

August

1996

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

# canoe

F O C U S

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Lake Kariba

**Altai Mountains**  
Southern Siberia

**Southern Appalachians**  
USA

+

Jersey Sea Kayak Symposium  
WWR World Champs



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Inside



# Coleman Announces.....

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Issue 102  
August 1996

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Sunset over Lake Kariba  
Photo: Simon Heaton



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**-P.M. Canoeist Magazine.**

Photo: Phil Scowcroft

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# BCU Youth Development Officer

**F**urther to our comment in the June edition of *Canoe Focus* I am pleased to announce that Anne Ferguson has been appointed to the post of Youth Development Officer within the BCU. Anne is already hard at work you can read her article further on in this issue.

## EMAIL Address

The BCU can at last be contacted on the Internet at:  
1001764.124@compuserve

## Membership Classes

The present membership structure operates until 31 October 1997. However, now is the time for review and to consider if our structure matches up to present day needs and objectives or whether changes are needed. The expectation is that the reorganisation of England in line with the new federal structure (awaiting formal acceptance) may not in itself cause a need for change in the membership structure for England. Please send your suggestions for consideration by the Membership Review Working Party c/o the BCU office. Those comments, which have been received since the last review, have been placed on file to await consideration by the working party. The working party will embark on this task at the end of August. Send in your suggestions now.

## BCU Membership Package

The new membership rates that will apply from 1 November 1996 have been kept in line with inflation and are as follows:

<b>COMPREHENSIVE</b>	
Life	406.00
Adult (full)	27.00
Under 18 (youth)	16.00
Additional Family Members	15.00
<b>BASIC</b>	
Adult	16.50
Under 18	10.00
Family	9.00
<b>Supervisors</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>CLUBS</b>	
Senior	51.50
Capitation	0.70
Junior	46.00
Capitation	0.70

## World Championships

With the Olympic games and the wild water world Championships behind us we wish every success to the Marathon racing team who will be taking part in the marathon worlds in Sweden on 24 & 25 August.

## 1997 International Canoe Exhibition

The 1997 Exhibition will be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT., over the weekend 22-23rd February. The opening times are from 10.00am until 7.00pm on the Saturday, and 5.30pm on the Sunday. Admission prices will be announced later.

Once again it will be possible for visitors to the Exhibition to gain free admission to the National Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show, which is being held in the adjacent Halls.

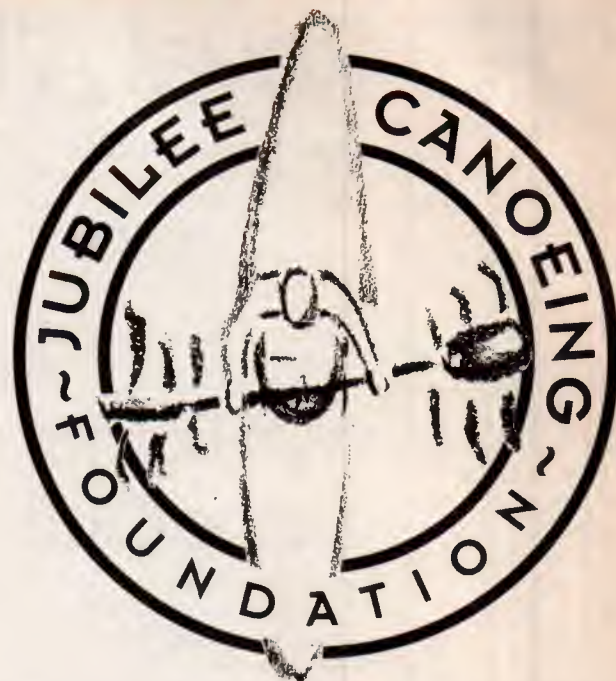
## Happy Birthday to John Dudderidge OBE

Many congratulations to John Dudderidge OBE, the Honorary President of the British Canoe Union who is 90 on 24 August 1996.

## Jubilee Canoeing Foundation - Can You please help us to help others?

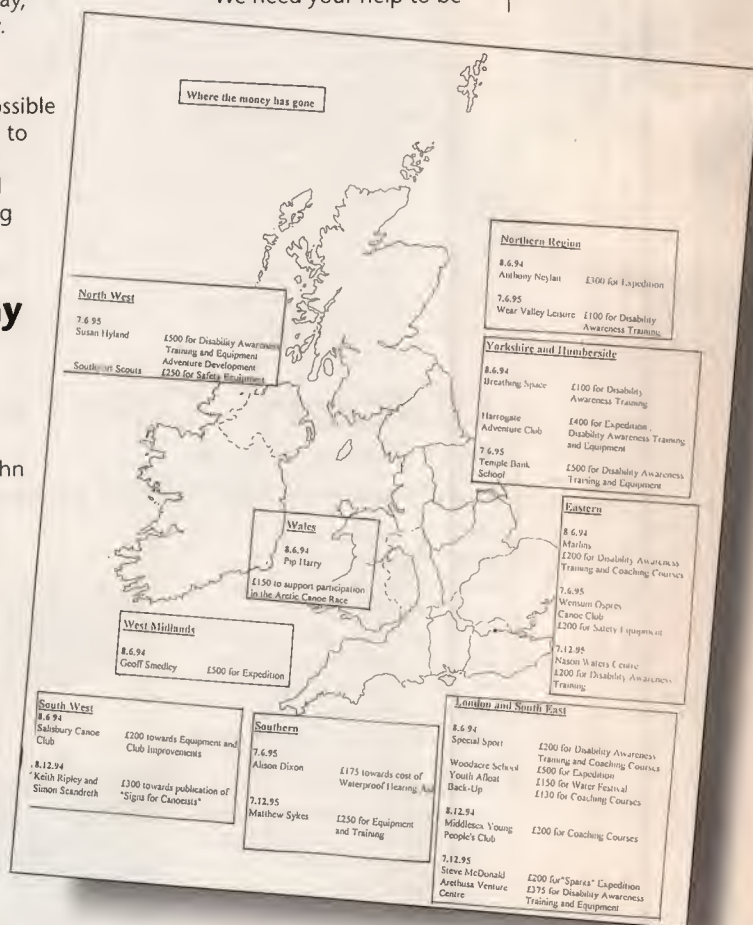
The Jubilee Canoeing Foundation, incorporating the James Turner Legacy Fund, supports and promotes ventures for youth canoeing and canoeing for disabled people.

The map shown gives you an indication of some of the people we have been able to help in 1994 and



1995. Applications are considered in June and December of each year and forms for this purpose (obtained from the Administrator, Jubilee Canoeing Foundation, c/o BCU office) should be completed by the end of April/October respectively.

We need your help to be



able to provide many more such canoeing opportunities. Donations, covenants, sponsored events, social events, etc. will be most welcome! Offers and requests for further information should be sent to the address above.

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive



**Correction to Page 8 of June Canoe Focus**

Please note that Debdale Centre are running courses previously run by Adventure Development. However, all courses in the yearbook run by organiser 130 Pat Mee will still continue to be run by Pat, ring her home no as given in the Yearbook. We apologise for any misunderstanding this may have caused.

# Royal Albert Dock Trust

**T**he Foundation for Sport and the Arts has boosted the Royal Albert Dock Trust by awarding them with £97,500 toward the building of a multi million pound centre for rowing, canoeing and dragon boating alongside the largest man made expanse of water in the country. Building work will begin on the project later this year, it is anticipated that the centre should be running to its full capabilities by the end of 1997. Other Foundation for Sport and the Arts grants awarded were

£22,750 to Skelmersdale Sea Cadets towards the purchase of a mini-bus, boats and canoes. £7,500 to Leeds Canoe Club for the purchase of canoes for use by disabled people. £2,000 to Kintyre Canoe Club for the purchase of four fully equipped kayaks and replacement of safety equipment. £9,690 to the British Ladies White Water Rafting Team as a contribution to competition costs in Zimbabwe and £6,800 to the Scottish Canoe Association for the purchase of 8 surf kayaks and 4 wave skis.

## Wye Bother Canoe Club

The Wye bother canoe club in Cwmbran have had reason to celebrate of late. Seven of the clubs members have achieved the status of the BCU level three kayak coach, numerous other club members have also achieved personal and coaching awards of both the WCA and the BCU from one star to level three coach training. The club has also secured financial support from the Lucas Girling Trust, Whitbread Brewers, Torfaen County Borough Council, Cwmbran Community Council, Sports Council for Wales and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. The club continues to go from strength to strength and is still looking for new members, the club pool sessions are held at Llantarnam leisure centre on Mondays at 9.00pm and Fairwater leisure centre on Tuesdays at 9.30pm in Cwmbran. For more detail contact Nigel Whitehead 01633 484838 or Paul Jones 01633 482688

## Your Country Needs YOU

**WANTED:** paddlers who are interested in joining the National Wild Water Racing Squad and who have a genuine desire to represent their country in the 1998 World Championships in Wild Water Racing in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

In order to strengthen the existing squad and to hopefully improve our world standings and therefore stand a better chance of medals in 1998, we will be forming a squad this Autumn who will train and race abroad and domestically. There will be up to five visits to the site of the World Championships between now and May 1998.

The course is approximately 15 minutes in length, not particularly rough but highly technical as far as manoeuvring skills are concerned. Paddlers from other disciplines of proven ability are particularly encouraged to apply for squad membership. Further details from John Handyside 0115 9825755(w) or 0115 9892313 (H)

## False Alarms At Sea - The Lyme Bay Factor?

An analysis of the 1995 schedule for call outs to canoeing incidents, logged with HM Coastguard, reveals that in effect 30 of the 48 call-outs are noted as 'false alarms' or 'all well'. Does this indicate a continuing sensitivity on the part of the general public, over kayakers on the sea? Any form of complacency is out of place when matters get 'out of hand' on the sea, the outcome can easily be calamitous, and involve a number of people. A total of only 18 potentially serious incidents, few of them involving committed sea kayakers, does, however indicate a general level of care and competence which is to be commended and hopefully sustained. A copy of the schedule of callouts is available from the BCU office - sae please.

## Obituary - Colin Cunningham

28/12/46 to 9/5/96

### Hammersmith and Fulham Canoe Club

Colin was a man of tremendous energy and warmth who it was a great pleasure to know.

He was a member of HFCC for many years and this year he was the Club Coach. The Saturday morning pool sessions which he put so much time and effort into were always good fun and a great experience for everyone who attended. His company was enjoyed by all and his commitment to the running of the Club was greatly appreciated.

He lived life to the full and died too soon, but we are all grateful for the time we knew him.

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Jackie, his children Sam and Jill and all his family and friends.



## Canoeing in Holyhead Bay

**Canoeists crossing Holyhead Bay are at some risk from the fast ferries which now operate. they are likely to be encountered between 0.5 and 1.5 miles north of North Stack, depending on weather and tidal conditions, steering a course to or from Holyhead Breakwater. HM Coastguard have agreed to alert the ferries to the presence of canoeists. Canoeists are advised, therefore, to report their movements to Holyhead Coastguard on 01407 762262 (fax 01407 764373). Quite clearly the time of crossing needs to be notified as late, and as accurately as possible.**





# Coleman and Avoncraft

To coincide with the launch of a completely new range of Coleman Canoes, Coleman and Avoncraft have successfully negotiated the exclusive sales and distribution of the Coleman range through Avoncraft's Welwyn Garden City depot. This agreement is expected to generate additional marketing and distribution potential, alongside Avoncraft's other major franchises from around the world. Avoncraft can now confidently claim to be the largest distributor of imported Canoes, Kayaks, Paddles and ancillary products within the United Kingdom.

The three new Coleman Canoes will replace the existing 15, 16 and 17ft models. These new incredibly tough,

easy to paddle models are constructed from Ram-X flex memory plastic.

New moulded seats, with front seat storage for drink cans. New moulded handle recess at bow and stern, for ease of carrying. The 16ft will also have a moulded keelson. All the canoes in the range are easily car topable. The Scanoes is the only model from the previous range to remain. This new and exciting range of Canadian Canoes have the added benefit, in that, they are very competitively priced.

Avoncraft will be pleased to advise customers of a list of agents throughout the United Kingdom. **Contact Avoncraft in Welwyn Garden City on 01707 330000, fax 01707 333026**

# Falcon Marine

Falcon Marine are pleased to announce in conjunction with Keith Brigstock (Stonehenge Canoe Club) pictured over, their aim to compete in the 50th Devises Westminster Race 1997. They will train and compete in the Pioneer 440. Tom Jester, 16 (pictured right) and Owen Turgoose, 16 (pictured left) will start an intensive training program in August 96 coached by Keith Brigstock (pictured centre). The Pioneer 440 is available from Falcon Marine at £499.00 inclusive. **Details on 01703 455050.**



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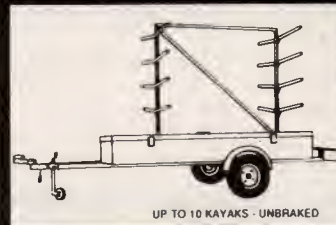


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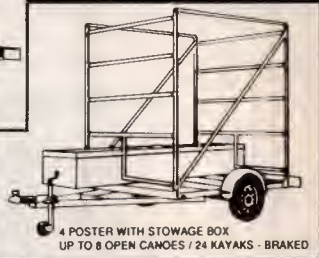
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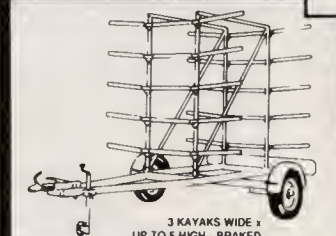
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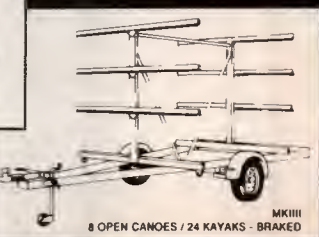
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**Boat Safety Scheme**

The British Waterways/Environment Agency scheme is designed to minimise the risks of fires and explosions in boats; the wording did not exclude canoes carrying cooking stoves and fuel. The BCU has now obtained a statement from British Waterways that "The Boat Safety Scheme does not apply to canoes and dinghies which carry self contained portable gas appliances as they are not 'fitted with' appliances as defined in the Scope of the Scheme.

# Rescue & Safety Coastal Lifeguards

**Rescue and Safety Coastal Lifeguards are a fairly new group, of experienced Lifesavers formed to promote Coastal Lifeguarding and combining the use of rescue canoes and safety powerboats. Training and operations are carried out following BCU and RYA guidelines and qualification.**

**Their home is in the Bay of Dorset but they are a fully mobile team and cover events mainly along the South coast of England. Although they have been training together for some time they made their debut at the International Festival of the Sea in Bristol earlier this year.**

**Information is available on the Internet at their site sponsored by The Direct Connection:**

**Http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~rascl/index.htm and email is 100034.2340@compuserve.com**

**They also host the BCU Lifeguard Internet site which is available from the homepage and selecting 'British Canoe Union-Lifeguard info' Details of the BCU Lifeguard National Championships will be available on the site shortly.**

## Source to Sea: A Kayak Expedition Down the Zambezi River

Adventurers Justin Matterson 33, and Rupert Fitzmaurice 31, are currently on a three month kayaking expedition down the mighty Zambezi River. In early July Justin and Rupert set out from the river's source in the very heart of Africa and are en route to its end in the Indian Ocean on the Mozambique coast. The journey - a daunting 2,700 kilometres - is being made in unsupported kayaks to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. The journey, through huge white water rapids, game parks, the magnificent Victoria Falls and across two of the largest man made lakes in the world, has never been completed before using only kayaks. On their return Rupert and Justin will be showing slides and talking about their adventures at the Royal Geographic Society. For more detail contact: **Sophie Sinclair for more information 0171 405 010.**

## Take your boat on a sailing holiday

Here's a new idea. A Plymouth based couple suggest putting your canoe or sea kayak on the deck of their DTI-approved 65' motor sailer and exploring the SW coast, Scillies, Channel Islands or northern Brittany, using their boat as a floating hotel. Minimum organising hassle for you, maximum security for your possessions. And no fixed itinerary, so you can mix 'n' match to cater for different levels of experience. See their ad under 'Accommodation' or telephone **Stuart on his mobile 0374 148399.**

## Open Canoeing at Ulley Activity Centre

**38 people enjoyed an Open Canoeing Activity Day at Ulley Activity Centre on 25 April, the events started at mid day and took the form of Come and Try it sessions in traditional craft, sailing rigs and poling and open boating, a buffet/bar and overnight accommodation were all available. The Ulley Activity Centre hope to make this an annual event possibly being held again in May '97 for more information contact John Brain on 01709 828151.**



## Snippets

### BCU Yearbook Updates

Battersea Canoe Club's Secretary Lindsay Powell has moved house, her address is now, **Sa The Boulevard, Balham High Road, Balham, London SW17 7BW.**

### Placid Water Scheme

Page 122, please note Jerry Elsmore the London area representative for Placid Water telephone number should read **0181 594 4335.**

### BCU Surf Committee the True Surfers of the Internet

The BCU Surf Committee now has a presence on the Internet with their own web site. The address is: <http://star-www.maps.susx.ac.uk/~frp/kayak/surf.htm>. They can also be contacted via email at: [100143.3715@compuserve.com](mailto:100143.3715@compuserve.com).

### The Activity Centres (Safety of Young Persons) Act 1995 - Change of Address

Further to the article printed on page 19 of the June issue 'The Activity Centres (Safety of Young Persons) Act 1995, please note that the address for orders of the publications must now go to: **HMSO 49 Higher Holborn, London WC1 6HB.**

### BCU Lifeguards Publicity

Andy Turner due to his forthcoming wedding and work commitments has decided to hand over publicity to **Steve Holmes, Harbour Watch, 27 Chapelhay Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8JJ.** Steve is keen to highlight the activities of the BCU Lifeguards, so please contact him either on the Internet, or E Mail or at the addresses as above.



# WHITEWATER

## The Canoe Centre

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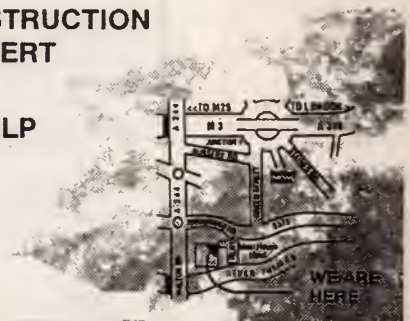
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## Wild Water Racing Revival 19-20 August - Come and Try It.

What's happening in the world of Wild Water Racing? Several years ago, Manchester Canoe Club gave up running ranking races because of poor entries (four was the record low), they decided to give it another try this year, and were amazed to have 54 paddlers in the ranking Mersey race, with another 16 paddlers in the club race.

What's brought about this revival? Partly, its due to the fleet of Wavehoppers, the plastic racing kayak, available throughout the country. Once upon a time, wild water racing boats were tippy and fragile, but the Wavehopper is stable and tough, an excellent boat for newcomers to racing. But probably the main reason is that paddlers are realising that wild water racing is fun. You have to learn the fastest lines on the river, how to paddle through stoppers and waves so that you do not lose too much time and how to pace yourself so that you have enough energy for the more tricky bits.

