being surrounded by mature trees and being very sheltered. The 9 lane course is laid out to International standards and is narrower than some of the more modern courses. This has the advantage of compacting the areas of activity at the finish line end of the course; the boat shed and competitor enclosure are easily visible across the water from the spectator stands; the finish line is not too far away to see. . . everyone can see boats going in to be weighed; the presentation area is easily visible across the water from the spectator stands; the finish line is not too far away to see. . . everyone can see boats going to be weighed; the presentation area is easily visible to

spectator and competitor alike. This proximity causes an atmosphere to build up

easily. . . enthusiasm is contagious and the excitement spreads quickly.

**Perfect Weather, Immaculate Course**

The weather was perfect, the course was immaculate and with the help of some cheerful German "oompah" music the Championships got away to a brisk start. The flags of 51 competing nations flapped languidly over the boathouse as the teams below prepared to race. This Championship was like no other before; to add to the normal stress of competing at the highest level the competitors also had the burden of Olympic selection for 1996.

As I watched the opening rounds of the competition it seemed to me that the standard of racing had moved up to yet another level since I attended the World Championships in Copenhagen 2 years ago. Every place was fiercely contested and losers lost by mere 1/1000ths of a second in some cases. All the stops were out and there were more paddlers in contention for finals places . . . and in with a real chance. . . than ever before. The organisers kept everyone fully informed of draws, results and times via the scoreboard and a copious supply of daily programmes. This made spectating much more interesting to those of us that were not fully conversant with who's who in the racing world.

The highest entry for events was in the men's kayaks. The high entry and the fierce competition for finals places made the races incredibly exciting, and at the same time produced some unexpected results.

The strong and much favoured German crew, Bluhm and Gutsche failed to get through their semi-final in the K2 500; Renn Critchlow from Canada, a regular 500m K1 finalist also failed at the semi-final stage. It was very hard for even the best to achieve the result they had hoped for. The first 6 boats came over the line within one second. There was delight as well as despair . . . the Italian K2 crews Scarpa/Rossi (1000m) and Scarpa/Bonomi (500m) were invincible, they went right through all rounds of both events taking first places throughout.

Medals in the men's kayaks were shared around 10 countries, although if we are to judge from the acquisition of medals, Poland and Germany would be the strongest teams with Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania and Russia very close behind with very little to choose between them.

In the women's kayak events the strength lay within a group of four countries. Germany produced excellent crew boats in the 500m events (2 gold), Canada was definitely top team on the 200m events (1 silver and 2 gold) and the best K1 paddler was Rita Koban from Hungary who won both K1 500 and 200m races. The Chinese girls were impressive in their K4 500 but were knocked out in the semi-final of both K1 and K2 500m. The Swedish girls who have maintained a place in the top group since 1984 have yet to be toppled, they won bronze medals in both K2 and K4 500, silver in the K2 200 and Bronze in K4 200. Susanne Gunnerson in K1 500 also won a bronze medal.

The home crowd were doing all they could to encourage the German Team but were obviously disappointed when Birgit Schmidt, a regular medallist could only manage 7th in the final of the women's K1.





# Canoeing Championships

## Duisburg - Germany

Medals went to Rita Koban (HUN) Caroline Burnet (CAN), both medallists last year in Mexico, and Susanne Gunnerson (SWE). Schmidt is still however, very much a key member of the German team and is a K2 and K4 crew member as well as paddling K1. Josefa Idem, originally a German, now married to an Italian and paddling for Italy returned to the Championships after a year away from competition. She now has a 4 month old baby and came back to race in the hopes of qualifying for the Games; she was happy to be 8th in the K1 500m final.

The Hungarians were far and away the best team in the Canoe events, taking 6 out of 9 gold medals. This achievement added to their other successes in the kayak events brought their gold medal tally up to 9 in all. A record achievement for the team which did not go uncelebrated! The entry in the Canoe events has gone up over the last two years and the rest of the field have certainly closed in on the leaders. The finishes were in some cases becoming as close as those in the kayak races and stragglers were few and far between.

### Britain's Entries

Andy and Steve Train, Britain's entry in both the C2 1000m and 500m were pushed harder than expected in their heat of the 1000m. They went on to qualify for the final and took fifth place "a good run but not inspired" was Andy's assessment of their performance, pleased to have qualified for the Games. As spectators we all had secret hopes of a medal. Steve and Andy had won medals at Grand Prix events this season and I don't think we fully appreciated how much more difficult the World Championships was likely to be. In the 500m event they qualified for the semi-final as fastest losers and did not make the final. Tom Love in Canadian singles events was forced to withdraw from the 200m after damaging his shoulder in the 500m repechage.

Britain's kayak paddlers put up a good fight, as did the 30 other countries who failed to win any medals. Our fate generally was to be eliminated at the semi-final stage. Ivan Lawler/Grayson Bourne K2 were probably our next best hope of success after the C2 1000m, but they too could only reach the semis, 7th in the 500m and 6th in the 1000m. They were drawn into the hardest group in the 200 rounds and

although they had hopes of doing well after their success in Mexico last year it was not to be; they were eliminated in the second round. Duncan Roeser was paddling at his first World's and did very well in both K1 events, 7th in the semi finals of the 500m and 9th in the semi-finals of the 1000m. Mark Train raced in the K1 200m and did well to get through to the second round.

In the K4 events we fielded two different boats. The 1000m boat of Tim Brabants, Paul Darby-Dowman, David Smith and Steve Harris, basically a new "junior" boat which has proved the best in domestic events at this distance and was taken to get some experience of high class competition. This crew was unable to get it together for their heat but put up a good performance in the repechage, not quite good enough to make a semi-final however. The other K4 (Clark /Dorrell /Vansomeran/ Morga), the crew which has been the "National K4" for the last two years paddled the 500 and 200m events. They also were eliminated in the repechage and knocked out in the first round of the 200m competition.

Following the good results achieved by our women's crews (Dallaway/ Dresser/Thorogood/Train K4 and Dallaway/Dresser K2) in the Grand Prix regattas this season there were hopes of reaching finals in these events; hopes were dashed abruptly when they came in 7th in their heat of the K4 500m. As there were only 18 entrants in this event all of them went on to take part in the semi-final, where they took 6th place. The K2 qualified for the semi final but failed to make the final, disappointed that crews they had beaten earlier in the year had now got the better of them.

Anna Hemmings, in spite of only being 18 and in her first year as a senior, has proved herself the second fastest K1 paddler in the ladies event at domestic regattas. She was selected to compete in both K1 500 and 200m. Unlucky to be drawn into a very hard heat and put under great strain to keep up with the race, she was unable to produce her best performance. It was much the same story in the 200m when she was knocked out in the first round.

Lets hope that after a few constructive post mortems our team will live to fight another day, we enjoyed watching and supporting them and would like them to



know that we appreciate now how hard it all is and how necessary it is to be "professional" in all senses of the word, not easy in G.B.

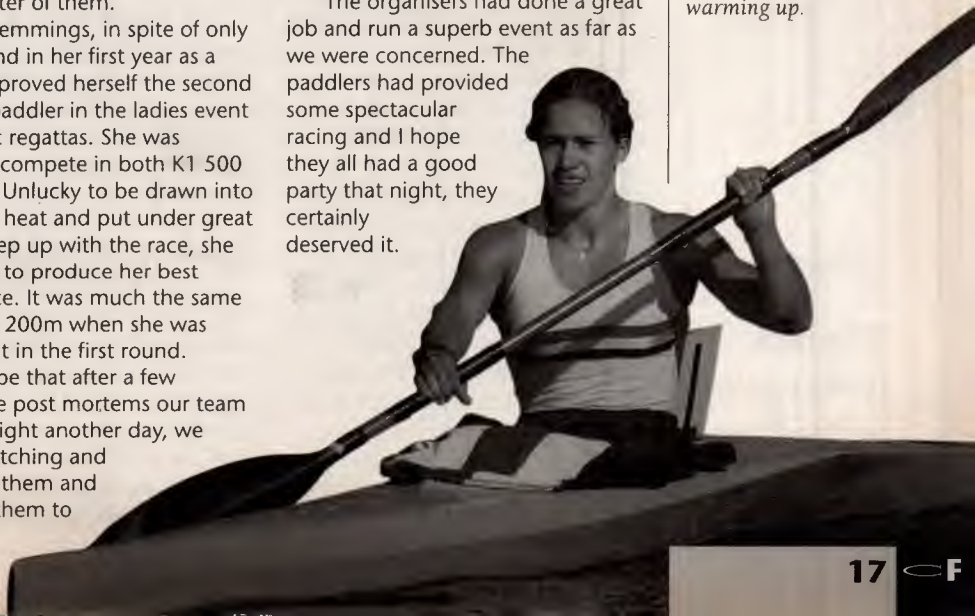
### "Mein Gott ist schnell!"

The Championship programme ended with the 200m events on the Sunday, and as the day wore on an atmosphere of relief and festivity became apparent. Sitting in the stands among literally thousands of supporters from all over the World, all waving flags, clapping and shouting, watching the best racing I have ever seen since I started going to World Championships events in the 1960s, it was hard to imagine why there is so little interest in this sport in Britain. There were 9000 spectators at the Duisburg stands on finals days. The medallists were treated as National heroes and acclaimed by riotous groups of supporters, TV cameras rolled non-stop for 3 days, commentators in the press stand became tongue-tied and choked on their words as the boats came over the line in groups too close to split "Mein Gott ist schnell!" we heard from the German commentator time and time again, and that about summed it up!

The organisers had done a great job and run a superb event as far as we were concerned. The paddlers had provided some spectacular racing and I hope they all had a good party that night, they certainly deserved it.

*Above:*  
K2 200 final about a foot from the finish, the USA crew of Jorenson and Mooney in lane nine were the surprise winners from the Romanian crew of Serban and Stoian in lane two, as you can see only a few feet separate all nine boats

*Below:*  
Anna Hemmings warming up.





Article by  
Dave Ross,  
SCA Touring  
Committee

# Wrist Risk

## One mans problems and

## solutions

Having heard so many moans about IT, read about IT, suffered from IT and (hopefully) beaten IT, I thought that I might pass on my experience in a simple manner. I hope it helps.

**W**hen I started canoeing I heard about tennis-something. It was to be avoided, but everyone knew somebody who had it! It was a creaky, sore wrist and death to paddling aspirations.

After a while symptoms uncomfortably familiar began to appear. I persevered - so did the symptoms. I changed to unfeathered blades - great for rivers and following beam winds - murder in a headwind. Eventually sense intervened and I decided to get proper help - but what kind?

I questioned three things: Me the machine - did I need repairs? My technique - was I paddling efficiently? My equipment - was it right for the job?

My physiotherapist, Mrs Simmie, checked my wrist. Yes it was suffering but the problem really started with a mountaineering accident when the bones 'popped apart' after a fall. Nevertheless, treatment was needed. I was given that plus instructions not to use my wrist at all! Absolutely no paddling!

Months later I was allowed gentle paddling until I tried it out and got some strength back. Results? - it felt much better; a few twinges but worth the months of sulking.

My pal John had tenosynovitis with very similar symptoms, treatment and results so we constantly compared notes.

### Improving Technique

Gordon Brown, my coach, then undertook to improve my technique and correct faults. A proper upright posture, small of the back supported; reach forward to place the blade with some trunk rotation; pull the shaft back - I was habitually pushing. Bingo! This key shift in emphasis made a big change. Now, instead of having to grip fairly tightly to hold my wrist straight, it straightened of its own accord. And, because I was pulling the bones apart as opposed to pushing them together, the pressure on the joints and subsequent grating virtually vanished.

(Grab your own thumb now. Push then pull to see what I mean) It was so obvious, but as I had been taught to push, I never questioned it!

He also advised a shorter paddle shaft. Again, I had equated length with lower paddling rates and greater efficiency. True, but it also meant greater stress as more power was required for each of the strokes.

### Change of Paddles

This led me to go to Alister and Marriane Wilson at Lendal to discuss paddles. In due course we decided on a mid weight carbon shaft with some 'give' in it - very strong but without the shock as the blade stalls in the water. It is 8cm shorter than the last one and it has a variable feather joint. I

was able to experiment with feather to reduce windage and minimise wrist twist on my control side (the one with the problem). The combination of the pull vs push action and the modified crank was great! The modified crank virtually means that you don't need a control hand - the blades set themselves as they start to bite. (I have had to convince some modified crank paddlers of this as they were so used to their control hand).

The grip is much more relaxed as the shaft does not have to be held tightly. The crank 'leads' the blade which has to follow (as it is behind the pulling force) and up and down as well as side to side wrist movement is reduced.

I had used modified crank paddles before and thought that the cranks were too wide for sea paddling. Lendal supplied a width tailor made for me and that made a worthwhile contribution also. (P.S Having the shaft oval at both sides simplifies setting the paddle for rolling on your 'non control' side).

So? Well, now I paddle with the big boys again. I'm not fast (never was anyway) but my fear of having to give up paddling is gone. I think that the questions I asked where the right ones. Certainly, the advice given was good though the 'no paddling' regime was a bit hard. The effort in getting the equipment right was well rewarded (including an interesting tour of Lendals production unit).

I have avoided long, detailed descriptions. The basic three questions remain the same but the real benefits come from finding the answers to YOUR specific problem. I hope your sources turn out as good as mine!

### Thanks

to Mrs Simmie,  
Gordon Brown,  
Alister and  
Marriane Wilson.





## DESPERATE MEASURES

Latest demos from Pyranha, Dagger and Perception

'Try before you buy at Holme Pierrepont'

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

Tel: 0115 9816815

**Mail Order a Speciality - Open 9am till Dusk**

*Back by popular demand.....*

# NO VAT!

on all VALLEY GRP sea kayaks ordered & paid for  
between September 1st & November 30th '95  
(Equivalent to 14.89% discount from list price) Offer applies to sales within the UK only

### TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

14-15 October at Calshot, Southampton - B.C.U. SEA TOURING  
GROUP SYMPOSIUM

10 - 12 November at the IRISH SEA SYMPOSIUM

Tollymore Mountain Centre County Down N.I. (01232 381222 Ms. H.McQuade)

Where we will have our range of boats available for on the water trial or visit  
our factory, where we also stock Knoydart clothing, Lendal paddles & equip-  
ment for Sea Kayakers



Private Road No. 4, Colwick Industrial Estate, Nottingham. Tel: 0115 961 4995 or Fax: 0115 961 4970



Article by  
David Blakeney  
and Dr.  
Adrienne  
Garner

# A Paddler's Guide To Water Borne Infections

Yes,  
this article did  
appear in the last  
issue of Canoe Focus,  
unfortunately not in its  
entirety. Therefore it  
has been agreed to re-  
print this article in  
full to avoid any  
confusion.

**O**ver the past few years I have become aware of an increasing amount of views, conversations and opinions on the subject of water borne illness particularly those stomach related ones.

As an outdoor pursuits instructor and trek leader in Nepal I have some experience in this area and am writing this in conjunction with Adrienne Garner (a GP and marathon canoeist) to hopefully give some guidance to readers of Focus on the subject.

There are three ways in which we can contract infections from the water in which we paddle: swallowing, through cuts and through the mucous membranes. There are several types of infection and here is a simple resume of the most common.

## **Bacterial infection: which can be considered under three headings.**

### **A: Simple:**

the most common, e.g. E Coli, probably contracted by swallowing water contaminated with sewerage. Symptoms: rapid onset, diarrhoea without blood. Treat by fasting for 24 hours, drink

clear fluids, water, tea without milk, commercial rehydration solutions) if symptoms persist then it may well be B.

### **B: Possibly requiring treatment:**

Shigella and Salmonella for example. Symptoms generally start 24 hours after exposure and may include fever, vomiting and diarrhoea with blood. Treat by visiting your GP - do not take anti-diarrhoeals (e.g. Imodium or Kaolin) as these mask symptoms, do not cure the problem and may make things worse.

### **C: Complex:**

Weil's disease is a classic and enough has been written on this already. However if you take penicillin in time you will make a recovery but the whole thing hinges on the time factor. So if you have any worries go straight to your GP and tell him/her that you are a canoeist and think you need a ten day course of penicillin - waiting for a test uses up valuable time.

## **Protozoal Infection:**

Giardiasis and Amoebic Dysentery are good examples. Vomiting, diarrhoea with mucous and blood, eggy-sulphurous burps and foul smelling gas are all possible symptoms. A stool test is recommended to get the diagnosis and therefore the treatment right. (The stool test may well be negative in Giardiasis). Symptoms start 24 hours after exposure. Treatment see B.

## **Viral Infection:**

For example Hepatitis A. These infections are not common and there is no specific treatment. Normally your own immune system will sort them out. It is worth mentioning that you can get free immunisation against Hepatitis A from your GP - a course of two injections is needed for ten years protection.

We are aware that there are many more types of water-borne hazards: chemical, algae etc. however this is supposed to be a simple guide.

One important thing to remember is that prevention is better than cure so if the water looks dodgy - stagnant, filmy, polluted etc. - don't go in. Always cover cuts with a good plaster, wear suitable gear including adequate footwear, try not to swallow whilst immersed and don't open your eyes underwater, if rolling a lot wear a nose clip, think about getting good water tight containers for your sarnies and drying your hands prior to eating, rinse your flask cup out with a little of the flask contents and try to shower soon after paddling.

It must be stressed that out of the thousands of paddlers only a small percentage get ill so this should not be taken as a scare mongering article.

Finally Coca-Cola seems to be used as a preventative measure by many paddlers - and although there does not seem to be any real evidence that this works "if it makes you happy go for it!". P.S adding a bit of rum - provided you've finished paddling - may add to its efficacy says the Doc.



# PHOENIX OF NOTTINGHAM

The choice of British teams  
members in:



- The Slalom World Championships ●
- The White Water Racing World Championships ●
- The White Water Rodeo World Championships ●

For your nearest dealer contact:

**Phoenix Neoprene Spraydecks Ltd**

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

**Tel/Fax: 0115 9816815**



**nookie**  
Extreme Kayaking Equipment

Available in the UK from the following selected stockists:

**SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH**  
 Carlisle Canoes 01228 31703  
 Kayaks Northwest 01928 710770  
 The Watershed 0191 272 2225

**MIDLANDS**  
 No Limits 0115 981 3222  
 Canoe World 0121 433 5025  
 Valley 0115 961 4995

**SOUTHWEST**  
 Kayaks & Paddles 01752 335176  
 Performance Kayaks 01934 613612

**SOUTHEAST**  
 Avoncraft 01707 330000  
 T&W - The Canoe Centre 01932 247978  
 Kent Canoe Services 01732 886688

**WALES**  
 Whitewater Consultancy 01559 362083  
 Snowdonia Canoeing 01490 412644

**SOUTHERN IRELAND**  
 River Deep Mountain Ltd 091 63938  
 Great Outdoors 01679 4293

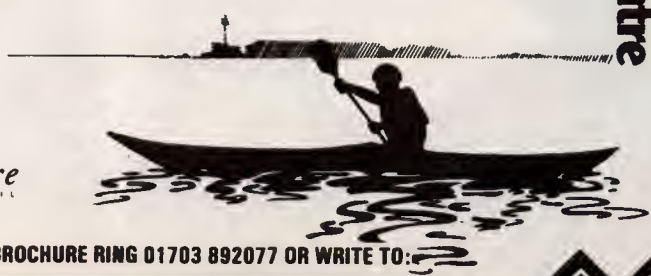
Customers outside the United Kingdom please contact:  
**Nookie Kayaking Equipment**  
**Tel/Fax: Int +44 1822 855400**  
 for details of your local distributor

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



# World Whitewater

**For the paddlers who made the 1995 British Wildwater Rodeo Team, the World Championships held in Germany in July marked a welcome end to a gruelling season of selection events.**

**N**early two hundred paddlers from all over Britain had competed for eighteen places on the team which comprised five squirt boaters, nine float boaters, three ladies, two C1s and two open boaters. I caught up with the team at the World Championship site, the 'Eiskanal' in Augsburg near Munich, in my official capacity as team photographer, reserve bank bunny and subject of the fat knee jokes.

