

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

canoe

focus

12-97

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World Slalom
Champs

from Brazil

European
Canoe Polo
Champs

from Germany

Canoe Sailing
National
Champs

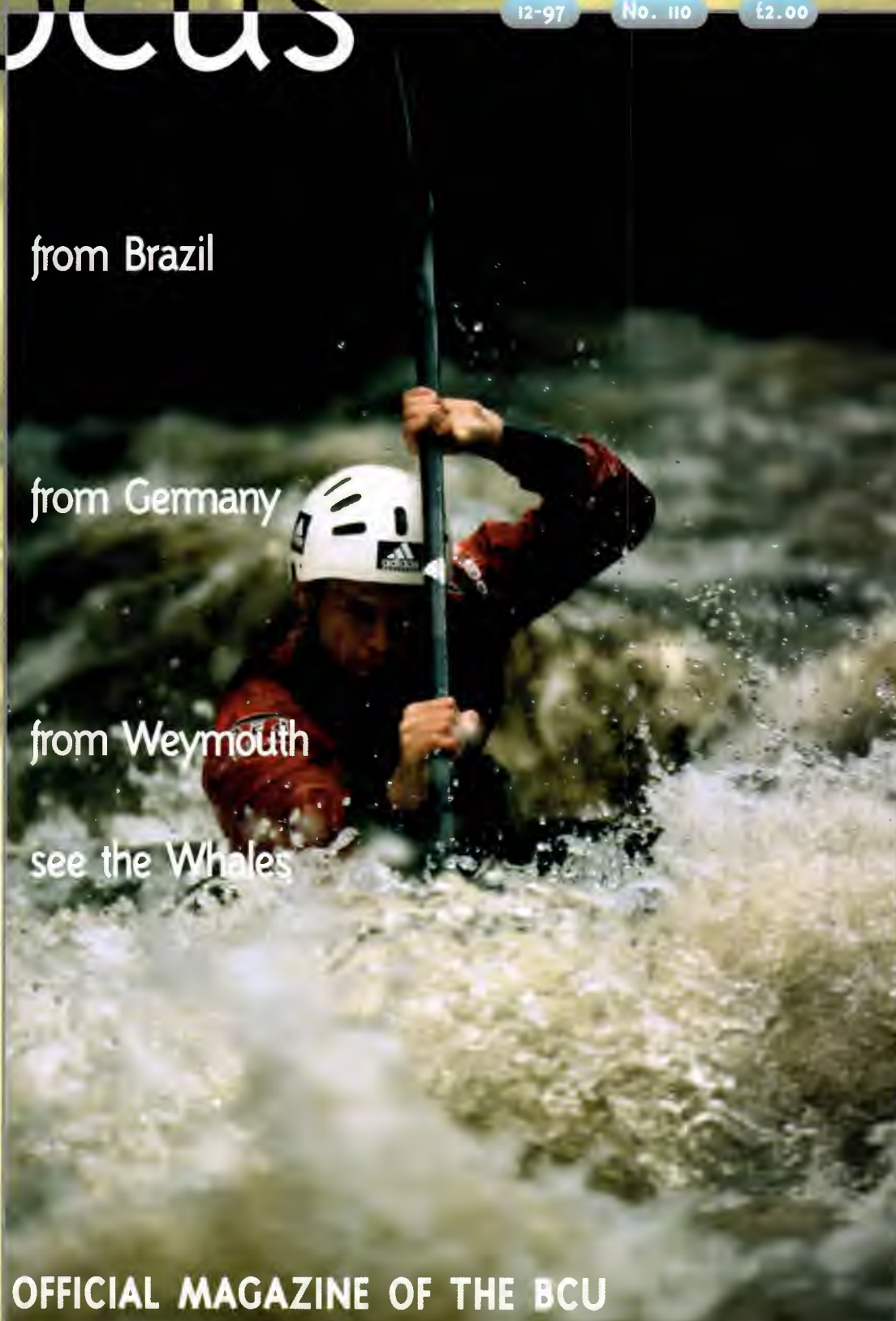
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Input & Ideas



News & Events



Features



Competition



Reviews

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Canoe Focus

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Your contributions make Focus happen. The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers. Please don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. Technical information. Contributions are acceptable in clear handwriting or typed (double spaced). PC disks (3.5 or 5.25) can be read from most Word Processing programmes especially if saved as an ASCII file. Macintosh files saved as DOS or ASCII can also be scanned. Photographic images are preferred on transparencies (colour slide). Artwork and line drawings should be clear and large. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and it's agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. Neat Copy date is the 20th DECEMBER 1997. Material arriving at FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the February 1998 issue.

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World Class Performance Plan

In the last six months, the Lottery Sports Fund has awarded over £15 million to 12 sports including canoeing. This major injection of funds provides English and British sport with its best ever opportunity to plan for and expect World Class success. In the same period, over five hundred of our most talented sports men and sports women have received subsistence awards.

Through this programme, the BCU wants to see individuals and teams achieving even greater success on the world stage.

What Is It?

The World Class Performance programme has been designed specifically to help our most talented Sportsmen and Sportswomen improve their performance and win medals in major international competitions. *It is made up of:*

Performance Plan Awards:

- Designed to provide funding for long term training and preparation programmes designed to win medals in major competitions.

Subsistence Awards :

- To provide performers who have the potential to win medals with financial support to allow them to achieve at the highest levels within their sport.

World Class Performance is the first in a family of lottery revenue programmes:

World Class Events:

- To ensure World, European and Commonwealth Championships can be attracted to this country. *Launched Spring 1997*

World Class Potential:

- To support programmes of coaching and leadership to enable all young people to improve their sport skills in structured environments, including local clubs. To ensure that there are sufficient skilled coaches and leaders to support that process. *Launch 1998*

World Class Start:

- To support programmes that will enable the identification of talented young sports men and women with the potential to achieve international success. *Launch 1998*

How Does It Fit Into The BCU?

The BCU has completed its overall development plan for the sport which covers the period from now until 2001. It is an integrated plan of the whole BCU activity and will be funded through:

- BCU raised income - Membership Fees etc.
- Lottery Sports Fund Applications
- Sports Council both UK and England Exchequer Grants.

The recent World Class Performance Award announcement of £1.5m to the BCU is the first part of the total package to be funded. *The BCU's award is divided as follows:*

- Subsistence Awards £592k
- Performance Plan Award £906k

It is an initial award for one year allowing the BCU to:

- Appoint a Performance Director to manage the

programme and submit a further application for several years ahead.

- To establish World Class Programmes in the Olympic disciplines of Canoe Racing and Canoe Slalom
- To establish a World Class Programme in Canoe Marathon.

Unfortunately, Wild Water Racing and Canoe Polo were not considered ready to be classified as World Class by the Lottery Sports Fund. However, it is hoped that they will be considered in phase two.

Phase two will be made in 1998 and will cover all five major ICF recognised disciplines of:

- Sprint Racing
- Canoe Slalom
- Marathon Racing
- Wild Water Racing
- Canoe Polo

It is also hoped to gain subsistence awards for our leading Canoe sailors. The disciplines of Rodeo and Surf will not gain inclusion until they achieve ICF recognition.

Exchequer Funding

World Class Performance funding does not replace Sports Council exchequer funding and the competition programmes of:

Wild Water Racing, Canoe Polo, Sailing, Rodeo and Surf will be supported through this method once Sports Council can confirm the BCU's level of exchequer funding.

The BCU World Class Performance Plan integrates fully with :

- The BCU Young Peoples strategy. *Already published*
- The BCU Facilities Strategy. *To be published Christmas 1997*
- The BCU Performance Strategy. *Already Published*
- The BCU Communications Strategy. *To be published Spring 1998*

What Are The Implications For The BCU?

The Award marks a wonderful achievement for the BCU and gives the organisation the opportunity to ensure its continuing competitive success.

The World Class Performance Programme at a stroke will double the BCU's financial turnover and means that we will need to change our organisation to cater for the greater expectations and the greater public accountability.

We cannot afford to get things wrong and the award will require careful management and robust accounting systems.

The new Performance Director will be responsible through the Chief Executive for the successful implementation of the programme. He or She will take responsibility for the line management of the Performance personnel in each discipline and will help shape the future structures ensuring that British canoeing teams remain at the top of British sporting success.

Holme Pierrepont White Water Course

The BCU continues to monitor the situation on water quality at Holme Pierrepont. Following a recent meeting between Rushcliffe Borough Council, The Environmental Health Officer, the BCU, the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, the National Water Sports Centre, the Public Health Laboratory and other scientific advisors the National Water Sports Centre have released the following information:

The Management of the National Water

Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont fully understand its users concerns regarding water quality and makes every effort to keep the risk to the user to an absolute minimum and ensure all users are informed of water quality risks.

The Management at the Centre are assured by the Environmental Health Office and Public Health Laboratory that the risks involved are small and should not be taken out of context. This was reinforced by Dr Keith Neal's research study on water quality which indicated that less than 1% of users are actually at risk when using the slalom course.

Following Dr Neal's report, the Centre undertook a Risk Assessment which highlighted areas for the Centre to focus on. These areas have been included in the Centre Management Strategy and are as follows:

- *daily checks on water quality by Centre Staff, whilst bearing in mind also the effects of rainfall and other weather influences.*
 - *Good lines of communication with users when signing on to use the water.*
 - *Advisory leaflets freely available to all users.*
 - *Improved signage*
 - *users advised to wash or shower following use of the slalom course and certainly before eating*
 - *illness reporting procedure to appropriate Environmental Health agencies. New telephone hotline available to report illness following use of the course Tel: 0115 082 4710*
 - *provision of cold water shower alongside course helping to reinforce the need for users to wash and shower before leaving.*
 - *Good first aid provision including waterproof dressings available to enable users to cover any minor cuts or scratches.*
 - *Relocation of Environment Agency pollution monitoring equipment to the head of the slalom course to give on-line access to water quality readings in the slalom control office.*
- So, if you experience illness after paddling on the course please contact the Hotline number as above to report it.*

Access Officer

At present we await news of possible funding which would enable us to appoint a new BCU Access Officer. The full time position would allow us to provide better support for access officers, increase the recruitment and training of access officers and create and improve access resource materials. All this will add up to more action on access and more effective action.

Facilities Strategy

The BCU Facilities Strategy will be ready later this month. It follows extensive consultation and in addition to enabling us to promote the provision of facilities within a logical framework, it will provide the basis for all future successful Sports Lottery Applications

BCU Road Show

Watch out for the dates early in 1998 when the full BCU Development Plan will be road showed throughout the country. This will be your opportunity to ensure your views are heard and to discover how you and your club can benefit during the next four years.

Easier Access to BCU Information

Don't forget you can contact us on the following numbers: BCU Web Site :<http://www.bcu.org.uk>
Email: Info@bcu.org.uk

Membership@bcu.org.uk
Coaching@bcu.org.uk
CanoeFocus@bcu.org.uk

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

Paddlefest 97

If you missed out on the Paddlefest 97 weekend you missed a feast of activities and entertainment. This successful event will be bigger and better in 1998. For a full report on the 97 event see the article later in this issue.

International Canoe Exhibition

The International Canoe Exhibition will take place at the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham on February 21 and 22nd 1998. For more information see page 24.





Ras Dex on the move

Rasdex are on the move to the old florists shop on Trent boulevard, Nottingham. We will also have available demo kit that paddlers can try before they buy so they know they are getting the right kit before they part with the hard earned cash. The shop will also allow us to launch our bank wear range and outdoor clothing which will include Fleeces, outdoor jackets, multi use jackets etc.

Paddlers can come in and browse around and talk to the people that actually make the equipment. We will open (if all goes to plan!) on Saturday 13 December, so if your passing call in for a mince pie!

Obituary Guy Verney

It is with deep regret that Southend Canoe Club inform Focus readers of the sad death of Guy Verney in August. Guy had spent 10 days canoeing in Austria shortly before his death and will be greatly missed by his canoeing friends, many of whom attended the funeral.

Made Up with Make-Over



She's been at it again! Citroen sponsored Helen Barnes has recently been on Carlton Television's This Morning. Helen contacted Richard and Judy desperate for a makeover as she is shortly to appear on the BBC's Generation Game (as a guest, not as a competitor). Having had long hair for several years she felt she needed a more practical style, to cope with the rigours of training. Top hair stylist Nicky Clarke cut and coloured her hair, a make up artist taught her how to create a natural look and she was kitted out from head to toe in new casual clothes. Footage of Helen training at Holme Pierrepont was also shown and she appeared in the studio to show off her new look. Helen thoroughly enjoyed her day and said that Richard and Judy were "really lovely" and that Richard had recalled when he was 16 Eskimo rolling for a local newspaper. So next time you see a model walking around Holme Pierrepont, it could be Helen.

Peter Hannover Memorial Fund

In the August issue of Canoe Focus we carried details of the Peter Hannover Memorial Fund which aims to provide a riverbank bench to be placed at Teesdale, a perpetual trophy to be awarded at Middleton div 4/5 slalom and a fund to promote youth excellence in slalom. So far the fund stands at just over £600. This sum was raised through a number of events, the fund organisers would like to thank the following for their generous sponsorship: Miltrain Glow products for the lightsticks, Valley Canoe Products for the 15 litre Aquasack Dry Bags, Viking's Ettienn Stott and Chris Wilde for the bottles of whisky and wine, Badger 91 for 3 pairs footrests, M H Hall and Sons (Engineering) for vertical roof bars, P&H for the Gorilla Dry Cag, Peak for 2 caps and 2 wallets, Phoenix the Genuine Article for the spraydeck, Ras Dex for 2 x £15 vouchers, Playboater for neoprene shorts and stickers, Interclubs event manager (Jim Croft) for 2 event T shirts, Canoeist Magazine for 1 years subscription. These items were split between raffles. There was also an auction of kit from the England Canoe Slalom Team presented by Andy Raspin. But more is needed if the fund is going to achieve all its aims, so don't stop now folks. Thank you to everyone involved, not least to Viking's Mike Carter who helped me to scrounge so many of the prizes.