Before most wild water races you are able to paddle the river as many times as you like; this means lots of time on the water. Furthermore you won't have to dodge around playboaters sitting in stoppers, as you do on tours.

If you would like to learn how to race a Wavehopper, Andy Parry, the National Development Coach, will be holding a two-day course at the Tees Barrage in August.

**Mon 19 Aug** - will use flat water only, and will concentrate on handling a wild water kayak and good paddling style. Video analysis will be used to improve technique.

**Tues 20 Aug** - will use the white water course, and look at handling the boat in rough water, choosing fast race lines, and a fun race.

For further details about the course, send a SAE marked WWR Training to: *The Organiser, Little Heath, Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6AP. or Tel: 01925 823897 (please leave your name and number if you get the answerphone).*

## What's On ● What's On ● What's On ● What's On

### Home International Surf Kayak Championships - Jersey

September 4 to 11th. Teams: Scotland, Wales, England, Ireland, Jersey. Teams will comprise of 6 Seniors, 2 juniors, 2 ladies, and reserves. All classes will be International specification Surf Kayak. The venue is at The Watersplash, St Ouen's Bay, Jersey. Also included will be the First Jersey Open Surf Kayak Championship. Juniors, ladies, seniors and masters. For information please contact *Stuart McGlinchey Tel: 41441/866888 Fax 44894 Chamonix, La Rue Des Servais, St John, Jersey JE3 4FQ*

### More Surf

**Sept 28/29 Saltburn, Yorkshire, contact Gary Adcock Tel: 01823 680028, Granary Cottage, Corwent Farm, Calyhidon, Cullompton EX15 3TL**  
**Oct 19/20 The British, Cornwall, (qualified entries only) contact Mark Richards 01723 582495, 3 Park Fenton, Bugle, Cornwall.**

### BCU Diamond Jubilee Touring Events - The Tyne and the Exe Tour

**1-3 November, Tyne Tour.** Major event with various distances available and grades 1-4. *Contact Dean Maragh: The Watershed, Unit 1 Elliott Terrace, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 6UP*  
**2/3 November Exe Tour.** Join other South West paddlers to celebrate the BCU Diamond Jubilee. Saturday from Exbridge to Bolham grade 1-2, Sunday from Bolham to Bickleigh or Thorverton grade 1/2 with weirs. *Contact Dennis Walls, 71 Butts Road, Exeter, Devon.*

### The Severn Bore

The Severn Estuary experiences the second highest tide anywhere in the world with a range that can be in excess of 14.5 metres. Under the most favourable conditions the Severn Bore may reach two metres in height. Opposing winds, or high fresh water levels can considerably reduce height and delay the time of arrival, whereas following wind can increase the height and advance the time. The average time of the Bore is approximately 16 metres per hour. It is possible to surf the Bore but it must be remembered that proper experience of white water and good equipment is needed. The bore has several waves and the technique is to meet it head on, turning on the first, second or third wave and ride it at ten miles an hour upstream. The place to meet the bore is at Newnham where it is possible to ride it with ease to Minsterworth. Times and levels given below are approximate and are for Newnham. Minsterworth times are exactly one hour later. 1 August - 09.08 and 21.29 med to high. 2 Aug 09.53 and 22.12 med to high. 3 Aug 10.33 and 22.12 low. 28 Aug 07.19 and 19.42 low am and med pm. 29 Aug 08.06 and 20.27 med to high. 30 Aug 08.50 and 21.10 high. 31 Aug 09.32 and 21.51 high. For further information contact *NRA, Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7JG*

### Celtic Watersports Festival 17-23 August - Tenby, Pembrokeshire

An excellent display and variation of Watersport Activities. For further information contact the *Celtic Watersports Festival Office, Tenby Information Centre, The Croft, Tenby Tel/Fax: 01834 844196*

### Devizes to Westminster Training Course for Juniors

14 and 15 September at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. A course for anyone involved with coaching Junior Double Crews at any

level and an opportunity for crews and coaches to work with a team of leading Marathon Coaches, led by Richard Ward, the National Marathon Coach. The course is designed to be of particular support to those just beginning to become involved with the DW but is sufficiently flexible to allow those more experienced coaches and crews to work at their own level. For further details and booking forms please contact: *Jerry Elsmore, Course Co-Ordinator, The River Outdoor Centre, 176 Abbey Road, Barking IG11 8QY Tel: 0181 594 4335.*

### Worcester Swan-Along

The Worcester Canoe Club Swan-Along Charity Paddle will take place on Sunday 1 September. No charity is specified. Participants are invited to use the event to raise funds for their favourite charity or simply to come along for an enjoyable paddle.

The event covers 16 miles on the River Severn from Bewdley to Worcester, using the locks, there is no portaging.

There will be a half-way pit stop for refreshments, bar facilities and showers will be available at the finish at Worcester Canoe Club.

Entry fees are: BCU members: £3.50, non BCU members £4.50, entrants under 16 years of age £2.50.

A certificate will be presented to everyone who completes the course. The 1995 Worcester's Swan-Along Charity paddles raised £628 for the Kidney Foundation, for further information please contact: *Brian Cox, 23 St Peter's Crescent, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 8QD Tel: 01905 773689.*

*Eds Note: How about raising funds for the Jubilee Canoeing Foundation which gives small grants to youth groups and groups for people with disabilities to encourage them to paddle.*

### BCU Northwest Events

Chester Canoe Fest - 31 Aug-1st Sept North West Region Coaching Symposium. Come and develop your paddling skills. Top coaches to provide handy hints and tips. White water improvers, rodeo coaching, polo team ladies, wild water racing, bore riding, canadian touring, open boat whitewater, slalom £10 weekend including camping and ceilidh *Tel: 01244 342660*

**Sunday 26th-Sunday 21st October** - Tees white water course, fun wild water race, fun slalom, fun rodeo, rafting, free white water coaching. £10 weekend *Tel: 01244 675870*

### Coaching Courses, Novice Youth Polo, and Novice Womens Polo in the Northwest.

The fourth season of the novice women's league will be running from September 1996 through to March 1997, and new teams or players are always welcome. The league was split into two divisions last year, in order to continue to provide competition at both novice and intermediate standards of play. The league has been a continuing success, with 12 teams from in and around the region attending three tournaments each. If any players or teams are interested, then they should get in contact with *Marianne Yates on 0161 969 0181, or Helen Grimmer on 01925 571391.*

We will be running a training day in September, sponsored by the Sports Council, for prospective novice youth players. A course for training coaches in assessing for polo star tests will also be running, hopefully the same weekend. Costs will be kept to a minimum. Following this, there will be a one off novice youth tournament in November. If this is successful, then the aim is to set up a novice youth league in the North West. If you are interested in playing, or have a youth group who could make up a potential team, then please get in touch so that we can gauge the potential demand. Please contact either *Marianne Yates on 0161 969 0181 or Gerry*

*McCusker on 0151 526 4493.* Players will need to be under 16 at 1.1.96.

### BCU Sea Touring Committee AGM and Sea Kayak Symposium- Change of Date

Please note that the date of the BCU Sea Touring Committee AGM and Sea Kayak Symposium at Calshot has changed. The events will now be held on the 21/22 September. Details of the symposium may be obtained from: *Dave Evans, Calshot Activity Centre, Calshot Spit, Calshot, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1BR Tel: 01703 892077*

### Exe Descent Race 17th November

The race is easily the largest in the country and we hope to encourage more racing paddlers to have a go at what is perhaps one of the few 'classic' LD races left on the calendar.

As a club we are more than happy to give advice and to this end our new Chairman has volunteered to be a contact for any enquiries about the course and for entries: *Dennis Walls, 71 Butts Road, Exeter EX25BG.* This is a change to last year so can all paddlers please take note. The number of enquiries for this event is immense so please send an sae if you want a reply.

If we can attract enough quality entries for this years race it is our intention to offer some serious prizes so get those boats repaired and send in your entry early.

### Southampton International Boat Show

14-22 September, at the Western Esplanade, Southampton.

### BCU Lifeguard National Championships

The championships will be held at Calshot over the weekend of 21/22 September 1996.

### Bradford on Avon Bank Holiday Double Header

The Bath to Bradford and the Bradford Circuit races previously scheduled for the weekend of the 17/18 August have been moved to the following weekend of the 24/24 August.

Bath to Bradford is known as a classic event that starts in the historic city of Bath and proceeds up the Avon valley portaging 5 weirs to finish at the Anglo Saxon town of Bradford on Avon. Classes for Senior men K1 (Div1-3), Senior Men K1 (Div 4-9), Senior men K2 (Div 1-2, & 3-4) and Senior men (Div 4-9), Junior men K1 & K2, and ladies K1 & K2. Please note that the race this year starts from Locksbrook Road, Lower Weston and not Avon Street coach park, which is about half to 1 mile downstream from Bath City centre.


**Sun 25th August** - The Bradford circuit is the final Hasler qualifying race for the South West region, and competitors are offered a choice of 4, 8 and 12 mile courses starting and finishing from Bradford on Avon Canoe Club.

Camping available at the club on the banks of the Avon. A barbecue will be held on the Saturday evening. For further details and an entry form contact *Mike Smith, 15 Chelynch Park, Doulting, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4PL Tel: 01749 880534*

### Lower Dart Div B Wild Water Race

Start 11.00 Sunday 10 November, at Buckfastleigh (OS Grid Ref: 751657), 5km of grade 1-2 to Staverton Bridge. Suitable for novices. Details and entries - *Mike Brown, Exeter Canoe Club, 15 Bavent Close, Stoke Canon, Exeter EX4 4RQ Tel: 01392 841852*





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**Slalom Snippets**

**Another Reminder**

If you are a ranked paddler do please check that your BCU/SCA/WCA membership remains up to date during the racing season - you must send proof of membership renewal directly to your Ranking Compiler to ensure all your points count!

**New Organisers 1997**

Watch out for the Slalom Organisers' Conference which will be totally different from past Conferences. The date will be confirmed shortly and the venue will be the National Water Sports Centre.

**New to Slalom and don't know which way to turn**

contact Sue Wharton, Slalom Development Officer on 01636 705363 for information on Promotion procedures, Bib applications, Slalom Yearbooks, Starter packs, Slalom Clubs and much more

**New Rules?**

There are some proposals for change which the International Canoe Federation are to consider at the ICF Congress - 2 second penalties and not five! More to follow? A Big thank you to all the many volunteers involved in the organisation of Canoe Slalom - all your work is appreciated! We are actively looking for more of you to join us both at events and also, behind the scenes - please give us a call if you would like to be a part of "THE TEAM"

**And finally**

We are sad to report the death of Colin Manton, for so long, Slalom's "Mr. Technical", the man behind the development and maintenance of our timing and communications system. His involvement and dedication with the technical side of the sport has spanned at least thirty years and much of this time, he has worked for us in his spare time in the attic of his home. A life member of the BCU, he worked tirelessly for the sport and will be sadly missed. Colin died in early June following a spell in hospital and we extend our sympathies to his widow Janet and daughter Elizabeth.

# Into the Millennium

**P**lans for the future of Canoe Slalom UK are currently being compiled both by the independent Working Party and also by the Slalom Executive Committee. More than five hundred replies to the questionnaires have been received and they are currently being analysed. There may be a requirement for us to hold a Special General Meeting as a number of rule changes could be necessary and if this is the case, the venue and the date are already booked - Sunday 8th September at National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. All Slalom Registered Clubs will be able to vote on the proposals - for those of you new to the discipline, it is these Clubs who form the BCU Slalom Committee and they who decide on the way forward, electing an Executive Committee to manage the sport on a day-by-day basis.

Your Executive Committee have been busying themselves finalising the broad development programme to take us into 2001, with the following recommendations being included in the draft submission: Regional Development - both Coaching and facilities; Coaching and training for all levels throughout the UK; "State of the Art" event support equipment; Simplification of the Competition structure; Manpower support - training and funding; Out of Competition admin. support; Elite and National Teams - to support, examine and improve existing structure; Publicity and Marketing - to provide greater awareness. By November 1, detail from all canoe disciplines must be finalised, and sometime in January 1997, BCU Council will submit the whole of the plan to Sports Council.

**These are exciting times for our sport**, but do remember the time and effort required to achieve the necessary results!

"**They think it's all over** - it is now" - that's Slalom in the Olympic Games - when your magazine pops through the letterbox, the medals will be decided and our British Team will have done their stuff. Backed up by a dedicated Team support, and assisted by grant aid from Sports Council, Foundation for Sport and the Arts and Sports Aid Foundation, our athletes will have had every opportunity for the finest preparation ever!

**But wait** - our UK racing season

has another three months to go and there are plenty of "beginner" events for you to try: Stratford, Peterborough, Llandysul? Winchester, Marple (South Manchester), Matlock, Southampton, Comrie, West Tanfield (Ripon), French Weir (Taunton), Langham Farm (Frome), Yalding Weir: All these Organising Clubs and venues are just waiting for you, ready to offer you fun, personal challenge and entry into the established National Ranking System.

**Winter training 1996/7** - if you are looking for some ideas and are in Div 2, 1 or Premier, there's a place for you in the National Development Squad which provides three structured training weekends during the winter season. This squad is open to all - there is no selection policy - just a limited number of places. All you need to do is to register your interest and we'll send you the details! Nick Jackson, a parent/coach from Acklam, Middlesbrough, has sent the following report:

"This squad has run courses for a number of years for paddlers who wish to improve. The Courses are run by John Gregory and usually held at Nottingham7 although other venues are also used.

Last years training consisted of three weekends at Nottingham which included exclusive use of the Slalom Course and subsidised accommodation at the National Water Sports Centre. Three distinct themes were addressed - Endurance, Technique and Race Preparation. On the water, paddlers received a high standard of coaching in small groups ensuring that individual attention and

specific difficulties were addressed. Coaching was provided by Penny Briscoe, Andy Maddox, Graham Mulholland and Kevin Campbell.

Off water sessions are tailored to paddler needs to include areas such as nutrition, flexibility and organisation of training schedules. World Champion, Lynn Simpson was involved with our flexibility session.

As a parent/coach of a paddler who has benefited from attending the Course, I have also gained a great deal of useful information which I have found helpful in developing a progressive balanced programme. Each weekend has given paddlers high quality coaching and also the opportunity to experience the type of training necessary to develop a particular aspect of their canoeing."

Details on the 1996/7 Course will soon be available - please contact Sue Wharton

**National Inter-Regional Event Llangollen - 26/27 October** - this annual event is a competition between the nine regions and the Combined Services - Regional Slalom Reps will have detail, and most Regional Teams will by now have been selected - if you would like more information, please contact your Regional Rep! It's going to be a busy weekend as there will be an International event at the same time and this year, the final event of the Pan Celtic Cup Series will also be included.

*Below: Craig Brown and Stewart Pitt, Britain's Olympic C2 Pair Finalists at 3 World Cup Events.*

*Photo: All Action Photos.*







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Canoe Safety/Rescue Test	14th April	28th July	-
Coach 2 Training (TI)	16/17 Mar.	14/15 Sept.	-
Coach 2 Assessment (IA)	5th May	6th Oct.	-
Coach 3 Training (TSI)	23/24 Mar.	28/29 Sept.	-
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# The Search For

## In the summer of 1994 following a meeting at River Rats with Lova Ostrovsky, a Russian rafter and general hair bear lunatic, we hit on the idea of mounting a joint expedition to the Altai mountains in Southern Siberia.

**O**ur aims would be to complete several first descents and spread the good word of kayaking throughout the ex-Eastern block. We found that having a mix of sport and cultural objectives really helped sell the idea and by summer 1995 we had amassed the equipment and sponsorship we needed. After flying to Moscow, three days on the Trans Siberian Railway and then numerous other dodgy train, bus and truck rides we finally arrived at our first base camp on the river Cema in an area that looked distressingly like Wales on a wet weekend. Here we met the rafters who would be our companions for the next six weeks and spent a few days relaxing and warming up before heading for the mountains. We were trying to find some completely new water and had decided to target two valleys containing tributaries of the Chuya. As we travelled the scenery soon stopped looking like Wales and as we crossed high level desert riding atop the truck we caught our first glimpses of the snow covered mountains of Mongolia. Arriving at our new camp our first objective was to scout the rivers, our second was to locate the camels that inhabited the area. Many cultural experiences followed including visits to Altain yurts to discuss rivers with the nomads over a cup of sour yaks milk and borrowing horses to do cowboy impressions up and down the valley. Alas however, we saw no camels.

Regarding our new rivers we met with mixed success, the lower section of the Gelow was very technical but a bit bump and scrape, the Taldura was completely flat and boring. On the Chaggan our speculation was rewarded with a most enjoyable 5 Km of grade IV mini gorge and on the Chaggan Uzum things got even better with about 6 Km of good bouncy grade IV before the river flattened and the confluence with the Chuya was reached. We then continued down the Chuya to the Mazhoi Cascade, one of the most famous pieces in the region being 20 Km of continuous grade V rapids in an intimidating series of gorges. On the first day we spent nine hours on the water running the 10 Km to the first get-out, after which we were all exhausted and agreed that such long days on such demanding water were not really a good idea.

On the second day we relaxed while the rafts caught up and on the third day we set out again. Everything went well until around mid afternoon and most of the group were safely down a 300m section that we had stopped to inspect and support, however a bad lean on a cushion wave resulted in one of the guys hitting a big hole upside down. Suddenly the air was filled with cries of "swimmer!" and the sound of whistles, lines came flying from the bank and the chase boats chased. After vanishing through a few holes our swimmer was recovered just above a particularly nasty stopper, the boat and the paddles however were gone. The boat was eventually recovered by the truck an hour later 20 Km downstream. That afternoon we inspected the bottom gorge and decided that if we made it through it intact, it would be by luck and not judgement. Hence we reluctantly called the descent off, returning next day to haul the boats out of the gorge. Depressing though any retreat is, we didn't feel too bad as even the rafters who had run it before thought the water too high to justify an attempt.

### Three day walk-in

Next we set out for the river that was to be the centrepiece of the expedition, the Shavla. This river was inaccessible to the truck and so was reached via a three day walk-in, dragging the boats first through a peat bog, then down a ravine, then up a mountain and finally through a forest before our base camp was reached. Over the next two days we scouted the river from the glacial lake down while the rafters constructed the rafts, all of which are entirely home-made as is the kit the guys raft in. None of us had ever seen a buoyancy aid made primarily of football bladders before. It was at this point that we first saw the Bublik



(translation: doughnut), a big water maniacs dream developed in response to the desire to punch ever bigger holes and coming equipped with parachutes to drag it out of anything capable of holding it, hard-core or what? For the next leg of the trip it was taking the place of the truck carrying our spare boat and the bulk of the communal gear. On our final evening at base camp we took the opportunity to construct a farewell banya, a ritual close to the rafters hearts.