On my arrival at the Eiskanal, the artificial whitewater course built for the 1972 Olympics, I half expected to be greeted by a miserable bunch of stressed out paddlers moaning (quite justifiably) about the water conditions and badly organised practice sessions as was the case at the 1993 Worlds in Tennessee. To my relief, the situation was totally different. The weather superb, water was plentiful on the course, day and night and despite having to fit eighteen people into one ninety minute practice session per day, team manager Martin Plain had everyone well organised.

The competition spanned three days with a qualifying round followed by heats and finals in all disciplines. Taking part were competitors from

nineteen countries as far afield as New Zealand, Canada, Chile, Japan and most of the European nations, including Finland and Slovenia. Even South Africa was represented when the inimitable American, Corran Addison made use of his dual nationality after failing to make the American team. This was perfectly reasonable, but there did seem to be some other, slightly dodgy, team switching with the Germans who failed to make their team switching to the Austrian team for no apparent reason. Funny old world! Talking of funny old worlds, the opening ceremony which was staged by the local people, raised a few eyebrows by including very young girls in skimpy skirts and some decidedly odd Bavarian men dressed in lederhosen, cracking whips in time to accordion music. Bizarre but nevertheless entertaining!

### "Washing Machine"

Friday kicked off with the qualifying hole riding session which took place in the infamous "Washing Machine". The hole (shallow for all but about a metre of its width) is well known for being brutal to boats and bodies and before the day was over, it had taken its toll. Brits, Bill Mattos (float boat) and Dave Roberts (open canoe) were carted off to the local 'Krankenhaus' with broken bones and most of the rest of the team were nursing the broken noses and tails of their prized boats.

Points from the hole riding were combined with those of an extreme slalom to find the top fifteen float boaters and top five ladies, C1s and open canoes who then became the finalists.

### Difficult Boat Choice

Extreme slalom has become a regular feature in world class rodeos, usually making up between 30% and 40% of the overall points. The Eiskanal Worlds extreme slalom course was a particularly tough one. It is not the conventional stick chasing



slalom but more a series of hotdogging moves and difficult attainments requiring accurate river running skills against a clock. Each paddler was given two minutes to complete a course of fifteen checkpoints, more points being awarded for the more difficult vertical moves and attainments on the steepest and fastest sections of the river. Competitors were allowed one boat for the whole event which made boat choice difficult since a fast, probably long, boat was needed for the slalom, while a short, manoeuvrable boat was more appropriate for the hole riding. Eskimo had come up with a last minute design referred to as the "Mini Diablo" sporting just a few inches more than the spud with low volume front and back decks. It had the advantage of being short enough to avoid the destructive concrete river bed during cartwheels but still long enough to look spectacular. Unfortunately, only six were available and they were allocated long before the British team got a look in.

Despite this, 4 Brits made the final having defeated more than a hundred other paddlers. Harley Masters, Paul



Article and photographs by Heather Gunn



# Rodeo Championships

## Augsburg, Germany

Currant (Pre Worlds Champion), Shaun Baker (UK National Champion) and Paul Fletcher along with fourteen others had two two minute runs in the washing machine during which time they had to be as spectacular as possible.

Unfortunately, the way the moves were scored by the panel of three judges meant that several cartwheels scored higher than several different moves and inevitably the event turned into a cartwheeling competition. While cartwheels look impressive the first time you see them, after a while they become a tad boring to watch.

1991 World Champion, Jan Kellner of Germany and defending World Champion, Eric Jackson from America both found themselves being beaten by the carthwheeling experts and were deprived of medals. The final places saw Oliver Grau of Germany, Corran Addison of South Africa and Donald Calder of New Zealand taking gold, silver and bronze respectively with Harley Masters, highest placed British team member, taking an impressive ninth place at just 15 years old. Following a second extreme slalom run in which he fought off competition from the faster long boats in his Topolino/Spud, Shaun Baker took joint third in the EuroCup to win himself a bronze medal.

The three ladies competing for Britain, Victoria Young (UK Ladies National Champion), Louise Wigmore and Lara Tipper all made the ladies final. Despite an excellent first run, Louise was disappointed with eighth place, although eighth best in the world is hardly a position to be scoffed at. Jamie Simon and Karen Mann from America and Sandra Schmidt (1991 World Champion) from Germany took the medals with excellent performances.

### Broken Wrist

Britain is noted for its open boaters, but team members Pete Orton and Dave Roberts gave the experienced Canadians and Americans a serious run for their money. Paddling with a broken wrist, Dave managed several good runs, complete with vertical moves while Pete, also a dab hand at

front and back enders, impressed the spectators and competitors with an extensive repertoire and flamboyant style.

The bulk of the medals for the British team came in the Squirt and C1 events. C1 paddlers Paul Robertson and Steve Block had the crowd of spectators cheering continuously through their impressive runs. Both rising to the occasion, they fought off the opposition to take a silver and bronze medal, Paul taking the silver in his first ever international rodeo competition.

### Best Entertainment

I thought the squirt boating provided some of the best entertainment of the whole event. It began with a flat water session on a small lake at the top of the Eiskanal at 9am when very few other paddlers were awake. The sun was already hot and the atmosphere was relaxed and fun. Even the judges were laid back, asking the paddlers themselves how they wanted the competition to run. One of only two ladies to compete in the squirt event, Louise Wigmore gave a stunning demonstration of her squirting skills gaining one of the highest scores of the day.

The second stage of the event was held in the washing machine and Bob Campbell took an early joint lead with defending champion American Lee Bonfiglio. After a couple more runs, Bob took a convincing and well deserved win and Chris Taudevin sneaked into second with a spectacular set of cartwheels and 360 degree spins.

Following a fairly formal prize giving with medals, trophies, national anthems, flag hoisting and champagne, all competitors were treated to a party flowing with free beer and plenty of that peculiar stuff Germans refer to as 'food'. The event was rounded off with a meeting of team managers and representatives who gathered to discuss the site of the next worlds. Although a



final decision will not be made until early September, the toss up looks set to be between Japan and Canada, New Zealand having been ruled out due to its unsuitability to a world class event.

## Thanks

**The British team would like to thank manager Martin Plain for all his hard work.**

## Results

### K1 Men

- 1 Oliver Grau, GER
- 2 Corran Addison, SAF
- 3 Donald Calder, NZL
- 9 Harley Masters, GBR
- 11 Paul Currant, GBR
- 12 Shaun Baker, GBR
- 15 Paul Fletcher, GBR

### Squirt

- 1 Bob Campbell, GBR
- 2 Chris Taudevin, GBR
- 3 Bob McDonough, USA
- 6 Louise Wigmore, GBR

### K1 Women

- 1 Jamie Simon, USA
- 2 Sandra Schmidt, GER
- 3 Karen Mann, USA
- 6 Vicky Young, GBR
- 8 Louise Wigmore, GBR
- 9 Lara Tipper, GBR

### C1 Men

- 1 Allan Braswell, USA
- 2 Paul Robertson, GBR
- 3 Steve Block, GBR

### C1 Open

- 1 Uwe Fischer, GER
- 2 Lars Klotzbach, GER
- 3 Jeff Richards, USA
- 7 Pete Orton, GBR

### Extreme Slalom

- 1 Oliver Grau, GER
- 2 Jan Kellner, GER
- 3= Shaun Baker, GBR
- 3= Donald Calder, NZL





# Richard Fox Opens Taunton's New Clubhouse

On Sunday 25th June

Richard Fox performed the formal opening ceremony at Taunton Canoe Club's new clubhouse and boatstore.

**T**he day's events took place in glorious sunshine and attracted a large audience. As well as the opening ceremony there was the opportunity for everyone to enjoy themselves in a canoe, well over 100 people took advantage of this and enjoyed themselves on the river.

There were demonstrations by the Masters brothers from Weston super Mare who are both members of the GB Rodeo team, a flat water slalom course and canoe polo as well as "Try Canoeing" for the general public. Richard Fox spent several hours on the water coaching and encouraging youngsters as well as playing a 'friendly' game of polo.

Taunton Canoe Club would like to thank the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, The Sports Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and the BCU South West committee who all provided grant aid for the new building. The total cost of the building was some £58,000 with all the electrical work, plumbing, alarm installation, decoration, fitting out and paving etc., being carried out by members on a DIY basis.

The new building is situated right beside the River Tone and provides a large boatstore, male and female changing rooms with hot showers and facilities for the disabled and a committee/clubroom. This replaces the old wooden hut which had to be demolished when it was severely damaged by a stolen car crashing into it.

Taunton Canoe Club appreciate the support given to the open day by Richard Fox, Perception, A/S

Watersports, the Masters brothers, Taunton Deane Borough Council, other canoe clubs and many individuals and companies. The event was well covered by local press and radio and attracted considerable attention to the club resulting in the new beginners sessions now being well over subscribed.

Taunton Canoe Club run special sessions for newcomers on Thursday evenings 6.30pm - 8.00pm, April to October, or formal 6 week courses on Wednesday evenings 7.00pm - 9.00pm, and two pool sessions Thursday evenings 9.00pm - 10.00pm. Formal courses cost £30 which includes six months club membership. The special sessions cost an additional £1. Additional

pool sessions cost £4.

Taunton Canoe Club is affiliated to the British Canoe Union and Instructors used by the club all hold formal BCU qualifications.



**Further information:**  
**David Hawkins -**  
**Publicity Officer**  
**Taunton**  
**Canoe Club**



# 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/Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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 £ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Licence and how long held \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ FULL/PROV Excess: Nil  
 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

# 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

1 ONLY 94 ART SINGLE COLOUR MOUNTAIN BAT was £469 **NOW £422**

1 ONLY 94 ART MULTI COLOUR STUNT BAT was £509 **NOW £458**

1 FREEFALL LT MULTI LINEAR 95 (Scratched) was £530 **NOW £495**

WILDWATER DRY TOPS was £62.95 **NOW £58.00**

STARTER PACKAGE Usually £319.00

Tuffy Vision Club Spraydeck Paddle Buoyancy aid **Our price £290.00**

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 6 DAYS A WEEK

Mon-Fri.....9.30 - 6.00pm Saturday.....9.00 - 5.00pm

Late Night Thursday.....9.30 - 8.00pm

PYRANHA • PERCEPTION • DAGGER • WILDWATER • PALM • YAK • COLEMAN • OLDTOWNS

ACE • KOBER • AZZALI • SCHLAGAL • PROTEC • BUFFALO • MARLIN • DEMOBOATS



# 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**

# Still No. 1 in North West

IN STOCK.....

ACROBAT 270 (AND 300) -

RAPID FIRE -

HURRICANE (BOTH SPECS) -

FREEFALL LT - CREEK 280 -

GAMBLER ETC...ETC...

**PLUS**

RADICAL AND AWESOME

PADDLES FROM ROUGH STUFF

## Garstang Adventure

Thomas's Weind - Garstang

Tel: 01995 602114/Fax: 01995 601404



23,000

DELIVERED EVERY  
TWO MONTHS

The largest  
circulation of any  
canoeing magazine  
in the United  
Kingdom.

Please call the  
number below to  
take advantage of  
advertising in the  
British Canoe  
Union's official  
magazine.

0 1 4 8 0

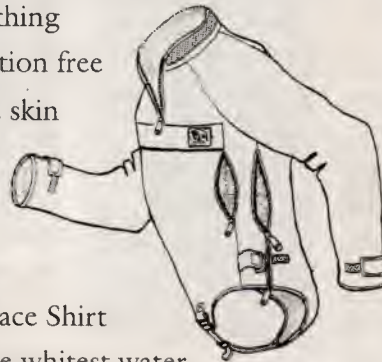
4 6 5 0 8 1



# Buffalo

*Buffalo Clothing can equip  
you for the worst weather*

- Outperforms and replaces layers of conventional clothing
- Totally condensation free
- Worn next to the skin
- Rainproof to 12mm/hour
- Salopettes and trousers available
- Illustrated: Big Face Shirt
- Well tested on the whitest water
- Several people have survived long icy swims in Buffalo Clothing.



*For further details send A5 S.A.E. to*

BUFFALO SYSTEMS LTD  
UNIT 3 THE OLD DAIRY, BROADFIELD  
ROAD, SHEFFIELD. S8 0XO. Tel: 0114 258 0611

## After Peace .... Friendship

During the War Gordon was an RAF pilot, who afterwards became a metallurgist consultant for a German Steel Combine. One of his colleagues was an ex-Luftwaffe pilot and they became firm friends, resulting in him being Godfather to his two sons.

After a very severe illness, Gordon was able to spend two weeks convalescing at the RAF Association's Nursing Home "Sussexdown" in Storrington.



*The Royal Air Forces Association  
Caring for your needs Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow .....*

### BATTLE OF BRITAIN WINGS APPEAL

The Royal Air Forces Association • Freepost (DS)  
Portland Road • Malvern • Worcs • WR14 1BR

I enclose a donation of £ ..... or debit my Visa/Access  
Credit Card

Name .....

Address .....



Tick box for details on:  
Membership Serving  Legacies   
Membership Ex-Serving  Covenants



# A Major Input to Sport?

Article by  
Geoff Good -  
Director of  
Coaching

**A**dventure activities and minor sports have not been ruled out altogether under the Government's charter aimed at raising the profile of sport in school, which was published in July.

The main thrust of the policy is, however, to re-establish the traditional team games, and basketball, and to tackle the hoary chestnut of providing firm links between school and clubs to ensure on-going participation.

Sports governing bodies will

have a high profile, but must ensure that their development plans include firm policies to achieve the aims of the Report if they are to obtain maximum funding.

The Regional Sports Councils will have a particular role to play in encouraging the school-club links.

All teachers will be encouraged to achieve governing body qualifications, and teachers training for PE will include a greater emphasis on formal coaching.

Salaries may be enhanced for those Teachers willing to conduct extra-curricular training, and participation in inter-school leagues and competitions. Governing Body Tests of Personal Performance will be encouraged.

Additional funding is to be made available to assist with the training of teachers, and it is anticipated that the availability of lottery money will be significant in assisting schools and clubs to achieve the aims of the Report.

A 'Sportsmark' scheme will identify those schools with the most innovative ideas, and a Gold Star will identify schools which provide four hours of extra curricular sport each week, on top of the two hours required by the revised syllabus.

A British Academy of Sport will be established as the pinnacle of a national network of centres of excellence. The Academy will cater for those of outstanding talent.

## Where does it leave canoeing?

Quite clearly, the emphasis in the Report is on team games and ball games. Hopefully, the over-riding principle that participation in sport is crucial to a healthy life-style, will hold sway.

In due course it will become clear that a wide range of activity is essential to cater for all - and not just the minority with the eye-hand-foot co-ordination necessary for successful participation in the traditional ball games.

## SPARKS Canoe Challenge

My name is Steve Macdonald and I have been registered blind since birth, I have just finished University and have decided to spend the next year organising and then participating in a canoe trip right round mainland Britain, raising money for the SPARKS Charity.

SPARKS: Sports Aiding Medical Research for Kids, raises money for many different areas of Children's medicine.

The actual event will begin in May 1996 with an estimated three months duration. As I am registered blind, this trip will be completely in double sea kayaks and I will need qualified people to accompany me. Therefore I am looking for fully sighted Instructors that can either, canoe the whole distance with me, or that can spare two to three weeks to canoe their part of the coast. I am also looking for accommodation and people to make up a support team, if you think you can help please contact me, Steve Macdonald, at the address below. Thank You.

**SPARKS Francis House, Francis Street, London, SWP 1DE.**

**Tel: 0171 931 8899**

**Fax: 0171 233 8246**

## J&B Rare Photography Awards

**If you fancy yourself as a bit of a photographer here is your chance for fame as we link up with J&B Rare Whisky for a photography competition entitled "The Best of Summer." We will publish the picture that sums up the 'Best of Summer' in a canoe or kayak. The winner will be chosen based on the style and action content of the picture. To enter just send in your photograph and a caption of not more than 30 words.**

**Winners will receive a bottle of J&B's unique blend of 42 whiskies - drink it long over ice with American for the ultimate in style and excitement - plus win this stylish J&B fleece, a must for those chilly times on the riverbank. Deadline 1 December. All applicants must be 18 years or over and must be accompanied by your BCU membership number.**



RARE  
**J&B**  
SCOTCH WHISKY



# 1995 Wild W

**Bala 24th -28th August**

Following the colourful parade through Bala high street and opening ceremony on Wednesday evening, Thursday saw the non-stop paddle set the reverse seeding for the individual races.

the Bala Mill falls with the choice of the "chicken shoot" or the main fall, both manoeuvres being very demanding for the exhausted athletes before sprinting the final few seconds down to the race finish.

**C1**

In the first race of the championships there were three former World Champions competing Ernst Libuda of Germany 1977 champion, Tomislav Crnkovic from Croatia champion in 1991 and reigning champion Vladi Panato of Italy. With James Lee (GBR) racing in his own design of boat and Mark Defreitas (GBR) making a comeback to wild water racing from sprint racing they both put up good times early in the race. Spirited performances from Rob Pumphrey (GBR) and John Willacy (GBR) saw them finish just ahead of the other Brits and just behind the 1977 World champion Ernst Libuda. Tomislav Crnkovic struggled to find previous form and allowed Vladi Panato to hold on to the title even though he demonstrated some desperate paddling just below Bala Mill falls.

**K1 Ladies**

Catrin Vieten of Germany set the pace with a fast time in the ladies race giving Lisa Rae (GBR) a hard act to follow in her first senior World Championships, Andrea Tordoff (GBR) and Tina Parsons (GBR) went through progressively faster with Cynthia Berry (GBR) ending up faster still. With a strong attack Sabine Eichenberger of Switzerland put up a time well ahead of anyone else. Then despite an error from Ursula Profanter of Austria, when she spun on the "ski ramp", she pulled back with her strong paddling style and went on to retain her World Champion status.

Sunday's racing provided hot

competition and plenty of excitement for the crowds with the 6 foot 7 inch Marcus Gickler of Germany out to defend his K1 crown and a closely fought battle expected in the Canadian Doubles.

**C2**

Over the years the Canadian doubles have nearly become a French monopoly at World Championship level but have recently been challenged by the ever hungry Germans. From the non stop times the four British crews were seeded in a row. Joe Lyons and Andy Guest, off first, started steadily then went on to record faster times than Iain and Andy Clough who started very fast and Neil and Howard Blackman. Dave Belbin and Phil Caunt went on to record the fastest British C2 time. With ever

decreasing times the C2 class was looking good for the title holders

Faysse and Roos of France until the in form Vala and Slucik of Slovakia came over the Bala Mill fall, they landed badly on the left hand side of the boat, the crowd thought it was over, then an amazing cross bow support from Jaroslav Slucik in the stern of the boat saved them from capsize and they went on to clinch the gold medal.

**K1 Men**

Veteran (over 35) Dave R H Taylor was the first British K1 to start in his all black carbon fibre boat and although struggling with several injuries finished in the top half of the field. Making his debut at a senior World Championships Michael Mason (GBR) had a

Top: The British Team

Middle: The Blackman clan

Bottom: Victorious Great Britain Ladies Team

**Article by**

James Morris - GB

WWR C2 Team

Coach

**Photos by**

Ian Greig

Wendy Blackman

Andrew Orchard

Friday was a rest day and many of the competitors took time to grab a last extra practise on the race course or a session on Bala Lake amongst the windsurfers and dinghies all enjoying the fine weather. With 25 nations racing, the highest number to date, paddlers from as far away as Brazil, Finland, Japan, Australia and New Zealand ensured that all corners of the globe were represented.

On a shorter course on the Tryweryn than the 1981 World Championships which was dominated by the French with a gold medal in every class the racing began on Saturday with C1 and Ladies K1.

The race course began just above the notorious "Graveyard" rapid (named from the number of rocks it contains) and finished just below the Bala Mill falls next to the Bala Canoe Club building a distance of 4.5 miles (7.2kms). The first 4 minutes of the race course provided plenty of dramatic action for the spectators as the highly skilled paddlers battled in the "graveyard" down the "ski ramp" through the international slalom site, past the fine new WCA centre and began the technical and fitness demanding central section of the course. After a further ten minutes the paddlers reach the road bridge where the strain of racing could be seen to take its toll on them amongst the cheering and flag waving of the spectators and supporters. Another three and a half minutes into the race the tired racers begin the approach to



# Water Racing

## World Championships

good run to finish amongst some very experienced

went down the "chicken shoot" to enable them to finish in a fifteen second time gap. The German team took victory from the French with the Slovenians into Bronze medal position.