Nigel Murray Viking Kayak Club

The Open Canoe Association of Great Britain

Affiliated to the BCU and with over 500 members/family members the OCAGB encourages the use of the open canoe. Although the number of canoes and single bladed paddlers is increasing rapidly they are widely dispersed and the OCAGB provides the support needed to get the beginner on to the water and to encourage the improver. The Association prints a quarterly Journal containing accounts of trips and technical articles. The Journal updates the annual runs list which contains over 160 opportunities for paddling as well as a further 110 organised by the Camping and Caravanning Club. The OCAGB runs its own events; an annual Rally, a half marathon, an expedition on the River Exe and its estuary, a family weekend on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, white water training weekends, a 4 star training and assessment weekend and, new for 1998, 1 to 3 star training, 5 star training on the River Dart and a Dart Estuary tour. The Association is delighted to work closely with clubs and can provide excellent publicity for any club events which are suitable for canoes. An example is the enormously successful "Open canoes, Open water" run jointly with the Axe Vale Canoe Club. Membership £10 per year from the **Hon. Membership Secretary, OCAGB, 30 Bishops Avenue, Worcester, WR3 8XG. Richard Scullard**

Longford Court Jubilee Award

Members of Longford Court Autistic Community in Neath, South Wales have recently received a £200 grant from the Jubilee Canoeing Foundation. Funding has been used for a new canoe trailer and to pay for two people to attend a disability awareness course. Longford Court now holds regular canoeing sessions and many of their members are now aiming towards their one star award. Sessions have also helped to build links and friendships between the communities clients and Swansea Valley Day Centre visitors who are also given the opportunity to participate.



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Barclaycard Volunteer Investment Programme Awards

Congratulations to the South West Region. The SW Region's nomination for the first of the Regional Governing Body Awards to be made was 'Highly Commended'. It was second only to the winner, South West Volleyball Association. The nomination was made for the Region's training for the Access Team over the last two years and for the Regional Newsletter. Awards were made at the English Sports Council - South West Convention at Taunton on the 14 October 1997 by Nic Gault, sponsorship manager for Barclaycard. The Certificate reads: 'Barclaycard Champion of Sport, VIP, Highly Commended Regional Governing Body Awards 1997, British Canoe Union - South West Region for Excellence and Endeavour in volunteer management and development, and is signed by Sir Rodney Walker Chairman of the English Sports Council and Nic Gault from Barclaycard.'

The photograph (LtoR) shows David Hawkins SW Treasurer, John Westlake SW Chairman, Dennis Walls SW Sec, and Russell Blackmore Committee member and LAO with the award.



Worcester Canoe Club "Swan-Along" Charity Paddle

Yet another perfect September day, a placid river and even greater support from 98 paddlers in 70 boats, including a Bell-boat, ensured another successful Worcester Canoe Club 'Swan-Along' charity paddle from Bewdley to Worcester on the River Severn on 7 September. "Why the Swan-Along?", someone asked. Because of the large number of swans on the Severn at Worcester and the wish to convey the idea of canoeists moving, in a similar serene and unhurried manner down the river. Many of those taking part raised money for a favourite charity, the total advised to date being £964. (If you have not done so please contact Brian Cox Tel: 01905 773689 to tell him how much you have raised so that a final figure for the event can be arrived at). Margaret Evans of Worcester won the raffle prize of £25 worth of canoeing equipment given by Joel Enterprises. The organiser would like to thank everyone who supported the event, whether as a paddler, helper, marshal, banks support crew, whatever, and he hopes you will come to the next "Worcester's Swan-Along Paddle" on Sunday 6 September 1998, for more details contact: **Brian Cox, 23 St Peters Crescent, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 8QD Tel: 01905 773689.**

Donald Bean - Happy Birthday



There is nothing unusual about a canoeist deciding to spend a day on the Holme Pierrepont Slalom Course to celebrate, commemorate, a birthday - except perhaps when the birthday being celebrated is the canoeist's 77th birthday. Yes, Donald Bean of Stafford was spending a day towards the end of August on the Slalom Course doing just that, and adding just another event to his 65th canoeing anniversary year's activities. Donald is no stranger there. He was one of the fifty invited paddler there on 13th September 1986, to paddle before Princess Anne (now the Princess Royal) at the official opening of the course, when he represented canoeists of the 1930's being the only one in that class! He has canoed there regularly, if not always frequently, since then, as he feels the course is excellent for white water training, especially when rivers generally are very low and white water is so difficult to find.



Slalom Snippets

Change all round! Your sport is being administered in a slightly different way this coming year. This is as a result of all the Slalom Registered Clubs making their decision some time ago - slalom is a club oriented sport, so if you want to be a part of it, join a club.

The Annual General Meeting of the clubs (the BCU Slalom Committee) will be done and dusted by the time you receive this issue of Canoe Focus - you will have new officers, a new committee and a new start - seize the opportunity. There may even be changes in the divisional systems- so watch this space!

Slalom Yearbooks - the Slalom Executive Committee decided to stay with the traditional Slalom Yearbook for at least one more year, so, provided you supplied your Ranking Compiler with

your correct address, a copy of the 1998 version will be on it's way to you some time during late January.

Early Events in 1998 - do check dates with BCU Slalom Committee - the various publications issued by different sections of the BCU have different deadlines and sometimes, calendar sections are printed before BCU Slalom Committee's AGM when everything is approved. The final version of the competition calendar always appears in the Slalom Yearbook.

Pool Slalom - finals are to take place at the Coventry International Pool on Sunday 25 January. All details from your Regional Slalom Rep.

Slalom Organiser's Conference - it looks at the moment that the Conference will

take place on the same weekend as the Pool Slalom - one journey instead of two - Details from BCU Slalom Committee c/o BCU Office.

Divisional sizes - watch out for final details - remember the decision to go for the pyramidal structure.

Bibs 1998 - one or two changes in Bib Issuing Officers, so before you apply, please check with BCU Slalom c/o BCU office. Remember to renew your national association membership in good time.

Slalom Club Register - does your club know that it costs nothing extra to have your club included? Just get in touch with Slalom Administration c/o BCU Office who will make the necessary arrangements for your club to receive details on all slalom matters.

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This great all-rounder is many enthusiasts favourite canoe for river and lake use. This design goes back to the origins of prospecting on the Klondike, and has been honed over the years. This is the design of which it can truly be said "If it looks right, it is right!".

(FROM 28 Kilos)

Traveller

Traveller in 15' or 16' (for 1, 2 or 3 paddlers) lengths. Traveller is especially suited to paddlers (especially families) who only paddle occasionally. Traveller is very stable and particularly easy to control.

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What's On



The Waterside Series 1998

The Waterside Series of Marathon Races comprises of four races held in February and March, run by Newbury Canoe Club, and sponsored by Marsport.

The dates for the 1998 Waterside Series of races are:

Race A: 15 Feb 1998, Great Bedwyn to Newbury 13.5 miles, 21 portages.

Race B: 1 March 1998, Newbury to Aldermaston and back 17.5 miles, 19 portages.

Race C: 15 March 1998, Pewsey to Newbury 23 miles, 35 portages.

Race D: 29 March 1998, Devizes to Newbury 34 miles, 35 portages.

The Waterside series is recognised as being the classic build up for the Devizes to Westminster Race. However, the Waterside Series offers its own challenge, and to complete the series is an achievement in itself.

So why not take up the challenge in the spring. There are 12 classes:- K2S, K2J, K2L, K2V, K2M, K1S, K1J, K1L, K1V, K2JV, C2 & C1. There are senior and junior

team events for any combination of 3 or 4 boats. For further details and an entry form send an sae to: Lyn McLaren, Priors Farley Farmhouse, Rowborough Lane, South Marston, Swindon SN3 4SU.

Exe Div B Wild Water Race

Start: 11.00 Sunday 8 Feb at Salmon Ponds, Tiverton (OS Grid Ref: 949139), 7km of grade 2 to Bickleigh Bridge. Suitable for novices. Organised by Exeter Canoe Club and Blundells School, details and entries from: Steve Keane. C/o Blundells School, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4DN or phone Mike Brown, the Regional WWR representative on 01392 841852.

Junior Slalom

Calling all Junior Slalom paddlers up to Div 3 and juniors interested in starting slalom. Are you based in Nottingham or Derby? Would you like some help and information on training? Cost £2.00 inclusive. If the answers to the above are yes, please contact me, or come and meet us at our next training session. We meet every Tuesday from 7.00pm

onwards. You will find us in Current Trends or at the Slalom course, National Watersports Centre. Angela Hampton, Paddlesports Development Officer, Notts/Derby/Leics Tel: 0116 267 4428.

Derwent Dash Wild Water Race

7 February 1998, start at Darley Dale, finish at Slalom Site Mallock Bath. Entries should be sent to Nigel Stevenson, Greystones Cottage, High Street, Leadenham, Lincoln. All comers welcome.



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River Tees:

Abbey Rapids Access Winter 1997/98

The BCU Northern Region executive committee have again decided to support the limited access agreement for the Abbey Rapids section on the River Tees over the winter period 1st Nov 1997 to 30 March 1998. This agreement allows access to the water from the South bank only, below Thorsgill Beck (just above Egglestone Abbey) down to the Abbey Bridge. Users should be BCU members or members of affiliated clubs and are advised to contact 'Four Seasons', 44 The Bank, Barnard Castle Tel: 01833 37829 beforehand, since no more than ten canoeists are to be on the water at any one time.

This season the BCU Northern Region, BCU Yorkshire and the Army Canoe Union have agreed to share the annual licence fee of £300 +vat and so there will be no charges for clubs or individuals using the white water training facility. Paddlers using the Rapids should appreciate the efforts made by the BCU Access Teams and may wish to make a contribution to the Access funds of the supporting organisations either via Four Seasons or by post to the addresses shown in the BCU Yearbook.

Access Officer - Rivers Tamar and Lynher

Please note that Barry Waters, Access Officer for the above rivers has changed his address to: 1 Westwood, Liskeard, PL14 6DG. The telephone number remains the same. Please amend the Access page in your yearbooks accordingly.

Dart:

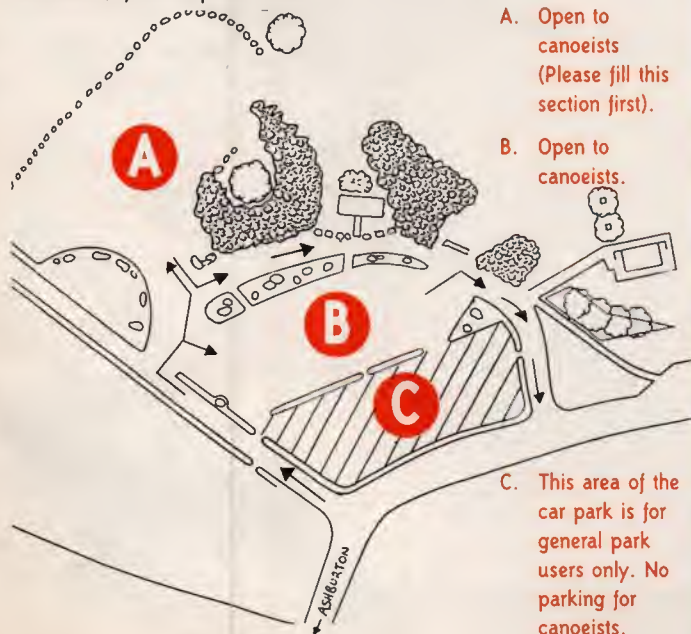
Parking at Newbridge

As we are sure you are aware, parking at Newbridge can become rather congested at times during the winter causing conflict between canoeists and other users of the Park.

In consultation with the landowner we have made some improvements to the car park. This work has been designed to provide easier access for vehicles towing trailers whilst ensuring that there is still space for the general public to park during busy periods.

The following map shows the new layout and one-way system we recommend you follow to encourage a free flow of traffic.

Please observe the request NOT to park in Section C. The back car park (Section A) will only remain open all winter by kind permission of the landowner, if this request is met.



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Saturday's excellent weather set Paddlefest '97 off to a very good start. The BCU Car park was overflowing with paddlers, boats and cars of all shapes and sizes, in fact we even took over the second car park!

Paddlefest



If you didn't turn up you missed out on an abundant supply of activities and events. In the National Water Sports building the Coaching Conference lectures commenced at 09.30 with a variety of topics from manual handling to the Young Paddlers Scheme.

A very entertaining Keynote speech on Coaching for Independence presented by Mark Hickman was attended by more than 50 people. One of those people present commented afterwards "If you didn't like canoeing before, you will now!"

Alongside the Coaching lectures there were performance clinics being held on the Winfield Pool, the Regatta Course and the Slalom site, everything from Bell Boating, advanced white water workshops, to Introduction to Canoeing and Wild Water Racing. And this was only the morning sessions!

In the afternoon there were excellence clinics from Canoe Sport Psychology to functional biomechanics. During the day an Aquatic First Aid Trainers Course and Regional Access officer training also took place.