The banya is a basically a makeshift sauna, first a large pile of rocks is assembled and a



bonfire built around it. When it is almost burnt out the embers are removed and the raft pump used to blow away the ash, a square plastic tent about 8'x8'x6' is then erected over the rocks and boiling water and birch twigs placed within. The banya is then ready. As dusk fell we trooped



### BCU Expeditions Committee Sponsored by Perception

This expedition was one of a number supported by the BCU Expeditions Committee and given BCU approval. This often unlocks the door to sponsors and can give an expedition documentary evidence of National Body support. Sometimes small amounts of real cash may be given from the Committee's grant to help worthwhile expeditions, but help is dependant on your trip being a first or exceptional. For further details and an Expedition Pack send £3.50 and a A4 SAE to the BCU office marked 'Expeditions Pack'.



# The Altai Camels

## The University Of East London KC Siberia '95 Expedition

down to the river and undressed by the light of a bonfire started with the embers. At our first banya

we had been completely unprepared for the heat and also for the enthusiasm with which the hairy naked Russians beat each other with the birch twigs.

Now however we were banya veterans and managed at least five minutes of setting about each other and screaming before running from the tent to plunge into the glacial river outside. This ritual was repeated twice before we dressed and feeling much invigorated passed around cold beers under a clear and starry sky.

In the

about 70m downstream. The sudden silence was disconcerting and as we paddled down the lake we saw that a recent landslide had dammed the river, creating the lake and diverting the flow through the forest on the right bank. As we portaged the rafters explained how the regions extreme cycle of freeze and thaw makes the rock dangerously friable and landslides quite common. They then proceeded to fill our ears with tales of how, when the stabilising mud was washed away, such dams were prone to sudden collapse resulting in debris filled walls of water sweeping down the river. We set off with a nervous eye to the rear.

By the end of the day however the valley opened and with much whooping and spinning of paddles we were disgorged into the gigantic valley of the Argut.

Running the Argut down to the confluence with the Katun took the next two days. The Argut was a much larger river with plenty of two metre waves on which the Mountain 300s surfed beautifully. There was also the rapid Atlantis, with plaques to five dead rafters at the bottom and on which two of us took rolls in front of a seriously undercut wall, giving the supporting rafters a couple of very nasty moments. After one final big rapid we reached the confluence and the rafters "museum". This is a popular camping spot with people rafting the Katun and a Mad Max-esque collection of junk, carvings and mementoes has accumulated over the years. We left our mark in the form of an engraved mess-tin before continuing down the Katun. Though this was an even bigger river than the Argut the rapids were further apart, allowing us the chance to try swapping boats with the rafters, needless to say, we found this transition considerably easier than they did. These four days on the Katun were the perfect wind down from the Shavla as we watched the

majestic scenery slide by or lay back on our decks to watch the ever-present eagles circle above. The Katun still had a few tricks up its sleeve though, mainly in the form of spontaneous whirlpools, one of which was large enough to swallow an end of the Bublik whole. Though initially the feeling of being in a giant plug hole was disconcerting we were soon actively seeking them out for prolonged whirly rides. At the bottom of the final rapid we were met by the truck and with one last exuberant party we bid the river farewell.

With the river running section of the trip over we set about completing our other mission objectives, to coach young paddlers in Russian cities, to set up links between Russian universities and our own and to donate our gear to the clubs (NB This wasn't pure altruism, we simply couldn't afford to bring the boats home). All this we achieved, also finding time for two appearances on Russian telly, a few school visits, a brief sojourn down to Kazakhstan to enter a rafting competition and finally a night at the ballet in St. Petersburg.

We are now safely home and owe many people thanks, especially the rafters who made us welcome in their country and were such wonderful companions. In conclusion we can say, only this, we did a lot, we saw a lot, perhaps we even learned a little, but above all, we had a damn good time.



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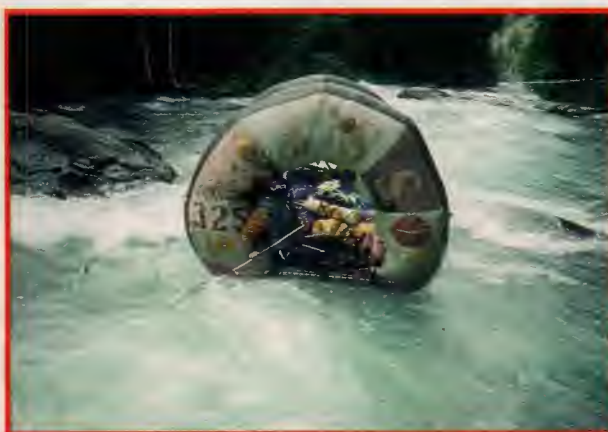
### THANKS

- BCU Expeditions Committee
- Channel One TV
- Cotswold Camping
- Progressive Tours
- UEL

Story and photos by Mal Stephen



morning we set off, the kayaks in two groups of four and the rafts bringing up the rear. This was easily the most consistent river any of us had ever paddled, 60 Km of grade IV and V water with only a single piece of flat which we reached on the fourth day. As we dropped around a corner we found ourselves on a narrow lake stretching





# Kayaking The Source Of The White Nile

**“Uganda was now considered safe to visit” came the information from Adrift NZ. That was enough for me. I had three weeks break from guiding whitewater rafting trips in Ethiopia and it was play time!**

I flew straight off to the UK. For the next week I checked out maps of the White Nile region at the Royal Geographical Society and met with the

B.C.U. expeditions' committee to explain the proposed exploratory trip. After 5 months in Ethiopia I also needed to pick up some new equipment and satisfy my cravings to eat loads of chocolate and catch up on the latest movies.

I flew to Uganda with Ethiopian Airlines via Addis Ababa and thankfully met up with my paddling partner, Andy Copestake in the transit area (I wasn't too sure if he would be able to make it until that point). After a short flight we were in Kampala.

Now as far as we could tell there had only been one other attempt at kayaking the Victoria Nile and only on the lower section. All we had heard about that expedition was that they were involved in a crocodile attack and had left the river after only 6km. No other information about this trip seemed to be available!

My good friend Marcus Bailey had paddled the White Nile from the Ugandan border to

within a paddles throw of the sea in Egypt. He is a gnarly expedition paddler (and Irish on top of that) but at that time Uganda had problems that even he wouldn't risk encountering. Since independence in 1962 this beautiful country had sadly suffered a long string of tragedies that had been featured in full graphic detail in the Western media. This explained why we would be the first to attempt to kayak the Nile from it's Uganda source.

Three days after arriving in Uganda (after gaining just a wee bit more information about the river region) we put on below Lake Victoria Dam. As I lined my kayak up for the first big rapid of the day my heart was pounding. Due to the extremely dense foliage lining the banks we had already discovered that we weren't able to inspect many of the rapids from land. The river ahead of me braided into three different fast flowing channels. I had no chance to decide which one was the best way to go, the run would have to be done blind. As I slid down the first chute of water I put more force on to my paddle to try and break the diagonal wave.

At the same time I noticed another fall coming up below the rapid. I felt myself slide left and off line into a large hole. I gasped a lung full of air as my boat started an impressive series of cartwheels only broken by a few attempts of paddling out. This was followed by a few more linked moves that would have impressed the best of the rodeo judges and so the minutes passed!

The 80km section that we kayaked was good fun at first, some challenging rapids at the upper end of the scale for big volume water however it did taper off and the last 40kms was flat. It took us two days of hard paddling but we managed to run all the rapids and falls that we came across (although I may have walked one given the choice).

Next we tried to kayak the lower section of the Victoria Nile. We knew that we might encounter difficulties getting permission to go down this so we decided we would just try to get on to the river and see how far we could travel. The Army base personnel were cool about what we were doing but the park wardens (who were as heavily armed as the army) wouldn't allow us

## Editors' Note

Adrift have just been granted permission by the Ugandan National Parks Authority to descend the section of the Victoria Nile for which access was refused to their guides previously. In co-operation with the Ugandan National Tourist Board, Cam McLeay is leading an expedition to attempt what is thought to be the first descent of this section of the river. For further details refer to Adrift's advertisement opposite.

to even go down to the river until we made a trip to the park headquarters (no phone you see).

After a two day road trip we turned up at Murchison Falls headquarters. After a couple of days of negotiations that tested our patience to the full, there was simply no way possible that they would let us on. The main reason it seemed was that one of the earlier kayakers that we had heard about had been the victim of a crocodile attack. Once the warden found out he had put a stop to their expedition and told them that they would have to wait until a road was built along side the river before attempting it again. This is what we should also do he reasoned! "They would never climbed Everest if they were waiting for a chair lift" I said in my best German. This didn't seem to impress him at all. I also tried to explain that we both spent time rafting and kayaking on the sister of this river the Blue Nile, which had some really big crocodiles that could kick the butt of a White Nile croc (well words to the same effect). I also mentioned that I would be writing this up in Canoe Focus but even that wouldn't sway him!!!

To end the trip on a positive note we went back up to the Dam at the source and paddled the 80kms again. It felt good to be back on the river after all the hassles of dealing with the authorities. The water was also higher, which is to say huge water, testing my 270 acro bat to the full. Awesome paddling, even the flat section seemed pretty easy going this time.

What a trip, we managed to cram a lot into the short time that we had over there. We were also involved in doing some photo shoots for the Uganda national paper. They were very keen to try and show what it was we were doing over there as we were keen on improving understanding of what kayakers are capable of and why we want to do it in the first place ( always the first question on peoples minds).

After my experiences I can recommend Uganda as a safe and very friendly country to visit. I can also understand now why Winston Churchill was quoted as calling Uganda "The Pearl of Africa".



- THANKS**
- I would like very much to thank: Adrift Rafting Company - Who covered our flights and gave us time off to explore.**
- B.C.U. Expeditions Committee, sponsored by Perception Kayaks - For approving and supporting another idea of mine.**
- Pyranha - Their continuing support and awesome designs.**
- Palm Canoe Products - For all my equipment which stands up to all the abuse I tend to give it.**
- P&H - At last a paddle that I didn't break.**
- Article by: Colin White**







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Dear Canoe Focus

I am a member of Aberfan Canoe Club, recently, what I believe to be an excellent poem was published in our club newsletter. The poem was written by a young lady at the club who I know would be really delighted if her poem was published in Canoe Focus. Yours sincerely  
**Matthew Free**

*Merely One of Many  
"We haven't swum in years",  
They squeal with delight,  
As I clamber to the bank,  
Still suffering with fright.*

*My body shivering violently,  
As I gasp for breath,  
After successfully surviving,  
My near miss with death.*

*The water was murky,  
Deep, dark and cold.  
But as I recover,  
I try to act bold.*

*My reason for swimming,  
Well, I needed a wee.  
I has cramp in my leg,  
And I got sucked out, you see?*

*I could have rolled,  
And still be half dry.  
Did I make the wrong decision?  
I wonder, with a sigh.*

*But, remembering the moment,  
The water flowed fast,  
And the rocks seemed to growl,  
As I swiftly floated past.*

*Three seconds without air,  
And then I bail out,  
"Why didn't you roll?"  
Is all they can shout.*

*So why don't they swim.  
And receive mental pain?  
I believe it's due to superglue,  
And lack of a brain.*

*But the lifeguards must be grateful,  
On the Tryweryn and the Dee.  
Where would they be without us?,  
Probably bored and sipping tea.*

*We are the mere paddlers,  
Who think of rolling too late.  
But in displaying our skills,  
We make others look great.*

by Tracy Anne Evans (Instructor)  
Aberfan Canoe Club



# Excellent weekend

Dear Canoe Focus

Dee Tour 28th and 29th April. May I, through your letters page, thank the organisers, including Peninsula and Affinity Water Sports for the excellent weekend on the River Dee. The start on Saturday was quite a spectacle as 60 Canadians set off. The river having a reasonable flow. My own club, Leeds Canoe Club, had five Canadians there and we were all impressed by the friendly atmosphere from the locals, including the fishermen. The paddling was ideal for all ages and it was good to see a number of boats which included small children. The weir was a bit of a frightener with a few spills but with some making it look easy.

After paddling the 8 miles it was off to the Ceilidh to burn off more energy. Again a super time was had. Camping by the river was excellent, however, a number of us woke with just a twinge of a headache on Sunday morning.

The Sunday paddle and following picnic rounded off this superb weekend. If you are an open canoeist and did not attend this weekend then you missed a good one. We will certainly be there next year.

John K Lees, Leeds Canoe Club

# Disappointment

Dear Canoe Focus

I would like to express the disappointment felt by members of Ribble Ladies Canoe Polo Team, following the mixing of junior, youth and ladies national teams into the ladies 'Novice' and 'Intermediate' canoe polo section, during the 'Friends of Allonby' polo tournament, held on 8/9 June.

This was especially disappointing when the event had previously been advertised as having novice and intermediate ladies sections included, for many this feature was a pre-determining factor of entry. Instead, four leagues tables were created including four national representative teams, hardly 'Novice' or 'Intermediate', and three of which were not even female.

In June last year this was not the case, and in our opinion a great success. I am sure that we are not alone in our views, and we hope that this great event and celebration of canoe polo, can once again, cater for all ability ladies teams, in a balanced and beneficial way, that will only serve to promote and strengthen ladies canoe polo.

Yours sincerely Ribble Rangers Canoe Polo Team.

*Ed's note: No, you are not alone in your views, you will see included elsewhere in this magazine an article entitled 'Women and Novice Canoe Polo' by Marienne Yates - Manchester Comets Canoe Polo Team this was prompted by attendance at the same event, and I feel has some constructive ideas.*

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# River Wye

Dear Canoe Focus  
As part of my A level Geography course I am investigating the impact of making the River Wye navigable.

As a keen canoeist I am especially interested in the problems this might cause if the river is used for purposes other than small scale recreation.

If you have any views on the above or live close to a river where you have experienced change due to either increased navigability or other factors, I would be most grateful for your comments.

Please send to: Paul Simpson, 30 Minster Close, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4YU

## Access Focus

# River Wye Update

**T**he period for objections to the draft Order to make the Environment Agency the Navigation Authority closed on May 10th.

There were about 400 objections made. I have copies of some 50 of these and I have heard of some 50 more made by canoeists. Depending upon how you look at it the 25% canoeist count is a good response, or if set against some 20000 plus members it is apathetic. However, I do thank those who did take the

trouble to write. Those whose letters were copied to me in the main followed my 'advice' to 'contact' which formed the basis of the BCU submission.

By the time you read this (written in mid June) a decision will have been made as to whether a Public Inquiry is to be held.

I have been in liaison with the British Access Committee and BCU Council on the matter of a Public Inquiry. Also when you read this a meeting will have been held with the Environment Agency to

look at the BCUs objections.

Once we know whether there is to be a Public Inquiry and the outcome of our meeting we shall be able to plan what to do next.

The management of the Wye will, I am sure, be ongoing and I still need Clubs, Centres and Canoeists to be prepared to help and let me know their views.

Please contact me: John Westlake, LAO River Wye in England, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2LU Tel: 01452 531218



All books and videos reviewed here are available from BCU Supplies unless otherwise stated. Ring 0116 283 0659 and ask for a brochure if you have not received one in your Focus mailing. Please note that all books and videos reviewed in this magazine are the personal opinion of the reviewer, not necessarily that of the BCU.

**Sea Kayaking in Nova Scotia**

by Scott Cunningham, published by Nimbus Publishing Ltd ISBN 1-55109-156-9



Prior to this book dropping through my letter box I suppose I had a vague idea of where Nova Scotia was but it certainly didn't feature in my list of "Top Ten Dream Paddles". However, having browsed through this excellent guide, and while Hawaii, The Windward Islands and The Galapagos are still secure at the top, I think Nova Scotia would now make an entry a little lower down the list.

This volume is a must for anyone contemplating paddling in this wild and rugged province of Canada. The text is well laid out and easy to follow with the Province being divided into five sections: the Eastern Shore, the South Shore, The Bay of Fundy, Cape Breton Island and the North Shore. Each section is then split into a number of 'paddles' most being ideal for a few days. The maps are clear and straightforward with a good referencing system. Points of interest and safety consideration are succinctly explained.

One thing I really like, which sets this guide above many others I am familiar with, is the way the author has

carefully chosen photographs (black and white) to enhance and illustrate the text. The area has an incredible variety of both waters and terrain from the massive tides of the Bay of Fundy (largest tidal range in the world) to glacier scoured and rugged coastline. There are paddles to suit all levels of ability and experience, from very sheltered to very exposed. The book is littered with gems of information on local history, geology, flora and fauna and advice to paddlers.

Not only is this book a top class guide but it is written in a style and manner that renders it an absorbing read in its own right. I can highly recommend it.

**Reviewed by MARTIN MELING - who is a lecturer in Sport Studies at the new City of Sunderland Tertiary College and also Chairman of the BCU Sea Touring Committee.**

**Stormrider Guide: Europe**

Edited by Ollie Fitzjones and Tim Rainger, published by Low Pressure Publishing 1995.

Price £19.95 ISBN Softback 0 9519275 2 3



This guide is the only multi-lingual Surf Atlas covering the European coastline, completely revised since the first edition in 1992. Over 600 surf spots, from lava reefs to mellow

beaches, mapped and described with assistance from over 100 of Europe's leading surf personalities.

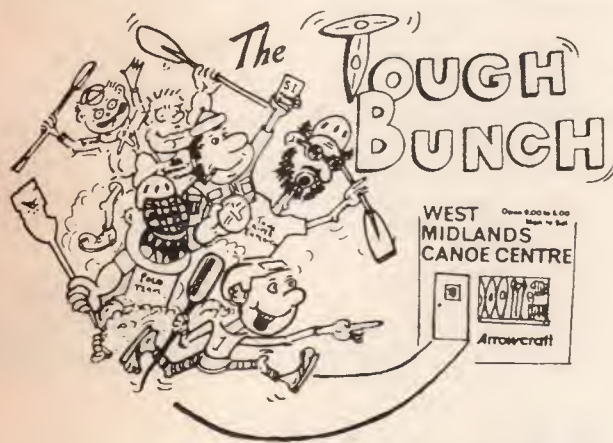
Taking the form of an A4 paperback with 240 colour pages, 80 details double page road maps, colour relief maps giving physical detail and over 300 awesome photographs, the presentation of Stormrider is so good, it deserves a permanent place on any coffee table. It's almost criminal to think that many copies will end up in the damp murky corners of a surf-mobiles glove box.

As the editors take us on a European surfing adventure we are provided with the Meteorological skills to predict surf, a geographical history to each of the countries we pass through as well as descriptions to all the best known surf spots and a lot of lesser known ones too.

The guide is broken down into areas, that provide extra information such as the contact details of local surfing outlets and maps that everyone ought to be able to follow.

There are also four pages dedicated to Surfers Against Sewage, their cause, their work and how to help. These also include a medical response form that will help the SAS to extend their database of water users that have experienced health problems potentially caused by immersion in sewage contaminated waters.

Despite having to repeat all descriptions in three languages the editors have managed to keep the text to a minimum. They have achieved this by using concise text enhanced



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with a graphical key.

Any potential guide editor could learn a great deal from this publication both in terms of layout and in presenting information to the largest possible audience.

Although this guide was written for board surfers and windsurfers there is a lot here for any paddler with more than a passing interest in the sea. For a kayaker with a keen desire to surf this book is a must. In fact, the only excuse you have got for not going out and buying this book is if you are in possession of the first edition.