In the ladies team event the British ladies were definite medal prospects and with some back splits being given off the chasing German team they paddled a well executed race, at the official split they were faster than both the French or the Germans. In the end the French had the best finishing speed ahead of the Germans who just pushed the British ladies into the bronze medal position.

The C2 race looked interesting when two of the Italian C1's including the World Champion Panato got in a C2 together to make the third boat. They were off first and provided some entertainment when they both paddled on the same side down the "ski ramp". They paddled much faster than the American and Czech teams off behind them. The British team had to stay ahead of the first three crews down the course to get into a medal winning position and they did this to the pleasure of the crowds who cheered them all the way to the bronze medal. In the men's K1 the top ten teams completed the course within a minute showing how high the standard is. The New Zealand team threw down the gauntlet with a time

paddlers, Alan Tordoff (GBR) racing in his fifth consecutive Worlds raced hard to finish just behind his younger brother Ian who had not managed to repeat his bronze medal performance achieved at the pre-Worlds held a

year ago. As the times began to get quicker Robert Pontarollo of Italy put up a time that looked like it would take some beating nearly five seconds clear of the next competitor. The following three paddlers failed to improve on it, then with a very high paddle rev rate for a man with such long arms Marcus Gickler, face contorted with pain, made the final approach to Bala Mill. He chose the main fall as had most of the top finishers and unlike some of his practice runs took it very smoothly sprinting the last few meters to take victory by a very small margin. This was to be his third consecutive victory at this highest level, an unprecedented achievement.

### Team Events - Brits Take Bronze

With an extra days recovery the fastest C1 teams left the start gate as if they were racing for just a short distance, not the 4.5 miles they had ahead and maintained the enthusiasm right to the end making for an exciting race. At the Bala Mill fall in most cases two boats went over the main fall and one



## Results

### C1 Individual

- 1 **Vladi Panato**  
ITA 23.56.78
- 2 **Stefan Steifenhofer**  
GER 24.00.53
- 3 **Jerome Bonnardel**  
FRA 24.06.68
- 16 **Rob Pumphrey**  
GBR 25.18.42
- 20 **John Willacy**  
GBR 25.35.79
- 23 **Mark Defreitas**  
GBR 26.20.86
- 24 **James Lee**  
GBR 26.25.08

### K1 Ladies - Individual

- 1 **Ursula Profanter**  
AUT 22.56.68
- 2 **Laurence Castet**  
FRA 23.07.17
- 3 **Aurore Bringard**  
FRA 23.13.11
- 9 **Cynthia Berry**  
GBR 23.44.08
- 11 **Tina Parsons**  
GBR 23.45.12
- 12 **Andrea Tordoff**  
GBR 23.47.59
- 15 **Lisa Rae**  
GBR 24.30.31

### C2 Individual

- 1 **V Vala/ J Slucik**  
SVK 22.49.27
- 2 **D Faysse/P Roos**  
FRA 22.50.41
- 3 **A Dajek/ U Knittel**  
GER 22.52.52
- 10 **Dave Belbin/Phil Caunt**  
GBR 23.51.98
- 12 **Andy Guest/Joe Lyons**  
GBR 24.16.14
- 13 **Howard & Neil Blackman**  
GBR 24.19.30
- 14 **Iain and Andy Clough**  
GBR 24.37.42

### K1 Men - Individual

- 1 **Marcus Gickler**  
GER 21.00.76
- 2 **Robert Pontarollo**  
ITA 21.01.25
- 3 **Thomas Koelman**  
GER 21.06.92
- 15 **Ian Tordoff**  
GBR 21.28.90
- 17 **Alan Tordoff**  
GBR 21.36.45
- 25 **Michael Mason**  
GBR 22.04.21
- 34 **David R H Taylor**  
GBR 22.23.35

### C1 Team

- 1 Germany
- 2 France
- 3 Slovenia
- 5 Great Britain

### K1 Ladies Team

- 1 France
- 2 Germany
- 3 Great Britain

### C Team

- 1 France
- 2 Germany
- 3 Great Britain

### K1 Mens Team

- 1st New Zealand
- 2 France
- 3 Germany
- 6 Great Britain

that the very strong teams from France and Germany could not match. The crowds really appreciated their victory.

In conclusion, sincere thanks must go to all the tremendous work put in by the organisers and helpers who made this fine event happen. Congratulations are also in order to the Great Britain Wild Water Racing Team for their concerted effort in training so hard to compete in an ever more competitive sport with an extremely large percentage of them achieving their personal best times on the race course.







WORLD C

Pull Out S





CHAMPS

Souvenir





# 1995 Slalo

## Medals and More Medals. Lynn Simpson, Britain's newest World Canoe Slalom Champion thrilled us all on women's finals day at the 24th World Canoe Slalom Championships, held at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham.

**H**aving just squeezed into the final along with team mates Rachel Crosbee and Heather Corrie, Lynn's superb penalty free second run took her right to the top of the brand new scoreboard, where it stayed for an agonising thirty minutes whilst the rest of the best paddlers in the world challenged her lead. Only Anne Boixel of France was

quicker up to gate 24 but the move there was tricky and she lost time. Not even the two highly ranked Czech Republic girls Hilgertova and Pavelokova could match Lynns effort. Talk about a reward for dedication!

"I have dreamed of this moment - this is what dreams are about" bubbled Lynn who leapt into the air and saluted the crowd who just erupted at the announcement of this British victory. Parents Bill and "Mick" Simpson wept with joy and celebrated the "Team Simpson" triumph. Rachel Crosbee, leader of the race following the first runs was so unlucky to be edged out of the medals by a mere one tenth of a second by Kordula Striepecke from Germany, with Boixel taking the silver medal. Heather Corrie finished in fourteenth place and young Kath Pigdon, still a junior, was unlucky not to qualify for the final and will surely make her mark in the future.

### "it was a good run"

The men's kayak final was just as exciting, with all four British men qualifying for the final. Paul Ratcliffe, at

twenty one and the youngest of the contingent, was in a similar position to Lynn, he too having to sit and endure an seemingly endless wait before confirmation of his fourth place flashed up on the screen. Paul, now a graduate, was competing in his first ever Senior World Championships. Always looking for perfection, he admitted that "it was a good run". Andy Raspin and Shaun Pearce finished in 8th and 10th place respectively with Ian Raspin a disappointing 27th place. All top ten men in the final looked good enough for gold, but it was to be a German win this time, with the 22 year old soldier, Oliver Fix, paddling perfectly and overcoming every difficulty. Scott Shipley from USA and almost a resident in Nottingham over the past year took silver.

Interestingly enough, neither Lisa Micheler-Jones, nor Pierpaolo Ferrazzi, current women's and men's Olympic champions even qualified for the finals. The Course Commission had made sure that the final racing would be challenging.

### Spectacular

The Canadian doubles race was spectacular, and although the two British crews Pitt/Millar and brothers Steve and Phil Green, did not qualify for the final, the scrap for medals was still fascinating and the Polish pair of Kolomanski and Staniszewski crept into first place beating the very experienced French crews into second and third places.

The first individual final of the championships saw Gareth Marriott in action, Britain's only qualifier in Canadian singles and carrying all our hopes. We gasped in disbelief to see him perform much the fastest time on his second run, but two penalties put him way outside medal positions into 15th place. The 36 year old American Davey Hearn, who last won the Worlds just ten years ago in Augsburg, won gold. Affectionately christened "Ole Man Dedication" by his team, Davey was carried shoulder high and still in his boat from the finish line up the bank by the ecstatic Americans. In bronze medal position was the young "find" from Slovakia, Michal Martikan, who, at 16 and more than half Davey's age, looks a cert for the Junior World title next year!



Article by:  
Sue Wharton -  
Slalom  
Development  
Officer

Photos by  
Kevin Danforth  
and Wendy  
Blackman



# m World championships

**Nottingham 29 August - 3 September 1995**

## Bronze Medal

How we would have loved to see a repeat of the 1993 World Championships men's team final when Britain snatched gold from the French! It was not meant to be and it's now much harder, but this year, it was Germany who had a clear seven second margin from Slovenia with the British Team of Pearce, Raspin and Raspin taking the bronze medal and ensuring a place on the podium.

The French women's team did however repeat their 1993 success, taking the gold medal again, with the British Women's team of Simpson, Crosbee and Corrie paddling in harmony to win silver, one better than their bronze of '93. The fact that all three live in Nottingham must be a factor in their medal winning way and it was good to see them working together as one unit in such an individual sport. Team spirit is all important at times like this and the British Team with its dedicated support staff got it right.

Qualification heats had of course, preceded both team and individual finals events. This time, results from these heats were even more meaningful, as places for nations to compete in the 1996 Olympic Games were at stake, this event being the first of two Olympic qualification events. Canoeing, like all other Olympic sports, has specific targets set in advance in order to limit numbers at next year's Games and ensure a level standard of competition.

GBR qualified for the maximum of two places in both men's and women's kayak events and one in canadian singles. The second and final qualification will take place on the Olympic site, the Ocoee river, in Tennessee in mid-April 1996, where we must also make sure that we qualify for maximum slots in both C1 and C2. Our own selection events for the British team at the 1996 Olympic Games will take place in the Spring of 1996.



## Achieving Goals

There was a unique mixture of people of all ages and nationalities at this special World Championships. Thirty eight nations participated with almost three hundred individual slalomists competing in the week long event. Many recognised that they would never win a medal and knew at the outset that they were there to achieve their own goals. Just to be a part of the mixture of those taking part, deserved and won our respect and admiration.

The Sports Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, joint owners of the National Water Sports Centre could hardly have hoped for a better event. Their huge investment of almost £500,000 into improving facilities at the Slalom Course was much in evidence and must bode well for the future too! The whole site had been transformed into a tented village for the

duration of the event with even the Winfield pool taking on an almost Caribbean atmosphere, providing both a picturesque backcloth for the trade exhibition, bar and catering facilities and Perception's "Touch the Water" initiative. Several hundred people of all ages were introduced to canoeing through this activity, which resulted in folks clamouring to "have a go".

Support for the event came from numerous directions, with many companies providing their services without charge. Major cash sponsors, National Rivers Authority, Notts. County Council, Sport Council, Tennessee Tourist Board and Perception all helped the Technical Director and his dedicated team, most of whom had been recruited through the BCU Slalom Committee, present an event to be remembered.

## Results

- C1**  
**1 David Hearn**  
 USA 134.86  
**2 Soeren Kaufmann**  
 GER 135.72  
**3 Michal Martikan**  
 SVK 135.97  
**15 Gareth Marriott**  
 GBR 140.56

- K1 Women**  
**1 Lynn Simpson**  
 GBR 140.81  
**2 Anne Boixel**  
 FRA 142.81  
**3 Kordula Striepecke**  
 GER 143.61  
**4 Rachel Crosbee**  
 GBR 143.72  
**14 Heather Corrie**  
 GBR 155.19

- K1 Men**  
**1 Oliver Fix**  
 GER 125.72  
**2 Scott Shipley**  
 USA 127.09  
**3 Jiri Prskavec**  
 POL 127.47  
**4 Paul Ratcliffe**  
 GBR 127.81  
**8 Andrew Raspin**  
 GBR 129.14  
**10 Shaun Pearce**  
 GBR 129.42  
**27 Ian Raspin**  
 GBR 138.21

- C2**  
**1 Krzysztof Kolomanski/ Michel Staniszewski**  
 POL 138.61  
**2 Frank Adisson/ Wilfrid Forgues**  
 FRA 139.09  
**3 Eric Biau/ Bertrand Daille**  
 FRA 140.25

## Team Events - winners and GBR placings

- C1**  
**1 GER**  
 Lang/Husek/ Kaufmann  
 166.05  
**11 GBR**  
 Marriott/Delaney /Morgan  
 185.62

- K1W**  
**1 FRA**  
 Boixel/Fox/Despres  
 175.82  
**2 GBR**  
 Simpson/Crosbee/Corrie  
 180.64

- K1M**  
**1 GER**  
 Fix/Lettman/Becker  
 145.27  
**3 GBR**  
 Pearce/Raspin/Raspin  
 153.41

- C2**  
**1 CZE**  
 Simek-Rohan/ Stercl-Stercl/ Pospisil-Pollert  
 178.87



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

sponsored by:



## The Ongoing Saga of the Purloined Pennon.

Dear Focus

In reply to R Turpins letter in the August issue. Nice try Dick. Leatherhead two Saxon words meaning public ford, small town in Surrey pop. approx 52,000, stands on banks of the River Mole, Royal School for the Blind, definitely no University, or if there is then the local authority is unaware.

So wherever you belong why not saddle up Black Bess and deliver the flag to the BCU for forwarding, better still send it by post, and even better still give it back to us at the next Tyne Tour, we might buy you a pint.

**B Chapman.**

**P.S up until your last letter, nobody has mentioned Lancashire.**

*Eds Note - This is the last word on the mystery of the missing flag, it's getting as bad as the missing gnome on Coronation Street (not that I watch it of course!)*

# Stolen Stuntbats

Dear Focus

**I** am writing to request the help of yourself and your readers. My daughter and her friend took up canoeing as beginners at school five years ago. Since then they have increased in enthusiasm and skill, joined the BCU and have recently become qualified as instructors so they could pass on their knowledge to others. Their enthusiasm led them to save up for their own kayaks; a pair of stunt bats, which they stored at the local marina at Hatfield near Doncaster.

You can imagine their disappointment when instead of being able to help in the training of some beginners

they found that their beloved craft had been stolen. My first reflex is to characterise those responsible as mindless jobs, but I fear that this may not be the case as this was not a random theft. Theirs were the only canoes stolen despite being the only ones chained and padlocked within the locked compound. The chains had been cut and the boats had disappeared without a sign. My fear is that the criminal was knowledgeable and might already have had a buyer within the canoeing fraternity - a most worrying thought, as I have always found those who canoe to be very supportive of one another.

If any of your readers are aware of people who have recently acquired a pair of stunt bats; one yellow and one blue/green, or hear of such boats for sale, I would be grateful if they would pass on the information either to myself, their local police or the police at Thorne near Doncaster. As you will understand the girls are currently devastated by their loss.

I hope that someone has knowledge about this, and will help us, as I fear that this is something that will happen more and more frequently if some action is not taken to discourage it.

*Yours hopefully*

*M V Sykes. 16 Cotswold Road, Thorne, Doncaster, DN8 5RP*

## Doggy Paddle

Dear Focus

I would like to express my thanks to those canoeists who supported me in the Doggy Paddle this Spring and enabled me to send in the record sum of £2186 to the local branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. This sum was achieved although we only had 65 paddlers on the day, instead of around 100. Thanking you.

**Doggy Paddle John**

## 'The Canoe Boys'

Dear Focus

I was very pleased to see that 'Quest By Canoe', has been reprinted as 'The Canoe Boys'. I bought my copy at a jumble sale many years ago and have read and reread it since.

Two things, at least, I think that modern adventurers can learn from it. Firstly, the interest they took in all the people they met and the economic problems they saw.

Secondly, they did not worry about sponsors or having the latest equipment, they used what they had and got on with it!

**Michael Rhodes.**

## 'Sexism in Canoeing'

Dear Focus

Being a keen canoeist and also studying for a degree in physical education I am trying to link the two by writing a dissertation on canoeing. I have chosen 'sexism in canoeing' as my topic and was wondering if you could possibly include a short note in your magazine asking any readers (male or female) if they've suffered any sexism through the sport and if they could send their letters of experience to: Claire Roberts, 2 Rhodfa Glenys, St Asaph, Clwyd, North Wales LL17 ODW. This would be a great help in my research.

**Claire Roberts**

*Eds Note - This seems to be on the increase as you may have noted from the stolen section on the members classified page. Unfortunately there are some ruthless people out there, be aware, and report anything suspicious.*

## Foundation for Sport and the Arts

Dear Focus

Stirling Canoe Club recently received a grant for £1,750 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. This was to assist with the purchase of four Canadian Canoes and paddles.

We purchased four OLS Trappers, these were supplied by Beechcraigs Country Park, Linlithgow. The canoes have proven to be a great success during recent courses and many of our members and their families have been introduced to the joy of open canoeing. Recently the canoes were used on an open canoe course for two and three star training.

**Drew Milroy - Stirling Canoe Club**



### The British Canoe Union MasterCard



The British Canoe Union MasterCard® Card is issued by Bank of Scotland and comes with an excellent range of benefits for you, which include:

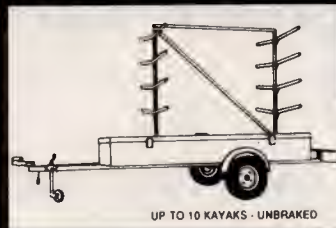
- no annual fee to pay for the whole of the first year
- no annual fee at all if you spend at least £2,000 in the previous year\*
- up to £60 credit if you transfer a balance from another card\*\*
- accepted wherever you see the MasterCard and Eurocard signs - over 12 million places throughout the world

Apply for your Card now! For full details and an application form **ring FREE on**

**0800 716097, quoting F200.**

\*Even if you do pay a fee, it is only £7.50. **APR 21.4%**, **23.2%** for Cash Advances\*\*Balances may not be transferred from other Cards issued by Bank of Scotland. Full details and a written Consumer Credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland, Card Services, Pitreavie Business Park, Dunfermline, Fife, KY99 4BS. You must be aged 18 or over, and resident in the UK to apply for credit. All details correct at time of printing - September 1995.

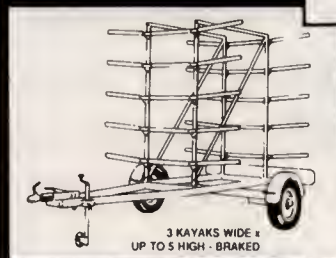
## Hitch up ... and go ... with HAYLING TRAILERS CANOE & KAYAK TRAILERS



UP TO 10 KAYAKS - UNBRAKED

All models include  
lights and jockey wheels

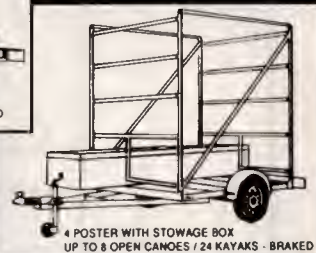
Standard Trailers Ex Stock



3 KAYAKS WIDE x  
UP TO 5 HIGH - BRAKED

Models to carry  
up to 30 Kayaks

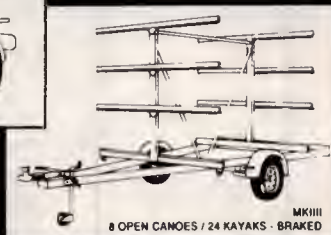
Choice of Stowage Boxes



4 POSTER WITH STOWAGE BOX  
UP TO 8 OPEN CANOES / 24 KAYAKS - BRAKED

Built to latest EEC  
Regulations

Custom made service



8 OPEN CANOES / 24 KAYAKS - BRAKED

For details &  
FREE BROCHURE  
ring  
01705 464176

### THE HAYLING TRAILER CO. LTD

254A HAVANT RD HAYLING ISLAND HANTS PO11 0LW  
FAX 01705 463069 TEL 01705 464176

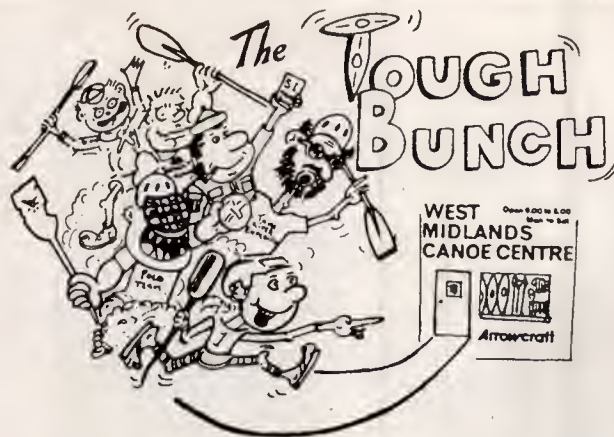
*Kanu School  
and  
Canoe Suppliers to the North*

**FOUR SEASONS**

*The Ultimate Adventure Store!*

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

*Now at the Teeside  
White Water Centre  
01642 678000*



WE STOCK A TOUGH BUNCH  
OF ROTO MOULDED KAYAKS

Glass Fibre Canoes **PLUS** Cags, spray covers,  
Paddles, Buoyancy Aids Crash Hats, Roof racks etc.