Saturday evening as darkness fell the Floodlit Rodeo kicked in, this

attracted an excellent crowd and provided much entertainment until it was time to move on to the Bonfire Party. A synchronised display of not just any old fireworks but hand held and parachute flares got the evening off to a sparkling start. The more hardy party goers not leaving until 3am.

Sunday morning, dawned, too early and not so bright.

Unfortunately the weather let us down a bit and a few people had trouble finding their way to the activities in the fog. However, once the rain set in the paddlers took like ducks to the water.

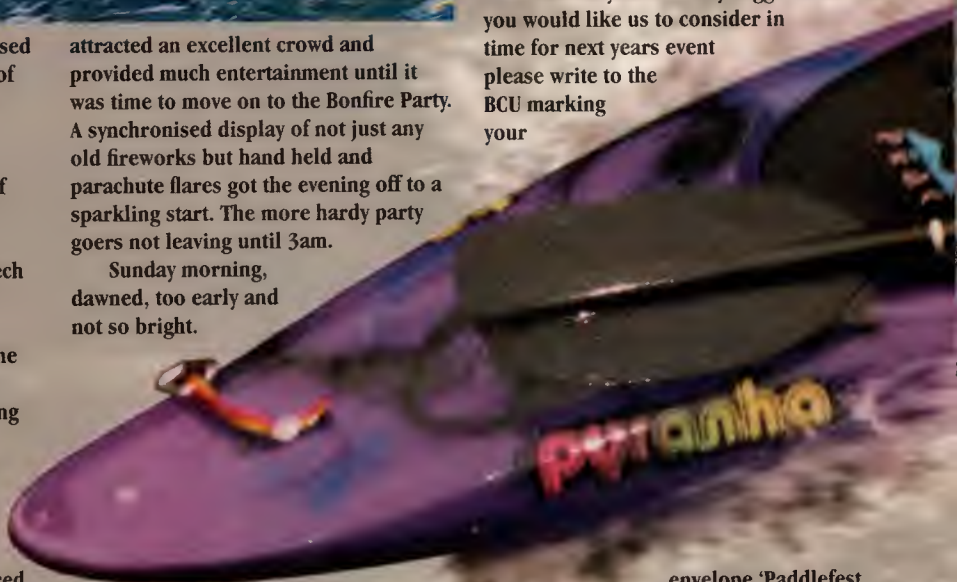
The Peak Extreme Slalom proved to be very popular with spectators and paddlers alike. A combination of slalom and 'Paddles Up', paddlers had to negotiate a number of obstacles, surfing a wave and touching a board with their hand, perform an 'ender' and touch a sign strung across the river. This event provided much entertainment and 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the crowd.

A very full programme continued throughout Sunday with many of the previous days lectures and clinics being repeated. New to Sunday was the introduction of the boot sale, although there were only a small number of cars,

it proved to be a very popular attraction and could definitely be developed further for next year.

The manufacturers trade show was open on both days from 2.00pm, and although there was not an opportunity to purchase on this occasion, there was the chance to see the latest innovations on the market and to have time to discuss what's going to be available at the Canoe Exhibition in February.

Paddlefest '97 was the first event of its kind and has proved to be an excellent sounding board, lessons have been learned and suggestions on how to improve it for '98 are already being discussed. If you have any suggestions you would like us to consider in time for next years event please write to the BCU marking your



envelope 'Paddlefest Development', we will be happy to hear from you.

Next years event will be bigger and better as we will have more time, and resource to make it THE paddlesport event of they year.



Thanks

The BCU Coaching Service, it's administration staff and especially Mike Devlin worked together to produce an excellent weekend of activities. Thanks must go to all those involved in the work prior to and during the weekend, and to all those paddlers, exhibitors and coaches who turned up to make the weekend the success that it was.



'97





Report by
Robbie Lines
Photos by
Pete Cropper

The event saw a larger entry from a greater number of participating countries than previous World Championships. What's

more, British paddlers continue to dominate this competitive discipline of our sport.

Thurso East is a world class reef that usually receives big swells throughout the month of September. It may be the most famous break along the North East coast of Scotland, but it doesn't stand alone, within a few hundred yards is the 'Pipeline', and within a few miles drive are, Dunnet Bay, Sandside, Melvich, Brims Ness and Torresdale to name just a few.

The last time that the World Kayak Surfing Championships were held at Thurso the waves got so big on Thurso East that the finals were moved to the 'Pipeline' where it was a mere 12 foot on the face of the wave.

This reputation causes surfers the world over to make the pilgrimage. It also ensured that Paddlesurf 97 the largest ever number of competitors. The largest contingent was from the UK, but paddlers also travelled from Spain, Holland, America, Cost Rica, Brazil, Barbados and New Zealand. There were also a number of different boats being paddled.



Richard Berry

Mega
Jesters
of

various styles were being used, but also International Class designs and high performance designs from Mike Johnson, Radical Manoeuvres, Dirty Habits, Double Diamond and Randy Phillips.

The competition was broken down into a number of classes. First up was the all important Team event, followed by the Open International Class, Ladies International Class, Juniors International Class, Masters International Class and the Freestyle Class.

Team Event

Each team consists of ten paddlers, all paddling international class boats, and comprise 6 men, 2 ladies and 2 juniors. Heats are drawn up with one representative from each country in each heat. Heats are judged in the normal fashion. At the end of the heat one point is awarded to the country who's paddler finished first, two for second and so on. At the end of all ten heats the



Ben Thomas

The fifth World Kayak Surfing Championships were held at Thurso in Scotland between the 20 and 28 September 1997.

team with the least points is leading. This procedure is then repeated on the second day with a different heat draw to find out the eventual winner.

Well that's how the team event normally works. At the 1995

World's in
Costa

the competition was to start the waves had dropped away and a massive high pressure system was sitting on top of the UK threatening to prevent any waves for the entire week of the competition.

With no waves at Thurso East on the opening day the Team Event was moved to Melvich, a small sandy break 15 miles West of Thurso.
Group A



Bethan Thomas



Mark Wakely

Rica,
there were

seven countries

participating, and seven paddlers took to the water in each heat. To allow for so many competitors the heat times were doubled. For Paddlesurf 97 where there were eight teams a new system was used. This time the teams were split into two qualifying groups each with four teams. In group A were Wales, Scotland, Jersey and a Rest of the World Team. In group B were England, United States, Ireland and Brazil. At the end of the two days competition the two top teams from each group moved through to the finals of the third day.

For the week building up to the competition, competitors arriving early were provided with some excellent waves to practice on. By the time

competed in the morning and were provided with some lovely, though fast 3 foot waves in the off shore conditions.

Wales, who were the favourites to win this group found themselves lying in 3rd position after the first three heats. Scotland, Jersey and the Rest of the World teams were giving Wales a run for their money. By the end of the ten heats Wales had taken the lead and a fierce battle was taking place for second with only one point separating Scotland and Jersey.

By the time Group B were to take to the



Ian Bloomfield

When the team event final was finally able to take place the competition was moved to Torresdale. Rather than access the beach from the village, permission was gained from a farmer in Betty Hill who had a field looking over the bay. This gave us a vantage point above one of the most beautiful bays on the north coast of Scotland.

The reigning World Team Champions, England, were able to hold onto their title in the team event final of Paddlesurf 97. The United States team were able to improve upon their 1995 position by finishing second causing Wales to drop to third and left Scotland to pick up fourth place.

Individual Event

The individual event runs like any normal UK event with International Classes for Open, Ladies, Juniors and Masters. For Paddlesurf 97 the Americans were giving a demonstration of their successful High Performance Class in the Freestyle event.

The International Class has evolved over the years a complex list of regulations. Most of these centre around boat design ensuring that competitors are paddling similar (though not identical) boats. The concept behind this is to see who is the best paddle surfer and not what is the best boat. The high performance class opens up the scope to design expressions totally, with no restrictions on boat designs, so long as they are kayaks.

To ensure that the competition completed in the time the organisers were forced to use two breaks. By having two heats on the water at a time they halved the time required to complete the competition. Even with this measure in place the competition took all of the remaining time.

In the Freestyle event the Americans dominated with only a couple of entries coming from outside the United States. Two were from Brazil and one from England. Not too surprisingly, the final was dominated by the United States. Rusty Sage the American number one Rodeo Junior taking first place in a Randy Phillips custom design. Second went to the designer of the Morro Bay Alamax, Steve Howard in a standard production plastic Alamax. Third

was taken by the US team captain Ken King in a Team Johnson Mako and fourth went to William Crenshaw in a Dagger Vertigo.

The International Masters Final saw Ken King, this time in a super Mako take first place. Second went to Scotland's Neil Baxter in a Double Dutch Screamer. Third went to Dan Crandall the ever present American in a Mega Jester Tico Lite and fourth to Avaro Gonzales, better known as Toca the much travelled and ever smiling Costa Rican in a Mega Jester Titan.

The International Junior finals saw the continued domination of Welsh Juniors and the Thomas family, as Ben Thomas, took the title that had previously been won by big brother Tim in 1995 and Mark Davies in 1993. Second went to the American Rusty Sage, third to Bret Gideon the 12 year old from California and fourth to Jersey's very own Serge Peacock.

England's mild mannered banker from Cornwall, Sue Davey went one better on her Costa Rican result by taking the Ladies World title. Second was Bethan Thomas of Wales, third went to Diane Bacon and fourth to Jeanne Walker both of the US.

Reigning World Champion, and Nookie Team Xtreme paddler Tim Thomas put his Mega Jester Titan through the paces, taking his second World title. The twenty year old from Llanelli becomes the first male paddler to retain an individual world title. Paul Blanchard the Jersey man now living in Ireland took second place in his Mega Jester Tico despite usually surfing on a board. Both third and fourth places were taken by Brazilians in modified Tico Lites. They were Gustavo Almeida and Daniela Silveria.

Over all an excellent set of results, especially for Britain and also for Brazil who will be hosting the next world championships in 1999.



Dave Kensdale

97



The England team

water for their first days competition the waves were dropping, but fortunately held long enough to complete the first day. England took a commanding lead with 6 victories, the most notable falling to James Hawker with victories in both men and junior heats and also to the second junior, Mark Wakley competing in his first ever competition. At the end of the day the United States where 6 points adrift with Ireland third and Brazil fourth.

The second day, was to see the only days competition at Thurso East. Group B were up first and saw England hold onto their strong lead. The United States closed the gap by one point and Ireland and Brazil stayed in third and fourth places respectively.

Group A were up next, and this time Wales dominated the proceedings. Jersey put in a valiant effort to gain that last qualifying space for the Team Event final but were kept at bay by Scotland, who were putting together their best team performance in ten years. The fourth position in this group was taken by the Rest of the World Team being managed by Darren Clay of New Zealand.

There was then to follow two days of no competition due to a total lack of surf. This was beginning to put pressure onto the organisers as they still had a very full schedule of heats to compete.

Internet

Paddlesurf 97 scored a first, by being the first Surf World Championships whose results were being published daily on the internet. During the week of the competition the website received 10,000 requests for files. For a complete set of results and a comprehensive collection of photos visit the Paddlesurf '97 pages at: <http://www.watershed.co.uk/lets-go-canoeing/paddlesurf97>

Credits

Thanks go to the organisers of Paddlesurf '97. The organisers, led by Ken Nicol and Chief Judge John Mould, wish to thank all those who by their efforts and assistance made the event possible; Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise, Scottish Sports Council, Glenmore Lodge, UKEAE, AEA Technology, Johnson Controls, Orcarian Stone Company, Sunlife of Canada, Kogg, Jack Robertson Agencies, Arcade Travel, The Highland Council, Scottish Paddlers Supplies, Thurso Leisure Centre and Cluny Publishers.

BCU Reorganisation

Why re-organise

Many years ago the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland members of the BCU declared themselves independent from the BCU and a series of agreements were completed effectively delegating responsibility for managing canoeing in those regions to national associations, the SCA, WCA and CANI.

These National Associations were represented on the Council of Management but have always found that this was effectively dominated by English members and English business. They have long sought a more 'federal' organisation. The Federal Committee was established to provide a forum for views to be expressed but this could never replace the ultimate authority of the BCU Council of Management and was little more than a

talking shop. It was recognised that the existing arrangements were not satisfactory and that a new relationship was needed.

The solution.