**Reviewed by Robbie Lines - BCU Surf Committee Information Officer**

**South West Region Small Craft Touring Guide - The Cornish Coastline.**

Published by the BCU SW Region. ISBN 0-900082-10-0 Priced at £9.95 and available from BCU supplies or Nigel Hingston Tel: 01626 854175



Volume two of the trilogy is again in an A5 format, larger than volume one it reflects 320 n.miles of the Cornish coastline. New to this publication is the introduction of waypoints which will

be of great assistance when planning an expedition.

A comprehensive guide with over

230 locations where small craft may launch or land, containing chart information, HM Coastguard contacts, shore coverings, tidal streams, outfalls and surf conditions.

It also details useful items such as, where to find the cheapest tea shop in Plymouth and where not to park your car if you want it to still be there in the morning!

Once again Nigel Hingston has provided probably the most comprehensive guide you are likely to find on this coastline. Congratulations. I look forward to seeing the third volume later in the year.

**Reviewed by Wendy Blackman**

**White Water Europe - Book One -North Alps**

Compiled by Pete Knowles and Pete Bandtock.

ISBN 0-9519413-1-3

Price £12.95



This guide book has been completed using up to date research and unlike many other guides, it has been written in English by British paddlers which makes it easy reading.

The rivers covered by the guide are grouped by white water centres (ie Landeck) and the information is given in sufficient detail to wet the appetite without being excessive.

The text is accompanied by a

selection of high quality colour photographs and sketch maps of the river sections with the major rapids and other landmarks highlighted. In addition, the use of cartoons and drawings adds to the overall attraction of this guide.

From personal experience, of a number of the Centres, the information given is extremely accurate and reading through the sections made me realise how many more 'Classic Runs' there are to paddle; I must get out there again soon!

This guide is a quality product and is a must for all alpine paddlers; don't paddle in the North Alps without it!

I look forward to reading the companion to this guide, book two - the South Alps, which is due to be published this month.

**Reviewed by John D Anderson Level 4 Coach**



**The A-Z of Sports Club Funding**

Chris Meredith & Greg Tesser £3.99 inc p&p available from: C Meredith, 19 Worlds End Hill, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 0XH

One of the many questions I get asked as Publications and Information Officer is "How do I raise funds for my Club?". At last this useful little book has come along to answer all my questions.

A handy pocket sized publication, in black and white, it covers subjects ranging from how to sell advertising space, to how to make an application to the lottery, to quiz nights and special events. At the end of the book it also provides a list of useful addresses and telephone numbers.

An excellent little book with plenty of ideas and information, all club fundraisers should have one.

**Reviewed by Wendy Blackman**

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It has long been acknowledged that there is a difficulty in encouraging women and girls onto the water in canoes, let alone persuading them to play canoe polo.

Article by  
Marienne Yates

# Women and Novice Canoe Polo

At the recent Merseyside International Tournament in Liverpool, it was pleasing to see that the novice women's pitch was a great success, with 12 teams entering in all. Various discussions during the course of the weekend clarified and consolidated some of my own views concerning the success of women's polo at grass roots level. It was extremely encouraging that the majority of the women's teams who had entered the novice league had the same expectations. It was unfortunate that other teams in the league had a very different attitude.

As a woman playing in the tournament, I would like to make the following observations, which relate to my understanding of what a novice league is all about.

1. Providing a supportive and friendly environment for women to play in. This can far more easily be achieved when the teams playing are like minded women's teams. Most teams entered the Liverpool tournament for this reason.
2. There is often a potential problem when mixing novice teams of opposite sexes. Whilst young youth teams may be happy to play against teams of women or girls, it does not take long before spectators and supporters' introduce the battle of the sexes. So making it an assertion of manhood to beat the women. Neither team needs this.
3. It is important that teams know that the league is specifically for novice teams, and that it is advertised as such. Maybe this needs defining, and I would offer as a suggestion
4. All teams entering would be aiming to encourage polo at a novice level. If one team abuses the system and enters a high level team in a novice league, in a trophy winning exercise, then other teams will soon do so. The success of a novice league relies on teams not abusing the system.
5. Players who play in a novice league will understand that they are playing against other players who may not be entirely familiar with the rules. Mistakes are more likely to happen, and hopefully be tolerated in a friendly manner. If players and referees attempt to explain in a friendly manner any obvious lack of understanding of the rules, then players progress more rapidly.
6. Novice polo players generally appreciate that players on both their own team, and that of the opposition, may not be confident at rolling a canoe. It is conceivable that teams may agree not to push one another in. Certainly if a national side is for some mistake playing in a novice league, one would expect that they wouldn't feel it necessary to push in a member of the opposition who had already been pointed out to them as being unable to roll. The idea at novice level is not to intimidate.
7. If a player in a novice league is

upside down and banging on the bottom of their boat, one would expect all players to consider assisting them, and not to deliberately paddle away. A swim in the cold water of the Albert Dock is not pleasant, and it is some way to the nearest exit point.

8. Referees at novice games need to understand the importance of stopping the game in order that players may assist swimmers without forfeiting their chances of winning the game; also preventing novice players from losing their confidence.
9. At a novice level, teams find it difficult to field qualified referees, and consideration should be given to supplying referees. Players find it difficult to learn their mistakes if they are not pointed out by the referee. Various players even suggested paying a higher entry fee to pay for qualified referees.
10. If teams consider the above rules/ considerations to remove any element of competition or fun from the game that they wish to play, then they should be playing in the ordinary league.

I have found that the ideas listed have provided a supportive environment in which women are prepared to have a go'. Many continue to play for years after, and some are now competing in open tournaments, as I am sure that many more will in the future.

I would like to thank the organisers of the event for all of the hard work which they put in, and to say how much the weekend was enjoyed, certainly by my own team. It is great to have a weekend event where both men and women can compete at their own level.

Hopefully next year will see a thriving new novice youth league. Maybe at the July event, after exams have been completed?

## What's in a word?

I was recently privileged to attend an "Sports Equity" Training Programme run for the BCU at Holme Pierrepont. My region nominated me because I was female! Obviously I must therefore be discriminated against!! (Just try it!) I didn't know what to expect and was prepared to be heartily bored. I need not have worried, I had an entertaining and stimulating weekend with some interesting and charming people. Between us we represented most aspects of the sport and a range of age, gender, colour ethnicity, creed and orientation.

Looking back over the weekend I wondered what I had discovered. I did have covert prejudices that I had not acknowledged and have been forced to look at them and consider where they came from. I became aware of others prejudices and others needs to which I had never given a thought, but the thing that struck me most forcibly was the vehicle that we use for our prejudices, our language. Whilst I took exception to a great many words that carried implied prejudice I was surprised to find that words like 'ladies' and 'girls' were considered derogatory by some people. I work with the elderly and would not dream of addressing the females as anything other than "Ladies". Even fellow female canoeists took exception to my entering a team as "Worcester Women" (for the snappiness of alliteration) and would have preferred "Worcester Ladies"! I use "girls" frequently when addressing a group of females from my club - we cover the age group of eight to sixty-five and no other term seems to fit the bill! The term "black" also caused me some difficulty. I was surprised to find that anyone who wasn't "white" must be black, even though they might be of Eurasian, Indian or Chinese origin. I would have argued more on this point if time had allowed, since I felt that a

wealth of culture and ethnic diversity got forgotten in the umbrella term of "black".

The term "Gay" causes me no problem, though I still smile a little when I read the title of my Sunday School prize of many years ago, "Gay legends of the Saints"! How language has evolved. That is the clue. When I gave the matter some thought I realised that we were faced with two problems. The first was regionality. We all accept that each region spawns its own language and unique vocabulary but there are many shared terms that have different shades of meaning, so that "Ladies" in one region might be used as a mark of respect, in another area it is a patronising term. There is also the problem of age. I am "pushing" sixty and still use language as I learned it at my mother's knee, and my old "ladies" expect to be called just that as a term of respect used in their youth. "Gay" has obviously changed its meaning since my Sunday School days, though I hope that both meanings imply happy cheerfulness.

The use of the word "black" should be viewed with great care, since non-whites, though wishing to be called black, recognise that the word is often used as an antithesis. (Blackball, blackguard, blackleg, blacklist and blackmail) Care must always be used with the word black.

At the end of the day it was decided that the safest approach was to always ask people how they would chose to be addressed and to follow their desires. The thing that will always remain with me from the weekend was the empathy from a young and very charming black man who, my having persistently managed to use the wrong terms all weekend, put my conscience at ease by telling me that it didn't matter what I had said since I had not meant any hurt by it. As for me, I am an ageing, female heterosexual, married, a mother, in work and content to be "one of the girls", but way above all else, I am a paddler!!!

Rosemary Preece



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**Thanks**

Supported in equally fine style by Prijon Kayaks, Eskimo and Grant Hallworth's toy boat.

Briton takes 1st and 2nd in Mens K1 and win the Ladies K1 to be runners up to Hungary in the overall team competition.

Right: Anna Hemmings runs away from the group on the last portage to win the Ladies K1.

Below: Connor Holmes (2nd) consoles a disappointed club mate, Gary Mawer of Ireland (4th), in Mens K1.

# Jose Cuervo Bitches Rodeo

**O**n 4 May 1996, a 7.2m tide and fine sunny weather (like we always get on the Bitches) saw 85 paddlers not having to get up early in the morning because they were paddling at TYF. A really steady hole gave excellent conditions for the cartwheels that are now part of the top 20 paddlers' routines - the top wave wasn't being used for the contest which meant that loads of style time was spent by those who'd finished their heats.

The party on Sunday night, in true Cuervo style, was a celebration of much of what makes rodeo so much fun, tall stories, daring deeds, a bit of bull, sunburned faces and an evening of socialising with friends or rubbing shoulders with George Woods (you had to be there!)

The finals were held on Sunday evening, once again in perfect conditions. The Open Boaters had smiles on their faces for the rest of the night following a good trashing and a few unexpected moves.

There was a lot of potential and a few new faces in the women's final and a 'go for it' attitude that has been absent for too long. The Deckies had a good whirl, matching each other move for move for much of the time until Mike Fletcher made the moves that count. In the Men's K1, Bill Mattos, Tim Thomas and Paul Currant stole ahead of the rest of the pack with a variety and consistency of moves that proved hard to match.

Andy Middleton and Shaun Baker didn't do so well in the K1 this year and are rumoured to be thinking of starting a Vets event next year if you know of anyone who is a Vet who wants to compete before their clients all go mad, please ask them to get in touch.

**Rodeo results**

- K1 Men**  
 1 Bill Mattos  
 2 Tim Thomas  
 3 Paul Currant  
 4 Simon Edwards  
 5 Jason Buxton  
 6 Harley Masters  
 7 Shaun Baker  
 8 Andy Stewart

- OC1**  
 1 Rob Dixon  
 2 Shaun Baker  
 3 James Weir  
 4 Dave Newport

- K1 Women**  
 1 Helen Taylor  
 2 Louise Wigmore  
 3 Jenny Taylor  
 4 Caroline Tombs  
 5 Greer Mackenzie  
 6 Anita Bennett

- OC1**  
 1 Mike Fletcher  
 2 Cheesey Robertson  
 3 Steve Block  
 4 Twickenham George Woods  
 5 Chris Harrison

## Shaun Baker wins UK Rodeo National Championships for 8th year

Following the conclusion of the 1996 "Classic 3" UK national Whitewater Rodeo Circuit (Hurley, Bitches, Nottingham), Shaun has again come out at No.1.

Shaun has taken the title "UK National Champion" for the 8th year and been placed 1st in both the 1996 UK team and UK ranking list.

# Grand Prix 1, Valalodid, Spain 1st & 2nd June 1996



Above: "The happiest man in Spain". Neil Coleman, winner of the Mens K1.







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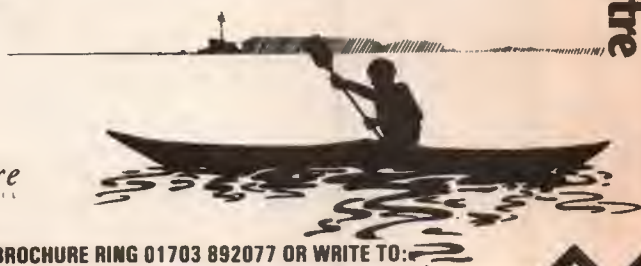
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Marc Lyle - 1995 U.S. National Whitewater Rodeo team member and playpaddling addict!

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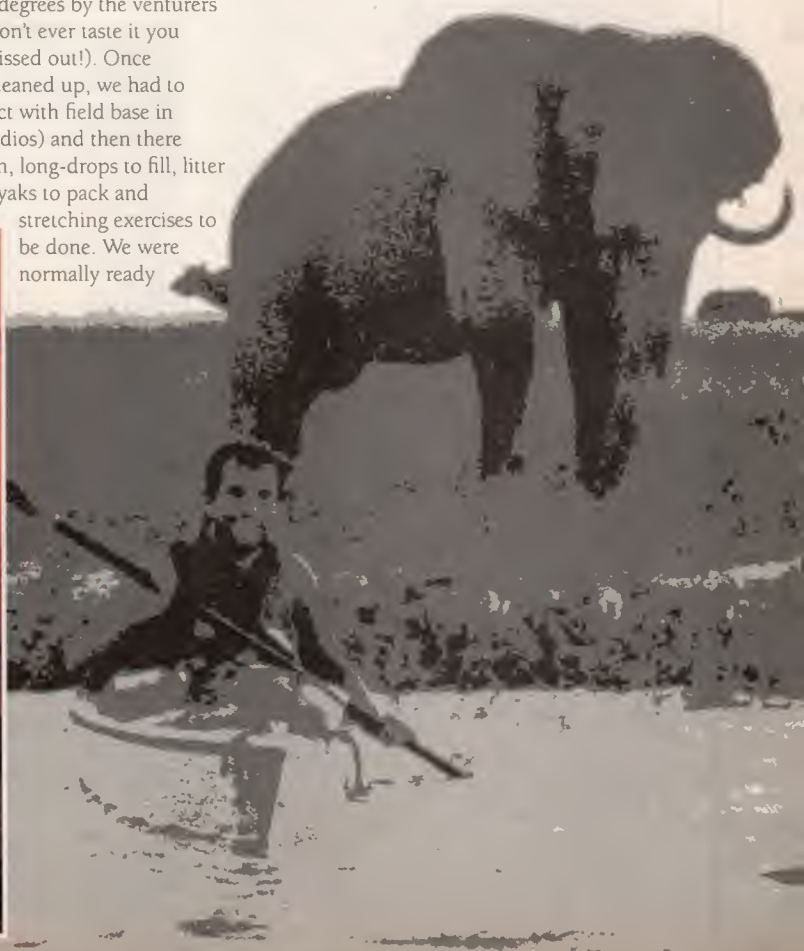
# Raleigh

# Inter

**“Don’t worry they’ll be fine. Just keep close to the shore and paddle past quickly”, said Leo reassuringly. A split second later the group of kayakers was paddling as fast as they could to the shore with a cow hippo chasing us at a furious pace, defending her calf.**

Our group consisted of 13 venturers, aged between 17 and 26 years, the deputy expedition leader (actually a kayak instructor) and myself (the expedition press officer) under the watchful guidance of instructors, Leo Hoare and Frank Ryan. The aim of the kayaking phase was for the venturers to set out on a testing six day paddle between Kuburi Wilderness area (south east of Kariba) and Kings Camp, which is over 100km away. As well as learning about kayaking, we were also exposed to the elements and wildlife and the group was able to build leadership and team skills as well as learn about the challenges of low impact camping and hygiene. Each morning we got up at 6am (although the designated cooks for the day had to be up at 5.30am to get the fire going and the water on to boil) for a delicious breakfast of ‘Pro Nutro’ (this is a staple Zimbabwean porridge like mix that is enjoyed to varying degrees by the venturers and if you don’t ever taste it you won’t have missed out!). Once breakfast was cleaned up, we had to make radio contact with field base in Harare (using HF radios) and then there were tents to take down, long-drops to fill, litter sweeps to undertake, kayaks to pack and stretching exercises to be done. We were normally ready

**I**t’s amazing how a novice kayaker, such as myself, can paddle so quickly after only an hours experience, when there is a large gaping mouth in pursuit!! I was spending the week on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe, as part of the adventure training phase on Raleigh International’s fourteenth expedition to the country. The UK based youth development organisation currently has 114 venturers taking part in its community and conservation projects all over Zimbabwe, and these activities are interspersed with the physical challenges of three week’s trekking and kayaking.





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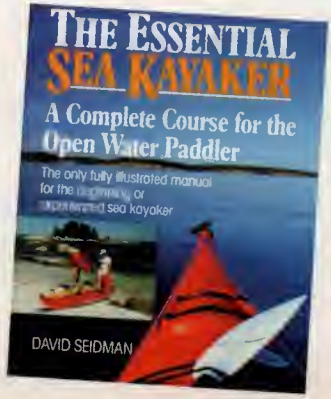
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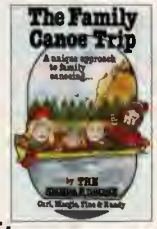
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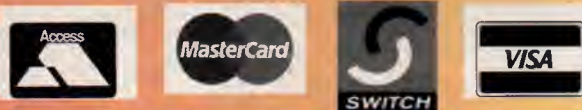
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Above: Lake Kariba in the day.  
 Left: Lake Kariba at sunset  
 Right: Kayaking on Lake Kariba

to be off at approximately 7.45, which we thought was quite good going.

Starting off at King's Camp, each day we paddled a section of our overall journey and were lucky enough to have fairly diverse weather conditions throughout the week, which made for interesting paddling. Most days were baking hot, with the sun mercilessly beating down on our hats and sunscreen, but the breeze managed to take some of the heat out of the hard work. There were a few overcast days however, which made life significantly

easier and when the wind picked up paddling on the lake became very much a 'sea kayaking' experience. I learnt a great deal about paddling skills (bearing in mind previous experience was limited to 'Hawaii Five-O' impressions in an inflatable dinghy as a child at the seaside). Draw strokes, sweep strokes, side slipping, stern rudders and even a few river skills in the Sanyati Gorge - you name it I had a go and felt really chuffed with myself that I'd learnt so much by the end of the week.

### Scared out of our wits

Leo and Frank led us from Bed Island, down the Sanyati Gorge, past Tsetse Island, to Chahara Point past Antelope Island and home during the week, leaving the groups to navigate but keeping a watchful eye over our route. Having spent over two months on the lake by the end of the expedition they became residents and were all too aware of the surprises that lay in store when you least expect them, "We'll both admit to being scared out of our wits of the wildlife when we first did our recce visit to the lake, to work out our routes for the nine, week long kayaking trips," confesses Leo, who had not experienced this type of adventure in his six years career in the British Slalom Team during which he came fourth in the Junior World Slalom Championships in 1992. "But after a while you get to understand the animal behaviour more and your reactions become instinctive - you start to get eyes in the back of your head and you just know where the hippos are lurking". I will also confess to being a little anxious about the prospect of a hippo taking a dislike to my kayak and taking a chunk out of the hull, whether I was in it or not, as that kind of thing does happen to some degree of regularity in Southern Africa. But, I, for whatever reason, felt very safe in the hands of a crazy Irishman and a chuckling kayak freak from Perth!