### West Midlands Canoe Centre

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





Article and photograph by Jonathan Powell

# International Canoe National Championships

Plymouth 1995

The International Canoe National Championships took place over the week 30th July until 4th August at the Mayflower Sailing Club in Plymouth.

It was attended by one of the highest quality fleets seen in recent years as it formed a large part of qualification for the Worlds due to take place in Australia in 1996. Courses were to be the Canoes adopted figure of 4 configuration, with the beat followed by a reach, then a broader reach, a run and back onto the beat.

The practice race on the Sunday gave a fair indication of what to

expect as it was sailed outside the breakwater in a very light and shifty breeze with weed being a major factor in the success, or otherwise, of individual competitors. Monday dawned bright and sunny and a pleasant force 1-2 sea breeze for the first race which after a short delay got underway inside the breakwater with Simon Allen leading the way around the windward mark followed by Jonathan Powell and Peter Herbert.

These three were soon overhauled by Mark Goodchild and Lee Noble, the defending champions. A substantial wind shift during the offwind legs caused the race officer to have to reset the whole course but Goodchild managed to hold on to win from Noble and Allen.

### Turned On Its Head

Tuesday was due to have two races back to back and looked promising as everyone set off from the shore in a pleasant force 2-3 with racing due to take place inside the breakwater, after the sea breeze had killed the gradient wind the race officer took the fleet outside the breakwater, just before the race got underway though the wind died to a force 1 sea breeze. Only one lap and a beat were completed with Lee Noble coming out on top, Simon Allen second and Mark Goodchild third. The fleet was turned on its head during this final beat as the wind dropped and left some of the fleet stranded in a foul tide for upwards of half an hour trying to cross the finish line. In the event the next race was abandoned due to the lack of wind.

Wednesday produced the best wind of the week and the fleet set sail in an Easterly force 3-4 after some fun and games getting off the slipway, the wind was blowing directly into the 20 foot wide slipway meaning that all the boats had to be towed out by a motor

boat. Racing was taking place outside the breakwater and true to form died just as the start gun went, it then shifted 45 degrees to the Northeast and increased to a force 4. As the fleet became quickly spread out the most that the race officer could do was drag the windward mark about a hundred yards so that the boats had to at least tack for the mark. Robin Wood was the early leader followed by Lester Noble and Patrick Marshall. Noble broke his outhaul and capsized as a result, Wood fell in during a tack leaving Mark Goodchild to take up the running followed by Jonathan Powell. Powell fell in at a gybe mark allowing Lee Noble through to second and Robin Wood to third which is how the fleet finished. The wind quickly dropped after the race and shifted in several directions before the race officer sent the fleet back to the club.

### Abandoned

A dramatic change took place on Thursday and a brisk force 6 greeted the competitors for the first race. After the usual hour towing the boats out of the slipway the starting sequence began with many boats still floundering, the wind at this point increased to in excess of force 7 and the race was abandoned. Several boats had to be picked up by the lifeboat, meanwhile running into the slipway with a swirling force 6-7 breeze behind proved entertaining. At three thirty the days racing was abandoned.

Friday dawned bright and more breezy than Thursday which caused the postponement of racing until at least one o'clock, most competitors however guessed before this that no racing would take place and proceeded to pack their boats up. In the end no racing did take place and the prize giving was brought forward based upon the three races sailed.

### Results

- 1 **Mark Goodchild**
- 2 **Lee Noble**
- 3 **Robin Wood**
- 4 **Patrick Marshall**
- 5 **Simon Allen**



Below: Mark Goodchild, the new national champion



**UK'S LARGEST WETSUIT STOCKS!**

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE  
01243 672315  
**EUROPE'S No. 1**

# SHORE WATERSPORTS

PHONE NOW FOR NEW AUTUMN BROCHURE



**STORES AT**  
Shore Road **EAST WITTERING**  
Chichester, West Sussex  
PO20 8DZ  
Tel (01243) 672315  
Fax (01243) 673759  
**AND**  
Northney Marina  
**HAYLING ISLAND**  
Hampshire PO11 0NH  
Tel (01705) 467334  
Fax (01705) 468107

**20% OFF ALL SUMMER FASHION & SUMMER WETSUITS**  
**SALE STARTS 16th SEPTEMBER**

Chartered Trust  
**INSTANT CREDIT AVAILABLE**



**AINSWORTH**

**pyranha** KAYAKING EQUIP. **nookie**

**YAK ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT** Perception

**CANOE ALWAYS IN STOCK**

**BARGAIN**  
ENERGY LONG JOHNS, MENS AND LADIES  
WERE £59.95 **NOW £39.95**  
OR COMPLETE SUITS (including Bolero Jacket)  
**ONLY £69.95**  
while stocks last



**9A Yak OCDEE Buoyancy Aid**  
Sizes: Junior £35.95  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL £41.95



**9B Yak TEJO Buoyancy Aid** £62.95  
Back Pocket, 2 Front Pockets Sizes: S, M, L, XL



**9C Nookie Extreme Buoyancy Aid** £79.99  
Facility to Add Pockets and Cowstail Sizes: S, M, L, XL  
**9D Personal Throwline** £27.99  
**9E Front Pocket** £8.99  
**9F Back Pocket** £14.99  
**9G Cowstail** £27.99



**9H Palm 15m Belay Line** £34.00  
**9J Palm 15m Bullet Rescue Bag** £32.00  
**9K Palm 25m Bank Rescue Bag** £38.00



**9L Palm Instructor 2.5m Tow Line** £15.00  
**9M Palm Pro 3.0m Tow Line with Karabiner** £30.00



**9D Palm Dry Top** £70.00  
Red/Black, Blue/Black Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL



**9M Yak Spraycag** £29.95  
Black, Purple Tough and light, neoprene waist Sizes: S, M, L, XL



**9P Yak Fleece** £29.95  
Black Only Sizes: S, M, L, XL



**Raider**  
**9U The Cruiser 7'10", 8'4", 8'10"** £339  
**9V The Topflyte 8'0"** £348  
**9W The Orion 7'4", 7'7", 7'10"** £379  
Leashes £14.90 Seat Pads £12.99 Seatbelts £18.99

**Dirty Habits**  
**9X AV70 6'10" Lightweight** £345  
**9Y AV80 7'2" Recreational Ski** £355  
**9Z Surftrider 8'0" Heavyweight** £365  
**9AA XP75 & XP95 7'0", 7'4" Pro Ski** £375



**9R Nookie Semi-Dry Top** £44.99  
Breathable, Micromesh Seals Sizes: S, M, L, XL  
**9S Nookie Dry Paddling Trousers** £84.99  
Reinforced, Protected Latex Seals Sizes: S, M, MT, L

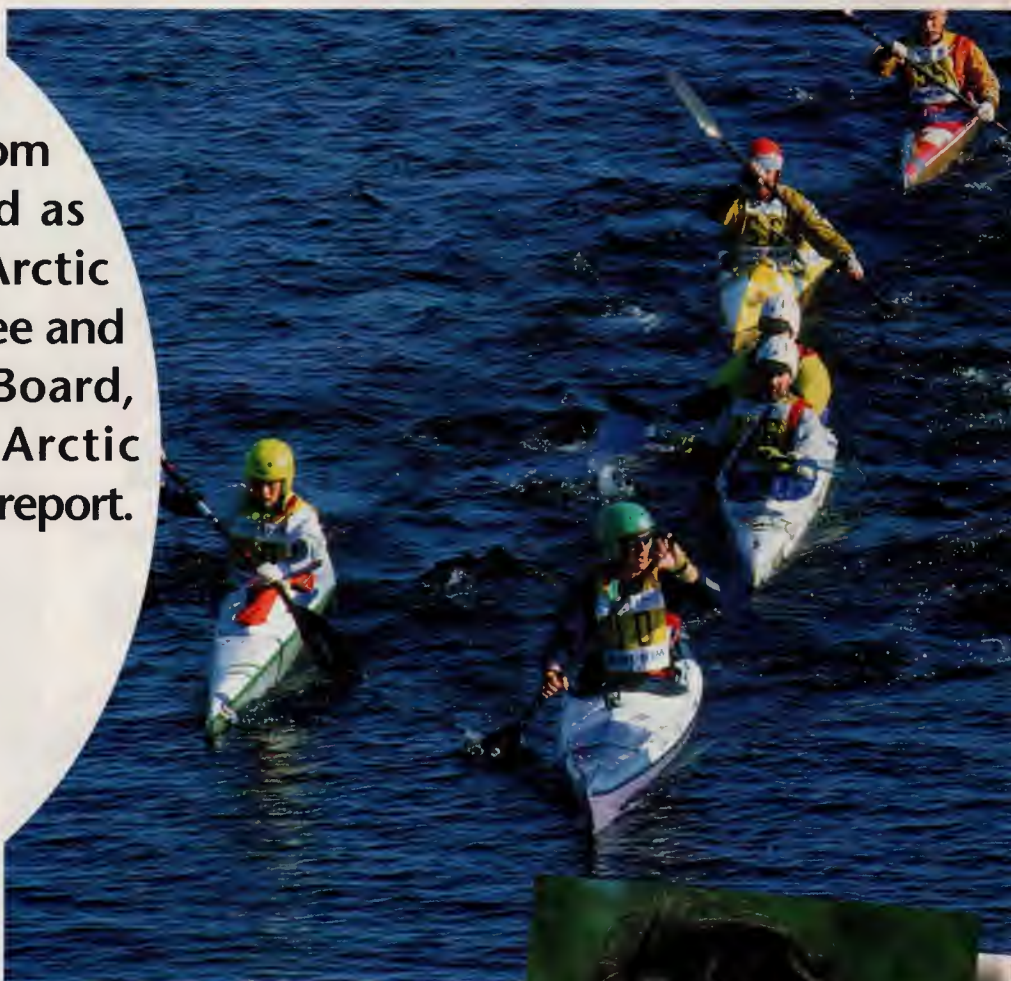


**9T Nookie Extreme Dry Top**  
Ultimate Twin Seal Dry Top Blue Only Sizes: S, M, L, XL  
**8oz Neoprene Nylon** £104.99  
Tri-Ply Breathable £159.99



# Arctic Canoe

**David Enoch has recently returned from 10 days in Lapland as the guest of the Arctic Canoe Race committee and the Finnish Tourist Board, covering the 13th Arctic Canoe Race. This is his report.**



**I** left for the race with my head full of the old magazine reports of the first races in 1983 and 84.

Horrendous tales of 3.00am. starts, 140km. on the first day with grade V rapids. Of twelve hours plus in the saddle and of our top marathon paddlers returning white faced claiming it was the hardest race in the world.

Well that was back in 1983. Today things have changed a little and the race is far more paddler friendly. Mind you, it is still a great challenge. The race still follows the entire length of the Muonio/Tornio river system from its source in Kilpisjarvi lake, 430km. North of the Arctic Circle, for 530km. South to the Gulf of Bothnia at Haparanda/Tornio. Falling 473m. along its length with eight really major rapids and 133 other classified rapids it remains a major undertaking.

## Like A Motor Rally

The race takes place over seven racing days and one rest day with classes for K1, K2, WWR, C2 and K1 tourer. It is run rather like a motor rally with 18 timed race stages totalling 436km., interspersed with transfer sections which you can paddle at your own pace. Points are awarded for positions on the race stages

irrespective of times so that one bad stage where you lose say an hour against your rivals, does not put you out of contention for the rest of the race. Four of the race stages carry double points and cash prizes. Two are short white water sections on major rapids and

two are 60km.+ marathon sections.

There is also a rally which follows the same route and is taken at a steady, more leisurely pace. Ideal for touring C2s, sea kayaks etc., etc. This year there was an alternative start for the rally at Jukkasjarvi in Sweden with a slightly shorter route joining the main rally after three days.

The river is the border between Finland and Sweden and although there are only six road bridges across the river the border is open and you can cross back and forth at will. The race supporters follow the Finnish bank for the first five days and the Swedish bank for the final two days with all the communities, Finnish and Swedish becoming really involved. Accommodation can be arranged in river side log cabins each night.

This year there were five British boats entered :- Ian Grogan/Simon D'Albertenson of the RAF who had finished 32nd. in D.W.; Jonathan Gloyn-Walters/Steve Mannion of Bradford on Avon; Liz Young/Ruth Cantrell of Worcester and Hastings who were third in the Vet./Junior 4 day D.W.; David Holdsworth also from BOA in a K1 and Nick Lowton in a WWR.



I had taken plenty of warm clothing - after all this was Lapland and 400km. North of the Arctic Circle. Although it can be cold and windy usual August temperatures are in the 70's and this year they were well into the 80's with of course 24 hours daylight this far north. Dehydration and overheating were far more of a problem for the paddlers than hypothermia,

### Main Picture:

**Johansen of Norway tows the Brits on the last day.**

### Right:

**Holdsworth refueling**



# Race



Gloyn-Walters/Mannion decided to conserve their remaining boats by portaging and accepting a points penalty. Day 3 was a single 98km. stage split by a compulsory stop for lunch and included over 40 classified rapids. After this the rest day at Muonio was more than welcome. The organisers had arranged for the damaged K2s to be repaired and for a tour of the Husky sledge dog centre at Harriniva. With 170 dogs the largest in Finland. There was also a chance to watch or even compete in the national rafting championships on the nearby rapids. GBI and GBII were 10th. and 11th. But there were only 11 teams!

Day 5 and the race continued with repaired boats and rested paddlers. Starting with a major rapid and a days total of 123km. it was by far the longest day. This was followed by 48km. of flat but swirly water on Day 6 and 55km. with 13 rapids on Day 7 crossing back South of the Arctic Circle. The final day was 75km. with two of the largest rapids giving excitement for paddlers and spectators alike.

### So how did the Brits do?

Grogan/D'Albertson never really challenged the first two K2s but had a ding-dong battle all week with a Finnish boat to eventually take third place and be the only K2 to complete the D.W. straight through and the ACR. Gloyn-Walters/Mannion had a plucky race to finish sixth but could never recover from the high penalty points on the early rapids. They received the special "fighters prize" for the most determined crew. Young/Cantrell typified the laid-back approach of the organisers to this race and their determination that everyone should enjoy themselves whatever their ability. The ladies suffering from sore shoulders and a lack of confidence on the rapids covered 260km. of the course by car and rubber boat but still collected a shower of prizes as the only Ladies K2.

### Retire

Nick Lawton in his WWR had to retire after two days with both wrists and arms badly

swollen. Probably due to a lack of preparation over long distances. Perhaps the most impressive performance was by young David Holdsworth. Only 15, he finished as 9th. K1 and received a trophy as the youngest paddler to ever complete the race.

Next years race and rally will be from 3-10th. August. The ACR committee are working on a cheap package deal for UK paddlers to include fares to and from Finland, all accommodation, meals and transport. Full details should be ready for the Canoe Exhibition. Within the next two months I shall have completed an information handbook which will be available from the marathon committee at a nominal cost. So how about making 1996 the "Year of the Arctic". Race or rally, singles or doubles, kayak or canoe - it doesn't matter which, you will come back with the same memories of the magnificent unspoilt wilderness, superb paddling river and some of the friendliest people on earth - and with a determination to return.

#### Top:

**Nick Lowton on Peerakoski.**

#### Above:

**Rally paddlers Riitta and Timo Nicholson (chairman Finnish Canoe Assoc.) in their touring C2.**

#### Left:

**"I have two blisters".**



sunstroke and mosquitoes the problems for supporters.

Day 1 was 65km. in total and included two of the biggest rapids. All the British boats swam at least once being unused to the high volume, Alpine type rapids. Inevitably there was damage to the K2s. The RAF and ladies had spare K2s so were OK to continue. Gloyn-Walters/Mannion though had badly damaged their only boat and the helpfulness of the organisers was demonstrated when they loaned them a K2 for the rest of the race.

Day 2 was also 65km. and included the biggest rapid, Patikka, where all the Brits but



## Salcombe Harbour

South Hams District Council is the harbour authority for Salcombe Harbour including the Knightsbridge Estuary and all adjoining creeks. There is a public right of Navigation, but vessels do have to pay the current statutory fees authorised in the Pier and harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954. The BCU office has a full copy of the 1995 charges. Canoes visiting for up to one month are charged £6.10 including VAT. The charge is payable to the Harbour Master, Whitestrand, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8BU. If large groups plan to go to Salcombe, the Harbour Master requests that he be informed in the interests of safety; it is worth trying at the same time to see if a special charge can be negotiated.

## Rochdale Canal

To help us when negotiating future licence costs with the Rochdale Canal Company we need to know how much use is being made of the canal by members. If you have paddled on the canal since January 1994 please drop a line to BCU NW Chairman Andy Cook, 2 Ravenscroft Avenue, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 4TZ. This is especially important if you have taken groups on the canal. Please give approximate dates, places, number in party and BCU number.

# Surfing the Internet

**T**he BCU Eastern Region Access Team has established its own site on the Internet. The site lists whitewater playspots and riverside pubs as well as giving the latest tourist information on the rivers in the region.

The site went live at 6.05 am on Friday 11 August. It features full hypertext links that switch from page to page when the reader uses his or her computer mouse to 'point and click'. Access is free of charge, and 'surfers' on the internet can download any or all of the files on the system that they want without payment.

The site is not yet complete, information will be added continually, by the end of 1995 it is hoped that information on every river in the region will be available, plus a directory of stolen canoes and equipment that all people buying secondhand equipment should take note of.

Maps and automatic 'point and click' links to other Internet canoeing sites should be in place by the end of August.

The Eastern Region River Guide continues to be available at £4.50 for those who prefer information in book form.

The Eastern Region Access site is at <http://194.72.60.96/www/canoeing>. E-

Mail for Eastern Region can be sent to [roger@hardman.demon.co.uk](mailto:roger@hardman.demon.co.uk). Hard copy river guides, £4.50 available by 'snail mail' from Roger Hardman, Cell View, High Street, Markyate, Herts A13 8PD.

BCU SW Region have also joined the 'Net'. Through the River Dart Access Officer, Kevin Chamberlain, the BCU SW region now has a presence on the Internet. Those canoeists who have access to the Net, either at work or home via a modem, can now directly obtain information about the River Dart and a number of other rivers in Devon and Cornwall, as well as a wide range of other related canoeing subjects. The project also allows the booking of access to the River Dart by E-mail, in addition to the SHINES system initiated at the end of last season.

For those canoeists who have not received information about SHINES, this is an On-line information system, based in Devon for use by local businesses. The BCUSW region have come to an arrangement with the organisers, whereby canoeists can have limited access to the information at a much reduced cost (£5 per year as against £80). Why should I want to use this you ask? Simply because the system allow you to book access to the river and receive immediate

confirmation, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, instead of writing letters or making several telephone calls, as well as access to a wide range of other information about river levels, events, local accommodation, equipment sales etc. All you need is a PC or MAC, a modem and a phone line.

**For further information contact Dart Access Officer, c/o Holne Post Office, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 7SJ**

*It is good to see that technology is moving on in to the 21st Century. At present the BCU Executive are looking into the uses of the Internet and how it can best serve our members. Updates will be given as soon as the information is available.*

## WCA DEE TOUR 1995

The whole access agreement for the River Dee will be in jeopardy if there are any canoeists on the river during the weekend of 11/12 November.

The WCA Dee Tour will be held on 18/19 November. All tickets must be bought in advance from WCA, Canolfan Tryweryn, Frongoch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU.

Due to the problems in the locality caused by the large number of paddlers accessing the river at Chain Bridge, there will be no access to the river from Chain Bridge or Horseshoe Falls.

## BOPA TOURS

Canoeists may have seen adverts for tours being organised by the British Outdoor Professionals Association on the Usk in November and the Wye in March. BOPA is a private body and not associated in any way with Welsh Canoeing Association.

Any club or individual is of course fully entitled to negotiate consents with riparian/fishing interests for any tour they wish. However WCA enquiries show that as at 5th September certain riparian owners and owners of fishing rights have not been approached by BOPA for consent and are not prepared to give that consent. Members should also note that the existing access agreements on the Wye and Usk do not extend to the date in question and in any event do not authorise organised tours.