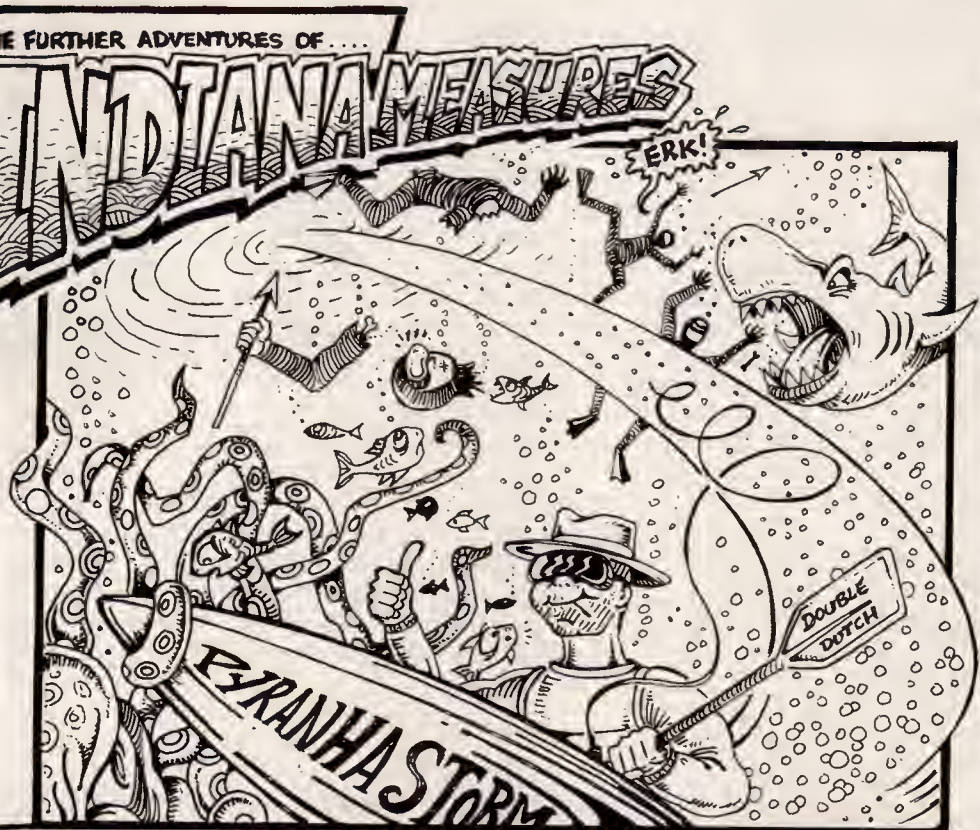
The solution proposed by Council and agreed by the three National Associations is to replace the Council with a new "federal" Board of Management and establish an English Council.

The Board will be a small body with five English, two WCA, two SCA and one CANI members. It will be responsible for British level business. With the one exception of an English Council it will not generally establish committees of its own but will delegate British level business to those existing national committees which it considers appropriate. In the first instance it will delegate British level business to the new English Racing, Marathon, Slalom, WW Racing, Sailing, Polo, Coaching and Lifeguards committees for the next four years.

The establishment of an English Council, as a committee of the BCU, will allow this committee to manage canoeing in England in the same way as the other National Associations operate in their respective territories.

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What does all this mean in practice.

To the individual English paddler very little. Firstly he or she will automatically become a member of an English Canoe Association, which also includes automatic membership of the BCU. To members of the other National Associations, again very little, they will also have membership of their National Association and the BCU. This joint membership allows for some reciprocal rights between paddlers of the four nations.

To members of the new English committees listed above the change will only be noticeable in that they will keep English and British business separate but when British level business is being conducted there will be proper representation from the other National Associations. To members of other new English committees absolutely no change.

So why bother to make the changes.

Put very simply we wish to be seen to be fair to the three smaller National Associations and to treat them as equal partners in the future. It is important that they feel fully committed to the BCU and these changes, we are assured, will achieve this objective.

What is in it for the English.

The opportunity, for the first time, to think of ourselves first without having every consideration overlaid by responsibility for the BCU. To establish a separate English identity within the BCU.

The new BCU Board of Management, "the Board", will set up its one committee, the English Council. The opportunity is being taken to make this more effective by merging the evolved role of the present Executive into a smaller Council. The English Council will be made up of:

- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer.
- 2 Competition representatives.
- 2 Regional representatives.
- 1 Coaching and Lifeguards representative.
- 1 Recreation representative.
- 1 Access representative.
- 3 Elected members.

At the same time some minor changes are being made to the way in which the committees operate. For full details send a stamped addressed envelope to the BCU asking for a copy of the Proposed Structure of the BCU in England. All of the committees have been consulted and have approved these proposals.

Why don't the English go the whole way.

The English members have considered the possibility of declaring themselves independent from the BCU and have concluded that this is not in the interests of English members at this time. Nothing that is being proposed prevents this from happening in the future should the English members conclude that such a change would be to the advantage of the English Canoe Association.

What formal action is required.

The BCU is a limited company and so we have to seek approval of the members at the March 1998 AGM to the overall plan "The Proposed Structure for the BCU in England" and to the resultant necessary changes to "The Articles of Association".

When will these changes take place.

Subject to any unforeseen problems these changes will take effect from the 1st November 1998.



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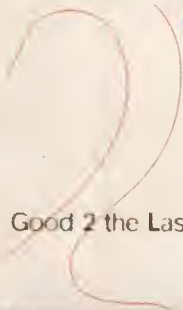
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Good 2 the Last Drop



year. This isn't paddling, it's suicide, however, it makes excellent viewing. Many a gasp will be heard when watching this 25 minute footage. You have to see it to believe it.

PADDLER As it's name suggests this video shows coverage of paddling over drops and waterfalls, but these aren't just any old drops, these are major! Produced and filmed mostly in America it features a number of extreme paddlers who I would be surprised to see still alive this time next

River People - A White Water Experience

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Filmed on location in New Zealand this video features a river journey to the Waiora River. White Water Rafting 'punter' style, shows all the thrills and spills of commercial river running. If you like to see Raft Guides getting a thrashing, then this is the video for you. A good, clean, fun video, which will get you smiling.

Video's soon to be available from BCU Supplies:

1997 World Sprint Championships - a 2 hour, double video showing all the finals. At last a Sprint Kayak Video.

Drill Time - Solo Playboating 2 - another video from Kent Ford Production on solo Canoe paddling.

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.

Dragons Across the Channel '97

D&K Trotter: £15 includes donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind

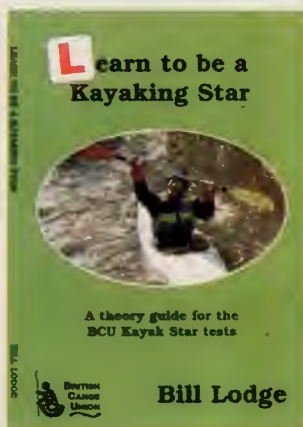


Video diary of the 1st ever attempt to cross the English Channel by Dragon Boat, to raise £20,000 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. 40 paddlers, 6 of them blind, 2 Dragon Boats. An excellent video, showing the preparation from training camps, to crashing the Land Rover towing the boats on the motorway (yes, they kept the video running even though they rolled the vehicle!). The crossing was full of incidents all portrayed in the footage. The atmosphere is brilliantly conjured up by Dan and Karen. An emotional video covering a major achievement by all the team involved in the successful crossing. Available from Dan & Karen Trotter, send cheque or postal order for £15 inc p&p made payable to D&K Trotter. A donation from each sale will be made to the Guide Dogs for the Blind.



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The BCU Club Pack

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Club Pack



Designed and published by the British Canoe Union, in partnership with NatWest.

Compiled by Anne Ferguson, Paddlesport Development Officer, designed by myself, and sponsored by NatWest. This of course will be a somewhat biased view of this publication,

however, it is excellent. Containing everything a club needs to know, development, where to and how to apply for funding, inclusion of young people and how to keep them interested, coaching, how to work with volunteers and promotion of your club. Loads of useful information is contained within the 70+ pages. The pack is available to all new clubs automatically when they join the BCU.

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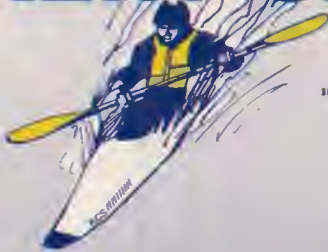


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Things are moving along with the young paddlers scheme and it will be launched in the Paddlesport Officer areas in 1998 with coverage for the rest of the country in 1999. As you will know, the scheme is split into two parts:

Paddlepower - Young Paddlers Scheme

Paddlepower - Challenges

In order to deliver the Schemes coaches need to be qualified to a minimum of Level 2 (although special cases will also be considered) and attend a Paddlepower workshop. The first of these workshops will be in March/April for approximately 4 hours duration, the coach will receive the following: copies of the Paddlepower Scheme packs and order form, Workshop Training Pack and Paddlesport Activity Cards.

Subject to successful completion of the workshop, the coaches will then receive accreditation in their logbooks. So watch out for your nearest workshops and information in how to apply.

Challenge Funding

This Sports Council initiative is aimed at secondary schools for school-club link programmes. The closing date for

Paddlepower Scheme

applications by the schools is mid January so act quickly to get your applications in. Let us know at the BCU if your school-club link scheme is successful.

Coaching for Teachers

Teachers may have heard of this Sports Council scheme that is co-ordinated by the National Coaching Foundation. The good news is that the Sports Council have in principle accepted the inclusion of Canoeing coaching awards within next years programme. It is anticipated that they will, in the first instance appear in the 'Coaching Weeks' aspect of the programme and hopefully INSET inclusion will follow in 1999.

World Class Start

This is another National Lottery Sports Fund programme that has been earmarked for

launching in 1998. It is a revenue programme and the good news is that the BCU has been included as one of the first 12 consultees for piloting the programme. Work starts with the Sports Council in November/early December.

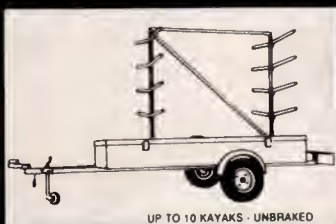
Top Club

The first piloting of Top Club has been carried out through the Paddlesport posts. The first accreditation's are being worked up for the New Year. It is anticipated that an additional list of target clubs outside the areas of the Paddlesport posts will be drawn up and supported to achieve Top Club status.

New Paddlesport Posts

After a bidding process (8 bids were submitted), the BCU Executive has decided

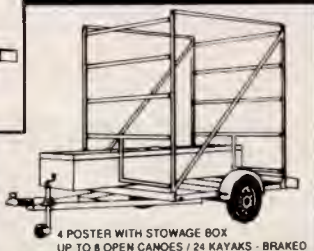
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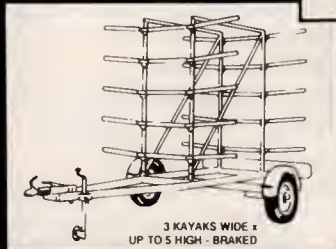
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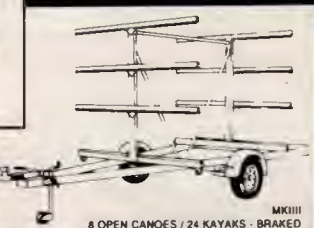
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to award 2 new posts - 1 to NE & Teesside and 1 to a Reading based consortium. The NE post will be 3 days per week and the Chester/Manchester post will be increased to 3 days per week to reflect the additional resource needed for the Manchester area.

Existing Paddlesport Posts

Existing posts are continuing to experience success:

Nottingham/Leicester/Derby - Angela Hampton

- Slalom Training Group (junior paddlers in Div 3-5) established at Nottingham. There is space for more paddlers so contact Angela if you are interested in coming along.
- New Lakeside Adventure Club based at the water course is running well with between 20-30 young paddlers coming along every Saturday.
- 3 Wild Water Racing club coaches have been assisted to gain further qualifications.
- A new Challenge event has been established between Leicester OPC and the Lakeside Club.

Worcester and Herefordshire - Graham Campbell

- Focusing on 9-11 age range, working to get Paddlesport into the schools as a normal part of the curriculum has

become possible with the use of Bell Boats and the scheme surrounding it.

- Worcester City Council have made Paddlesport a focus sport and are putting in financial and admin. Support.
- The market is 800 new children every year just in this one city and besides maintaining the Bell Boat activity the input of fired up young paddlers to local clubs is an exciting, maybe daunting, prospect.
- There is the possibility of new clubs feeding into the existing club network.
- Feedback from the local education scene is very positive and already primary teachers, parents, governors and community workers are queuing up to become level 1 coaches.
- If it works well in Worcestershire, we could be in a new age for canoeing nationally!

London and West Thames Region - Sue Hornby

- Coaching programme for Placid Water has been established for 1998 to qualify more club coaches - seven coaches recently qualified as PW L2 and 3 PW3.
- Media workshop organised at Royal Canoe Club with BCU Media company Matchtight. Bryn Vale ex Olympic

medalist gave useful tips to clubs and paddlers on how to maximise publicity for clubs and themselves.

- Working with seven clubs to attain TOP club status. Albany Park in conjunction with Kingston BC have secured funding via Thames Swimsafe to introduce 3 primary schools to canoeing via a pool session this winter - potentially 36 children to be introduced to canoeing through this scheme.

Five new events so far planned for 1998. Chester, Manchester, Liverpool

- Linking Schools with commercial centres, which gives schools direct access to equipment and to qualified and experienced coaches.
- Linking centres in with local canoe clubs enabling students to be fed into the clubs for further coaching, thus enlarging local canoe club membership and assisting students in attaining a higher level of personal achievement within their chosen discipline by giving them access to specific coaching and specialist equipment.
- School Canoe Clubs are being set up for inter school competitions.

National Lottery Success

Congratulations to Richard Ward who has been successful in obtaining a Lottery grant approved for the purchase of mini kis and Bell Boats. These boats have been allocated to certain areas and clubs meaning that fleets of the boats will be available for use by clubs/centres and groups. If your club would be interested in either purchasing your own boats or just borrowing some of the fleet boats, get in touch with Richard.



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Mar 13-15 Inland Kayak Coach levels 2 & 3 Training or Assessment



Report by
Alan Edge
- National
Team Coach
Photos by
Brian Fuller
& John
MacLeod

It soon became obvious that control of water-levels was not a Brazilian strongpoint and in the final 5 days of practice we only saw the official race level twice - the word 'manana' was obviously a key term in the Brazilian slalom organisers handbook. News on the course design front was much better however, with new ICF members Richard Fox and Roby Platt setting 2 well-crafted, technical courses that would produce some of the closest and most exciting slalom racing ever seen at a World Championships.