When I asked Frank and Leo how they got into kayaking I got two very different answers. Frank, who back in the UK is an operator on the Metropolitan Line and is sponsored by London Underground to be a project manager for Raleigh, simply fancied his canoeing teacher at school. Leo claims that his father wanted to get him

interested in a sport to keep him off the streets. "I tried





Kayaking on Lake Kariba



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sailing for a while but every time someone shouted Lea-ho I turned around and got clouted by the boom, so I took up kayaking instead!"

Back on Kariba trail we continued to encounter more and more wildlife as the week progressed. We saw a lot of elephants drinking at the Lake's edge and it was a privilege to be so close to these beautiful creatures. We had one rather hair-raising encounter with a bull elephant who was unimpressed that one of the venturers was keen to get a close up shot of him. The ele's ears flared, his trunk went out at right-angles and he was stamping his feet. "Paddle away, guys", shrieked Frank in his coarse, Irish drawl. "Paddle, faster guys! Now!" It's amazing how having competent instructors with you can lull you into a false sense of security when you're in less than a foot's depth of water.

Each evening, after a SITREP is sent through on the radio to field base and once a supper of a concoction of noodles, Soya and tomato soup has been devoured, the group has a team meeting whereby the leader of the day reviews the day's events, looking at the achievements and areas where there is room for improvement. The evening of the 'upset elephant' incident, Frank suggested that greater respect for the animals may be prudent. The group

***We had one rather hair-raising encounter with a bull elephant who was unimpressed that one of the venturers was keen to get a close up shot of him. The ele's ears flared, his trunk went out at right-angles and he was stamping his feet. "Paddle away, guys", shrieked Frank in his coarse, Irish drawl. "Paddle, faster guys! Now!"***

nodded, one individual looked a bit sheepish and from thereon in a learning experience was realised. "This is what Raleigh is all about", explained Frank theorising about why such incidents are beneficial to the group dynamics. "Learning about how we fit into the bigger picture of things- respecting others and recognising your strengths and weaknesses. Some of them learn the easy way; some learn the hard way. But everyone leaves the expedition with a greater sense of self-awareness and confidence."

The favourite day of the week for everybody was a 30km paddle up and down the Sanyati

Gorge, on the south eastern part of the lake. About 500km across at the mouth and thinning to about 80m at the point where we turned around to come back, the gorge is beautifully hemmed in by lush green hills on either side - paddling with thick undergrowth on either side of you makes one feel far more intrepid. With bright blue skies and fantastic birds that look like somebody has taken to them with a paint pallet, we paddled along enjoying every stroke.

Health and hygiene is a real challenge for the groups on the lake, but something which is taken seriously - having a dose of D&V whilst kayaking would not be funny. Under Frank's wise insistence we had a system of three buckets with soap, dettol and bleach to wash our hands and another three for our mess tins and mugs. We bleached all our drinking water (0.015ml per litre) to kill the bilharzia and had our longs and insect repellent on by 5.30pm to keep the mossies at bay.

Leo has worked out that over his nine weeks on the lake he and Frank will have each drunk 335 litres of lake water; half a litre of bleach; pitched their tents 63 times, paddled over 1,000 miles and encouraged over 120 people into the world of canoeing.

I loved my week on the lake, I loved the test of endurance, I loved the hippos wandering next to my tent during the night, treading surprisingly daintily and noisily munching away. I loved the fantastic scenery and the sunsets and the dawns. I loved my arms and back aching and the fact that I was so shattered I went to bed by 7.30pm each evening. I loved spending time with the venturers and watching their group dynamics evolve, as their teamwork went from strength to strength. And I loved the fun environment which our intrepid instructors created whilst making me feel safe. 'Leo and Frank's Challenging Kariba Cruises' - thank you very much.



## Thanks

**The author would like to thank Mountain Man of Perth for supplying Leo's kit.**

**Article by Jill Shepherd.**





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From the beginning of 1996 the British Canoe Union added a new resource to their overall communication strategy - the appointment of Matchtight Media, a specialist sports public relations, publications and media consultancy with the objective to work with and augment the existing resources within the sport of canoeing.

On returning from an epic canoeing holiday Chris Perry of Kayak Control/Paramount Pursuits encountered some serious problems and would like to make other paddlers aware of just what could go wrong on your holiday abroad...

# Matching the Media

**M**atchtight's detailed brief was agreed by the BCU after a comprehensive review of its requirements and can be summarised by the following mission statement and priorities.

## Mission Statement

To further professionalise and increase media coverage for all aspects of the sport as well as to expand and develop the profile and image of the BCU.

## The priority list is simple:

- 1 To improve the quality of BCU publicity and information.
- 2 Improve the image and presentation of the BCU to outside agencies i.e Government, sponsors, etc.
- 3 Improve media awareness and coverage.

Overall, our role is to work very closely with the BCU at all levels, working towards fulfilling its objectives set in the 1993-97 Development Plan.

We are there as an addition to the work already done by both the BCU professional staff and the large number of highly committed volunteers. We will be providing the BCU with professional advice and assistance to enable it to improve communication at all levels to the benefit of every aspect of the sport.

As part of the strategy, we have implemented an on going programme of press releases at national, regional and local levels aimed at achieving greater news coverage.

Apart from reporting various competitions we will be looking at highlighting a number of issues from within the sport that play a major part in the BCU's role such as access and water safety.

In each discipline we have identified a number of events throughout the year at which we will assist with event publicity and PR to achieve maximum impact in the media.

Matchtight gives the BCU a one-stop shop approach to Media and Communications, whether it is distributing World Cup results or issuing a statement on the BCU's position on a relevant issue, we give the BCU a 365 day, 24 hour a day service. All this is there to help the various disciplines improve their effectiveness in the Media. In addition we will be assisting the BCU in other areas such as co-ordinating the work of the newly formed marketing group. This is an ad-hoc group set up to look at various issues within the sport and to provide a think tank for many new ideas. We will be working throughout the year to help key BCU staff and volunteers improve their presentation skills, enabling them to represent the BCU more effectively at meetings and with the media.

In the next issue we will be giving information on how to write a press release, how to determine what is newsworthy, and how to contact the media in the most effective way.

**Matchtight Media, PO Box 9, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2YH Tel: 01752 823226 Fax: 01752 823259**



# Rough Justice

**11** .00am I was driving the Frontera with the mini bus and trailer following behind when a car zoomed in front of the minibus and forced it to stop. Two Frenchmen jumped out and before anyone could blink an eyelid one of them had jumped upon the trailer, written down the serial number of the 17'4 Discovery and immediately said the boat had been stolen from him.

The Gendarmerie were soon on the scene and we were pulled into their compound. The Frenchman was saying that the boat had been stolen from him, shipped to England and I had bought a stolen boat and that he had the serial number (remember he had just taken a note of this number which had not been previously reported as missing).

12.00 noon - Amid much ado, the boat was removed from the trailer and locked in their garage and I was taken inside the police station, no-one was allowed in with me, and the doors were locked.

After about an hour I was 'released' as the police station closed for an hour for lunch, during which time I had to prove legal ownership of the boat. The Frenchman (Mr X) making the accusation also had to come back with proof that the boat was his.

Fortunately there was a telephone kiosk outside the station (I was not given access to a phone inside) and my first call was to Tim Houghton at West Midlands Canoe Centre (WMCC) where I had purchased the boat, please let Tim be in the office! Yes Tim and Roger would contact Plastimo who had records of the boats being shipped to England from Old Town in America and try and get the information faxed to the Mayor's Office in Souillac asap.

My second call was to Barclaycard International who said they would have a French/English interpreter at the end of the phone by 2.00pm. Barclaycard proved to be a great help in sorting this out, as throughout the afternoon

they telephoned me at the police station a number of times - it was good to have someone to talk to in English to act on my behalf.

A few more calls to Tim and the hour was up and I went back inside, but this time, Elaine, my girlfriend, was allowed in with me, but Mr X didn't turn up until 3.00pm. However, Tim had managed to fax through all the legal documentation proving that the boat had been despatched direct from the USA to Southampton and then to WMCC and had never been to France.

The police brought back an interpreter, a girl from a local garage and together with my evidence and Barclaycard on the phone, it looked like we had won as I was able to prove that the boat was legally mine. However, after a couple of hours into the discussions, the police said that the decision would have to be taken by the 'Justices' I was in the depths of despair as I knew that if I left France without it, I would probably never see it again due to the costs that would be incurred either to have it shipped back to England or for me to collect it.

5.00pm and it was all over, Elaine and I were both ecstatic, the police said we could go and take the boat with us. Honesty, justice, call it what you like, had paid off, the boat was legally mine and once again we were loaded and on our way. The lesson to learn from this is to make sure you have proof of purchase for all your boats using the security number.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim and Roger of West Midlands Canoe Centre for all their help and 'after sales service', they certainly saved the day. Thanks also to Maggie at Barclaycard International, it was very reassuring and supportive to have an interpreter there on my behalf. Last and by no means least, thanks to Club Paramount members for their support and understanding throughout the whole incident.

**Chris Perry - Kayak Control/Paramount Pursuits**





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Article by  
Carol Davis

# Build Your Own Boat

**H**aving considered the plans available for amateur boat builders (sources are listed at the end of this article) the next step is to decide what plywood and supporting timber to buy. Much has been written on the exterior versus marine grade ply debate but the consensus is that for small craft like canoes, which spend most of their lives out of the water, a good exterior grade is perfectly adequate. When buying plywood the main point to check is that there are no visible voids at the edges nor obvious faults on the surface. If external faults are evident there will certainly be more hidden within the laminations and water will find its way in no matter how well the surface is sealed.

By using exterior grade plywood and a knot free softwood for gunwales, etc. the cost of making a 15ft canoe could be less than £100. For canoeists with an eco-conscience there is the bonus of knowing that plywood is one of the most efficient ways of utilising timber resources and most is now manufactured using trees from properly managed plantations.

If still more incentive is needed, then compare the weight of a plywood canoe with any of the aluminium, Royalex or various plastic models available. A 5ft 4in size 12, I can lift and carry our 4mm plywood two seater single handed;

putting it on the roof rack is a two person task but even this degree of lift is not impossible for a solo paddler with a 3mm plywood kayak.

## Saving money

So making a plywood boat will save you money, save you back strain and salve your conscience! There is no excuse for inexperienced woodworkers; most canoe plans come with detailed instructions and expect no greater level of skill than the ability to measure accurately and to saw to a drawn line. The construction method for most designs is the simple 'stitch and tape' or a variation thereon. Nylon fishing line (50lb breaking strain) is the best medium for the stitching; copper wire can be used at points where stress is greatest. Polyester or epoxy resins may be used for the taping; the former is cheaper but the latter may also be used where glue is required. The materials list which comes with plans will normally give an indication of how much resin a given design will need. If you have commandeered the dining room to build your canoe make sure all the windows are open when you use resin- the fumes are not healthy.

The question of where to build a boat often causes marital friction; where a room in the house is chosen the reason is obvious. If you do not have a workshop, or spare garage space, and don't seek a divorce,

search out a sheet of heavy duty polythene, large enough to completely cover the project under construction, then choose a promised spell of warmish, dryish weather and make the lawn your workshop. A simple design should take about two weekends and the evenings in between to complete ready for painting. Obviously, you will need to pick a good day weatherwise to paint or varnish her.

That is about it really. The best advice to a novice builder is to read through the instructions and study the plans thoroughly before you open the tool box and always measure twice before cutting. If you have problems or queries boat designers are usually quite happy to give advice or discuss options but try to restrict your telephone calls to sociable hours. If you have a number of general queries and are trying to decide which boat to build try to get to one of the shows or other events where a selection of canoes are likely to be on display and designers in attendance.

## The following boat designers supply plans by mail order:

**Percy Blandford, c/o Harrison, PO Box 55, Bingley, W Yorks BD16 4UU. Several canvas on frame kayaks plus other small boats.**

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**Dennis Davis, 9 Great Burrow Rise, Northam, Bideford, Devon EX39 1TB. Four plywood open canoe designs plus plywood kayaks for sea and general use, including child's kayak.**

**Selway Fisher Design, 15 King Street, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6HB. Designs or plywood canoes and kayaks to suit all purposes.**

**When requesting a catalogue from the above designers please enclose a SAE**



Right:  
Stitch and tape canoe,  
side panel being  
stitched into place.

Photo by  
Dennis Davis



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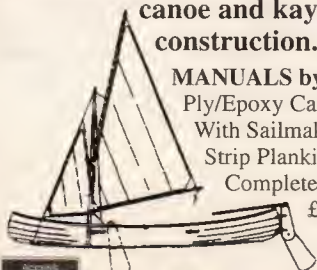
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**APPOINTMENT OF ANNE FERGUSON**

Anne Ferguson has been awarded a 6 month consultancy to put together a framework for this initiative. Anne is well known in sporting circles having been a National Governing Body Support Officer with the National Coaching Foundation. She has worked for the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, been a Sports Development Officer for several governing bodies, a local authority, and a college, and coached both tennis and hockey.

Over the next six months, Anne will be helping the BCU to focus on Youth Development and this initiative in particular. She will put in place the processes that will help all of canoeing to implement the solution that fits it best.

# Clubbing Young People!

**T**he future of canoeing lies with recruiting young people into the sport, and encouraging them to stay with it.

**General research shows that:**

- Unless a priority is placed on young people and their encouragement into every aspect of a sport, the sport will quickly decline.

**Specific research shows that:**

- of all sports tried by youth, canoeing is one of the most popular. However, the interest generated does not seem to be reflected in an increase of young people joining clubs
- there has been a significant decline in the numbers of young people moving into competition disciplines
- not all clubs want to have young people in their membership
- when starting out, young people are looking for a different type of experience than that which is currently given in some instances
- some young people are developing poor technique, mainly due to using kayaks/canoes and paddles inappropriate to their age and size. This has meant that valuable time is lost in having to re-learn skills as they move into either their competitive or

recreational canoeing.

- young people are not given the opportunity to sample every aspect of canoeing and so their future choice/direction is limited
- young people are not always shown the signpost to the next stage of their development and so at times have difficulty in finding the club that most suits their abilities and needs

**Action The BCU wants to ensure that:**

- young people are getting the right introduction to all aspects of canoeing
- all have an opportunity to move into and develop to their full potential within the aspect of canoeing that most suits their desires and abilities
- the implications of adopting a Young People's Strategy are reflected through every function of operation - membership, coaching, competition, recreation

**TOP CLUB and Consultation**

The key to resolving many of these issues is by encouraging clubs to develop with young people in mind. To help with this, the BCU will use the new national initiative known as TOP CLUB, which was devised by the Youth Sports Trust. TOP

CLUB offers a broad framework of good development practice for clubs operating at all levels - from introducing young people to the sport, to those working with the elite.

The BCU is currently reviewing this framework, and is looking at how it can be moulded to meet the specific needs of canoeing. Initial thoughts see the term 'CLUB' being used in its widest sense, and not restricted to a single entity. For example, a key element of the blueprint is likely to be the need to demonstrate links with the local community - local authorities, education and other canoe clubs. All of us involved in canoeing, competition and recreation alike, will have the opportunity to comment and contribute to the design of the BCU model - it is important that it shaped by us for all aspect of canoeing.

Once piloted and in place, clubs will be invited to apply to join the scheme. Undoubtedly it will not appeal to everyone, but there are rewards for those who wish to be involved. To this end an extensive benefits package is currently being compiled, that will translate into an investment of significant value being passed on to the club. The same opportunity for reward will be available for all clubs, whatever their competitive or recreative level.

*Written by Anne Ferguson BCU Youth Development Officer*

## Activity Centres - a sound bill of health?

Following the 'Lyme Bay' tragedy in March 1993, the Health and Safety Executive was charged with inspecting a cross-section of activity centres, and issuing a report on the state of the industry. That report has recently been published.

A total of 311 centres were visited over a 2-year period. The main conclusion is that activities are being conducted in a competent and responsible matter. The overall accident rate is low.

A total of eight improvement notices were issued - mainly concerned with the quality of the written operating procedures.

Of interest is the fact that of the activities offered by the centres visited, canoeing comes 'top of the league' with regard to provision and participation.

Copies of A Report into Safety at Outdoor Activity Centres are available, price £10, from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS (01787 881165; fax 01787 313995).

**The Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act 1995**

Notes have been circulated to clubs, expanding on the explanation in the last issue of Focus on the implications for private members clubs (which includes BCU canoe clubs) of the above Act. A copy of the expanded notes can be obtained from the BCU office on receipt of a sae.

For clarification it should be noted that where canoeing is confined to water which is not tidal, and not turbulent, and where it is not possible to be more than 50 metres from the nearest bank, then regardless of whether payment is involved, the canoeing does not come within the scope of the Act. There is no requirement to register with the Licensing Authority.

It should also be noted that all the defining parameters apply for determining whether or not a Licence is necessary: ie instruction must be involved, participants must be under 18 (and not have a parent or legal guardian accompanying them throughout their participation) payment must be made, and the activity - or level of activity - must be within the prescribed definition. If any one of these factors is not involved, the activity does not come within the scope of the Act and there is no need to register.

A canoeing club providing the prescribed activities for its own members (ie bona fide annual members) does not come within the scope of the Act. Neither does it come within scope if it provides activities for members of another organisation - eg the Scout Association. A simple written agreement with regard to the courses being offered, should suffice. Payment could be made to the club by the benefitting organisation without altering the situation.

The 'voluntary registration' scheme for centres and organisations which do not need to register, but which might like to receive an endorsement, which was announced during the consultation period for the Act, has not been withdrawn. No mention is made of it in the explanatory brochure, but it is understood that information concerning this scheme will be forthcoming once the Licensing Authority has dealt with the immediate demands from the commercial sector.

- Copies of the Regulations (SI 1996/772) are available at £2.60. The document Regulations to the Licensing Authority on The Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996 costs £9. Both are available from HSE Books as above.



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**RAVENS SPRING**



# Jersey Canoe Club hosted the 3rd European Sea Kayak Symposium over the holiday weekend of 24th to 31st May. Paddlers from far and wide, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Canada and the US of A as well as Guernsey and Jersey gathered to enjoy what has become known as a well run, varied and friendly event.

**M**any, accompanied by their partners and families stayed on for the following week to take part in the extended programme of paddles, quiz nights, fun slalom, barbecue etc.

Jerry Michel and Tom Turner, the club members burdened with the bulk of the organisation, had put together a most comprehensive schedule of talks, lectures, slide shows, clinics, demonstrations, guided paddles and social events. To deliver this programme they assembled presenters from all over the United Kingdom and one Texan to support their own very competent Channel Islands team, of equal number. The local teams were resplendent in green polo shirts emblazoned with the symposium logo for ease of identification.

Proceedings kicked off with a welcoming evening in the Hotel Pomme D'Or where the latest programmes were handed out, announcements made, old friends met and new ones introduced.

A very successful innovation for this years symposium was the reservation by the club of a complete section of a local camping site situated

close to the venues of the various lectures etc. These took place in two hotels, a temporary cabin and the Jersey clubs clubhouse at St. Catherines breakwater, the starting point of the practical sessions.