WCA does not wish to discourage anyone from organising tours but members will appreciate that any paddling on these rivers without the agreement of riparian owners/fishing interests is likely to cause serious harm to the long term interests of their sport. Members are therefore urged to ring the tour organiser about the consents position and to seek express confirmation from BOPA that all necessary consents for the tour are in place before going on to the water.

## River Dart

Owing to pressure from National Westminster Bank, and the general economic climate, Mountain Stream Activities has been forced to close and sell its centre at Wydemeet, Hexworthy, Yelverton, Devon. The owner Kevin Chamberlain is still to continue as Local Access Officer for the River Dart, but with immediate effect, access enquiries should be addressed to "Dart Access Officer, c/o Holne Post Office, Holne, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7SJ.

Access numbers will now be required for the whole river between New Bridge and Totnes, in preparation for a new formal agreement covering the entire river (previously the agreement only covered New Bridge to Holne Bridge). For the Upper Dart (Dartmeet to New Bridge), the ID tags introduced last year will continue and will be sent out with access

confirmation, provided the party leader(s) identity and admin. fee of £1.00 per boat are included with the access request.

The phone number for Mountain Stream Activities (01364 631215) will remain available for canoeists, but only for booking of access AT SHORT NOTICE (i.e for less than 7 days in advance). The line will also carry an answerphone message giving river level and access availability, as well as the times when access can be arranged.

A lot of negotiation is still in progress over improving access and parking at Holne Bridge, as well as two new initiatives to allow canoeists more information about canoeing in the SW. Further information will be published as it becomes available.

**Kevin Chamberlain - LAO River Dart**



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 Shortcord  
**BUSHSPORT 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

# 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

# Eddylines



Llangollen  
Tel: 01978  
861444  
Open 10 till late  
7 days a week

Canoes and Accessories

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY DEMOS!!!



MAIL ORDER



RIVERSIDE SHOP at MILE END MILL

C ALSHOT AND WOODMILL CENTRES

BCU AWARDS AND  
INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

THE  
*outdoor*  
CENTRES

RING (01962) 846855

FOR A BROCHURE

Hampshire County Council



1 BATTERY GREEN ROAD,  
LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK,  
NR32 1DE. phone (07502)517992.

# BoardTalk Ltd

East Anglia's Premier Watersport's Centre

*Canoes and Kayaks* from Pyranha &  
Euro Kayak

*Paddles* from Ainsworth, Dr D, Kober  
*Accessories* from YAK...and many more!

Mail Order Services

# KLEPPER

80 years of development have  
created and maintained an  
unsurpassed folding kayak  
system with 4 unique features:

- ★ Integrated Safety System
- ★ Variable Sailing System
- ★ Slide & Snap Assembly
- ★ Performance, Durability and Comfort Commitment



For full details contact  
**KIRTON KAYAKS LIMITED**  
Marsh Lane, Crediton, Devon, EX17 1ES, England  
Tel: 01363 773295. Fax: 01363 775908



All books and videos reviewed here are available from BCU Supplies. Ring 0116 283 0659 and ask for a brochure if you have not received one in your Focus mailing.

# The Outer Hebrides Handbook and Guide & the Western Isles Handbook

Reviewed by Andy Stamp.

Visitors are attracted to the Outer Hebrides like iron filings to a magnet, but precious few are bold enough to write about this wonderful area. Two new publications buck that trend, I recommend both books unreservedly.

**The Outer Hebrides Handbook and Guide**  
ISBN 0 9511003-5-1  
published by Kittiwake  
(1995) 143 pages £7.95

This handbook and guide is a real treasure, and covers everything Hebridean including; culture, climate, geology, history and wildlife. This superb little book is produced by the real experts, the people of the Hebridean Islands, with the help of the rotary club of Stornoway. The handbook section, a must for every visitor, has photographs and sketches to supplement the easy to read text. The guide section will become required reading for anyone

planning an expedition to the area. Descriptions of Barra, Benbecula, Eriskay, Harris, Lewis and the Uists are complemented by clear helpful maps.

**The Western Isles Handbook**  
ISBN 0-9511003-4-3  
published by Kittiwake  
(1995) 162 pages £7.95

In its previous form, a little gem of a book called 'The Guide to the Western Isles of Scotland', was a very well kept secret. Now the secret is out, the publishers (the Kittiwake press) have reworked and renamed the book (for the fifth edition) as the Western Isles

Handbook. Superbly illustrated by maps, drawings and photographs, this compact book covers all the Western Isles including the outlying isles (eg St Kilda, Monach Isles, Shiant Isles etc). A stunningly useful little book.

Both books can be bought from good book shops, BCU supplies or direct from the publisher, post and packing extra (50p per book).

**The Kittiwake Press,  
3 Glantwymyn village  
workshops, Machynlleth,  
Montgomeryshire,  
Wales SY20 8LD**



## The Canoe Slalom Coaching Manual

Written by Alan Edge, National Slalom Coach and Brian Fuller, Coaching Administrator, with model diagrams by Garry Nevin.

With 104 pages this comprehensive manual contains clearly laid out diagrams and easy reference sections. The manual is aimed at coach candidates level 1 and is designed to assist them to reach level 2, however, it will also be of value to slalom competitors up to and around Division 1. It contains information on topics ranging from the basic slalom strokes, warming up and down, planning and recording training - to Juniors and their parents. Produced in an A4 loose-leaf format, enabling future updates and additions, such as the Canadian C1 and C2 technique, which will follow shortly, also allowing individual pages to be taken out for use on the river bank. Priced at £4.50 plus £1.50 P&P this manual is an invaluable guide to the coach and paddler.

**Available from Brian Fuller,  
Manorside, High Street,  
Grendon Underwood, Bucks,  
HP18 0SU, BCU Supplies and  
BCU Office.**

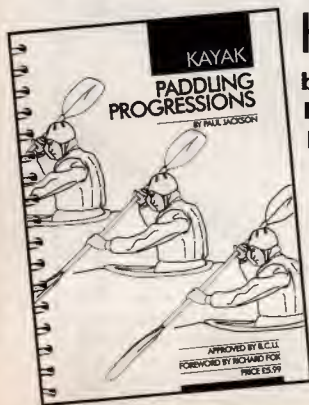


## Kayak Paddling Progressions

by Paul Jackson, foreword by Richard Fox.  
Reviewed by Wendy Blackman.

Handy pocket size reference book with good visuals, giving advice on selection of equipment and clothing etc, with coloured sections describing paddle strokes from basic to advanced level. Useful for the beginner and as a coaching tool. This book could possibly be improved by printing in a waterproof format. £5.99 P&P free for single copy. Less than 10 £5.99 + 25p per copy, 10-50 copies £5.00 + £2.50 total p&p, 50 or more £4.00 plus £5.00 total p&p.

**To obtain a copy send your order to Paul Jackson 67 Ogilvy Street, Tayport, Fife, DD6 9NG Tel: 01382 553526 or contact BCU supplies.**





# Rapid Canoe Supplies

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

Warm up this winter  
Drop in for a trea or coffee.



**Rapid by name:  
Rapid by nature**

**OPENING TIMES**

Mon - Sat: 9.00 am - 6.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am - 7.00pm

Sunday and bank Holidays:

By appointment only

**01524 388850**

Unit 8, Lansil Industrial Estate,

Caton Road, Lancaster

Lancs LA1 3NX

1/4 of a mile towards Lancaster  
from M6 June 34



## 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



# WHITEWATER

*The Canoe centre*

At  
Shepperton Marina  
Felix Lane  
Shepperton  
Middlesex TW17 8NJ



HOW TO FIND US



BRITISH RAIL MAIN LINE TO SHEPPERTON

**PHONE**  
**01932**  
**247978**  
OR  
**01932**  
**225988**

MAIL ORDER UK & WORLDWIDE  
CREDIT CARDS - ACCESS OR VISA

COURTESY BUS FROM STATION

EQUIPMENT - COURSES - HIRE - REPAIRS - INSTRUCTION -  
HOLIDAYS - ETC. FROM NOVICE TO EXPERT - BCU QUALIFIED  
STAFF FOR FRIENDLY ADVICE AND HELP - MAIL ORDER SERVICE

## SNOWDONIA CANOEING

VISIT OUR NEW SHOP IN  
CORWEN, NORTH WALES.

(On the A5 between Llangollen and Tryweryn.)

Kayaks in stock from Prijon, Pyranha, and  
Perception plus a full range of gear from all  
the major manufacturers.

The Old School, London Road, Corwen, Clwyd, LL21 0DP  
Tel/Fax. 01490 412 644 ● Mail orders welcome

Everything for the white water paddler from beginner to advanced

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

Yak, Wild Water, Nookie



**OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS**

Everything for the canoeist  
and climbing gear

● **DEMO BOATS AVAILABLE** ●

Eurokayaks and much more!

2/4 Mutley Plain, Plymouth, Devon

Tel: 01752 227264

Kober, Lendal, Ainsworth

## Aqualeisure

Tel: 01745 815476

Fax: 01745 813485

Manufacturers of Watersports and Leisure Products  
Due to Aqualeisure's recent expansion to their new premises, we have  
available surplus stocks at once only prices.

All products are of 1st quality and carry a full 12 months warranty.

D/Seal Dry Cags.....	£49.95
Dry Cags.....	£39.95
Spray Tops.....	£16.50
Spraydecks.....	£13.50
Throw Bags from.....	£14.00
Tow Lines etc...	

Please telephone for a complete list including Drysuits, Bouyancy Aids etc... Full  
resale, repair and made to measure service available.

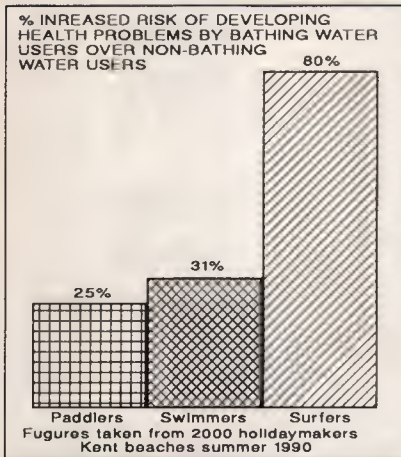
Units 7G & H, Colomendy Industrial Estate, Rhyl Road,  
Denbigh, Clwyd, LL16 5TA



# Surfers Against Sewage

The Only Pressure Group Fighting For Your Safety In The Sea!

Concerned for public health!



Concerned for the Oceans!

300 million gallons of raw sewage a day, 2 million tonnes of toxic waste a year - tampons, turds and condoms, mercury, lead and benzene.

## The Only Pressure Group Of It's Kind!

For over five years SAS have successfully campaigned against ocean pollution. The support of all water sports enthusiasts is essential. If you are not yet a member of SAS think about what we are here for. We have become a recognised authority on the matter of sewage disposal, giving water users a voice and a place in the environmental movement.

Be a part of it!



I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE



PRINT G t-shirt only

Please send me (allow 28 days)  
**FULL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP inc** £   
 Sticker and Newsletters (£7.50/£4.50\*)  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP [as above] (£15)** £   
 state no. in family .....

**EXTRA CAR/BOARD STICKER (£1 each)** £

**SAIL STICKER (£3 each)** £



PRINT A

**SAS T-SHIRT £12 +£1 P&P**  £   
 Med Large Ex-Large Print

**SAS SWEATSHIRT £22 + £2 P&P**  £   
 Med Large Ex-Large Print



PRINT B

**SAS HOODED SWEAT £35 + £2 P&P**  £   
 Med Large Ex-Large Print

I have no objection to my name and address and merchandise requirements being held on computer.

Signed .....

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

Donation £

I enclose my cheque/po for Made payable to: £

Surfers Against Sewage  
 The Old Counthouse Warehouse  
 Wheal Kitty, St Agnes TR5 ORE  
 Tel 01872 55 3001  
 Fax 01872 55 2615

\* OAP/Unemployed/Under18/Student - only £4.50

CREDIT CARDS - I authorise you to debit my

Access/ Visa/ Mastercard for the items on this form. SIGNED .....

Exp.Date .....

Card No.



# WIRE OUT

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

**NOW IN STOCK: Mobile Adventure Canadian Open Canoe from £599 plus all open canoe accessories**

**PERCEPTION & PYRANHA BOATS  
KAYAKS REDUCED TO CLEAR**

MOUNTAIN BAT	Ex display	yellow	£369
MOUNTAIN BAT	Ex display	red	£369
PIROUETTE	Ex display	magenta	£339
TUFFY MASTER	Secondhand	A/Marine	£165
FREESTYLE	Secondhand	yellow	£95

### ACCESSORIES

Paddles by Ainsworth & Schlegel, spraydecks, airbags, spray cags, dry cags, long Johns, gloves, boots, dry sacks, buoyancy aids, helmets, throw bags, towlines, BDH bottles, roof racks, roof rack uprights, J-bars

**BOAT REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE - ring for details**

**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**

# Capel Canoes

FIVE OAK GREEN, NR TONBRIDGE, KENT

Tel: 01892 832128

**ESTABLISHED SINCE 1976**

**BARN FULL OF CANOES AND KAYAKS**



**MAIL ORDER**



# Surfers against Sewage

**Surfers Against Sewage were formed in May 1990 by a group of surfers from the St Agnes area.**

**T**hey were fed up with getting ill from surfing on beaches with sewage in the water, fed up with sewage slicks spoiling some of the nicest coastal views in the country and fed up with the piles of tampons, condoms and nappies that get deposited at the high tide lines of beaches.

■ Since the first public meeting when SAS signed up the first 100 members

the campaign has rapidly snowballed. SAS is not just for surfers and has a wide range of members from all walks of life. Now with the support of watersports enthusiasts from all over the country and the support of the general public SAS has a membership of over 19,000.

■ SAS run a high profile, media orientated campaign. The main objective is to raise public awareness warning people of the dangers of sewage polluted water. This also brings in new SAS members, influencing more people and adding more weight to the campaign.

■ SAS believe the best weapon for an environmental pressure group is having a well

prepared argument. Providing well researched solutions rather than just chewing on the problems proved essential in gaining the respect and authority the campaign has today.

■ SAS have taken their argument to the very top in order to reach and influence the big decision makers. Successful demonstrations at the House of Commons and the European Parliament in Strasbourg proved SAS were capable of managing the campaign at such a high level. This prompted more action from the "big wigs" and SAS have since been invited to give evidence in front of the House of Lords, the European Commission in Brussels and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BBC News and Current Affairs described SAS as "some of the Governments most

sophisticated environmental critics".

■ The campaign is funded mainly through the sales of merchandise and membership subscription. We try and encourage our members to raise funds and have a good time as well. The SAS Ball provides a perfect chance for everybody to do this on a big scale.

■ Slowly people are starting to listen, attitudes are changing within the water industry and within the Government. More and more people are siding with the campaign realising the many benefits of having clean seas and beaches. That is why it is so important for the campaign to keep moving, maybe in the near future SAS's dreams will become reality and there will be a clean safe sea for everybody.



# Light The Darkest Corners with

# Energizer



**T**his first ever floating, fluorescent light is not only waterproof, making it ideal for indoor and outdoor uses, it is so watertight that if it drops into water it will bob to the surface and continue to function as normal, making it ideal for canoeists and those keen on outdoor pursuits. Features include a push button on/off switch, a handy strap for easy carrying, hanging and storing, a tough body and a lifetime guarantee. The Fluorescent Floating Area Light costs £9.99 including VAT and is available from all Energizer (Ever Ready Limited) stockists.

## For Safety's Sake Look for the CE Mark

Yak report significant increases in sales since becoming the first manufacturer to gain CE approval on their full range of canoe Buoyancy Aids.

European legislation dictates that after July 1st 1995 a manufacturer can only sell Buoyancy Aids that conform to the requirements of the Directive on Personal Protective Equipment and carry the CE mark of approval.

Yak, always at the forefront of technical and safety developments, had no problem in gaining approval to the new European Legislation and are keen to encourage all those considering purchasing a

Buoyancy Aid to look for the CE mark to help ensure their safety.

The Yak range contains 8 different Buoyancy Aids so there's bound to be one to suit your exact paddling needs.

**For further information please contact Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hants, PO12 1AQ. Tel: 01705 528621 Fax: 01705 510905**



## 'Name the River Competition' win a free copy of White Water Europe

White Water Europe is written for the recreational white water paddler who wants a quality comprehensive guide to the classic runs of the Western Alps. It will have approximately 400 pages and over 100 maps and illustrations. Written by Peter Knowles and Pete Bandtock, it is on the same lines as 'White Water Nepal' (described as

"authoritative and inspiring" and "best specialist guidebook"), and is due to be issued by Rivers Publishing in early 1996.

This map is taken from the book and shows one of the classic runs in the Alps, but with all names and some of the river detail removed - can you name the river?



### Rules

Entries on a postcard by 30th November 1995 to: Map Competition, 125 Hook Rise South, Surbiton, KT6 7NA.

The first six correct entries picked out of a hat will receive free autographed copies of White Water Europe on publication.

Winning entries will be announced in February's Canoe Focus. The judges decision is final.



# The Tradition Continues...

The Hudson Prospector Sawyer Summersong -  
Sawyer Starlight Prospector and Trapper



For further details please contact:  
Tim Hare

**Tel/Fax: 01329 289100**

30 North Wallington, Wallington Village,  
Nr. Farham, Hants PO16 8SW

## Kayaks & Paddles **PLYMOUTH**

- The biggest canoeing shop in the west.
- Entry level to the very serious.
- Over 50 kayaks and canoes in stock.
- Top demo boats.
- Main dealers for the best!

**Boats: Prijon, Pyranha, Perception,  
North Shore Sea Kayaks, Euro Kayaks.**

**Kit: Nookie, Palm, Yak, Playboater, Manic  
and more**

**Paddles - 100's**

**Rough Stuff - Doctor D's - Schlegel - Lendal -  
Ainsworth - Kober - Azzali**

**Topo Duo the Dart with  
"Roundy"**

*Booking or hire from*

## Kayaks & Paddles

Unit 52, Valley Road, Plympton, Plymouth.

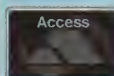
**01752 335176**

1/2 mile Marsh Mills (M5 - A38)

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

River Dart - 12 miles

**Mail Order**



## Doctor D's Paddles

### Kayak Paddles

Made from modern engineering and aerospace materials,  
designed to be lightweight and tough - able to withstand all  
use and most forms of abuse!

### Custom Built

Is an "off the shelf" paddle is a compromise? Let us custom  
build to your specification.

eg. Double grips, non standard feather, left handed, smaller  
diameter loom.

### Ring for a brochure:

01661 836938 or 830561

or ask your nearest retailer



## CANOE WORLD

VISIT OR 'PHONE OUR

### SHOP

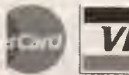
For Prijon, Schlegel, HF  
and other quality equipment

### Canoe World

251 Mary Vale Road  
Bournville

Birmingham B30 1PN

**Tel: 0121 433 5025**



## Plas y Brenin

The National Mountain Centre

**Our 1996 brochure  
will be published in  
October.**

**Please call for your copy.**

*"All of our courses are designed to arm you  
with the skills you will need to be a safer and  
more competent independent paddler."*

Plas y Brenin, The National Mountain Centre,  
Capel Curig, Gwynedd, LL24 0ET.

Tel: 01690 720366/720384





**This was the 17th year of the race run by Macclesfield and District Canoe Club. The race covers the 95 miles, 92 locks and 5 tunnels of the Cheshire Ring of Canals and can be paddled non stop or in relay, as a race or as a challenge to be completed in 24 hours.**

**T**his year's race attracted a field of 12 kayaks, this does not sound a lot but these require 75 paddlers and 24 support vehicles.

Thankfully the temperature on the first weekend of July was lower than the record levels of the previous week but it was still high enough to cause problems. Ken Bryce of Greyfriars CC, Glasgow, paddling for the fourth time, suffered from heat and hay fever but still managed to knock 30 minutes off his previous record.

Debbie Richardson and Dave Moore of Freestyle CC, Northwich, also improved on their

record by 28 minutes.

For the first time in several years there were entries in the 5-paddler relay class. Local club Bollington C finished in their first ever race under 14 hours to beat both the K1 and K2 relay records. Wokingham Scouts (and RN) finished not far behind the previous record an hour later.