Slalom 1997 style means no non-stop, aggregate runs and 2 seconds penalty per touch for spectators its easier to understand and more exciting - everything they see counts and the fastest come down last thanks to reversing the order after 1st runs. The results

service in Brazil was excellent - the scoreboards providing every bit of information needed as it happened - this was the best 'slalom package' any of us had ever seen.

The main GB hopes for medals rested with Paul Ratcliffe & Shaun Pearce in MKI, Lynn Simpson and Rachel Crosbee in WKI and Gareth Marriott in CI - in C2 the new crew of Nick Smith and Stuart Bowman expected to make the Final if they paddled to form.

Kayak qualifying went well with Ratcliffe (1) Pearce (4) Raspin (12) and Morrison (14) all making the final - GB was the only nation to qualify 4 boats in this class; Rachel Crosbee (7) and Lynn Simpson (11) also produced the goods in WKI but Heather Corrie disappointed at 20th after a promising 6th place overall in World Cup. Kath Pigdon, placing 27th, expected to be much closer to the top 15 - she can do better but still has time on her side.

In CI our only qualifier was Gareth Marriott a comfortable 5th.



Tres Coroas, Brazil 1997

Tres Coroas, a small town in the most southerly Brazilian province of Rio Grande de Sul was the host for the 1997 World Canoe Slalom Championships. The river was about as 'un-Brazilian' as you could get - a dam-controlled deep version of the Tryweryn with a bit of Washburn thrown in for good measure. We felt quite at home!

Craig Brown (25), Rob Turner (26) & Mark Delaney (24) all disappointed especially the latter, placing outside the top 15 for the first time this year. In C2, Smith and Bowman took 4 touches on their first run which despite having a clean 2nd run left them in 16th place - still a great result considering they have only paddled together for 9 months. The Green brothers (21) and the young crew Matt and Ian Banfield (25) both made too many errors to qualify in what was a fiercely contested qualification.

New Format

The new format for Finals - 2 individual runs followed by a single Team run made for some really exciting racing. The sun shone on both days and the crowd in true festival mood really warmed to some top class slalom racing. First off was the WKI class, looking like a battle royal between France, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and GB. In the event, early mistakes on 1st runs left Crosbee and Simpson languishing in 12th and 13th places, Brigitte Guibal (FRA) took the title in

style with Olympic Champion, Stepanka Hilgertova (CZE) in second and 'old-stager' Cathy Hearn (USA) picking up a popular bronze. We were disappointed - for the 2nd year running our well-rated WKI class had failed to deliver the goods at a Major Championship.

The WKI Team Race was going to be hot and GB with Heather Corrie paddling the Final course for the first time had an uphill task. They paddled quite brilliantly to take bronze - quality team work and but for a small mistake in the early part of the course would have taken gold. GB WKI teams have medalled at the last 3 Worlds.

In CI Gareth Marriott paddled 2 majestic clean runs to take a deserved bronze (his first Worlds medal) missing silver by just .37 of a second. His old rival Pollert (CZE) took silver but there was no mistaking where the gold was going. Michel Martikan (SVK) dominated each run to win by over 2 seconds. His Atlanta gold was certainly no fluke.

The CI Team race was taken by Slovenia with GB a creditable 5th in a very strong field.

Slalom Championships



French and the Czechs dominated with GB in 5th place posting an untidy 20 secs of penalties.

High hopes

And so to the MKI Final where we had high hopes for a medal especially with Paul Ratcliffe winning qualification 2 days before. He did not make a good start - taking a touch on gate 1 and putting himself under pressure from the start. He posted the fastest running time which kept him just in contention (4th) after 1st runs. Shaun Pearce (5th) and Tim Morrison (10th) also had promising first runs. The second runs produced a close finish with first Pearce and then Ratcliffe taking the lead, Thomas Becker (GER) eventually took gold despite being given a

dubious 'water touch' on gate 15.

Only a second separated the first 5 places with all 3 medal placings counting a 2 second touch in their total. Paul

Ratcliffe took a well-deserved bronze (the 12th worlds medal for GB in MKI since 1959) Shaun Pearce, showing a

welcome return to form was 5th, Ian Raspin 17th and Tim Morrison an encouraging 18th at his first Worlds. GB won the trophy for Champion MKI Nation. (best aggregate individual results)

The MKI Team Event? Well they saved the best till last... Paul Ratcliffe, Shaun Pearce and Ian Raspin put together the fastest run of the day with a brilliant display of confident, power teamwork. It was the 6th MKI title for GB since 1979 clearly underlining the position of the class within the world rankings.

All in all a great Worlds with some of the closest racing ever witnessed at this level. The boost of Olympic Slalom confirmation for Sydney 2000 will clearly allow more nations to become serious medal challengers in the future. 1 Gold and 3 Bronze medals has barely kept us in touch with the leading pack. GB will need to waste no time at all in putting the brand new Lottery-funded World Class Performance Plan into action if we are to remain serious challengers for Olympic and Worlds medals into the next millennium.



In C2 the French crew of Addison/Forgues followed up their Atlanta Gold with another impressive win. Perhaps more impressive though was the margin of 2 seconds separating the top 5 boats - a brilliant exhibition of World Class C2 paddling.

In C2 Team, the



Left: Paul, Shaun, Tim and Ian



Canoeing 98



A lot has happened since the 1997 show earlier this year, to give visitors a more interesting day out when they visit the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham in February 1998. Canoeing '98 will continue to be linked with the National Boat, Caravan and Leisure show in adjacent Halls, and the introduction of a new pass-out system will allow a better interchange and use of the many facilities within the NEC complex.

Whilst there has been a change around for some Exhibitors from the United Kingdom, we are pleased to extend a welcome to a number of established international Exhibitors, as well as some new ones. We are to be joined by Exhibitors from Australia, America (via Ireland) and Italy, in addition to Canada, Finland, France, Holland and Ireland. Space has been allocated to create our own refreshment area, so visitors can relax whilst having their sandwiches etc., and watch current videos being demonstrated. Adjacent we are hoping to establish a display area, where visitors can also watch a number of demonstrations of interest.

New competition

If you are prepared to brave the elements, for those who want to be active there is a new competition being run on the Pendigo Lake outside the Pavilion, and valuable prizes are being offered. The competition will be a type of mini-marathon, organised around the lakeside, involving portages and an obstacle or two. Those entering will primarily race against the clock, although there will be opportunities for head-to-head racing if required. Canoes, paddles, and all equipment will be provided (to save having to bring your own kit to Birmingham and also to make it equal for all). Heated changing accommodation (lakeside) will be available. There will be four classes (all K1) for men, women, boys (16 and under) and girls (16 and under).

The prize for the winner of the senior class will be £200 cash and the junior class £100. Further details will be published in the next edition of Canoe Focus. It is also planned to have some larger craft available so that groups of visitors and Canoe Clubs can raise a team and have a go.

Those who visited the 1998 Exhibition will remember the small indoor pool, adjacent to the BCU stand in the link between two Exhibitions. During the period of the National Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show this was used to give

youngsters a chance to 'Come and Try It' in a very controlled situation. The pool in 1998 will be located in a different position - at the back of a combined stand facing towards the link entrance to Canoeing '98. Whilst there will still be opportunities for youngsters to have a go (in the morning and late in the afternoon), the emphasis on this pool will change. There are a number of demonstrations planned, as well as a rolling competition and fashion show. This programme will be publicised in advance, to give all visitors an opportunity to plan their visit to what promises to be an exciting Canoeing '98.

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Article by
Peter Midwood

From Wales to see *the* Whales



Our two daughters started canoeing with us at an early age. Pamela is now ten and Carol is eight. They both have their own kayaks and enjoy simple paddling trips in easy conditions. Living in North Wales gives plenty of opportunity for gentle paddles on rivers, lakes, canals and sometimes the sea. The summer holidays were fast approaching and we had fixed nothing definite. I was attracted to a short piece in the Jersey Canoe Club newsletter and the plans for a 'Canoe Club Summer Holiday' on Canada's west coast.

centre of Sidney we paddled south east past James Island and Sidney Island. Towards the end of the day we were introduced to the concept of Mansell Minutes. "We will be at the campsite in about twenty minutes," Kevin encouraged my wife and eldest daughter. An hour and a half later and we still had not reached it. By our calculations, there are about 400 seconds in a Mansell Minute!

D'Arcy Island was our first campsite which had been used a leper colony for oriental immigrants many years ago. We walked all the way round the island and saw a racoon and a deer, but the children were disappointed to find no lepers.

Day two saw us paddling in perfect conditions to Rum Island, a distance of five nautical miles. The children spent most of the afternoon building dens from the enormous

After a telephone conversation with Kevin Mansell, he confirmed that the sea was always calm, there was lots of exciting wildlife to be seen and that double kayaks could easily be hired. The pace of the expedition would suit children with a maximum of five miles being paddled each day. It sounded just the holiday for us. The final point Kevin made was the fact that the Gulf Islands were in the rain shadow behind the Olympic Mountains, Kevin assured me that it never rained there. I was sold, so I booked the flights.

The team for the trip assembled in Sidney on Vancouver Island on 2nd August. Along with our family of four, there was Kevin Mansell in one double with his daughter Sarah aged 8, and Nicky Mansell with Lisa aged 10 in another. Derek Heiron with Krista aged 8 and Nicholas aged 6 all managed to cram into another double.

Packing everything for a five day trip took some time but we were ready by early afternoon. As we departed, we wondered if we were the most qualified 'expedition' of the

year. Amongst the team we had three BCU Level 5 Coaches and one BCU Level 4 Coach without counting the children. We should be safe enough.

Mansell minute

Day one was an easy paddle of about six nautical miles. From our start just south of the



(An information sheet giving useful names and addresses for paddling in the Gulf Islands and the St Laurence is available from the BCU Publications and Information Officer, please send sae.)

Photos
by Peter
Midwood





politely questioned, the guide stated that his customers had paid to do the trip and he felt that his clients may have complained if they had not stuck to the schedule. The guided trip would keep to schedule whatever happened. Count me out from any future trips guided by Americans! Day four was the most memorable day of the trip. The morning was bright and the sea calm. We took a brief stop for lunch on a small island which was occupied by an immature Bald Eagle. In the afternoon, as we prepared to cross

quantity of driftwood and discovering giant pink and purple starfish in the water. That evening we sat on the point looking over towards the American Stuart Island. We saw many sightings of Pacific White-sided Dolphins and Dalls Porpoise. Finally we saw Orcas off Turn Point. Binoculars were useful as Turn Point was over two nautical miles away. However the dorsal fins were clearly visible without using binoculars. They were big Killer Whales.

Most amazing lightning strikes

Day three and we understood what the rain shadow meant. Kevin had said it never rained in the Gulf Islands and, as he has a degree in geography, he should know all about it. We enjoyed a thunderstorm for most of the morning with the most amazing lightning strikes. Definitely not a day for going on the water. To our total amazement as the storm ended, a guided trip of American kayakers arrived. They had chosen to be on the water during the lightning. When

Moresby Passage, we noticed the rather odd behaviour of a group of boats which were huddled fairly close together. Others came to join them. Why was this? We needed to investigate. As we approached, our greatest expectations were realised as we could see these boats were close to a pod of 10 or 11 Orcas. The next hour was pure magic as we shadowed this pod which was moving southwards. The Orcas would dive for two or three minutes and then surface for a few breaths. At one time two Orcas surfaced about 10 metres from my kayak. The large Orca had a dorsal fin two metres high! Orcas eat seals or dolphins for breakfast. Not the time to take photographs. Carol and I beat a hasty retreat.

Three otters played in the water

Princess Margaret Island, marked as Portland Island on the chart, was our destination for the night. Three otters played in the water and then on the bank as Carol and I arrived at the campsite. Princess Margaret

Island was named in her honour following her visit to British Columbia in 1958, the Province's Centennial Year. Some of the Southern Gulf Islands are private but many, including Princess Margaret Island, are designated as Coastal Marine Parks of British Columbia. Wilderness camping is permitted on many of these islands and some have the luxury of a simple toilet. There is no fresh water on any of the islands so you will need to bring your own supply.

Beluga Whale

After the five day trip, we all parted and went our separate ways. After staying with relations in New York, we drove north to Quebec and the St Lawrence. In a small town called Les Ecoumins, we hired two double kayaks and were escorted by a guide called Caribou. We paddled in the almost freezing waters to meet Beluga Whales after an hour. These are intriguing whales which are small in size and almost pure white in colour. For lunch we stopped on some rocks and ate as Fin Whales surfaced 100 metres in front of us. There were reports of Blue Whale and they could be seen in the distance from time to time surfacing. We were amused by the attempts of a motorised whale watching boat attempting to get close to them. A Blue Whale would surface and be spotted aboard.

Engines full blast, the boat would race toward the whale, who would hear its approach and simply dive back below. Another whale would surface elsewhere and the boat would then rush towards this new target. It was comical but sad to watch as the engines repeatedly caused the whales to dive again. It appeared that the whales were tormenting the boat, enticing it to race this way and that but never allowing it to get close.

Like magic, it happened on our return. All of a sudden this enormous creature surfaced less than a hundred metres from us, with an spout of spray pushing high into the sky. Was it coming towards us? Another rush of air and spout confirmed our hopes. This Blue Whale would pass close to us. For over a minute this gentle mammal cruised gently and serenely towards us. It passed barely twenty metres in front of the kayaks, breathed once again and, with a higher arch of the back, slipped elegantly from view.