Facilities at the camping site were of a high order and those not wishing to bring their own tent along could hire one, already pitched and fully equipped. The site boasted an outdoor pool, which was to prove useful and the club had arranged for the erection of a large tent for social gatherings and for the crèche, a feature

appreciated by those with young children. Having so many of the symposium participants staying at the one location helped to build the excellent social atmosphere commented on by a number of people.

With such a variety of items to choose from, 65 listed on the programme, it is impossible to report on all the activities. However, some certainly merit special mention.

### Inuit rolling methods

John D Heath from Damon in Texas was the oldest of those making presentations. 73 years of age John started paddling in the American North West in 1935 and is acknowledged as a leading expert in Inuit paddling, rolling, kayak design and construction etc. John led a demonstration of Inuit rolling methods at the camping site pool assisted in the actual 'wet' bit by Gordon Brown, a sea coach from Scotland. Gordon had a canvas covered semi-replica west Greenland



**24TH - 31ST MAY**



Above: Karen Lund, participant at Jersey Sea Kayak Symposium.

Left: Paddlers from Jersey Sea Kayak Symposium arriving through the mist.

Photos by Gordon Brown

kayak brought to Jersey specially for this demo and his own Inuit paddling clinic on the Monday. It was something to see Derek Hutchinson at a rolling demonstration in the audience.

### New Zealand's Fjordland

Saturday evening saw the entire company, contributors, participants, club members, partners and children meet at the Pomme D'Or for the keynote lecture. Not even the organisers knew which of their trips was to be the subject of Dan and Karen Trotters show. It turned out to be a very entertaining account of a four and a half month trip in New Zealand's Fjordland. They



used a New Zealand designed and built sea touring double of considerable capacity and were on their own for much of the time. Obviously well practised at this sort of thing Karen and Dan bounced the talking back and forward between each other interspersed with evocative background music and taped New Zealand bird calls. An excellent presentation appreciated by the assembly.

Hotel Pomme D'Or was again the venue of Sunday evenings happenings, the Symposium Dinner. The excellent meal was followed by a disco which went on into the early hours on Monday morning and was enjoyed by all although it must be a sign of my advancing years that I thought the music just a tad loud for the promotion of good conversation.

### Blond Bomber from Geordieland

During his after dinner speech the Blond Bomber from Geordieland, Derek Hutchinson paid tribute to the work of Martin Meling the Chairman of the

the prize winners and the runners up.

Considered by many as one of the classic sea paddles a trip to 'Les Ecrehoues' was planned for the Wednesday. Despite thick mist three groups of paddlers set out for this charming group of small islands and rocks six miles north east from Jersey and half way to France.

Greve de Lecq was the starting spot for the young, fit and energetic paddlers who visited the 'Paternosters' and the 'Divouilles' en route. Another party left from Bonne Nuit Bay to voyage via the 'Divouilles' while the remainder paddled out from St. Catherines breakwater.

It is reported that the vision of 'Les Ecrehoues' appearing through the mist, with their cluster of deceptively small houses, a relic of old fishing practices, was an ethereal experience that will be remembered long after.

Another group of adventurous souls had set off from the south west of the island (Jersey) to



Above: Pauline Thompson - Tidal Slalom  
Photo by Gordon Brown



# Sea Kayak Symposium

BCU Sea Touring Committee, and presented him with the Union's Award of Merit in recognition of his outstanding representation on behalf of the BCU at the Lyme Bay trial. A most appropriate gathering for such an event.

Derek, never shy of being controversial, spoke about the differences between the organisation of sea paddling, sporting and commercial, in the USA as compared to here. His conclusions may not have been universally accepted by the company but they certainly fuelled discussion.

Those who stayed on on Tuesday evening beyond the symposium proper gathered at the bar, reserved for the club, in the new Quennevais Park sports centre. Teams were formed, battle lines drawn and a fun canoeing quiz commenced. Although an enjoyable light hearted evening a good spread of sea paddling knowledge was required and there was very little between

paddle to yet another set of offshore islets, the 'Minquiers', half way to France in a southerly direction. The distances here were longer and the main party stayed overnight but were joined on their return by a keen group who considered it a day paddle. At least the overnights had the benefit of full facilities, the most southerly toilet in the British Isles.

### Slalom course

Some may be surprised that Jersey Canoe Club has a slalom course as there are no paddleable rivers on the island. These ingenious subjects of the Duke of Normandy have contrived to secure metal brackets to the rocks exposed at low tide. These in turn anchor scaffold poles, erected as required to support lines to the handrails on the promenade at St Catherines. Slalom gates are suspended from the lines and all that is needed is the tide to come in, which it does with some

gusto in Jersey.

What better to do while waiting for the tide than to have a barbecue? The sun shone and there was a surprise birthday party for two young ladies one from Guernsey and one from Northern Ireland and a pleasant time was had by all.

When the tide did arrive a fun slalom was held. It was surprising how the slight swell swilling round the rocks complicated the approach to some gates. What is a fun slalom? Well when the organisers supply a fleet of identical plastic sea boats to make the competition equal then a certain coach paddles round with Inuit style storm paddles requiring a sliding stroke, that's fun.

As if involvement in a symposium was not enough one of the organisers and one of the visiting contributors were being assessed for the final part of their sea coach award. They both passed. Well done Tom Turner and Donald Thomson.

As was to be expected the symposium was a great success and congratulations are due to Jersey Canoe Club, the whole of their 'green shirt' team and in particular to Tom and Jerry.



## Symposium Details

- 56 paying participants**
- 17 local organisers/contributors**
- 17 visiting contributors from Texas, Nottingham, Co Down, Inverarie, Dorset, Lancaster, Sunderland, South Shields, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Kent, Plymouth, Leicester and the Kingdom of Fife.**

**For events like the keynote lecture, Symposium dinner and barbecue etc. the numbers were swollen by partners, children and friends and must have reached about 200 at the lecture.**

**Article by Duncan R Winning**



The second ranking surf kayak competition of 1996 saw a return to Llangennith on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales. A powerful, and popular beach break a short drive away from Swansea. A local break for the majority of the Welsh team, and this was reflected with the Welsh paddlers dominating the finishing places.

Article by  
Robbie Lines

# Llangennith 1996

## 13th & 20th April

**T**he winter of 1996 had been a poor winter for surf, and the spring was proving to be no different with, for the second time this year, a competition being run in small conditions. The opening two rounds of the competition were completed before the end of the first day in conditions barely large enough to run a competition.

We awoke to even less surf on Sunday 14th, and after much deliberation the organisers came to the decision to delay the remainder of the competition until the following weekend.

On the following Saturday (20th April), the competition was able to continue in clean moderate sized waves under a clear blue sky. With just 14 heats left to run, the first of the open quarter finals went out onto the water at 11am. Thanks to the clean conditions, pleasant weather and the swift organisation the competitors were able to enjoy themselves, strut their stuff and show off. This all contributed to a high standard of surfing.

### Novice Final

In the first of the finals it was Pete Mugford that claimed the Novice Trophy. Leaving Bob Farmer in 2nd, Neil Watts 3rd and Teressa Moss 4th. For the second time in two consecutive competitions the fight for the Junior Trophy was between Ben Thomas and Graham Brooks. This time the advantage went to Ben leaving Neil Watts and Ceri Davies to pick up 3rd and 4th respectively.

### Masters Final

For the first time since its introduction in 1995 the Masters Final didn't see an appearance from Mike Jenkins. Like all the other finals the Masters was a keenly contested event. In the end it was Chris Bray who surfed into first place, closely followed by Kevin Trudgeon in 2nd, Mick Blousefield in 3rd and Simon Pinner in 4th.

### Ladies Final

Like the other finals the Welsh were benefiting from home advantage, but this wasn't going to upset Sue Davey as she surfed to her second victory of the season. This left the two Welsh ladies, Sharron Jeffries and Bethan Thomas to pick up 2nd and 3rd, whilst Teressa Moss had to be content with her second 4th place of the competition.

### Open Final.

The real dominance of the Welsh was in evidence again in the Open Final with three paddlers again this year in the final. By this stage of the day the swell was beginning to die. Gone were the larger rouge waves, but so too had the wind resulting in near perfect glassy 2-3ft waves. After 20 minutes of highly enjoyable surfing action the positions went 1st to Simon Davies, 2nd Tim Thomas, 3rd to sole Englishman Robbie Lines and 4th Simon Pinner.

Thanks go to Richard Berry and his team of organisers and judges for running a successful competition against difficult conditions,

## The Welsh Open Freshwater West 1-2 June

The on-going friendly rivalry between the Welsh and the English continued in this the third ranking competition of the 1996 Surf Kayak calendar. Following the dominance of the Welsh in the opening two competitions, this time the lime light went to the English.

Saturday morning at Freshwater West and strong on shore winds were leading to blown out conditions. It would have been a hard task to carry a boat down to the waters edge, yet alone paddle out against the prevailing conditions. Had the competition remained here, it would have been a test of survival skills and not of surfing ability. Though this may have favoured the stronger paddlers the competition was moved to a little known sheltered bay where we were able to enjoy cleaner waves away from the ravaging wind.

There had been a smaller entry to this competition. Just over 30 competitors this time in comparison to the 60 entrants to the previous two competitions. However, with vast majority of the 30 hardest core surfers in attendance, all looking for team selection, the competition was as fiercely contested as ever.

Making a debut appearance was the all new Mega Performance Jester Titan. With its radical planing hull making it faster and more manoeuvrable than it's predecessors a new era in Surf Kayak manoeuvres can be achieved.

The manoeuvrability of this new boat was witnessed as early as the first heat of the first round. Further

examples followed though out the day as the competition proceeded through the opening rounds of the competition.

Also making debuts to the surfing scene were a number of newcomers. Most notable of these were John Brooks from Anglesey who's progress through the opening rounds earned him the Best Newcomers Trophy. (Shame he left before the prize giving!) At the end of the day's competition our new secret venue yielded some new perfect conditions at high tide for the mass "free surf" session. (Free surfing sessions are were no competition rules apply, just general rules of surfing etiquette).

A later start on the Sunday morning and we returned to our designated beach, Freshwater West. The wind had dropped and had left dying waves for the final stages of the competition. But with these dying waves starting at 4-5 foot and dropping to 2-3 foot in the last final we just had sufficient surf for the completion of the competition.

In the finals Welshman Ben Thomas made two appearances whilst Bethan Thomas was the only Welsh Lady to make a final. Of the English paddlers dominating the final, placing the crowning glory was to go to the Toon Army headed by Malcolm Fawcett.

In the Junior final Ben Thomas again kept Graham Brooks of Newcastle at bay whilst Noel Dumet took third place away from Neil Watts.

Having won both previous ladies' events Sue Davey had to settle with second whilst English Team mate Lesley Harker took first, and ever improving newcomer Teressa Moss clinched third from Bethan Thomas.

Following a weekend of consistent good surfing Chris Bray took his second Masters title of the season, Taddy Williams took 2nd, Dave Kensdal 3rd and Mick Blousefield with his broken toe seemed quite content with 4th.

The Novice final saw the Hawker combination of father and son taking on the challenge from Neil Watts and Noel Dumet. Son, James Hawker earned 4th, Geordie Neil Watts third, Andrew Hawker 2nd and Noel Dumet first. Congratulations to Noel who now progresses out of the Novice category and joins the big boys.

As usual the last final was the blue ribbon event of the Open International class. Seventeen year old Ben Thomas, who, hindered by poor waves and exertion from his previous final could only muster a 4th position in the new Jester Titan. The other Titan in the final was steered to a third position by Robbie Lines, whilst Masters winning Chris Bray squeezed ahead into second position. However throughout the final it was Malcolm Fawcett of the Toon Army with his slashing turns that was streets ahead of the rest and a deserved winner.

Thanks again go to Richard Berry, his helpers and his judges for running another excellent competition and for supplying near perfect weather.





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# Survival of the Fittest

Snow melt and thunderstorms caused ever changing river conditions for the 20th Wild Water Racing World Championships on the River Sanna in Austria.

In the non-stop training on Wednesday the British team faired well, memorising their river routes for the racing ahead. Only to find that on Thursday torrential flooding had caused tons of debris to wash into the river, changing the river bed and water features of the main rapid.

Haystacks and stoppers appeared where there had been none and the house sized boulder on Pians rapid disappeared over night. This caused much discussion and furrowed brows on Thursdays rest day, and the British C2 crew of Farr and Ross decided to take their life in their hands and run the river, only to discover another boulder had moved and lodged itself in the middle of an apparently clean line. Smashing head on and disintegrating the complete front end of the boat, they capsized and Paul Farr heroically swam Pians rapid and saved the boat from total destruction, his marine training standing him in good preparation for a tough swim. Although on

Main Picture:  
Ian Tordoff

Vladi Panato,  
C1 World Champion

James Lee, C1 GB

Lisa Rae, GB C1 Ladies

Blackman & Blackman, GB C2



bruised reflection he felt that this hadn't been such a good idea.

Michael Mason also joined the Farr school of swimming and was lucky to sustain only limited cuts and bruises to his legs.

This year saw a change to the usual race order with Friday being Canadian paddlers only, Saturday kayaks and Sunday all teams. Friday arrived and tension in the British camp became more apparent. The sun shone brightly in the beautiful town of Pians providing a magnificent backdrop to the opening races.

## Spectacular strength

In the C1 event the spectacular strength and panache of Vladi Panato lead him to another World Championship title. The British C1 teams ranks were depleted with the loss of Mackon Singh who sustained a shoulder injury due to the ferocious nature of Pians rapid. However, Mackon's vocal talents and persuasive attitude were not wasted, when he began a new career as commentator for Eurosport.

Rob Pumphrey raced a blinder battling his way down river to 15th place, with John Willacy in hot pursuit going into 21st place and James 'The General' Lee rock hopping his way impressively into Pians stopper and 26th position.

Next the C2s powered their mighty craft downstream, the invincible crew of Vala and Slucik once again taking the World Championship title. Every C2 crew encountered problems on the monstrous Pians section.

The British family oriented C2 crews proved they can still mix it with the best even on a big water course, with Blackman and Blackman the first Brits home in 11th place, after a shaky start through the stopper where only an amazing recovery stroke from younger brother Howard saved them from an inevitable swim.

The Clough brothers raced into 14th place just pipping the 'newly wed' crew of Pearton and Belbin into 15th position, with Ross and Farr still shaken from the previous days whiplash racing into a creditable 17th place at their first World Championships.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny, the lack of rain over the last 24 hours had caused the river to drop considerably, changing the features once again.

## Second World Championship

In the ladies event the host nation cheered the Austrian Uschi Profanter to her second World Championship win in a row, followed by Castet of France and Brokof from Germany. The British ladies had their fair share of stopper bashing down Pians. Unfortunately Tina Parsons mis-timed her entry to the top of the rapids and capsized, swimming down much to the delight of the camera crews.

Cynthia Berry raced into 11th place with Lisa Rae only 6 seconds behind in 16th position. Debbie Hales survived her first World Championship event finishing in 24th place.

The might of Markus Gickler was once again unbeatable, the 6'8" German paddler raced into the record books with a fourth World Championship win, the only Wild Water Racer to achieve four consecutive wins. Ever 'the Bridesmaid' Pontarollo

from Italy pushed into 2nd place by 1.79 seconds, Germany gained 3rd place in the shape of Axel Lehmacher a tip for the top in years to come.

The Brits of Ian Tordoff, Michael Mason, DRH Taylor and Melvin Swallow raced with strength and credit, with Tordoff paddling into 12th position, Michael Mason the youngest in the team racing into 22 place, closely followed by DRH Taylor in 28th and Melvin Swallow the 'Daddy' of the team in 37th position.

## Taken its toll

Sunday and the team events beckoned, the river had taken its toll over the week with many paddlers being injured, a dislocated shoulder, broken fingers and toes were just some of the injuries incurred.

First off where the C1s of Pumphrey, Willacy and 'The General' Lee. Once again 'The General' met up with his magnetic rock but recovered well finishing in 6th place. The C2 crews of Brothers Blackman, Brothers Clough, Belbin and Pearton provided me with an exclusive birthday message taped to their boats, but raced seriously to finish in 5th position.

The ladies K1's, of Berry, Rae and Hales, had a tricky shoot of Pians with Debbie Hales breaking out, but staying calm she got back on to the race line and finished in 6th place.

In the Mens event, Tordoff, Taylor and Mason pushed hard all the way, being the 3rd fastest on the final split but finishing eventually in 5th place.

On Sunday night entertainment at the team meal was provided by Martin 'Iceman' Streeter the C1 coach, Paul 'MacDonald' Farr and Steve the Physio Marine, all I can say is 'Party Animals', but that's another story.

Many thanks must go to the Austrian Canoe Federation and the people of Landeck and Pians for a very entertaining week.

**See you in Garmisch.**

**Wendy Blackman**

**Photos by**

**Ian Greig**

# Results

## C1 Individual

- 1 **Vladi PANATO, ITA** 12:31.46
- 2 **Olaf SCHWARZ, GER** 12:34.65
- 3 **Mirko SPELLI, ITA** 12:42.58
- 15 **Rob PUMPHREY, GBR** 13:01.72
- 21 **John WILLACY, GBR** 13:15.96
- 26 **James LEE, GBR** 13:22.58

## C2 Individual

- 1 **Vladimir VALA/ Jeroslav SLUCIK, SVK** 12:15.86
- 2 **Damien FAYASSE/ Pierre ROOS, FRA** 12:17.37
- 3 **Jan SUTEK/ Stefan GREGA, SVK** 12:19.59
- 11 **Howard BLACKMAN/ Neil BLACKMAN, GBR** 12:52.06
- 14 **Andy CLOUGH/ Iain CLOUGH, GBR** 13:04.74
- 15 **Dave BELBIN/ Ross PEARTON, GBR** 13:04.87
- 17 **Jim ROSS/ Paul FARR, GBR** 13:09.06

## K1 Ladies - Individual

- 1 **Uschi PROFANTER, AUT** 12:53.08
- 2 **Laurence CASTET, FRA** 12:53.46
- 3 **Claudia BROKOF, GER** 12:55.06
- 11 **Cynthia BERRY, GBR** 13:19.82
- 16 **Lisa RAE, GBR** 13:25.82
- 24 **Debbie HALES, GBR** 13:46.41

## K1 Men - Individual

- 1 **Markus GICKLER, GER** 11:57.65
- 2 **Robert PONTAROLLO, ITA** 11:59.44
- 3 **Axel LEHMACHER, GER** 11:59.69
- 12 **Ian TORDOFF, GBR** 12:12.32
- 22 **Michael MASON, GBR** 12:25.62
- 28 **David TAYLOR, GBR** 12:32.57
- 37 **Melvin SWALLOW, GBR** 12:44.42

## C1 Team

- 1 ITALY
- 2 SLOVENJA
- 3 FRANCE
- 6 GREAT BRITAIN

## C2 Team

- 1 GERMANY
- 2 FRANCE
- 3 SLOVAKIA
- 5 GREAT BRITAIN

## K1 Ladies Team

- 1 FRANCE
- 2 GERMANY
- 3 AUSTRIA

## K1 Mens Team

- 1 GERMANY
- 2 FRANCE
- 3 ITALY



## The British team would like to thank.

**The drivers;** Andy, Linda, Nigel, and Derek. **The Coaches;** Neil, Guy, Martin and Moggy.

**Team Manager,** John Handyside and **team physio** Steve Melbourne. Also **Desperate Measures, Phoenix of Nottingham, Peak, Palm, Animal** and **Costwold Camping** for their support and assistance.