**Double Tourer Relay**

The main class of the event is the 10-paddler double tourer relay. This class is designed to encourage a broad range of entrants by the use of stable touring kayaks and the rule that each of the five pairs of paddlers in a team must include a junior or a female paddler. Most teams use 'Ardeche' double kayaks fitted with rudder and wheels. There were six teams entered this year.

Altrincham and Sale Sea Cadets and Bredbury and Romiley Sea Scouts entered more for the challenge than the race. Sea Scouts finished in a good time and the Sea Cadets, with a team of under 12s, took some liberties with the rules to finish within 24 hours and get to the prize giving.

There were four teams in the real race.

Macclesfield Scouts, Macclesfield Masters Swimming Club, Freestyle CC and Macclesfield and District CC.

The race started after noon with one minute intervals between canoes. The first section of five miles showed the one minute spacings stretched and squeezed but no actual overtaking.

At the Marple Junction change point the first pairs of paddlers scramble out, the second pairs lift the canoe from the water, turn it on to its wheels (except for Masters who carry theirs) and trundle off for the jog down the sixteen locks and one and a half miles of Marple Locks. This is followed by two and a half miles of paddling including the only two tunnels of the race that we can paddle through. Macclesfield and District are faster on their legs and move into first position, Scouts lose their rudder pin and fall in to fourth place.



**Article and Photographs by C H Cleaver**





*Main Picture: Freestyle (Vicky Howard & Gordon Leather) paddling away from the Lymm change. Note the evolved ring racer with racer, wheels and handle bars.*

*Left: Scouts (Andy Redwood and Toby Coveney) grab the bank for the change at Lymm. Take over crew (with cushion) at the ready*

*Below left: Sea Cadets team of mostly under 12s at the prize giving.*

*Below middle: Freestyle (Denise Charman & John Broadhead) negotiate a lock gate arm on the Rochdale Canal in Central Manchester*

*Bottom: Sea Scouts (James Rowcroft & Alec McNabb) back on the water after the city centre portage*

of the Trent and Mersey at Kidsgrove. Masters slip back slightly and are then stopped for fifteen minutes for sticky tape repairs on the badly leaking canoe. Sections fifteen and sixteen return to Macclesfield Canal and finish halfway up Bosley Locks.

The early morning silence of Bosley Locks is broken by canoeists trundling on the cobbles, Macclesfield and District followed by Freestyle and Scouts change crews within four minutes. This is the fateful section Macclesfield and District stay ahead on the run but once on the water Freestyle pull past. Section eighteen sees Scouts pass Macclesfield and District in their frantic pursuit of Freestyle. This is the position on the water but what about the effect of the spaced starts.

Scouts continue their push into the final section nineteen and there is

## Results

**Ken Bryce (Greyfriars CC)**

K1 18.19.12 *Record*

**Richards and Moore (Freestyle CC)**

K2 19.56.32 *Record*

**Bollington CC**

K1 x 5 Relay 13.47.50 *Record*

**Wokingham Scouts Kayak Club and RN**

14.54.58

**Tourer Relay**

**Freestyle CC**

19.13.07

**Macclesfield & District CC**

19.14.25

**Macclesfield Scouts**

19.15.42

**Macclesfield Masters Swimming Club**

19.41.39

**Bredbury And Romiley Sea Scouts**

22.14.41

**Altrincham and Sale Sea Cadets**

23.53.45

excitement at the finish line. Freestyle cross the line first pursued by Scouts and followed by Macclesfield and District. When the start times are subtracted Macclesfield and District have sneaked into second place. Masters finish about twenty minutes later. A really close race with three minutes between first and third after nineteen hours, 95 miles, 92 locks and five tunnels.

## Gruelling Six Miles

Section three is a short, flat paddle to Ashton and section four is a gruelling six miles and eighteen locks down the Ashton Canal to Manchester. Section five is the longest of the race with eight miles including the 9 Rochdale Canal locks under Manchester City centre.

The end of section 5 is about a quarter through the race, each pair in the team has had to go and positions are an indicator of things to come. The position of the change in the middle of a two mile straight on the Bridgewater Canal adds to the interest. A canoe or canoes can be seen in the distance but it is five minutes before they can be identified and five minutes before they arrive. Macclesfield and District are first, followed by Masters, Freestyle and Scouts, only eleven minutes spanning first to fourth. Very close after five hours and twenty seven miles but a long way to go yet.

Sections six, seven and eight continue the lock free miles of the Bridgewater Canal and finish at a pub on the hill atop Preston Brook tunnel. Passers by are bemused to see canoeists waving paddles miles from the nearest water. Section nine is a short dash down the horse path and the first three miles to the Trent and Mersey Canal. Section ten is another long one of just under eight miles with two long tunnels to portage. After 56 miles and ten hours there is still only 12 minutes span. Scouts have overtaken Masters in spite of half a section with a broken paddle. Masters feel the strain of portaging without wheels and lack of rudder.

Section eleven sees darkness fall and is the last flat before sections twelve, thirteen and fourteen climb thirty five locks to the summit



## Thanks

**Congratulations to all those who took part and thanks to all those who helped including Raynet and GMP.**

## Next Year

**Next years race is on 6/7 July 1996. Put it in your diary and contact:**

**Chris Cleaver, 39 Cavendish Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 6HX**





## Holidays &amp; Courses



## Birmingham School of Canoeing

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.

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

BCU 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

## Holidays &amp; Courses

## Open Learning NVQ Level 3 O.E. Training Programme

Outdoor Education Trainers Programme -  
P/T Open learning and assessment based in your workplace.

Qualifications achievable within the programme include:  
 NVQ Level 3 in Outdoor Education + Training  
 and / or  
 NVQ Level 3 in Training & Development (Learning Delivery)

**LEA Grants available and there are no fees for NVQ programme.**  
 Programme also covers Business Administration at NVQ level 1/2 &  
 Training / Assessment for NGB Coaching Awards as an optional extra

**Places available - April '96 start** - Available nationally for paid or  
 voluntary staff working within centres; it is an F.E. college programme.  
**Write now for further information, as places will be limited** -  
 Inter-Action Leisure Ltd, The Chittings, Manston Green, Preston Road,  
 Manston, Kent CT12 5BA

## Outdoor Training Courses - F.E, College Programmes

**Places available - September '95 start - in the South East**

Outdoor Education Trainers Course - 2 years P/T - Well rounded in  
depth course, qualifications achievable by the end include:

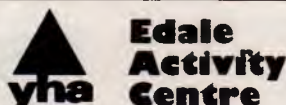
NVQ Level 3 in Outdoor Education + Training  
 National Governing Body - Coaching Awards e.g. BCU Instructor  
 FAW Certificate + RLSS - Bronze Medallion  
 Business Administration + Language Training included

Outdoor Pursuits Training Course - 6 months F/T programme  
focused on technical skills, leading to NGB Coaching awards.

**Both courses qualify for LEA Grants and tuition fees are free**

## Contact - Guidance &amp; Admissions at:

Northbrook College - 01903 830057  
 South Kent College - 01303 850061

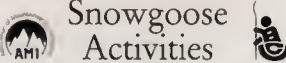


Beginners, Improvers & Advanced Kayak  
 Beginners Open/Canadian Canoe  
 B.C.U. 1,2 & 3 Star Tests  
 B.C.U. Canoe Safety Test (Kayak)  
 B.C.U. Instructor (inland kayak) Training,  
 Assessment

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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



The Old Smiddy, Station Road,  
 Corpach, Fort William PH33 7LS  
*Snowgoose Activities provides top quality skills  
 training courses with a personal approach with  
 an enjoyable experience thrown in free!*  
**Learn New Skills & Upgrade Old Ones**

**Canoe Courses (Autumn 1995)**  
 • BCU Advanced Inland Proficiency Training •  
 • Introduction-Intermediate-Advanced White Water •  
 • Classic Scottish White Water (5 days) •  
 • Novice-Improver-Intermediate Kayak Skills •  
 (1-3 Star Training and Assessment)  
**BCU Inland Proficiency Training & Assessment**  
 • Rescue & Safety on White Water  
 Canoe Safety & Rescue Tests •

Also

## Mountain Courses

Try our Winter Warm-up Courses  
 • Mountain Navigation • Improvised Rescue •  
 Mountain Safety (Weekends)  
 • Hillwalking • Rock Climbing • Mountaintcraft  
 • Winter Mountain Skills •

Contact: John or Tina Cuthbertson  
 Tel/Fax on (01397) 772467 (24hrs)

## Holidays &amp; Courses

KAYAK  
CONTROL  
PARAMOUNT  
PURSUITS

BCU & SCOUT APPROVED  
 Canoe and kayak 1-3 star  
 Eskimo rolling  
 Camping weekends  
 Family courses & excursions  
 Instructor & SI training & assessment  
 Courses for people with special needs  
 Weekly club pool session for all ages & abilities

CONTACT: CHRISTOPHER PERRY  
 for kayak canoe and outdoor activities  
 Tel: (01384) 393125 or (01378) 339666

## Accommodation

**BREDWARDINE LODGE CENTRE** near  
 Hay-on-Wye, Powys. Convenient for  
 rivers Wye, Usk. Special group rates this  
 Autumn. Informal atmosphere, home  
 cooking, centrally heated rooms, large  
 dining room with fire, showers, drying  
 facilities. Assistance and advice offered by  
 resident senior instructor. Telephone:  
 01981-500510

**EDEN VALLEY CENTRE** Group  
 accommodation, ideal location for Eden,  
 Border, Esk and Lake District. Drying  
 room, central heating. Tel: Margaret  
 Wilson 01768 896202

**HOLNE, ASHBURTON, DEVON**, Bed &  
 Breakfast, evening meal, home cooking,  
 close to pub, 1-5 miles river Dart. Drying  
 facilities and parking. Tel: 01364 631235

## Anglesey, Rhoscolyn.

Group accommodation, up to 36 in  
 8 bedrooms. Self or full catering. All  
 facilities for year round use. 300 yds  
 from beach and outstanding coast.  
 Ideal base sea tours, surfing, over-  
 falls. Camping available.

Phone: 01407 860469

Bellevue Cottages in  
Beautiful Brittany

2 lovely self-catering cottages near north coast  
 in Brittany, France. Ideal canoe families/friends.  
 Winter whitewater, superb surf, spectacular sea  
 paddling. Special rates for canoeists.

Also 7/2 acre field in beautiful surroundings,  
 ideal for scouts, girl guide groups etc. Basic  
 facilities/cheap rates.

Please phone Greg or Carol 01785 214763

**SOUTH WALES, RIVER USK** 200 yards.  
 Farm cottages. log fires, drying, centrally  
 heated, superb accommodation sleeps  
 4-30, evening meal available, £10 PP per  
 night. Bwlch 01874 730460/948.

**INCHREE CHALETS & BUNKHOUSE**,  
 Onich, Fort William, Inverness-shire.  
 Tel/fax: 01855 821287. Situated in the  
 midst of the finest white water. Suitable  
 all grades. Pub restaurant on-site.

**BALA**. Self Catering Bunkhouse  
 Accommodation from £7 per night and  
 Licenced Guest House B&B from £12.00.  
 01678 520507

## 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**

LONGRIDGE  
Scout Boating Centre

Are running the following courses

Instructor Assessment  
 CST Assessment  
 Kayak  
 7 October

Instructor Training  
 Kayak  
 6-8 October

Instructor Training  
 Open Canoe  
 20-22 October

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

KAYAK

Training/Assessment

27-29 October

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

OPEN CANOE

Assessment

27-29 October

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

● CANOEING ● HILL WALKING  
 ● MOUNTAIN BIKING ● CLIMBING

BCU APPROVED CENTRE  
 Senior Instructor Training Assessment 9-10th December  
 Contact: Andy Bond  
 TEL: 01332 383698 MOBILE: 0378 891119

LONDON & KENT  
SCUBA COURSES  
REEF SCUBA

Tel/fax: (01474) 326072 day/eves  
 (0836) 328135 mobile  
 Excellent facilities, Flexible time tabling



**Holidays & Courses**

**GREY CORRIE LODGE  
ROYBRIDGE**

**For the Highlands  
Mountaineering, Skiing  
Hill-Walking, canoeing**

On A86 - Fort William 12 miles  
Adjacent to Roybridge Hotel.  
Private bunkrooms for 2, 4 or 8  
persons. Complete self-catering  
with heating, showers, toilets,  
drying rooms, all bedding and  
log fire.

All inclusive in price

Tel: Spean Bridge 01397 712236

**Lanterns Inn.  
River Dart Canoeing**

Near Holne. En-suite accommodation, family room avail-  
able. Groups welcome. Drying facilities. Food available 7  
days. Spacious free parking. Special accommodation  
rates available to canoeists with this ad. Packed lunches  
available. Big groups welcome. Anything is possible!!!

**Knowle Hill, Ashburton  
Tel 01364 652697.**

**THE SMIDDY LODGE**

Excellent accommodation in Pine Alpine style bunkhouse  
(sleeps 12), fully heated, drying/laundry room. Ideal for  
climbing, walking, canoe, ski groups. ALSO 4 superb  
apartments to sleep 2/4 or 6/8. Three Crowns Highly  
Commended. 4 miles west of Ben Nevis. Situated at start  
of Caledonian Canal, within 1 hour of some of Scotland's  
finest white water paddling.

**SNOWGOOSE HOLIDAYS**

The Old Smiddy, Station Road, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7LS  
Tel/fax: 01397 772467 (24hrs)

**DARTMOOR, CAMPING BARN** at  
Holne (O.S. SX706696) close to River dart.  
Showers, toilets, cooking facilities. Cosy  
and cheap. Sleeps 14. Tel: Katie on  
01364 643920. Also hostel type  
accommodation sleeping 7, telephone  
Maggie on 01364-631271.


**Equipment**




**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)

*Sell the best range of  
Sailboard Trolleys*

**HUMPT  
CANOE TROLLEYS**

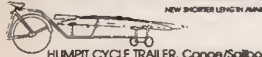


HUMPT Canoe Buddy



HUMPT X FRAME

NEW SHORTER LENGTH AVAILABLE



HUMPT CYCLE TRAILER. Canoe/Sailboard

79 Cobham Road  
Ferndown Industrial Estate  
Wimborne BH21 7QD  
Tel: 01202 891899

**Equipment**

**SIGNS  
BANNERS  
STICKERS**

Your Name or Club Name  
supplied in easy to apply  
pre-spaced vinyl lettering in  
any colour for your canoe.

Signs and logos produced for  
your Centre or promote your  
next event with a banner.

Send or fax for an order form to:

**STYLUS  
SIGNS**

Image House, 1 Coombe Ave.  
Croydon. CRO 5SD.  
Tel: 0181-681 5121  
Fax: 0181-681 3566

**DEAL DIRECT** (Part of The P&H  
Company). Polythene Canoes for under  
£200.00. Telephone: (0115) 9320155 Fax:  
(0115) 9327177

**Joel Enterprises** is the shop  
for all your

Canoe and Kayak equipment. Large and  
varied stock to choose from: Touring to  
Raging Whitewater; Specialist paddles;  
Rafting to Racing.

Tel/Fax 01905 455311 or Tel 425959  
for our latest catalogue and details  
of opening hours of our shop at Holt  
Fleet near Worcester.

**CANOING FABRICS**, Breathable  
Waterproofs, Cordura, Pertex, Pile,  
Polartech Fleece, Neoprene Coated  
Nylon, Buckles, Webbing, Zips, Shock  
Cord, Velcro. Patterns for outdoor gear,  
Camping and Climbing Equipment.  
Discounts up to 15%. Shop open 10 - 5  
Tues - Sat. For mail order catalogue  
please send 4" x 9" S.A.E. TOR (cf), 42  
Widnes Road, Widnes. WA8 6AL.

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



**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 and kayak repairs.  
Trailer repairs.  
Advice on equipment.  
**No obligation**

**Collyer-Smith Marine**

**END OF SEASON OFFERS!  
BIG SAVINGS!**

On Perception and Ace boats.  
Ring for best quote.  
Collyer-Smith Marine, 61 Magdalen  
Street, Colchester, CO1 2JU.  
**Tel: 01206 797833**

**Equipment**

**COMPLETE  
PADDLING  
EXPERIENCE**



**MAIL  
ORDER  
SPECIALIST**

**CANOES • 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**

**Equipment**

**Feathercraft FOLDING KAYAKS**

Price list and brochure from the U.K. importers  
**SCOTTISH PADDLER SUPPLIES**  
3 Whiterigg, Dunning Glen, Dollar, FK14 7LB  
Phone 01259 781 491 Fax 01259 781 620  
TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

**Situations Vacant**

**Adventure  
International**  enterprises Ltd

**QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED 1996 SEASON**

Qualified instructors 18+ required for our Multi Activity centre in Bude,  
North Cornwall.

Canoeists, climbers, sailors, etc. Season starts April and ends October.  
Wage includes full board and lodging.

Full training given prior to and during the season.

Apply for details to:

Tracy Joslyn, Personnel Manager  
Adventure International Ltd  
Belle Vue, BUDE, Cornwall, EX23 8JP  
Tel: 01288 355551









## FOR SALE

**Spectrum Touring Kayak**, yellow, straight running stable boat, with air bags and paddle. Armchair comfort! £180 Tel: 01252 518983 (Farnboro' Hants)

**P&H Revenge** - kevlar hull, black, diolen deck, never used in competition Polo, excellent condition £275 Tel: David 0181 467 8886 eves, or 0171 315 5680 Day.

**Blenheim K1**, marathon/sprint, suit medium paddler £175 ono. Tel: 01923 678608 Herts  
**K1 Fladbury Type** o/s rudder, green and white, good condition £120 ono, could possibly deliver. Tel: Steve 01386 831904 (Worcs)

**2 Fibreglass kayaks**, no holes either, possible local delivery £20 each or £35 the pair. Tel: Laura on 01707 271835 (Hatfield)

**2 Pyranha Master skegs**, good condition £5 each Tel: Richard 0181 390 5636 (Surrey)

**Paddles**, New Wave Hydro white water paddle 208cm RH in excellent condition £20. Spoon carbon fibre racing blades. Superb condition 216cm RH offers. Must sell Tel: 01392 214697

**Orion sea kayak**, white, older model, two round hatches, backstrap, Lendal foot pump, excellent condition, very little use Tel: 01379 677704 (Norfolk)

**Perception Reflex plastic kayak** with backstrap, neoprene spraydeck and Ainsworth paddle (205R) £200 ono. Also North Shore Torque kayak with White Water spraydeck £100 ono. All good condition. Tel: Darlington 01325 480411 (eight miles from Tees Barrage)  
**Wild Water Instructor buoyancy aid**, red and blue green pockets, as new, 12 months old £30. Thule roofrack to fit guttered car £15 Tel: 01203 348513 (Nuneaton)

**Pyranha Everest X** linked plastic, full white water spec, bulk head footrest, rear central foam buoyancy and air bags, back strap and nose cone. VGC, only been used on placid water £275 inc neoprene spraydeck and paddles. Granta open canoe 'Anglian Prospector' GRP with good gunnels and seats. Excellent condition, only 1 year old, garage stored £300 inc paddles Tel: 01473 311511 eves/weekends. (Ipswich)

**Paddle Box for canoe trailer**, fibre glass, lockable, as new, £100 ono Tel: Steve 0117 965 9608 eves.

**Yellow Prijon T-Canyon**, good condition, full airbags £240 ono Tel: Shrewsbury 01743 790064

**Mountain Bat**, ww spec, full plate footrest, backstrap, good condition £240 Tel: 01270 581514 (Crewe)

**North Shore**, carbon fibre Torque, with neoprene spraydeck, rim system, 1100 slalom paddle and Crewsaver adult b/aid. Little used, immaculate condition £300 ono Tel Michael 01983 527663 IOW

**White Water C1**, Dagger Cascade, excellent condition, fully fitted with quick release thigh straps, minicell foam saddle and extra padding. Spraydeck included £300 Tel: 01235 7659988 (South Oxon)

**Reflex**, Epoxy kevlar, kevlar seam, excellent condition £250 ono Tel: Elkie 01295 259741

**Prijon Invader (light) Blue**, bulkhead footrest, airbags complete with paddle and spraydeck £170 ono. M1425 Tourer, yellow, 3 years old, complete with paddle and spraydeck £150 ono Tel: Vic 01438 722713 eve 01701 253404 day (Watford)

**2 Pyranha Masters**, one pink x linked £165 ono, one red linear with ww spec £190 ono Tel: richard 0181 390 5636 (Surrey)

**Klepper Arius double kayak**, 17 foot, folds away into 3 bags all woodwork seats and rudder £225 needs new skin (from Kirtan Kayaks £450?) to make up a 'new' canoe then worth around £2000 minimum, assembled in 15 minutes: call 0121 427 8172 (Midlands)

**Corsica S**, excellent condition, purple, complete with spraydeck and paddle £210 Also option to buy helmet and large dry bag, very suitable for beginners, only one previous owner, must sell. Tel: Charles 0171 336 5431 (w) or 0171 401 9096 (SE London)

**Slalom Kayak P&H TX1**, kevlar carbon, excellent condition £170. Also general purpose/slalom kayak, fibreglass £50 Tel: 01432 264223

**1 Baidarka Explorer**, fitted with compass and pump £300. 1 Olymp £60. 5 small BDH bottles £2.50 each. 8 large BDH bottles £3.50 each. 1 neoprene spraydeck £10. 4 Europa white water twin seal spray decks (New) £20 each. 5 ordinary spray decks £2 each. 3 canoe cagoules (new) £5 each. 1 closed cockpit white water twin seal spray deck £20. 3 RLSS Torpedo buoys £10 each. 9 Snorkles £1.50 each. Tel: Alan 01379 890425 (Norfolk)

**WWR Dolphin £40** ono Tel: Martin 01703 618989 (Hants)

**2 x slalom kayaks**, 1 white and red £175 ono 1 blue and white £150 ono. 1 left handed paddle Delapre Powerblade (good condition) £45 ono Tel: Tracey 01703 392455 (After 6pm) (Hants)

**2 Coleman Outback 16ft** open canadian canoes only one year old £350 each. Also ACE Pioneer Canoe (two man plus storage) with two twin blade paddles and spraydecks £225 All suitable family canoes in very good condition Tel: 01829 740547 (Chester)

**K1 Cleaver X** red deck with clear hull, excellent condition, good sprint boat, comes with cover £550. Also 1 set V bars good condition £20. Tel: Adrian 01753 853035 (Berks) after 5pm.