Kayaking brings many unexpected pleasures but paddling so close to the largest animal in the world will be hard to beat. I feel I have climbed the Everest of sea kayaking and shared this with my children. Will our next trip seem a little boring?





Report by
Peter Bray

Straitjacket



Fresh from canoeing around the UK with a blindman and getting ready to fly off to Nepal to assist on a University kayak expedition over the Christmas and New Year. There was a letter on my desk asking if I was interested in an English Channel crossing by Klepper (this is a canvas folding double kayak). I phoned the Team leader and agreed to meet him for a more leisurely chat.

The idea was to get at least four Kleppers and their crews across the Channel. The crews were a mixed bunch of paddlers, ages ranged from 25 to 67 and from all different walks of life. I was asked to put together a training programme, kit list and to oversee all training.

A number of people asked to join the crossing. We decided to run three weekends training, the first was a safety weekend which everyone who showed an interest had to attend. The format was to cover everything that could possibly go wrong (this was done in the UK Challenge and worked when needed). So the first thing was the capsize drill for a single boat, the drill is totally different from a normal kayak (you have a canvas and wooden framed boat and not GRP/Plastic). Once everybody had completed this it was time for every boat to capsize at once, again the drill to right the

boats in an all-in situation is different. We would have a safety boat on the trip so we practised drills using the safety boat, this ranged from towing to everybody getting out and on the safety boat.

The first weekend was just outside Brixham in Devon, the weather was kind to us and we managed to get a good paddle in. We were not so lucky on the second weekend, the weather turned to a force 9, not ideal for going out let alone paddling, so we practised our capsize drill in the harbour at Lyme Regis and then went for an interesting paddle on the River Axe in Seaton. The crews learnt the power of the wind and that you must work to get anywhere.

Before the third weekend we had another weekend in Southsea and the weather was force 4, we paddled along the coast for a short distance and back, this was because it would be where the third weekend would start from. The third weekend was a navigation trip to Ventnor on the South side of the Isle of Wight, spending the night and paddling back the next day. I missed this weekend because I took a group sea kayaking on the South Wales coast (I still have to work for a living). I still get told how much fun they had and I missed a great weekend (how many times have you heard that?).

Everything was ready for the big day, we had the go ahead from the French, hotel and vehicles with drivers sorted out, brand new Kleppers and all kit ready, fingers crossed the weather would be kind.

On the 1 August the team of 8 paddlers, 2 drivers and 2 safety people turned up in Dover. 2 August 0500 we woke up and had a good breakfast, sorted out personal kit for the Kleppers and the road party who would meet us in France.

The weather was on our side, we made our way to St. Margaret's and put the Kleppers together and loaded our kit into them. We then waited for the safety boat to join us, the tide came in and we still waited for the safety boat. It turned up 45ish minutes late and we set off for France, which we could see. First task was to cross the ferry lanes and then watch out for the shipping lanes. The English Channel is one of the busiest shipping channels in the world and is like a great motorway with traffic going West, then you have the central reservation, then the shipping going East, then you have the ferries going North South. Our Kleppers being dwarfed by each passing tanker, then the fun ride through their wash. The safety boat had radar and was in communication with both the French and UK coastguard. Halfway across, the hotel we were to stay in in Calais called to see if we were still intending to stay. The weather was fantastic, accompanied by a rolling sea. It was a very enjoyable and uneventful crossing with us landing in Wissant 7 hours later. Once ashore we packed the Kleppers away and drove to the hotel to have a well earned glass of wine.

The following day we drove back to Dover and went our separate ways. In all we raised over £2000 for charity.



Far right:
Towing drills (12
knots)

Straitjacket would like to thank the following companies for their help:

- Nobel Denton for supplying up to date weather forecasts.
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- Manor print for the letterhead.
- SeaFrance for the return trip on the ferry (because it was for charity they only charged £5 per head).
- Norwegian Shipping Co. for the 2 vehicles and all the fuel.
- Outdoor Challenge for the cags.

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Report by
Peter Mitchell -
National
Squads
Manager

Great Britain's men aimed to retain the Gold medal won in

Rome in 1995, whilst the women hoped to improve on their Silver medal. Besides the two senior classes, the Germans were hosting what was, in all but name, the inaugural European Men's Under 21 Championship.

Preparation had effectively commenced in January, with the formation of Men's and Women's winter squads. Monthly training weekends led to the selection of representative teams for various 'friendly' International tournaments during the Spring and early Summer, with teams for Essen finally being chosen in late June.

Two weeks prior to the Championships both senior

teams entered the Ypres (Belgium) International, the Women in the Men's 2nd Class, the Men in the 1st Class, (where they faced the French Men's Senior and Under 21 teams, together with a number of Europe's top Club teams). Results bode well. The men won their class, recording a convincing 6-3 victory over the French in the final whilst, more notably, the women were also victorious, surely the first time a Men's class has been won by a women's team at a major tournament.

The final build-up to the Championships commenced with a five day training camp at the Belgium national water sports centre in Mechelen. Fine weather, excellent accommodation, good food and up to four training sessions a day made for a thoroughly worthwhile stay, especially for the Under 21 team, which visibly grew in confidence and cohesion with each day that passed.

Arriving in Essen on Wednesday 3rd September, the teams paid their first visit to the highly impressive competition venue - an outdoor pool complex incorporating two 50 metre gala pools and a large fun pool, (the latter to be used as the warm-up area).

The opening ceremony on the Thursday evening was perhaps most notable for an energetic display from a group of cheer leaders who performed to the uncensored version of "Alice". (So much for the efforts of Coaches to control 'foul and abusive language' - it can only be assumed that the official responsible for the entertainment didn't understand English).

Men

The men's competition was too close to call. Any one of five countries - France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and The Netherlands - had the potential, on their day, to win gold.

Saturday morning provided the first real test - Germany. In the event they were over-powered 4-1, a result that set a pattern for the Germans for the whole competition. As host nation and

European Canoe Championships

Although canoe polo is now a truly global sport, European Nations remain dominant, only the Australians currently being able to compete on equal terms. Thus the 1997 European Championships, held in Essen, Germany, from 5th to 7th September, were sure to be highly competitive.



Men's and Women's Bronze medalists at the 1996 World Championships, much was expected of them. In the event they would win a solitary Bronze, in the Women's competition.

Now the competition began in earnest, with the winners of the three preliminary groups -

Great Britain, France and The Netherlands - playing one-an-other. Britain initially faced France, always the most unpredictable of opponents. In a fast, open game - the sort that entertains spectators but makes coaches visibly age - France won 4-1.

Polo - 1997



Right: The Great Britain's men's, women's and Under 21 teams
Below: Action from the women's game - Great Britain v France



Left: Action from the men's game - Great Britain v Germany
Below: Action from the women's game - Great Britain v France



Left: Action from the men's game - Great Britain v Germany

This result, coupled with a 3-2 victory for The Netherlands over France and the complicated cross-over and repechage system that characterises major tournaments, meant the British had to win their other second round match, early on Sunday against the Dutch, by at

least five clear goals to achieve the simplest route to the final. 4 clear goals would mean second place on goal difference and make progress slightly easier. Any other result would leave a mountain to climb!

To win by five clear goals against a Nation

as strong as the Dutch - a team of 'big shooters' and strong defensively - was a formidable challenge. However, with little to lose it was decided to throw caution to the wind and play a 5-out game from the start, in the hope that this would create sufficient havoc to open up the



Above: Leo Townes under pressure in the Under 21 team's game against Portugal

flood gates! Sunday started badly. With their game scheduled for 8 a.m., the men went to breakfast at 6.15, only to find the dining room deserted - the hotel staff had been to a beer festival the previous night

and were no where to be found. More significantly, once the game started it became clear that the Dutch had failed to read the script - they immediately went 1-0 ahead! However, in one of the most impressive displays ever from a British men's team the 5-out tactic was sustained remorselessly. The eventual 5-1 victory though insufficient to place Great Britain top of the group,

earned second place, providing an easier route to the final and did much to re-build confidence.

The next opponents were Italy, World Silver Medalists in 1996 and a team renowned for their physical approach to the game - akin to an 'if it floats, sink it' philosophy. A hard earned 4-3 victory meant a re-match against the French for a place in the final, (all-be-it that the losers would still have a last chance of reaching the final through the repechage system!).

Producing a far more disciplined performance than the previous day, Great Britain won 2-1. The French then beat Italy 4-3 to set up a repeat of the 1996 European Championships final.

Given recent results between the two countries and with so much at stake it was perhaps

inevitable that the game was initially played somewhat cautiously. The French went 1-0 ahead mid-way through the first half, only for Simon Davison to level the score just before half time. Early in the second half the French again took the lead. For the final 8 minutes the British applied unrelenting pressure to the French goal, but it was 'one of those days' - chances were squandered, shots were saved and at the final whistle Great Britain had to make do with the Silver medal.

Women Triumph

In the Women's competition three countries - France, Germany and Great Britain - were the likely medal winners, with the British, as the current World Champions, the favourites to win Gold.

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The preliminary stages clearly illustrated the disparity of standard of the women's game within Europe. Great Britain's first three games produced 7-1, 20-0 and 17-0 victories over Ireland, Latvia and Portugal respectively.

In contrast, the final two games in the initial phase brought Great Britain face to face with France, the 1995 European Bronze Medalists and Germany, current European Champions.

The British would now display the quality that makes them the most feared team in world polo, placing them apart from even the best men's teams. Others - both men's and women's teams have a clearly favoured style of play. But the British Women's Squad Coaches have worked tirelessly to develop a range of tactics. As a result various game plans are available, that which is ultimately deployed being chosen in relation to the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the opposition and the relevance of the particular game in the context of the tournament as a whole.

Thus at this stage in the competition the intended game plan for the final - 5-out - would be kept under wraps. Employing more traditional tactics, France were beaten 3-2. With a semi-final place already secure, the final preliminary round game, against Germany, was drawn 2-2.

Sunday morning saw Great Britain playing Ireland - a much improved team that could well push into the World's top five in 1998 - in one semi-final and recording an 8-1 victory. The other semi final - France v Germany - resulted in a 6-4 victory for France, on penalties after extra time.

Now the British would employ the 5-out game. This strategy immediately paid dividends. The French were pinned back and two goals from Claire Allen gave the British a 2-0 half-time lead. The second half was a repeat of the first, with goals from Lynda White and Ginny Coyles leading to a 4-0 win. Such was the dominance that Great Britain retained possession for 80% of the game, with the French managing just one shot on goal in 20 minutes! The Gold medal made up for the Silver won at the previous two European Championships and confirmed Great Britain's status as Number One in Women's polo.

Under 21 s

This inaugural competition attracted an entry from all the leading European nations, Great Britain being joined by The Netherlands, France, Germany and Italy, plus Portugal, very much outsiders.

Great Britain's first game was against France, many peoples pre-tournament favourites. Both teams showed their nerves and the 3-3 score line reflected this. Next came The Netherlands, a relatively young side, who were beaten 5-1. There then followed victories over Germany, (4-2), Italy, whose youngsters play in a similar robust style to their elders, (3-1), and Portugal, (12-0).

The two semi-finals saw Great Britain playing Italy and France facing The Netherlands. Great Britain won 6-3 but France v The Netherlands was a much more closely contested game. The last game on Saturday evening, in the fast-gathering gloom The Netherlands eventually won 8-7 following a Golden Goal period of extra time and

a full series of penalties.

Despite Great Britain's 5-1 victory over The Netherlands earlier in the competition, the final seemed certain to be closely contested. The Dutch had improved significantly as the competition had progressed. Further, nerves were likely to play a significant part - given their ages, few of the players would have experience of pressure finals in either domestic or international competition.

Certainly the final justified the decision to include an Under 21 competition in the Championships. Exciting, at times high quality, end to end polo eventually led to a 2-1 victory for Great Britain, (the goal scorers being Nick Archer and Richard Hendry).

In Summary

First place in the Women's and Under 21 Men's competitions and the Men's Silver medal confirmed Great Britain's status as the Number One European canoe polo nation. But others the Dutch, Germans, Italians and, notably, the French - all covet that position. They, together with the Australians, will provide stern opposition at next year's World Championships.

Results

Men

1. France
2. Great Britain
3. Italy

Women

1. Great Britain
2. France
3. Germany

U21 Men

1. Great Britain
2. Netherlands
3. France



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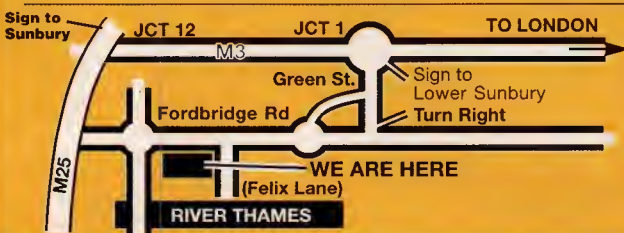
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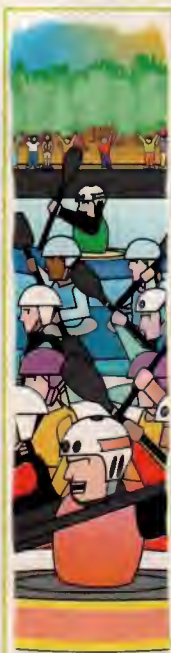
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Report by
Dave Enoch

A nna Hemmings won her

first major championship victories taking the K1 gold medals at both events after being 4th. in the Amsterdam Worlds back in 1994 while still a junior, 2nd. in the Spain World Cup in 1995 and 2nd. again in the World Champs. in Sweden last year. Now established as the leading woman marathon racer she has her sights on the World Championships in South Africa next year.