Further details from Celtic paddles on 01690 760340 or write to Bryn Aber, Cwm Machno, Penmacho Gwynedd LL24 ORL Reviewed by Kevin Danforth

# Celtic Paddles

**T**he story goes something like this; Two Irishmen and a man from Reading seeking respite from some hard recreational paddling, emerge from the Jungle in Costa Rica

and stumble across a craftsman shaping wood for white water warriors (or is that worriers?). Hey gringo, want paddle? Believe it or not that is fairly close to the truth.

The boys did indeed want paddles and in volume, branded up to sell in Britain at about half the price of the North American equivalent. The pair I tested hit the mark. I'm a sucker for natural wood and these blades look good, feel good and probably do you good. I seem to recall that in days of old when surf was bold and wood was all their was, I never suffered the strains pains and grumpiness of RSI's. It's not just the onslaught of old age either: some of the young

Turks complain that their bodies are suffering from the abuse of stiff carbon and alloy. Wooden paddles are organic, warm and aesthetically pleasing. They're not cheap, but I think they are worth the price and maintenance. The 'river' blade shape on the demo set was a biggish asymmetric shape, great for acceleration, and bags of bite for general river bashing. The tip is laminated with a nylon rim, which is both tough and hard wearing. The price wasn't too bad, considering the craft involved (around £120, depending on length feather etc.)

Celtic are importing a number of blade shapes in a variety of shapes & sizes. There are surf and sea paddling profiles and an excellent budget priced Canadian paddle. Wood is good.



Reviewed by White Water Warrior, Allan Ellard

Pete's AWESOME Streamlyte blades are available from: Paddlesport, Park Farm Estate, Compton Verney, Nr Stratford,, Warwickshire, CV35 9HJ Tel: 01926 640573. These full carbon white water rodeo, slalom asymetrics come at £155.

## Streamlyte Blades... Formed to Shred!

Over the last few years kayaking has been busy evolving. Boats have gone all funny shapes, and words like cartwheel, flipwheel, wagonwheel and woopy emerge from play holes all over the world. Whatever the mission there is one weapon common to the cause, the blades you shred with. Paddles could possibly be the most personal gear you use, other than your super trendy colour co-ordinated gear and nose clip. This is where Pete Howard's awesome Streamlyte blades come into the picture. Pete's years of experience and innovation have lead him to vacuum pack, foam cored, Kevlar carbon blades that were just formed to shred. The blades I tried were Streamlytes full carbon slalom asymetrics, layed up slightly thicker for a white water and rodeo thrashing. With the blades set at 45 degrees on a Lendal carbon shaft, full length 200cm. I set off on a Warrior tour of Scotland. I was not disappointed, the

face of the blade gives a solid flutter free stroke and when it comes to pulling

woopies, the back of the blade gives you the grip and control you need.

When it comes to cartwheels, well I'm still trying, but the blades sure give the power and support I think you need. They're also so light you can practice all day, so your bound to work those dam cartwheels out eventually. These blades and the rest of Streamlytes range come in a variety of constructions. Personalised colours and cloth customs are available, plus a stack of shaft shapes and sizes. Pete will set blades to your feather and length and also help anyone not quite sure what the feather is.



Retailing at approximately £19.95 inc VAT they are the coolest flip flops, slaps, surf shoes you are likely to find. See you on the beach. For details of stockists ring 01243 673 666

Review by Wendy Blackman

## Reef-Brazil Bali Sandal

Reef-Brazil have expanded their range of sandals and now include a 3-point thong sandal, with extra wide straps.

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The straps are made from polypropylene webbing which is hard wearing but is also extremely soft and does not cause chafing. The base of the sandal is anatomically moulded and provides support under the toes which stops the foot from slipping and also provides arch support.



## Peak Sea Zip Buoyancy Aid

Peak have added another design to their range of buoyancy aids. The Sea Zip is a CE approved performance design, with super soft foam for added comfort and increased durability due to its Cordura R shell. It has two large front pockets, a knife patch, and a large rear pocket which is easy to reach, suitable for flares or throw line. All pockets have quick drain mesh panels. The Sea Zip is available in high visibility colours for ocean use or fashionable colours for inland use. With adjustable shoulders, sides and waist belt it is available in two fully adjustable sizes: ladies/youth and gents.

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Article and  
photo by  
Nigel Timmins

**NVQs Within Canoeing -  
BCU Gains Approval**

Below:

Andy Hall and  
Keith Morris, RCO  
Cumbria (left)

The BCU is now the approved centre  
to offer NVQs within Canoeing. The  
awarding body is City and Guilds and

we are "live" for Level 2 Coach,  
Closed Cockpit kayak and Open  
Canoe.

**First Candidates**

Last January our first candidate Andy Hall achieved his Level 2 Open canoe NVQ. Andy works for Mere Mountains, a small enterprise specialising in outdoor activities and training, he was assessed by P Button from Adventure Education, Penrith, who was one of the first batch of NVQ assessors to be brought on line to be able to provide the award. We are now in to double figures with the number of NVQ candidates and we have some 60 NVQ assessors in place.

**First Assessors**

We are providing training to those Level 3, E2, Coach's who want to become NVQ assessors via the services of the NCF and our first assessor to complete his assessor

award was Matt McElroy from Arrochar Centre though he was quickly followed by 3 other candidates.

If you are interested in becoming an assessor then we have 2 more courses September 19/20 and October 19/20 based at Nottingham. If you already hold an NVQ assessor award but wish to convert to becoming an BCU/NVQ assessor then all you need do is attend the first day of the two training days mentioned above. You must however already be a Level 3 E2 assessor. If you wish to gain a Level 2 Certificate then you will need to buy an NVQ log book from the BCU office £8 with folder or £6 without. You can then start working towards your BCU Coach Level 2 and onwards to your NVQ Level 2 award with an approved BCU/NVQ assessor. This will provide you with a nationally recognised award respected by all employers, and will enable you to more easily transfer the skills you have already showed competence in to other NVQ awards in other disciplines. It is interesting to note the increasing number of job adverts which ask for NVQ qualifications.





## FOR SALE

**Canoe Trailer** - holds 4 to 6 canoes with storage for kit. It has an extending tail bar for use when loaded or unloaded £200. Call Stratford 01789 299535 after 6pm any day except Tuesday.

**Kiwi 2** open seater (with backs) tourer, very stable. 2 d/b paddles, 2 b/aids, 1 Palm cag, all in excellent condition £300 Tel: 01773 717198 (Derbys)

**Kirton Tiger K1**, blue, under stern and o/s, seat, excellent condition £350 Tel: 01822 853601 after 5pm (Plymouth)

**Nomad Junior Kayak**, excellent condition, suitable for children up to 11 years), 2 Helly Hansen b/aids, infant and child's. 2 short paddles £120 Tel: lain 01467 681677(Aberdeenshire)

**Pyranha Mountain Bat MK II**, excellent condition, full ww spec, yellow £250 also Arrowcraft Aqua Bat, pool spec used once £100 Tel: 0121 502 5972 eves (W Mids)

**Clearout Sale** 3 ACE Europas, £100 each good condition: 1 Wetsuit long-john £10, 1 VVW Dry Cag, twin waist seal, vgc as knew £60. Tel: Ian on 0161 745 5000 ext 4522 (days), 01204 701 934 (eves) Lancs. E-mail: i.f.brunell@eee.salf.ac.uk.

**2 Snipes** £120 each ono. 4 MK 5 Bats £90 each ono. Never used contact Andy Tel: 01472 346271

**Club Clear Out, WWR £30, Zappa Surf skis 2 £30 each, Rotobats 5 £60 each, Stuntbat £250 or near offers Tel: 0191 2526584/01291 2868842**

**Pyranha Master**, white including full plate footrest, backstrap and neoprene spraydeck £150, Gaybo Olymp, with WW spraydeck, good condition £90, canoe/kayak trailer, spare wheel £125 Tel: 0121 353 8983 (West Midlands)

**Prijon T Canyon**, only five months old from new, light use only and in superb condition. Includes airbags, adjustable backrest and stern drainage bung, offers call Nic on 01395 279931 (Devon)

**Perception Dancer** and Kober paddle £200. Good condition, Tel: 01260 252919 (Macclesfield)

**Trailer** fully braked and lights to hold 20 to 25 kayaks. 1 year old cost £800 quick sale no room to store £450. Also 1 Racing Australian Ski u/stern rudder, as new condition, quick sale £200 Tel: 01288 321765

**Pyranha Acrobat 300**, artiline multi yellow/red/blue/black ww spec. Good condition, kept under cover, air bags £325 Contact Ray: 01494 543170 office hours Chesham. 01494 791982 Eves

**Jura Sea Double 23'9"** stable sea touring boat. Purple deck/grey hull, stainless steel rudder, back cockpit steering, 2 round vcp hatches, 1 oval hatch vgc, diolen deck and hull £680 contact George on 0115 9819758 or 9142610 Nottm.

**Eclipse Sceptre K1**, marathon, red, u/s rudder, excellent condition £325 ono Tel: 01606 48117 Cheshire

**Freestyle Kayak**, good condition, inc, split air bags, spraydeck and paddle. Good beginners boat £120 neg. Tel: 01661 852793 or Rachel 0113 2304906 rm 3/3

**Roof Rack**, Peugeot original 306, heavy duty, gutterless, bolt on, as new £35 Tel: 01386 858022

**Nordkapp HM**, virtually unused and in VGC £500 ono Contact Ray Williamson 01228 562 302 Glasgow

**Venturer** full expedition sea kayak, diolen construction £400. Nomad Extra slalom kayak, kevlar construction £200 both in VGC Tel: Stuart 0161 8882156 eves (Salford)

**Nookie** dry trousers £40, Palm dry top £40, Polar one piece suit £15, Nookie white water b/vest medium and large £40 each. Play Boater b/aid, lots of pockets, small £30 Three pairs pogies £5 each Tel Swindon 01793 870005

**Eagle 14'6"** touring kayak. GRP fibreglass construction. 4 years old, in excellent condition. Two tone blue £95. Brian Calvert (Berkshire) 01628 29787

**Pyranha Magic Bat**, yellow, good condition, full ww spec, F/R airbags, rear

deck lines Hip/Thigh braces £285 ono Tel: 01260 298474 Ray (Congleton)

**Perception Reflex 95** carbon kevlar construction, clear finish, only used 11 times, immaculate condition, matching kevlar blades, very, very light, new neoprene spraydeck, helmet, b/aid £550 Tel: 0121 308 3500 W Mids

**Pyranha Microbat**, red, full ww spec, full plate footrest, heavy duty airbags, drain plug, backstrap plus gasket spraydeck. Ideal play/extreme river running boat £300 ono Tel: Glyn 01242 521423

**Granta 17' Marine Ply Canadian**, paddles, buoyancy and sailing rig, good condition £250 ono Tel: 01922 684842 ansaphone (Mids)

**Eurokayak (Conquest)**, full ww spec, fitted with, bolt on bow cap, bulkhead foot rest, adjustable backstrap, rear air bag, drain bung, good condition £225, Tel: Mark on 01252 615438 Fleet, Hants

**Mountain Bat MK II**, ww spec, in VGC, just over 1 year old £275 ono. Pyranha Master excellent condition used for 1 summer season only £175 ono. Both boats stored under cover. Please contact John or Maria on 01270 587908 Crewe.

**Stunt Bat**, yellow, full plate footrest £200. Prijon Hurricane, purple with quality squashed back, £275. Pete or Cathy 01705 454340 (Hants) should be able to deliver in any part of England.

**Waveski** Prodesigns custom 7'7" quad belt, power pad, adj foot straps, carbon stringer, comes with 'Blades' paddle and ski cover. Suit approx 5'10" 12.5 stones. Excellent condition £300 Kingsbridge 01548 856077

**K1 Kirton Tiger** VGC £150. Kirton Espada good condition £50. New Fibreglass paddle box £50 Tel: 0117 9659608 (Eves)

**Sailing Rig for Open Canoe**. Also Tent, Vango Hurricane Beta for sale £120. Thule feet attachments for roof rack for Peugeot 405 and Renault Laguna £10 each. Complete Thule roof rack for a car with gutters £20. Spraydeck for Legend Sea Kayak (unused) £20. Also pair of Zamberlan Ladies boots size 40 used once £30. Lowe Alpine Liberty rucksack nearly new £95. All prices on no basis. Phone Paul 01738 583043. (Perth)

**Hardly Used Ace Europa** kayak and a left handed New Wave Professional paddle £150 Tel: 01937 582414 N Yorks

**Pyranha Magic Bat** full ww spec, airbags, backrest, full plate footrest, gasket buoyancy aid large 3000 ww helmet £365 ono Tel: 01803 606379 Torquay

**Dagger Freefall**, green blue artiline, VGC. Only used once on the Dart, rest flat water £350 ono Tel: 01225 429868 Dave

**Aleut II Sea Double**. Good condition and seaworthy £500 Tel: Mark 0131 657 4418 (Edinburgh)

**Sea King** sea kayak with pump, good condition £195 tel: Colin Pickering 01751 473209 (w)

**Haze Vortex** red glitter deck, natural hull in diolen, complete with neoprene deck £125. Perception Mirage ww spec complete with Wild Water twin seal deck £120. Two neoprene long john zipped suits for up to 5'2" and 5'8" tall £20 each. Tel: 01708 226986 Essex

**Pyranha Mountain Bat** full ww spec with airbags, full plate footrest and backstrap £200 or will swap for Corsica S Tel Fred: 01846 609160 work/624636 eve (N Ireland)

**Dagger Freefall LT** x-linked, full plate footrest, VGC £340 ono Tel: Sheffield 0114 2471453 Rupert

**Arrowcraft Aquabat**, red, good polo or pool boat £150 ono Tel: 01476 860605 (Grantham Lincs)

**Kevlar Derwent** slalom canoe, blue/silver glitter £200. Avoncraft Eliminator, red £150. Discovery K1, blue £150, assortment of spray decks and paddles, Sudbury, Suffolk area Tel: 01787 311482

**Rotobat**, plastic, plate footrest, buoyancy bags, grab handles, on deck quick release tow system, 'gasket' neoprene deck £225 Tel: 01865 821667

**16' Selway Fisher 4** plank canoe, hull built, needs fitting out. All plans and instructions £65, national curriculum forces cessation of project Tel: Ian 0151 648 1095

**Prijon Spud**, vgc, green £280 ono Tel: Pete on 01296 434107 Aylesbury

**Jester** Ticolite, vgc, full carbon, white with blue and red wiggly lines £350 ono the ultimate surf machine Simon 01639 635947

**Skerray** plastic sea kayak, hatches, bulkheads, retractable skeg, foot pump, recessed deck fittings with lines and elastics £375, neoprene XL deck (used 3 times) £35. Perception Mirage, plastic kayak, ancient but excellent condition £75 Wildwater paddles, wooden shaft, fibreglass blades £35 Tel: 01633 244980 (Newport, S Wales)

**18' Cedar Strip Touring Canoe**, cane seats, ash gunwales and thwarts £1200 Tel: 01635 47604 Newbury

**Pyranha MK 2 Mountain Bat**, yellow, full ww spec with backrest, 2 years old, good condition £220 ovno. Could deliver to most venues in England or Wales. Tel Mike on 01684 572280

**Innis Sea kayak**, with 3 hatches and a pump, with wooden Lendal paddles and b/aid £650. Air Aquatic, general purpose boat, with Cobra paddles and Yak spraydeck £300. Dagger with Schlegal paddles and Yak spraydeck £350, 8 boat trailer with storage box £350. Other bits and pieces, genuine reason for sale call Michelle or Paul on 01406 380480 Spalding area.

**WWR C2 Feeling**, VGC, kevlar carbon foam deck, kevlar hull £800 Tel: 01283 517375 eves.

**Very Stable Marathon K1**, o/s rudder, good condition £120. Also roof bars for Vauxhall Cavalier cost £85 will accept £40 Tel: 01386 831904 (Worcs)

**Pyranha Creek 280**, ww spec, 2 years old and neoprene deck to fit £275 Tel: Alastair (01598) 763544 eves (Devon)

**1 Pyranha Master** which has a repair to rear hence price £100, comes with nylon spraydeck and new wave RH paddle. Ideal first boat or for flat water. Also 1 Perception Mirage good condition £120 ono, 1 Baron Machetti WWR average condition for age £50 ono, 1 RH Lendal wing £45, 1 RH full carbon Powermasters £35 Tel: John 0973 255556 (Stockport)

**Pyranha Rotobat**, ww spec, red, 2 years old, good condition, airbags, footrest, backrest £200 Tel: 0116 2366008/0585 333047 (Leics)

**Perception Reflex 95** carbon kevlar construction. Clear finish, only used 11 times. Immaculate condition. Matching kevlar blades, very, very light. New spraydeck, helmet and buoyancy aid £550 Tel: 0121 308 3500 (W Midlands)

**Sea Paddling Bargains** very pretty Nordjapp HS- recessed deck compass, many fittings, foot and hand pumps, f&r hatches, neoprene spray deck, Kober splits (242cm), 'Lowe' towline, plus some expedition gear £500 the lot. Pair of Lendal 'Seamasters' 230cm good nick £60. Also; many deck-sized laminated marine charts of UK coastal areas. Ring 01895 446203 Middlesex.

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**Kirton Trainer k1**, used only once, too advanced for me £443, no offers, Tel: Essex 01206 330 348

**Dagger Vortex** top spec, red & yellow, platform footrest, backstrap, hardly used £380. Ask for Oly Tel: Day 0181 648 9747 Eves: 0181 641 2958

**2 Stunt Bats**, full WW spec, good condition, green or pink £285 each. Tel: 0181 450 2723

**15 Ardeche** plastic open boats, ex activity centre, bargain £100 each. Contact Darren Spurr 01288 355551

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

## WANTED OR SWAP

**Two man/lady Kayak**, plastic or GRP to borrow or buy. We would like to use it to enter the Arctic Canoe Rally in 1997. If you can help, please contact Maria or John on 01270 587908

**Pyranha Traveller** open canoe 16ft, extra thwart and seat, excellent condition, hardly used. Swap for Birch Creek or similar glasfibre Peterborough in excellent condition or sell £350 ono Tel: 01606 48117 Cheshire

**WWR** to suit small lady (7.5 stone), good condition, please Tel: Heather 01603 880093 Norwich

**Information on New Zealand** info about kayaking and canoeing, any useful addresses of individuals or organisations that could help an English paddler visiting New Zealand in November 1996 onwards Tel: Tony Morgan 01772 613663 (Preston)

**12ft Wooden Canadian Designs** published in magazine a couple of years ago or any other designs Tel: Oliver Castle 01223 232615

**C2 Marathon Canoe** Wee-No-Nah/Jenson/Kirks or long light tourer W.H.Y Call Geoff 01454 317939

**Kirton Kayak Tiger X K1** for marathon, must be good condition GRP or carbon/kevlar. Tel: Office 01273 690425 eve 01798 873904

**Lightweight** fast touring very stable marathon K1 Tel: Frances 01603 758279 (Norfolk)

**Pirouette Super Sport** or Pyranha Acrobat, must be good condition, please ring Steven 01904 691398

**Pyranha Mountain 300**, with or without extras, good condition only, tel Mark: 01400 272796 (nr Lincoln)

**Topolino Duo** must be full ww spec and in good condition and at a reasonable price. Also K2, either Stiletto, Regina or anything of same performance, must not have any patches or damage. Are there any unused K4's out there looking for a new home? If so contact John on 0973 255556

## LOST AND FOUND

**Lost on the River Wye** 5.5.96, my slalom paddles were swept downstream from Symonds Yat on Sunday 5th May. They are straight shafted with dark grey Streamlite blades, my initials (RW) and BCU no 051253 are written on them. If you can help, please call Roger Wisdom 0171 229 2617

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Neil Shave who is 50 on 27 August, with best wishes from Nomad Kayak Club

## EXPEDITIONS

**Kayak in Nepal** this Autumn. Small group adventures offering lashings of fun, sun, whitewater and much, much more, all at a very affordable price. Contact Ian on 0161 442 6882.