**Pyranha Freestyle canoe** - well used complete with footrest and airbags £50. ACE Safety helmet nearly new £10. B/aid -

Crewsaver almost new £20 paddle unused £12 wet suit leggings £16 spraydeck £7.50 suit 11 to 14 year old will separate or all for £95 Tel: 0151 480 4731 (Merseyside)

**Stunt Bat**, good condition £250 Tel: 01484 681235 (Huddersfield)

**17ft Pyranha Canadian Canoe** with single bladed paddles, excellent condition £350 Tel: Alan Whitehead 01634 722300

**Squirt Boat** - Enigma £210 (negotiable) or part PX for Topolino Duo or sailing dinghy. Ice rink plastic in pretty fair condition. Paddling one of these is as much fun as you'll get with your wetsuit on. Too many other boats forces sale due to lack of space. View in Bedford or in Leeds (or poss at Div 3 or 5 slalom) Tel: 01234 741520 Nigel or Nita

**Mirage III racing K2** very good condition, an excellent marathon/racing boat £250. May be possible to deliver. Tel: John M Parton 01782 316771 (Stoke on Trent)

**Rotobat**, red, ww spec, good condition, 18 months old, with spraydeck £190 ono Tel: Lee 01928 572729 (North West)

**P & H Icefloe sea kayak**, good condition, basic expedition fit. Limited use due to being too big. London area, but ring Lakes 017684 86012 ask for Ann

**Wee Noh Nah** marathon sit and switch C2, VGC, vacuum bagged kevlar sandwich construction boat, complete with foot pump and full spraydeck £800 ono. Three carbon 14" crank shafted paddles £50 Each. Will consider good quality whitewater open boat - dagger/legend/reflection/or Pyranha Prospector, in exchange N East Tel: 01325 721704 eves or 0191 565 6557 day.

**Two small trailers**, both good condition, reing for details Tel: South Yorks 01246 411836

**Perception Reflex II** Kevlar II construction, kevlar seam, black deck, white hull, VGC £175 Tel: 01394 274584 (eves) 01394 604915 (days)

**Perception Dancer**, yellow, with bow and stern caps, HF towing system, and declines. Good condition, a genuine bargain at £180. Tel David on 01832 274367, or 01832 272276 (Ansaphone)

**Baidarka Explorer Sea Kayak**, blue deck, white hull, retractable skeg, fore and aft hatches, good condition/little used. £350 ono. Tel: 01785 662348 (Stafford)

**Fast Touring Kayak 14' long**, large cockpit, fibreglass boat in good condition £75 Tel: 01245 465388

**M1300 Tourer**, yellow, vgc, fitted rudder, also front and rear airbags and paddle £200 ono Tel: Mel on 01203 466817 (Coventry)

**Pyranha Magic Bat**, full art work, as new £300 ono Tel: 01246 220956

**Canadian Canoe**, 16 foot fibreglass, three man with travel cover and spray deck £300 ono Castleford 01977 551898

**Prijon T Canyon**, big plastic strong, re, full airbags, full plate footrest, no holes, no repairs £239. Fanatic C1, yellow, diolen, carbon stringers, no holes, very tough £139, New Bush C1 deck and C1 paddle £29. Polo bat, diolen, seamless, light blue, no damage £94. Nomad Extra Slalom K1 VGC £139. Big Rock and Roll windsurfer, unmarked, perfect condition 7.3 camber, 5.5 RAF, 2 piece mast Rotho, two wishbones, loads of extras, all you will need over £2000 spent £450. Volkswagen Transporter F Reg, 59,000 miles, just passed MOT, side window, 2ltr petrol, interior panelled £2,500 Tel Wandsworth London 0181 780 1754 Friday eve 8-10pm.

**Prijon Gattino**, purple, about two years old, good condition, very strong river runner £250 ono. Pyranha Master, yellow, crosslink, plate footrest, skeg, with paddles and new spraydeck £100 bargain for quick sale. Tel: 01743 356 336 (Shrewsbury)

**MI 370 kayak**, ideal beginners slalom or touring boat, £150. 2 KW4 fast, stable, single touring kayaks, excellent condition, each with paddle, buoyancy aid, and spray deck, £100 each. Tel: 01256 24370 (Hants)

**Eurokayaks Cyphur**, full w.w spec, air bag, full plate footrest, back rest, adjustable seat, sold with neoprene deck, good condition £275. Tel: Neil (eves) on 01980 632221.

**2 Pyranha Masters**, yellow, full white water spec, deck lines, foot plate, some welded repairs, kept under cover £130. Second boat, violet, patched, white water spec, tow line system, both make ideal beginners or/and low grade instructor boats £90. Tel: Bill Taylor 01270 883567 (eves) Cheshire

**Mountain Bat**, ww spec, green, full plate foot rest, air bags, deck lines, grab handles, good condition £250 ono Tel: Leeds 01113 2796618

**Nomad Extreme slalom kayak**, kevlar, good condition, £150 ono contact Dave Webb: 0181 390 9784 (Surrey)

**K1 Cougar**, ideal junior canoe, reasonable condition, fibre glass U/S. £70 ono Tel: 01203 396795

**Dagger 54"** centre air bag never used £20 Tel: 0181 644 2717 (Sutton, Surrey)

**Pyranha Rotobat** ww spec, airbags, full plate footrest, yellow, £250 ono Tel: (Kent) 01634 235558

**Canoe Trailer**, suit active K1/WW club - only £320, double kayak. fibreglass construction. Excellent fun, very stable £90. Wave Rider - complete with belt, foot loops and safety strap £200. Fibreglass canoe - good condition £30. 6 x canoe helmets, 3 x life preservers, plus 2 paddles £50 the lot. Tel: 01684 892370 (Worcs)

**At least 10 glass fibre boats**, some OK some need attention, garage clearout due to move £10 each or job lot negotiable. Tel: (Bury) 01204 885332 Eves only please (night

working wife)  
**Pyranha Master**, 2 years old, used first season only, kept under cover, good condition, full plate footrest, thigh grips, full air bags, backstrap, pink £220 ono Tel: 0113 2582962 Leeds ask for Richard any day except Tues  
**Stunt Bat aquamarine**, good condition, ww spec, stored under cover £330 Tel: 01535 632320 (W Yorks)

**Falchion 385 13ft**, yellow, with matching spraydeck, nearly new, little used, excellent condition, £225 ono. Tel: Plymouth 01752 351478 eves/weekends only.

**Perception Dancer**, red, full wwspec, backrest/declines, plus roofrack and Ainsworth paddles £225 (01621) 892231 Essex

**Joker surfing kayak** by Mega Performance Kayaks, very good condition, £199 Tel: 01980 630339 (Stonehenge)

**Wave Ski Alan Neighbour** Custom made, high performance colourful graphics, heavy duty bag and paddles to suit light paddler £210 ono Tel: 01363 772384 (Credition - Devon)

**Surf Kayak £65** Pevensey Bay East Sussex Tel: 01323 763922

**Prijon Invader**, alpine spec, full plate footrest, air bags, etc. £200. Peugeot 106 roof bars £30. contact Andy 01695 577226 Lancs/Mersey

**Wenonah ICF C2** vac bagged, kevlar, self bailer fitted, very fast watertight boat, perfect for DW £750 Contact Andy 01782 560298 (Stoke) or 01695 577226 (Lancs) can deliver.

**Perception reflex plastic kayak** with backstrap, neoprene spraydeck and Ainsworth paddle (205R) £200 ono. Also North Shore Torque kayak with white water spraydeck £100 ono. All good condition. Tel Darlington 01325 480411 (ten miles from Tees Barrage)

**Coleman 13ft open canoe**, good condition with bang plates fitted £300 ono Tel: 0121 624 8865 (Birmingham)

**Prijon Gambler**, dark blue, whitewater spec, full plate footrest, air bags, stored under cover £300 Tel: 01494 543217 daytime, 01494 791982 eves (Amersham)

**2 Joker wild water C1** river racers, both kevlar/epoxy: C1 river race paddle asymmetric, Bush deck to suit above £540 ono Tel: 01502 711376

**Perception Kayak**, excellent beginners boat, old model but in sound condition, full length foam buoyancy, footrests, paddle and adjustable spray deck, bargain price of £70 ono Tel: 01928 579812 (Runcorn)

**Pyranha Master**, X link with adjustable full plate footrest, bulk buoyancy and manufacturer's backstrap £200 CSC Rotobat, pool boat with adjustable pedal footrests and buoyancy bag £100 Tel: Eastbourne 01323 730789

**Corsica S**, magenta, vgc, 14 months old £200. Thor down river racer, diolen, immaculate, used three times £80. Trailer 10 berth, good condition, spare wheel.

Repainted/reconditioned £100 Tel: Mansfield 01623 747503

## WANTED OR SWAP

**Sea kayak**, must be in good condition, Skerry preferred but will consider any other stable craft Tel: 01502 677630 (Suffolk)

**Dagger Crossfire** in good condition Tel: Richard 0181 390 5636 (Surrey)

**Canadian Canoe 2 seater** wanted for an ageing kayaker to learn in. Must be of reasonable condition at a reasonable price, preferably in SE England Tel: Paul on 01480 351914 (Cambs)

**Ace Europa**, basic or WW spec, willing to pay up to £100 cash waiting Tel: Jim 01784 253160 (South East)

**Cougar Racing K1**, good condition, lightweight for marathon, carbon kevlar or GRP preferred Tel: 01296 668639 (Herts)

**Good condition Slalom C1** modern design, will collect, willing to pay up to £150 Tel: James 01734 844172 (Reading)

**Wild Water Racing C1**, kevlar/carbon Apollo design, not raced - as new £250 ono Tel: 013094 826113 (Kent) Would swap for good condition open Canadian (Discovery)

**Corsica S**, Magenta, WW spec, bulkhead footrest, new bow cap, stored in garage £300 ono or swap for Spud Tel: Jim 01225 810582 (Wilts)

**Mirage**, full spec, inc footrest, end cap and buoyancy bags, new condition £200 ono, or swap for Corsica S or similar 01235 322673

**Old Stretched Kanvas** over wooden framed kayak. Contact Lee on 01928 572729 (North West)

**Acrobat 270**, exchange for pirouette S in good condition with air bags and spraydeck stored indoors. South Yorks Tel: 01246 411836

**Cirrus Touring Canoe** or similar stable glass fibre touring canoe. DOn Barkway Tel: 01603 35024 (Norwich)

**Light weight kevlar K1**, preferably a Talon, or Jaguar in good condition, tel Chris Cheyne 01525 371950 Leighton Buzzard

**Pyranha Rotobat**, ww spec, cash waiting, can travel to most areas to view. Tel David on 01832 274367 or 01832 272276 (Ansaphone)

**Prijon T Canyon** Tel: Tom Barnes 01203 466761

**Slalom C2**, Right front/left back position, suitable for combined weight of 22 stones max. Willing to travel for the right boat at the right price. Contact Andy or Chris on 01482 896712 or leave a message on the answerphone and we'll get back to you.

**K1 Cougar** or something similar wanted by

## Please forward

all adverts to

appear in the

Members

Classified

direct to:

BCU

Headquarters

in Nottingham.

MEMBERS

ADS FREE

big new paddler Tel: 01703 842976  
**Open Canoe** with paddles wanted, preferably ww spec, and an Enigma squirt boat Tel: Aidan on 01227 768191 (Kent)

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**Wanted:** Part time instructors needed to deal with increasing demand. Must be BCU qualified to BCU instructor minimum. Flexible working pattern to suit your availability. Reasonable pay plus mileage. Please write to Bowles Outdoor Centre, Eridge Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9LW

## STOLEN

**Stolen from Loughborough** on evening of 28.6.94. 1 yellow Rotobat 4 years old. 1 Pink Dagger Crossfire 2 years old. 1 Pirouette Supersport, purple 4 months old, no end grabs, no centre buoyancy between legs and half seat missing, similar to Masters' Brothers Boats. Can you help recover these boats? Call Mike on 01245 323271

**All of the following were stolen from Red Locks Slalom on Sat 17th June** during the night. Mini Mystique cut down, royal blue to black and P&H logo on deck, carbon hull, the boat was virtually new. 1 set carbon cranks, brayed on the edges. 1 set black double torque Propulsion paddles, Blue Palm b/aid, White WW Helmet. Blue/Red Twin seal deck, Blue/Grey long sleeve bag. Total value over £1000 Any details tel: Mike Richman 01635 580247

**2 Brand New Boats still in wrappers!**  
**Stolen Friday 20th July from Chester**, from car roof rack, 2 brand new Canoe Polo Mavericks still in wrappers, decks red, hull carbon/kevlar 1 with red sea, 1 with carb/kev sea. Any info contact Dave Brown Tel: 01244 390125

## ACCOMMODATION

**Chalet above Bourg St Maurice** on Tignes/Val D'Isere road, with good paddling between chalet and the International site at Bourg St Maurice. Basic accommodation with 4 bedrooms total of 16 beds, 2 bathroom/toilets etc, 2 kitchens and plenty of parking, hot water and central heating. STE Foy La Thuile, 50frs per night, comfortable beds, warm rooms, plenty of hot water, cooking facilities, linen pack on request 50 frs. Tel/Fax: Cath or Colin on France 79069639

**Wanted room in shared house** around North Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield (ish) from August for female WW paddler Tel: 0181 759 0657 (eves)

**Holiday Apartment to let. French Alps (Near Geneva).** An excellent modern apartment is available to rent only 30 minutes from Lake Lemans. Sleeps 8 comfortably but has accommodated 10+. Located in a mountain village with beautiful views across the valley. It is fully equipped and has an indoor swimming pool with sun bathing/barbecue area. The area is excellent for canoeing, windsurfing, sailing, white water rafting, walking, fishing, climbing, tennis and in winter, skiing. It is also ideal for doing absolutely nothing but relaxing. Located in the centre of the village it is only 100 yards from the ski lifts. Prices range from £175 in the low season to £390 in the summer and winter high season. In other words from £22 to £48 per person per week. There are no extra charges. A full information pack with photographs is available by calling Peter Gwizdala on: 0181 854 0028

## LOST AND FOUND

**Lost: Any remnants of canoeing credibility.** Last seen floating alongside former owners at the bottom of easy grade II drop, if found please return to Coach G. Wardle and Coach M Hickman. c/o PO Box 102 Nottingham. Found: Original set of Dr D's with the name G Wardle written on them. Rescued by children in flat section of Yusefiji Gorge. If you want them back write to Mustafa Excuse, Erzurum, Eastern Turkey.



# Adrift on the

The first time I ever heard of the Blue Nile I guess must have been reading about Mike Jones's trip in a old issue of 'Canoeing Magazine' written around 73.

**B**oth Mikes and the Blashford Snells bizarre attempt were written up by Chris Bonnington in Quest for Adventure (he also took part in the latter). Then a fax from Cam Mcleay arrived for me in Nepal asking me to help guide an exploratory on the Nile.

Bandit attacks, huge crocodiles and unrunable rapids were a few things I could remember reading from those past trips. It sounded too good a chance to miss, so a week or so later I was at Heathrow with around 300kg's excess baggage (Cam had sorted it all out with Ethiopian Airways).

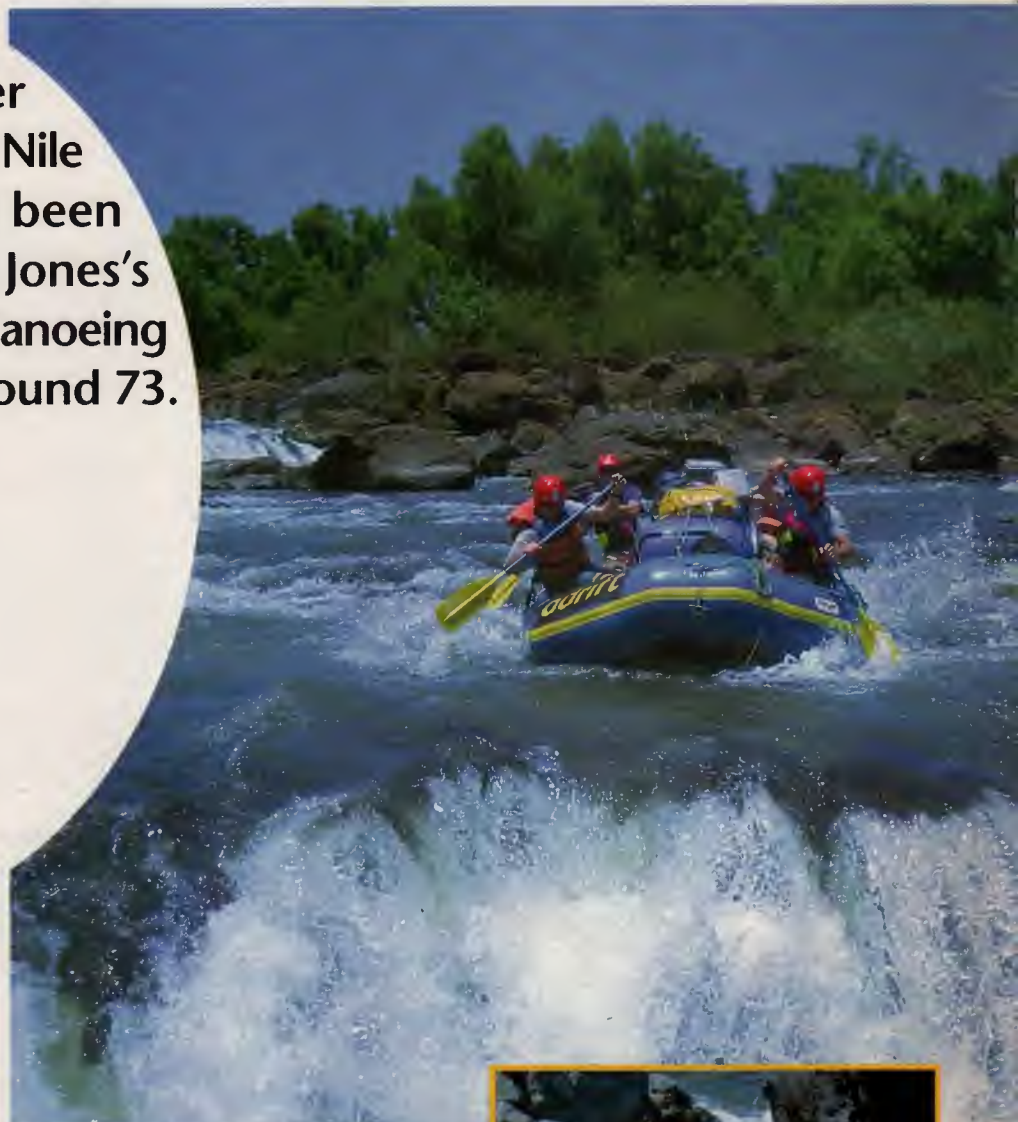
## No Bandits

Once in Ethiopia we met and luckily based ourselves in Steve Thomas' house in Addis Ababa. He had just kayaked the upper section from Tana Lake down to the 2nd Portuguese bridge. He encountered no bandits but did have to walk the same rapid all the other trips have walked and he seemed to have a nervous twitch when I asked about the crocs! He recommended that we put in three days below the Lake at Tissisat falls due to the technicality of some of the falls.