Our top women's K2 of Sonja Bapty and Tricia Davey had been 3rd. in Belgium and 2nd. in Poland earlier this year so were definite medal contenders. With the leaders throughout the race in Denmark, their finishing speed was just too much for the Hungarians who had to settle for second place. Two weeks later in Italy Sonja and Tricia reinforced their superiority by adding the European title to their trophy haul.

This is the first time British women have won a

World Cup Final and European Championships

British women unbeatable in Europe and the world

British women pulled off a clean sweep of titles as the international marathon season reached its climax with the World Cup Final in Bagsvard, Denmark at the end of August and the European Championships in Pravia, Italy, two weeks later.



major title since international marathon racing expanded to its present level with the introduction of world championships in 1988.

Helen Gilby was unfortunate to take a swim at the first portage in her K1 and did well to recover to 6th. place whilst the K2 of Alison Thorogood and Heather Brough finished 5th. and just 12 seconds behind the 4th. placed Italians.

Train Brothers In a Class of Their Own
Current World C2 Champions, Andy and Steve Train, demolished the opposition in Denmark winning by over 5 minutes from the Hungarians. It is now 13 years since they won their first World Cup medal in Ireland and 9 years since they first became World Champions but their winning margins seem to be getting bigger and bigger. As usual they made this most technically difficult of racing disciplines look so easy as they cruised to victory.

Largest G.B. Marathon Team Ever

The British team to the World Cup Final was the largest ever with 30 paddlers and the results

were the best ever. Three championship titles, six medals, the Men's Kayak trophy, the Women's Kayak trophy, the Nations Cup for the best overall performance and the trophy for the overall winners of the World Cup series.

In the Men's K1 race Tim Brabants was always in the leading group. Coming out of the last portage he managed to drop the two Dutch paddlers De Nijs and Te Linde who have had such a good season, but couldn't hang onto Thor Neilsen of Denmark and World Champion Chad Meek of Australia. A bronze medal plus a silver in the European Championships two weeks later is no mean feat in his first season of international marathon racing. Steve Baker also had an exceptional race. Again in the leading group for much of the time he finished 7th. in this 35 boat world class field.

Fast and furious

The Men's K2 race was always going to be fast and furious with so many top crews of a similar standard. World Champions Ivan Lawler and Steve Harris were, as usual, always in the right place. By the last portage the leading group was down to three boats. As the pace increased the Danes were the first to drop with 1km. to go, leaving Ivan and Steve to battle it out with the Australians who just managed to hold off the British crew to take the gold medal. So Ivan and Steve added silver to the gold's they won in 1994, 95 and 96.

Simon Dark and Greg Slater had a disastrous

Top left: Hemmings with Szonda of Hungary (2nd)

Left: Junior medallist Damien Chapman

Below: Train brothers off the start



Steve Baker: 5th in K1



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start but then grittily worked their way through the field to finish 7th., just over two minutes down on the leaders. James Lee had a good C1 race to finish 8th., one place higher than at the World Championships last year.

In the junior races, the outstanding British performance was by Damien Chapman in the men's K1 who took the bronze medal, just 6 seconds down on the second placed Swede. This is the first junior men's K1 medal for many years.

Abigail Cattle still has two more years as a junior so her fine 5th. place in the junior women's K1 bodes well for the future.

In the junior men's K2 race Paul Prestwood and Danny Matthews were up with the leaders until they damaged their rudder at the portage leaving Ashley Starr and Stuart Hayday as the leading British boat in 9th. Place.



Dark and Slater chase the leading K2s.



Marathon World Cup Final Results

Men K1			
1	Thor Neilson	DEN	2:19:46
2	Tim Brabants	GBR	2:20:10
3	Steve Baker	GBR	2:22:27
Women K1			
1	Anna Hemmings	GBR	2:33:21
2	Helen Gilby	GBR	2:39:29
14	Beth Campbell	GBR	2:49:53
C1			
1	Carsten Scales	DEN	2:38:09
8	James Lee	GBR	2:47:38
Junior Men K1			
1	Mette Barford	DEN	1:22:43
5	Abigail Cattle	GBR	1:25:38
16	Carly Andrews	GBR	1:34:14
Mens K2			
1	C Meek/L Wilson	AUD	2:09:21
2	I Lawler/S Harris	GBR	2:09:22
7	S Dark/G Slater	GBR	2:11:32
15	J Block/J Butler	GBR	2:14:34
Women K2			
1	S Bapty/P Davey	GBR	2:28:55
5	A Thorogood/H Brough	GBR	2:33:32
9	A Andrews/S Keating	GBR	2:49:28
C2			
1	A Train/S Train	GBR	2:24:58
Junior Men K2			
1	P Baranmai/G Csatko	HUN	1:10:32
9	A Starr/S Hayday	GBR	1:12:16
11	P Prestwood/D Matthews	GBR	1:18:52

Marathon European Championship Results

Men K1			
1	Edwin De Nijs	NED	3:12:19
2	Tim Brabants	GBR	3:12:56
4	Neil Coleman	GBR	3:16:57
Women's K1			
1	Anna Hemmings	GBR	2:44:47
8	Helen Gilby	GBR	2:55:16
C1			
1	Pal Petervari	HUN	3:42:32
8	James Lee	GBR	4:00:09
Mens K2			
1	M Skoldbeck/T Krantz	SWE	3:10:33
3	I Lawler/S Harris	GBR	3:12:08
Women's K2			
1	S Bapty/P Davey	GBR	2:31:04
2	A Thorogood/H Brough	GBR	2:38:09

Hasler Finals

Hereford Kayak Club

Sometime, long ago, there was a mention of a race - we know now they meant the Hasler Finals!

Over the last year the Hasler committee, a sub group of the Kayak Club committee (plus other interested or mad people), have met on a regular basis to put together the project of hosting the 1997 Hasler Finals. These unsuspecting people have jointly plotted and planned until at last on September 21st 1997 on the River Wye in Hereford the 1997 Hasler Finals took place.

Everything from the design of tee shirts to the flowers for our guests were given the greatest attention and we cannot possibly thank all the people who have given time, money or expertise to this project.

The following short report includes some of the mind blowing tasks which were undertaken and will hopefully give those people who have kindly volunteered to host the event in years to come, a chance to see what needs to be done.

It only leaves you to read this report and accept the thanks of the committee if you have contributed in any way to the event. Thank You!

Recipe of the Hasler Finals Day!

Ingredients:-

- Take 1 Race Organiser
- 1 Course Co-ordinator
- 1 Results Person
- 1 Camping & Car Parking Co-ordinator
- 3 Administrators, sponsorship and general gophers.

Then add:

- 4 People to put results onto the computer
- 8 Turn judges and portage controllers
- 6 Safety Boats (and paddlers)
- 6 People manning boat checks
- 2 Starters
- 3 Timekeepers
- 3-4 Runners (the young ones of course)
- 4 Marshals for camping and car parking
- 2 People on 'check - in'
- 2 Caterers plus other hands when needed
- 2 People selling tee-shirts and raffle

Method:

- Take one committee, give them a target date and brief idea of what is needed.
- Split the roles, give each 'volunteer' an area of responsibility.
- Give them all six months to get ideas together and another six months to panic.
- Try not to tear your hair out (it will go grey anyway by the end of the race) when sponsorship and publicity don't seem forthcoming - it will happen in the end.

- Make sure the facilities are all okay, even down to the last portalo.
- Try to let everyone know why this race is important to both the club and canoeing in general - we found inviting Mr Bill Sparks helped people to understand.
- Don't forget to get hold of the trophies, they are an important part of the day.
- Remember that paddlers and spectators get hungry, don't forget you need to feed them all.
- Perform a rain dance two days before the race to ensure there is an ideal amount of water in the river for the race day, then order sun for the day.

Results:

One excellent days racing for a record number of paddlers - 517 at the last count! An excellent guest of honour for the day (in fact he stayed for the weekend in our beautiful city). A great example of team work from a voluntary sports club right through the whole membership of the club.

Support from many local businesses:-
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 Herefordshire Sports Council

Seriously Though

Although we have joked about the event, it did in fact run remarkably smoothly thanks to the dedication of all those people involved. There are too many to mention in person but they will all have read this and will know who they are. The racing itself produced some spectacular starts and finishes (end everything in between) and the results for the Hasler Finals 1997 as follows:-

- 1st Elmbridge
- 2nd Wey
- 3rd Kirkcaldy
- 4th Bradford on Avon
- 5th Worcester
- 6th Bishops Stortford

Top Region - South East

Although Hereford Club had only relatively few paddlers they performed extremely well with the following results:-

- 3rd Paul Watkins - Div 2
- 3rd Paul Burgoyne - Div 3
- 6th Terry Wilcox -Div 6

Other Hereford Paddlers taking part were:-
 Mark Burgoyne Div 2, Barry Watkins Div 2, Paul Davies Div 3, Peter Davies Div 6, Dave Cianchi Div 6, Jenny Spencer Div 5, Ian and Sam Perridge Div 7/8 K2.

This event has, and will have, a great effect on the Hereford Kayak Club and the enthusiasm for canoeing in the future in the area. The report on the day has taken a very light hearted view of the event but we hope you will agree that the event was a success.

Well Done Everyone!

**Report by Jan Perridge -
 Committee Member, Hereford Kayak Club**

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Report by
Chris Redwood



Right: Portuairk

Below right:
Highland cattle
on Rum

The success or failure of a sea kayaking trip inevitably depends upon the weather and so we were a little apprehensive when we arrived at Oban in driving rain and high winds at zam after an 8 hour journey from the Wirral. Nevertheless come the next morning the rain clouds and infamous scotch mist had been banished and we were left with startling views across the isles of Mull and Scarba.

Packing of sea-boats always takes time and always provides you with a number of paradoxes such as the ease with which 4 cans of ale fit in your boat but more essential items are always a really tight fit! There is a vast array of equipment carried ranging from flares, charts, VHF radio, GPS, splits, tents, sleeping bags, stoves and water which is perhaps the heaviest and most bulky item carried as well as the most important. I find that the water carrier acts as good ballast as well as providing a degree of support for your legs.

With the long journey behind us and enough food for 8 days we launched from Oban and took a bearing for Eilean Musdile (Lismore Island) which is at the southern end of Loch Linhe, with a view to paddling up the Sound of Mull on the flood tide. It is not always essential but it makes paddling so much more easy if you have the tide with you.



As we passed over this point there was a small tide race which although was not a surprise as it was a headland reminded me in some respects of the Gulf of Corryvreckan (in slack water!) as there are huge boils and permanently shifting eddies.

Regal magnificence

Duart Castle in its regal magnificence acts as a guard tower over the Sound but we soon passed it heading up under the gaze of Ben More which is the highest peak on Mull at 3171 feet. As we pulled into Scallastle Bay

(adjacent to Craignure Bay) for the night adjustments had to be made to footrests and backstraps and boats had to be trimmed. At least we knew that after the evening meal there would be a little more space and so packing in the morning should be easier. As we put up the tents there was a gentle breeze in the evening sunset which kept the midgies at bay.

Not to encroach

The paddle up to the Tobermory was mainly into a headwind and involved keeping a watchful eye out for the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries on their way to the Outer Hebrides. The Sound is itself busy with small craft as well as wildlife along the shore such as sea-otters. The cliffs on the approach to Tobermory are tall and littered with seabirds such as terns, puffins and oyster catchers. Bearing this in mind it is important to respect their habitats and not to encroach. Sea kayaking has this ability to quietly pass by at a discreet distance while leaving no trace of ever having been there.

Arriving at Tobermory past Calve Island we found ourselves camping on a concrete jetty overlooking the harbour. Although it was not ideal it was good for its proximity to Tobermory for those of us that wanted some fresh provisions.

Having eaten a hearty high cholesterol breakfast in Tobermory! we continued up past Ardmore Point over to Ardnamurchan which is the western most point of mainland Britain. The weather was dull and overcast combined with a wind on our port beam which did not make this paddle particularly enjoyable! Nevertheless we discovered a small inlet along the relatively inhospitable coastline



Should you have any enquiries regarding overnight stays camping on RUM contact the Rum National Nature Reserve on 01687 462026



Sea-kayaking in The Hebrides



Trip members were:

John Driver
Phil McGinity
Mike Cooper
Len Hartley
Jan Macdonald

in which to stretch our legs and grab some lunch. We continued on past Ardnamurchan and settled at Portuairk with its golden beach and turquoise coloured water. For once the portage was across sand as opposed to stones and seaweed that are always the bane of sea paddlers. We suspected the weather was closing in and naturally were cautious as to where we pitched the tents as on a previous trip my tent had taken the brunt of a stream bursting its banks in a heavy rainstorm. My final tent positioning was on top of a grassy knoll that had fine views across to the small isles of Eigg Rum & Muck.

Although the rain had ceased the wind was still strong the following morning and we debated the options hoping for a slight drop which as luck would have it occurred late afternoon which gave us the window to head for the small isle of Muck (7.2 nautical miles). Unfortunately within a short space of time we found ourselves paddling straight into a headwind that was nudging a force 3/4. We all cracked on keeping our convoy of 6 kayaks as tight as possible and we reached Port Mor on Muck three and a half hours later, absolutely exhausted.