# Paddling in

**Atlanta airport was big, busy and unfinished! Being America everything was high tech and modern, even a train to take us to our luggage pick up point! "It can't be far we'll walk" I said. Big mistake.**

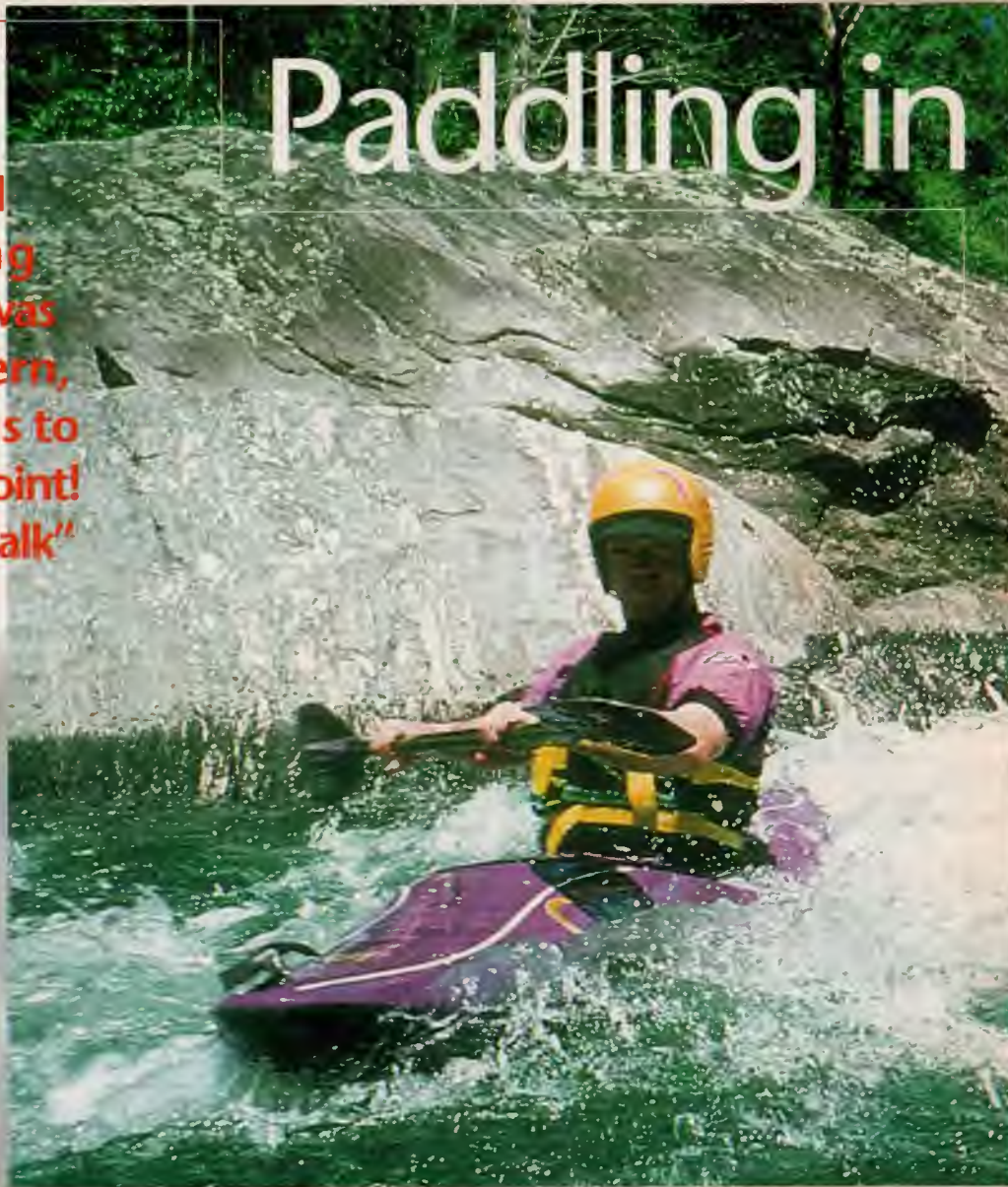
**T**wenty minutes later we arrived at the luggage collection point, everyone else had of course long since gone. I set off to sort out the hire car. There it was, big, white and beautiful, our very own Dodge Stratus! I leapt enthusiastically behind the wheel to be confronted by instant confusion. I had been prepared for things being on the wrong side but not for the missing clutch and array of flashing lights and warning buzzers that greeted me when I tried to insert the key and drive away. Leaving Atlanta was a rather jerky and haphazard affair.

Perception Kayaks at Easley, had kindly agreed to lend us three Overflow's for the duration of our trip, I was expecting ex demo's but was presented with three brand new boats straight out of stock! To hire a car in the States with a roof rack is nigh on impossible so we solved this with two very large bits of foam and strapped through the car. A good solution so long as it doesn't rain, as the straps leak. It started to rain, but did we care? not a bit of it, we had the boats, the Dodge Stratos, a full tank of gas and we were ready to rock and roll!

We based ourselves near Nantahala as it seemed to offer a good central location for the rivers of North Carolina. "Cold and fast from start to finish, the Nantahala never stops coming at you" This was the description in the guide. With quite a few sections of class III we thought this might make an easy introduction and a chance to try out the boats. The river was pleasant but not quite the exciting whitewater experience we had anticipated. Still Nantahala Falls provided an excellent looping spot and a chance to get used to the bigger boats.

### 'Big Laurel Creek'

It was hot and sunny and 'Big Laurel Creek' was up. Laurel Creek is a truly wonderful place to be, graded at class III-IV, never desperate but full of exciting rapids. The first class IV, 'Stair Steps' provided a straight run down three drops, Jenny looking pensively down from the eddy at the top soon had a big grin on her face when she broke through the stopper at the bottom. The next major drop 'Scuddy Hole' began with a three foot ledge followed by an 8ft sliding drop. The Overflow was designed as a creek boat and was really coming into it's own, big enough to get



through holes, surfacing well on drops and extremely manoeuvrable. Lots more bouncy class III lead into the last class IV 'The Narrows', a fast bouncy ride between enclosing cliff walls.

We paddled out of the Laurel and into the French Broad, almost 600ft wide with a lot of flat paddling. The guide gave one rapid class five, 'Frank Bell's' big and powerful with a few fairly large holes. The



story goes that the said Frank Bell got stuck in a whirlpool here for some ten minutes before swimming free. Andy and Jenny set off with grim faces, me, I ran

the less daunting run on the left in order to take the photo's, well someone had to. As it was they beat me down and no sign of a whirlpool, or Frank Bell.

### Infamous Chattooga section IV

Friday, and our chance to pit ourselves against the infamous Chattooga section IV, the same section that Burt Reynolds battled down in the film 'Deliverance'. I hoped we wouldn't. Over breakfast I thought I may as well read the guide, even though Shane, our American companion knew the river well, I felt I should at least have some idea of what was approaching. Bad idea, I had forgotten the guides tendency towards the theatrical. My knees started to shake and my bowl of muesli was the furthest thing from my mind. Graded at class IV-V and for advanced paddlers only! The guide gives a graphic account of everything that could go wrong and how many people had died there on the various drops. "So guys, this is going to be good then?" I think was all I managed to squeak. Andy and Jenny picked me up off the floor and told me it was all going to be OK and off we went.

The Chattooga is protected as a 'Wild and Scenic River' a term which does not do it justice. Flowing through a steeply wooded gorge three



# the Southern Appalachians

Main picture: Simon - Chattooga section 3  
 Below Left: Us at Ocoee Campsite  
 Right: Andy - Lake Tugalo, the end of  
 Chattooga section 4



miles from the road it has to be one of the best rivers I have ever paddled. Set in magnificent situations the quality of paddling is truly excellent. I was feeling much better, Shane had assured me all the drops were easily inspected and not to take the guide too literally. I had also gleaned from him that he was an instructor in River Rescue. Yep, I was ready!

The first rapid provides an excellent play hole that sent the Overflow's popping out big time. This is followed by a section of class III including 'Screaming Left Turn' and 'Rock Jumble' all good value. The first major rapid is 'Woodall Shoals' a sloping ramp into a big stopper. It didn't look too bad but that was its danger, at levels of 1.4ft the stopper becomes terminal being a double hydraulic and undercut, the river was currently running at 2.1ft. "29 people have lost their lives in that stopper" Shane comments mildly, smiling at me. Needless to say we opted for the chicken shoot on the far right, still an exciting 10ft slide into a pool followed by a very broad and shelve strewn rapid at the bottom.

The next drop, one of my favourites of the trip, and indeed, ever, '7ft Falls' appears after a left hand bend and consists of a 7ft drop, surprisingly. At an angle to the main flow, most of the river flows over the drop into a big hole at the bottom and then slams straight into an undercut. The idea is to aim at the central rock, cut

diagonally across the face of the drop, boof the stopper and land in the eddy in mid stream, thus stylishly avoiding the undercut and a horrible trashing! No Problem! Although very intimidating it was in fact not that desperate, we all aced the line to much whooping and smiling at the camera.

'Raven's Chute' was one of those rapids where you apparently let the water do the work. Ignore all people who say things like this! Jenny had obviously communicated with the River God's and aced it. The rest of us had various arguments and close acquaintances with the stopper at the bottom. We continued on, passing such notable spots as 'Deliverance Rock', 'Smokers Eddy' and the creek where the famous "Squeal like a hog" scene was filmed, we didn't stop!

### The Quiet Before the Storm

We had now reached 'The Quiet Before the Storm' a section of flat water before the final mayhem known as 'Five Falls' which consists of four drops of class IV and a final drop, of class V, all one after the other. All are major drops requiring close inspection, each one having potential for something nasty to happen to the unwary. 'Corkscrew' is a particularly intimidating drop requiring precise boat control past an awesome pour over, 'The Elevator Shaft' and a large stopper at the bottom. I managed some

good video footage of the others on this one. The jelly legs had returned. 'The Cracks' gives the paddler three options. The river flows through three narrow gaps, the left blocked by a tree, the centre has a throw line in it somewhere and the right is OK though requiring a fast boof on the right to avoid a vertical pin, some choice!

Next is 'Jawbone' an exciting ferryglide into 'Parking Lot Eddy' above a big bouncy diagonal drop. Not too bad in its self, except for 'Hydro Electric Rock'. Slap bang in the centre of the flow just below the last drop of Jawbone the rock has a hole in the centre creating a very nasty siphon. This is not a good place to swim or hang about trying to roll. The last drop, 'Sock Em Dog' is given class V and has a particularly nasty hole at the bottom that is often filled with debris and is also undercut. 'Sock Em Pup' on the far left is by far the better option for the faint hearted.

Section IV is a superb stretch of river in amazing surroundings, don't be put off by the

horror stories in the guide.

After a week it was time to move on so we headed off to the Ocoee which is dam controlled and releases quite frequently. It's a big volume river with lots of good value class III and IV very continuous. Some of the holes really are quite BIG. 'Hell's Hole' near the bottom will quite happily loop a 15ft open boat. An excellent day with loads of play potential.

The Tellico River in Tennessee is a classic creek run. 'The Ledges' is a technical class IV with steep rapids and ledges from 4ft to 7ft with 'Baby's Falls' dropping an exciting 14ft. It doesn't require much water,



### Thanks

Many thanks to  
**Sonja Lowery  
 and Perception  
 Kayaks, Easley,  
 South Carolina**  
 for their  
 support and  
 loan of the  
 excellent  
**Overflows.**

Article by  
**Simon Billington**



which is lucky as there wasn't much, but it is well worth doing. This was a good chance to try the Overflow on some really tight water, no problem. This was the sort of water I love, low volume, steep and technical. Big fun! Jared's Knee', the final rapid on The Ledges run is an exciting finish to a great river.

We opted to do the 'Nolichucky Gorge' as our last main river of the trip. Although Andy and Jenny had now banned me from reading the guide, I sneaked a look. The river was running high, at 1900cfs and I really wished I'd not looked, the guide book had struck again, the class V's did not materialise. Plenty of excellent

III and IV did though and in some of the most beautiful scenery of the trip. This is not a river to be missed, the first two thirds is packed full of fun with lots of good III and IV and deep blue crystal clear water. Andy amused us all in one particular 'play' hole called 'JAWS'. Described as being quite grabby Andy seemed to be spending a long time trying to get out. He slid out eventually, his boat full of water. The moral here is to check your drain bung before going into grabby holes.

'Quarter Mile Rapid' is just pure fun. A huge boulder garden creating an endless variety of routes, never desperate but always exciting.

Towards the end the river flattens out into a mellow class II and finally to the get out at yet another Nantahala outpost.

Paddling in the Southern Appalachians is quite superb. But be prepared to drive, we covered over 2000 miles in 14 days. Everyone was incredibly friendly and eager to help. Camping is both easy to find and cheap. Easter is one of the best times to go though do be prepared for water levels to fluctuate, this part of the Appalachians relies on rainfall to keep the rivers up. The rivers cover the whole spectrum of difficulty and scenery from steep and scary to slow and mellow.

## Focus News, Information & Events

**Sunday May 19th, canoeists from a wide area met at Sudbury, Suffolk, on the River Stour, for a Regional Canoe Day.**  
Article by **Lesley Quinlan RAO**  
Eastern Region

# Eastern Region Canoe Day

**T**his was the first time the region has held such an event for many years, and, despite the unreasonable weather, over 100 canoeists and their families turned out, arriving from as far away as London, Kent, Sussex and even Ireland.

The race, which was over a 10km course, was enjoyed by all (Only two admitted to stopping at the pub at the half way point!). We were delighted when our unexpected Guest of Honour, John Dudderidge, agreed to present the prizes, and he spent a considerable time chatting to many of those present. The BCU Lifeguards put on excellent displays of rescue techniques, and had willing volunteers to 'fall' into the river to be rescued very competently.

The 'come and Try' sessions in a variety of craft were very popular, particularly the coracles, which were enjoyed by many, including the Eastern Region Chairman, Ron Hodgson and the vice-Chairman of the Access Committee, Roger Hardman! RCO Paul West also demonstrated some rather unorthodox paddle strokes before taking to the water in an open canoe with his children. Many canoeists took advantage of the wide range of Canoes and Kayaks available; would-be canoeists with disabilities were catered for by Mike Gillon from the Voyager Trust, competently aided by LCO Steve Cone, with the result that at least two of the participants are now canoeing regularly with the local club.

Access meetings and coaching meetings took place in the Quay Theatre and the Stour Trust's Granary. These were also attended by a group on a

Trainee Instructor Course held at the venue, together with the course organiser, Henry Monaghan, LCO for Essex.

Local scouts provided an appetising barbecue and also spent the previous day cleaning the river and banks in the locality of litter. Thank you all! Several people were surprised to see themselves on Anglia Television later that evening, and also in three local newspapers over the ensuing week.

My grateful thanks go to members of Tendring Canoe Club, without whose 'invisible' work I would not have organised this event, and to all those countless other willing helpers who, in spite of the weather, also helped to make this day such a success. Thank you all.



Ron Hodgson  
Eastern Regional  
Chairman

BCU Lifeguards demonstrate rescue techniques



**On Wednesday 15th May, registered blind paddler Steve MacDonald and his sighted partner Peter Bray commenced on their epic paddle around the coastline of Britain.**  
Article by **Wendy Blackman**

# A Couple of Bright SPARKS

**H**er Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent saw them off accompanied by a host of TV and sporting personalities.

The journey started at 12.30pm from St Katherine's Dock in London and it is hoped that the lads will be welcomed back to the docks in October. I met up with the team eight days in to their programme, unfortunately they were land locked in Folkestone, Kent, but at least this gave me the opportunity to interview them on dry land.

Twenty three year old Stephen who suffers from Optic Atrophy has been paddling since he was twelve. He has a wonderful zest for life and when he's not paddling he enjoys, skiing, scuba diving, mountain walking, cycling and athletics.

Peter Bray is 40 years old, an E2 Examiner in inland and sea, with a great deal of experience in the outdoor life, much of which was gained in his 15 years in the special forces. The lads are backed up on land by Paul Weaver the driver of their sponsored Winnebago

Camper Van and Katherine Bond the PR support.

The main aim of the expedition is to raise £50,000 for SPARKS, SPort Aiding medical Research for KidS.

Paddling a twenty two foot double Faroe sea kayak, built by Darren and Karen Trotter, they aim to use their Lendal paddles to propel them 30 miles a day.

The kayak which the lads are extremely pleased with weighs approximately seventy kilos, with three hatches for storage and extra large cockpits. I was surprised to find that they were sitting on waterproof beanbags, which is an attempt to reduce any sores.

Both paddlers were extremely impressed and thankful for the assistance they were receiving from HM Coastguard. Especially when crossing Dover Harbour where the cross Channel ferry was held up while Stephen and Peter paddled by. They would like to make a special thank you to Alan Turner of HM Coastguard for his support.

They carry three days supply of food and camping gear and are

equipped with off-shore VHF radios, beacons, flares and a mobile phone to keep in contact with their support crew.

When I met up with them there was a Force 6 blowing and the forecast was for no real change for another few days, this however did not seem to deter this spirited crew whose embryonic friendship, I believe, will go full term.

By the time you read this it is hoped that the team will be approaching North West Scotland, where Stephen and Peter plan to be more self sufficient by island hopping and meeting up with the land crew on a less regular basis.

If you are aiming to paddle on the coast between now and mid-October perhaps you or your club would like to meet up with the team and give them some moral support, they would love to meet you.

For details on where they are and how they are getting on, or if you should wish to make a donation to this worthwhile charity, contact SPARKS 0171 931 8899. I really enjoyed the afternoon I spent with the team and I wish them all the very best and hope that they go the full distance.

An update will be published in October's Focus.



Steve MacDonald  
and Peter Bray





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Photo, Matt Newton