Cam and I drove to the falls to inspect what we could from one of the only road access points. It was narrow, fast and low water from what we could see we felt good about the rest of the river. Our trip had only experienced river guides and we felt that kayakers often underestimate what a raft can get down, so why miss out the top section.

We would start from the source of the Blue Nile take eleven days to the Abay bridge, with the aim of running the one un-run section which would mean the fullest raft descent to date.

The upper section did live up to Steves warning, it turned out to be real hard work, lots of tight falls, the first one claiming one of our oars (we started the trip with one oar boat but quickly switched to two



paddle rafts for the upper sections). On the first day we came to our first portage, in a kayak it would have taken a couple of minutes, with a fully loaded raft - at least half an hour. It didn't get any easier at times the river would simply disperse with no clue to which channel to take. At times pushing, pulling, carrying and running what ever we could for three days solid. Then came Tissisat falls.

## Magnificent Falls

The magnificent falls are four hundred metres wide in full flood. Could we find any mules to help carry around our gear? So all that was left was to lower the whole lot, one at a time over the side (the Palm throw bags really got put through their paces)!

A wonderful night was spent in the amphitheatre of the waterfall, we all felt a little happier as we also knew exactly where we were. The next brought a lot of action with another waterfall raft lowering session. Then the



Article by  
**Colin Hill**



# Blue Nile



tight (slightly smaller than a raft width) section under the Portuguese bridge. Then a flip on a really challenging section of river, which then led into a section of river we named 'the maze'.

## 'The River Wild'

Two days later after some splendid rafting we at last come to the section of virgin drops. After seeing Meryl Streep's film 'The River Wild', Cam and I were inspired enough to call this 'the Gauntlet', if we made it!

It was a long hard section of drops running into each other, four of us wanted to run it. We unloaded some gear, we wanted the raft light but not too light. It

was fast, we worked hard, down the chute, stuck, back ferry, over more drops paddling hard - Yahoo!

The trip was eleven days, the last four on calmer water, but cutting through some of the impressive gorges. At the end we were all happy to see the road bridge (even though our vehicle left a day early)!

*After seeing Meryl Streep's film 'The River Wild', Cam and I were inspired enough to call this 'the Gauntlet', if we made it!*

After this trip I had a whole new adventure guiding a commercial trip twenty one days down the Omo river, you haven't seen anything until you see the Bodi and Mursi tribes down there (plus 800 hippos). Adrift will now be adding a five day Blue Nile to their already wild brochure of true wilderness trips all around the world.



With thanks to  
**The Adrift team!**  
**Palm Canoe**  
**Products,**  
**Pyranha Kayaks.**

**Further information;**  
**Adrift**  
**Collingbourne**  
**House**  
**Spencer Court**  
**140 - 142 High**  
**Street**  
**Wandsworth**  
**London SW18 4JJ**



# Paddling For A



Paddlers on River Forth

The Sail Training Association (STA) is a charity that was established nearly 30 years ago to enable young people to sail aboard one of two 3-masted topsail schooners.

I have sailed as a volunteer Watch Leader with the STA for several years working with trainees and aiming to make the most of the adventure experience. Thousands of people have benefited from the work of this organisation and now the STA is building a new ship, a "Flagship for Young Britain". So, what has this got to do with canoeing? Well, the cost of the ship is around £6 million and that amount of money needs some serious fundraising. So, Hugh O'Neill, Captain of one of the STA schooners, came up with a cunning scheme to raise the readies. His plan, to undertake a sponsored paddle coast to coast across Scotland in open canoes retracing the historic steps of the shipbuilders of yesteryear, from the time of building the famous

Article by  
Caroline  
Rowntree  
July 1995.

tea clipper Cutty Sark way back in the eighteenth century. The route would be just over a hundred miles from Dumbarton, where

the Cutty Sark was built in 1869 to Leith the starting point for the 1995 Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race. In June of this year the plan became a reality...

The original idea was to rig a squaresail in each canoe which would assist our passage and conjure images of travel in Scotland from the distant past (also, Hugh felt lost at sea without a bit of canvas to play with!). However, the wind conditions did not favour this addition to our vessels so we had to rely entirely on manual propulsion...I've done a fair bit of kayaking in my lifetime and didn't think this trip would be much of a problem. However, I was having second thoughts when I realised the first leg of the expedition was upriver and most of the motley crew had never paddled a canoe before in their lives...

The results proved interesting... We soon became proficient at making rope bridles to place around the canoes as we waded thigh deep upstream in the coolest of Scottish waters. We also learned the art of "poling" as seen in the famous Italian ice-cream adverts...Give me Venice anytime!! Our paddle took us up the River Leven and into Loch Lomond, the wind against us all the way. Several commented that they hadn't realised the trip included a transatlantic crossing...it certainly felt as if we were cast adrift on the ocean as the waves became more and more choppy. The inexperienced pipouetted their canoes and took in water as they struggled to stay on course...it made a force 10 on the schooners look like a picnic! Nonetheless we slowly but surely made progress...

Every now and then, when least expected a faint ringing sound could be heard in the

distance - Was it a bird? Was it a plane? Was it Superman? No, it was the mobile phone! Due to such advanced technology we were able to keep in frequent contact with our cycling and vehicular support groups who urged us on with promises of hot coffee and mars bars...just around the next corner. Well, all I can say is there are an awful lot of corners in Scotland...Fortunately, I had the foresight to take some emergency supplies in a BDH. Unfortunately nobody else did ..... so in true expeditionary spirit my mini-mars bars were shared with the rest of the crew in a manner not unlike a scene from biblical times.

## Scottish Laments

Despite the wind the sun blazed down from azure skies and the waters glistened across Loch Lomond. We sang Scottish laments as we paddled, everyone joining in, not necessarily in tune, frequently repeating the well known lines about being in love on the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond... Our picnic on the shores of the Loch will live in my memory for a long time to come. The scenery was magnificent - the rolling hills and a solitary tree where I sat and looked across the waters mulling over the previous days ventures in my canoe and the excitement yet to come.

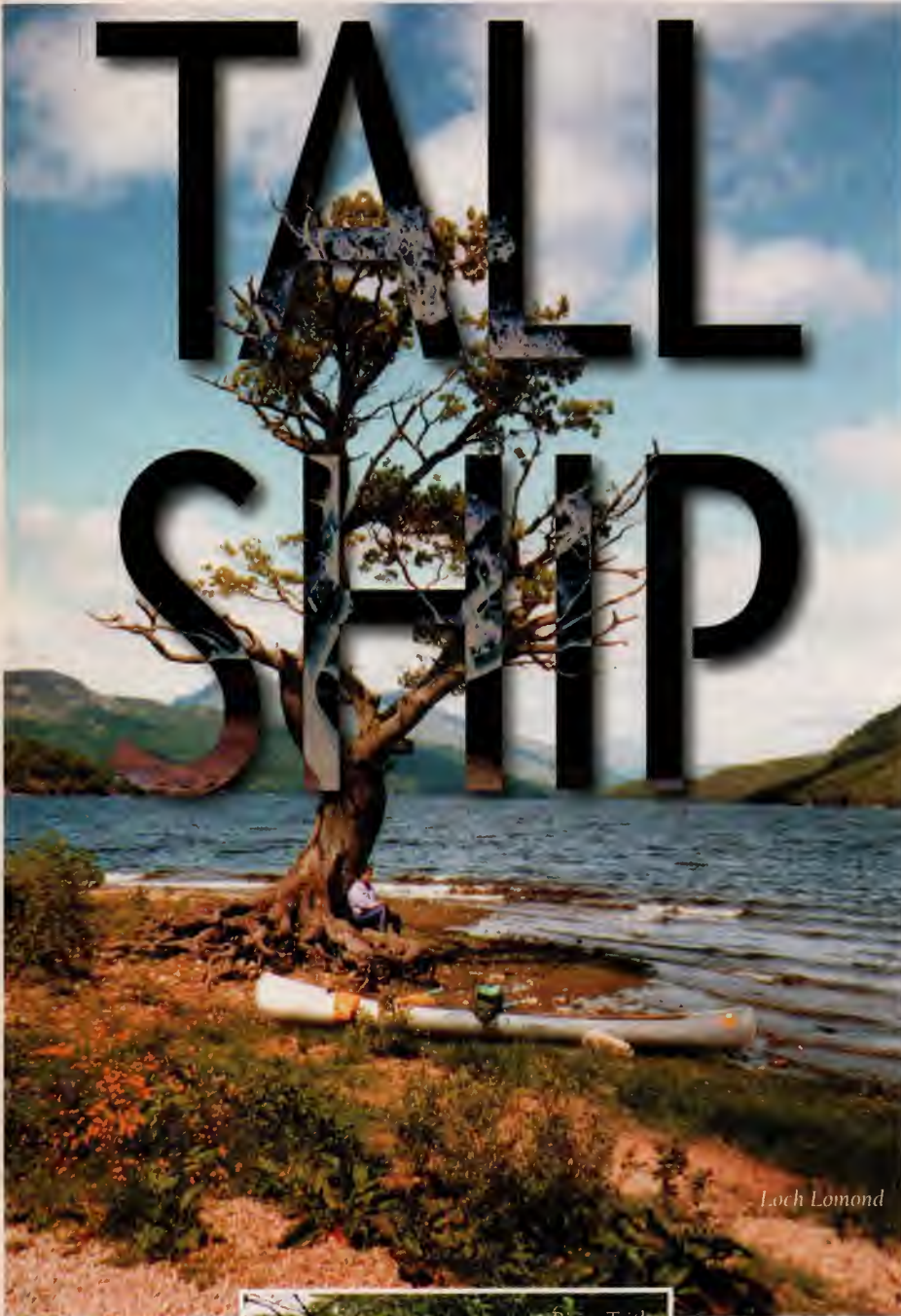
On arrival at the northern end of Loch Lomond we began our first portage (not a kind of Scottish broth, an overland haul accompanied by ones canoe!). Loch Katrine was our destination and in my humble opinion one of the most beautiful places in Scotland. Our passage was impeded by flocks of sheep, a road sweeper (!) and men at work laying tarmac but still we battled on. Officialdom prevented us from paddling on the Loch itself so our portage



River Forth



# And A Star to Steer Her By



Loch Lomond



River Teith

continued, much to the amazement of fellow passengers, aboard the steamer SS Sir Walter Scott which traverses Loch Katrine several times daily.

We paddled bravely onward across Loch Achray and Loch Vennachar until we reached the River Teith and its daring white waters...For the experienced canoeist a piece of cake, for the inexperienced canoeist more of a wet sponge...As we navigated through narrow channels with boulders and rocks at every turn there were capsize galore to the point where there was as much wading as paddling and we were all soaked to the skin! Amidst the chaos the

historic Stirling. I felt the urge to go on support duties. I cunningly decided the best view of the river was from Stirling Castle...so off I trotted

phone rang to tell us that if we didn't make the next rendez-vous with the support team imminently the dinner would be in the dog so to speak. We were trying (really!) but frequent collapses into fits of giggles hampered our progress as we swam the river. It was a hot day and a difficult task to contend with floating canoe paraphernalia and raging torrents of wild water!

The next leg of the journey took us down the River Forth, a gentle and ever-so meandering river, passing through

ably accompanied by two other dedicated supporters. Time passed. Ring...Ring...Back on the river the motley crew wanted to know where their afternoon tea was. "Can't you see we're busy", we said, "We can't put the kettle on now, we're in the middle of a guided tour!" You may think this not in the spirit of things but I wanted the team to experience that true wilderness feeling, fending for themselves, determination, true grit and all that (honest!)

## Bangers and Beans

We had to rely on tidal streams to help us on the final leg of the trip. We soon realised this meant a very early start to catch the tide...however, due to a wee too many drams the previous night and Bob the chef's amazing breakfast we didn't quite make it on time. The bangers and beans weighed our stomachs down and we arrived at the get in point to be greeted by 100 metres of the deepest darkest stickiest mud you have ever seen, and it was growing - fast! We quickly unhitched the canoes and then slopped, slurped and squelched our way seaward pushing the canoes in the fashion of the finest of bobsleigh teams. We were covered from head to foot in mud glorious mud and I tried to persuade myself it would be good for my skin - Joan Collins would pay a fortune for the experience! And speaking of experiences it was rather lovely to be hosed down by certain male members of the support team who appeared more than happy to help remove the afore mentioned mud...Ah, well mission accomplished we hurried away to ensure the paddlers had steaming hot cuppas awaiting them at the next port of call.

Our motley crew became less ramshackle and more shipshape as the week wore on under the watchful eye of senior canoe instructors who had volunteered their time to assist us. We could not have done it without them and they almost(!) kept us out of mischief. After six long, arduous and dastardly adventurous days we finally arrived at our destination in Leith. Word of our endeavours had obviously spread like wildfire and there were millions of fans and press reporters waiting to see us. Okay, that may be a slight exaggeration but that's how we'll remember the occasion...The finale involved presenting the Provost of Edinburgh with the symbolic bottle of Cutty Sark whisky which had journeyed with us from Dumbarton, the birthplace of the Cutty Sark tea clipper. That evening, to celebrate our achievement, tartan regalia was donned and we shared a wee dram of whisky, several pints of Guinness and indulged in a final Scottish fling.

They say once a kayaker, always a kayaker but I don't think that's true. Open canoeing is a magical way to see and enjoy the beauty of any place. If you've been open canoeing for any length of time you'll know what I mean. If you haven't, then try it - you may be pleasantly surprised.....





In order that you can read this article reasonably easily, the dreaded acronyms will be listed first:

**EPIRB**  
Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon

**COSPAS (Russian for) Space System for Search of Distress Vehicles.**

**SARSAT**  
Search and Rescue with Satellite Aided Tracking

**LUT**  
Local User Terminal (Ground Receiving Station)

**SAR**  
Search and Rescue

# Emergency Distress Beacons

**Emergency Distress Beacons are another item of safety equipment that the canoeist may consider appropriate to carry.**

It is not the panacea for rescue alerting. It is however a desirable item for expedition paddling or if you are operating in remote areas - where flares or marine VHF radio are not likely to attract the desired response. EPIRBs work by transmitting a distress beacon signal on 121.5 or 406 MHz. The 121.5 beacons are not registered because the signal is purely an alert, with no other information being transmitted. The 406 beacons are more sophisticated (and expensive) and in this country should be registered with the Marine Safety Agency. They transmit digital information that can identify the user if registered and providing the information held is kept up to date. Satellites of the COSPAS/SARSAT system are designed to receive distress beacons on those frequencies. The satellites are in low polar orbit and on average pass over the same area every 102 minutes. As they orbit they are able to receive distress beacon signals over a 'footprint' of 2500 kilometres radius. In the case of 121.5 beacons the satellite must also have the LUT within its 'footprint' so that the signal is received on the ground. The 406 signals are stored at the satellite until a LUT comes within its 'footprint'.

Once the signals are received at a LUT the information is fed through the system, to the Coastguard if the position of the beacon is over or close to the sea in and around the UK.

The satellites seem able to pick up very weak signals which is comforting to know. There is a down side, particularly for those who envisage that when they switch the beacon on, the Coastguard respond by sending a rescue unit to investigate the source of the transmission immediately. The reality is that with 121.5

beacons the Coastguard are not informed until the 'hit' is validated, which means there has been a second satellite receipt; or a high flying aircraft reports a beacon signal receipt. There are many thousands of spurious alerts each month - that number cannot be investigated. Therefore until a second 'hit' is received from the same position it cannot be considered to be validated. You can see then that a considerable wait is likely before the transmission is responded to. There are less alerts considered spurious with the 406 beacon and because it has a coded identifier it can be attributed to a particular vessel. Currently 406 beacons are investigated on the first 'hit'.

OK - the beacon has switched on and the signal has been received by the satellite, passed down to the LUT and on to the Coastguard. Two positions are given because of Doppler effect, this gives the real position and a mirror image position. On the second pass of a satellite one of the positions originally given will be given again - the true position.

Providing the beacon continues to transmit, SAR units whether surface craft or airborne can home in on the transmission. 406 beacons also send a weaker 121.5 signal so that the SAR units can home in on them as well.

The LUTs in the E Atlantic area are at Lasham (UK), Toulouse (France) and Tromso (Norway), Maspalomas (Gran Canaria) and Bari (Italy).

**M H North**  
District Controller  
MRSC Liverpool Coastguard

## ...but I don't WANT to be rescued!

Some people believe that the greatest danger in the Solent is to wobble, and risk being crushed between the converging rescue craft! A facetious exaggeration, but not without a grain of truth.

A few years ago a television documentary was made which featured the Solent's rescue agencies. About one particularly enthusiastic amateur group the programme concluded that their motto was: 'the sea shall not have them - and neither, by gosh, shall any of our rivals!

Following the tragedy of 'Lyme Bay' some canoeists and canoeing groups have experienced well meaning interference. There is a greater public awareness of, and sensitivity to, canoeing, and without knowledge of the sport it is an easy matter for someone to conclude that a canoeist is in difficulties when, in fact, they are merely 'having fun'.

On the other hand, they may well be in difficulties, but remain quite capable of sorting out the problem from within their own resources, and are rather taken aback when police cars, ambulances, fire engines and helicopters start arriving on the scene.

A few years ago some canoeists deliberately paddled in under cliffs to avoid the attentions of a helicopter winchman who then tried swinging in, in an endeavour to pluck them from their craft, rather in the style of Frobisher capturing an eskimo complete with kayak in the 16th century!

We are fortunate in Britain to have in place a highly organised and professional set of emergency services, and the last thing we would want to do is to complain about them. Those who participate in potentially hazardous pursuits know only too well that the day can come when they are needed for real.

One can also understand the point of view of the professional, who, if they were to merely go away when asked, and then the person or group concerned failed to cope with the situation, would be crucified by the press and media.

It should be noted also that this problem is not unique to canoeing - most activities involving apparently hazardous situations receive their share of unnecessary call-outs and criticism.

## What are my rights?

No-one in Britain has the authority to compel an adult to receive treatment, or to refrain from participation in lawful activity.

Where young people are concerned, the situation is different. Should a police officer consider that the young people were in an unsafe circumstance he or she could override the instructor and demand that they be removed from the situation.

In either case it behoves those involved to understand the dilemma faced by the professional concerned, and be polite, explain the extent of their training, ability and experience, and refer to the provisions made with regard to equipment carried, to deal with emergencies.

Should the situation be overwhelming, it is probably best to shrug one's shoulders and accept the inevitable. Do note the credentials of those involved, and also keep tabs on the papers which may be represented by any journalists who have arrived on the scene, so that the record can be set straight once they have published their far from factual reports on the incident.

**Geoff Good** -  
Director of Coaching





**perception**

**Living life to the full...**



*Marcus Rychlik*

**...looking for the ultimate rush...**



*Foxy & Reeves*

**... discovering nature's beauty...**



*Bill Burger*

**...getting away from it all...**



*Perception Inc*

**...making the most of a sunny day...**

**... it's all down to Perception**

For a copy of our full colour brochure and details of your local stockist contact:

**Perception kayaks**

**Bellbrook Business Park, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1QU England**

**Tel: 01825 765891/2 Fax: 01825 763707**



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