More mentally than physically challenging

The group itself was well experienced including Level 5 Sea coach Len Hartley, whose knowledge and input to the group during the week was greatly valued. Open crossings can be more mentally than physically challenging mainly because of the commitment involved as opposed to the distance. A technique I always use is in transits not only to gauge positioning but as a motivating factor especially when starting to tire.

We were welcomed by the few residents whom we met who seemed apparently impressed and a little surprised by our crossing given the conditions. They offered their old school house as a cooking area and what must have been the playground as a campsite. It was only later we learned that the islanders prefer campers/kayakers to use the north of the island. The evening sunset over the distant

Cuillens sealed another fine days kayaking.

In the morning we took a bearing for the isle of Rum. Before we did this we rang the Rum National Nature Reserve to enquire about camping as they prefer kayakers to ring in advance. Kinloch, on the east of the island is the only area where camping is allowed. It is not permitted elsewhere because of interference to the wildlife, the fire risk and other health and safety reasons.

The paddle over to Rum was tranquil, with hardly a ripple on the water, especially as we were accompanied by porpoises. As we paddled past Dibidil on the south east corner of Rum we were in awe of the towering sea cliffs and huge caves.

Rum itself has an interesting history while not only having had its population subjected to the clearances in the last century also boasts the spectacular Kinloch Castle which was built by the mildly eccentric George Bullough at the turn of the century. He was an industrialist who had accumulated vast wealth from the Lancashire cotton mills and had this palatial residence built. This has restricted opening to the public but is well worth a look around if you have the opportunity. Oddly enough as a teetotaler he even changed the spelling of the island from Rum to Rhum to avoid any possible links! The spelling of the island has now reverted to the original. There is an excellent book about life on the island under the Bullough era in Archie Cameron's classic book 'Bare feet and tackety boots'. The island is now owned by the Scottish Natural Heritage having been sold to the nation for a nominal amount in the 1950's. Rum is probably the most impressive of all the isles that I have visited and for this reason we spent a day walking over to Harris Bay which is where the mausoleum for the Bullough's is sited There is also a deer research project in the north of the island where on going studies occur. Much of the research is based on undisturbed observation of the deer which is why visitors are asked to avoid the Kilmory area during the week. The Kilmory area is completely closed during June when hinds are calving; and in October when stags are rutting.

The only bad thing that I can say about Rum and this was echoed in Archie Cameron's book was that the midgies were absolutely fiendish! It was for this reason alone that we beat a hasty retreat to our tents to sample our bottles of Malt

As we left Kinloch Castle and Loch Scresort behind us, still itching from the midgies, we set a course for the Point of Sleet on Skye which was in a distant haze just over 10 miles away. It was another committing paddle but was worthwhile for the sunset that evening over the Cuillens.

The golden beaches of Camus Dairch (set of the film 'Local Hero') were a relatively short paddle away (compared to the previous day) and from there we headed for the first official campsite at Arisaig where the luxury of hot showers awaited.



Top: Chris Redwood, Tobermory on Mull
Below: Campsite, Isle of Mull near Salen
Bottom: Mausoleum on Rum





Norwegian Experience

I blame it all on John Ramwell, this spate of Sea Kayak Symposia.



Way back in the 1970's John was the prime mover in setting up the B.C.U. Sea Touring Committee and was its first Chairman. He was also the organiser of the first Sea Kayak Symposium held in the United Kingdom, over the weekend of 10th/11th December 1976 in Birmingham, which is a bit far from the sea by my way of thinking.

Report by
Duncan R.
Winning

Photos by
Kai Gjessing
and Duncan R.
Winning

However, it was at that Symposium that the first constituted meeting of the Sea Touring Committee took place. Early the following year he took over the running of the Advanced Sea Kayak Club. From then until he handed over the chair of the Committee he organised six symposia, at approximately two year intervals under the joint banner of the S.T.C. and the A.S.K.C. In 1990, he was involved along with Frank Goodman and Nigel Dennis, in the formation of the Nordkapp Trust, the first action of which, was to institute the annual Anglesey Sea Symposium.

By '92' the idea was catching on and that year saw the start of both the bi-annual European Sea Kayaking Symposium run by Jersey Canoe Club and Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium, now also a bi-annual event, organised by the Strathclyde West Coaching Panel of the Scottish Canoe Association. The Irish Sea Kayaking Symposium got underway in 1994 to be followed in 1996 by the Outer Hebrides event. All the glowing reports, in the canoeing press, were spreading the word and

Kai Gjessing from Lillehammer thought that it was about time there was a Norwegian event. Therefore, early this May I found myself, in company with Gordon Brown, a level five Scottish Coach, paddling up the Norwegian coast from Bergen to the island of Nord

Kjerringa in the Austerheim district of Hordaland where we were to be contributors to the first Norwegian Sea Kayak Symposium.

Austerheim is an area with a myriad of islands, most of them populated and many connected, by an astonishing system of bridges, to the mainland. A benefit resulting from North Sea oil earnings. On arrival Nord Kjerringa turned out to be very small, some 200 by 150 metres and had been the home of the local school. The building is now an accommodation centre with excellent facilities and available for hire from the local community. A new bunkhouse compliments the amenities which were extended for the weekend by the organising team erecting Sami (Lapp) Lavotents for their own use.

Participants were treated to a series of talks on such diverse topics as efficient forward paddling to Inuit Kayak building, slide shows of paddling in Greenland, Scotland, Svalbard, Sweden and Norway, demonstrations, practical sessions, a selection of short paddle tours in the locality and of course, the opportunity to meet and socialise with other paddlers from a variety of countries and backgrounds.

Manufacturers and agents were also on hand with a selection of demo boats and accessories.

One aspect which I found particularly pleasing was the impromptu way the programme was augmented by the participants. For example, after the evening meals additional slide shows appeared and the scheduled demonstration of Inuit techniques with his replica West Greenland Kayak by the British paddler Rich Lennox, now resident in Bergen, took on a greater impact when joined by two of the company in their replica boats, Anders Thygersen from Norway with his West Greenland Kayak and Kjeld Jensen from Sweden in his one hole Aleut Baidarka.

There was a tremendous interest in Inuit paddling, Gordon Brown's session had people

queuing to use the half dozen narrow bladed paddles we had taken over, followed by requests to borrow them for use on the afternoon trips. One keen paddler was seeking help in mastering a particular Inuit roll after dark by the jetty lights and there were six fabric covered replica Inuit craft at the event, including a two hole Aleut baidarka, all of which were used for active paddling, not just as demonstration tools.

There is no coaching scheme in Norway but it is a matter of current debate and Bengt Hansson gave a talk on the Swedish Kayak Education System followed by a short presentation on the B.C.U. Coaching Scheme from Gordon. Some lively discussion followed, the Norwegian view generally being that the British System was far too complicated and not suitable for them. I pointed out that in the U.K. the scheme had originally been much simpler but had changed in response to a number of pressures over quite a long time. My suggestion was that they should not adopt anyone else's system but pick out what suited them, from a number of other schemes, put in place a simple system then modify it as and when required as a result of their experience with it.



Festivities were brought to a close with a shrimp fest. Everyone was seated at long tables and got tucked into large bowls of shrimp, still in their shells, which were consumed with bread and mayonnaise, a veritable finger picking feast. Before the assembled company could escape they were subjected to one final slide show, it was of a trip I had made to the area thirty years before, paddling in company with Joe Reid a well known Scottish sea paddler and sea kayak designer and builder from the pre glassfibre era.

Considering this was their first symposium the organising team managed to attract participants from a surprisingly wide area, over ninety people attended, coming from Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Uzbekistan. The assembled fleet of kayaks was just as diverse with craft originating from Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, they ranged from traditional fabric covered craft through folders, plywood, GRP and plastic to a particularly beautiful strip planked kayak in the form of a Aleut Baidarka.

Congratulations are due to Kai and his team for staging an excellent event and my personal thanks are due to him for inviting Gordon and myself. Again on a personal level, I would like to thank, Rich Lennox, his Norwegian partner Marita Svanemyr Haugen and their daughter Emma with whom Gordon and I stayed overnight on both our arrival and departure from Bergen.

Next year's event may be organised by a different group and located elsewhere. Irrespective, I can thoroughly recommend the "Norwegian Experience" especially if extended to include a coastal tour.

Top pic: Gordon Brown
Right: Rich Lennox and Emma
Below: Inuit skills demo



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Report by
Simon Fairless
Photos by
Steve Holmes



Saturday saw the teams competing in the skill events - ten gruelling tasks that would leave the lifeguards physically and mentally drained by the end of the day. The weather however, had other plans. The severity of the surf would preclude all but the strongest teams from competing and so some rescheduling had to occur. Lunch was brought forward and the theory paper, which is normally written on Sunday, was started. Following a further check on the sea and a phone call to the coastguard for a weather update, the skills were finally started. The first of these events was a swimming rescue of a struggling swimmer. A 200 metre sprint followed by the same distance back this

A strong breeze and steady drizzle welcomed the teams to Weymouth on the Friday evening, the start of the 1997 National Championships. As Saturday morning arrived however, the sun was shining brightly and remained so throughout the day. However, a strong wind and four and a half feet of dumping surf would provide a serious headache to the organisers.

time towing the casualty through the heaving sea and surf. Once back on the beach, first aid for exposure had to be administered. The second event was a recovery of a capsized

team member. This was completed well by all teams, especially when you considered the sea conditions. A reel-and-line rescue was carried out next. Each team had to tie their throw

BCU Lifeguard National Convention '98

Details are at present being confirmed, but the 1998 convention will take place in April at a location in South Wales. There will be a multitude of lifesaving and rescue seminars and skills workshops. See February Canoe Focus for full details and booking arrangements.

National Lifeguard Championships 1998

Next years event will be held at the Herts Young Mariners Base at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire - the home of Herts Canoe Lifeguards. The date will be 19th/20th September 1998. As with previous years teams will consist of 3 competitors, a judge or marshal and two bodies.

Categories include - Best Lifeguard Team, Best Ladies Team, Best Junior Team, Best Veteran Team, Best Canoe Club Team to name but a few.





Championships

Diamond Lady competition! A half mile run and a half mile swim rounded the day off. It was time to sample some of the local food and ale.

Sunday saw the teams testing their skill and knowledge against the unknown. Two incidents had been set up, one land based, one water based and each team had to deal with each incident as they came across them. A throwline event and a boat pinning exercise held over from Saturday were also undertaken. The water based incident saw our team of lifeguards brought to the waterside by the sound of a woman screaming. While walking in the sea with her teenage daughter and carrying a young child, she had stepped on a plank of wood with large nails sticking up through it. These had gone through her foot causing her to drop the baby. The baby had been eating sweets and was now choking. The teenage daughter panicked and started swimming out to sea!

The land based incident was to treat 3 men injured by a large pane of glass falling on them. One casualty had a glass shard sticking into his chest and piercing his lung. A second casualty had received a blow to the head and was unconscious with a fractured skull and the remaining bloke was unscathed but panicking.

Marks were awarded not only for the speed in completing the rescue but also for patient care. The weekend came to a close with the Mayor of Weymouth making the presentations to the winners. Congratulations to Hertfordshire Canoe Lifeguards Team Alpha who only just beat Weymouth Lifeguards A Team.

Wye Bother Canoe Lifeguards Team Alpha came third. Congratulations also to the junior teams from Weymouth Lifeguards and Gosport and Fareham for taking joint first in their category and also to the Weymouth Ladies team for taking first place in their category.

The championships are important to all the participants and spectators for a number of reasons. The prize of becoming the National Champions is obvious, but for many regular competitors and helpers it is a chance to meet up with old friends. But for all, it is a learning experience designed to make one a safer more confident person.



ropes together and then one member had to swim out to a casualty with the rope attached to their buoyancy aid. Once the casualty had been reached, the remaining 2 team members had to pull the swimmers into the beach as fast as possible.

The last event of the day was now undertaken - the Duck Race! One competitor from each team had to lie in a line face down into the sand. On hearing the signal, they had to jump up and sprint down the beach into the sea and attempt to grab a plastic duck. There were less ducks than competitors. The elimination continued until an eventual winner was found. The day concluded with the traditional Iron Man and





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

Fighting against segregation



Dear Canoe Focus

We were very interested to read Dave Bateman's proposals (Yakety Yak Letters, October 1997) for an event specifically for disabled paddlers.

Whilst the idea of encouraging paddlers of all abilities to enjoy the sport is obviously sound, we were concerned about the segregated nature of such an event.

We have spent the last eight years fighting against the segregation of our own son - a seasoned canoe passenger - see Conwy Ascent report, Canoe Focus August 1997) into groups/schools/clubs etc. specifically for "disabled" people, with the result that he is seen locally, and particularly by his friends in mainstream school, as Tom, who happens to see, walk and learn less well than other children, rather than being labelled and patronised.

We actively encourage his inclusion within mainstream life and feel very strongly that any event or institution which

separates people into "disabled" and "non-disabled" groups is to be avoided.

Rather, clubs, centres etc. could make a special effort to ensure that in their recruitment of members and in encouraging people to enjoy paddling, they include all people - young, old, male, female, with or without a visual or hearing impairment or a physical or learning disability etc. Then all may learn from each other and feel a part of the activity, rather than "disabled people" having an event organised for them, with its associated patronising tone.

In practical terms, this means ensuring that events include people of all abilities who wish to participate, with any additional support required offered "as and when" they need it. Experience shows that this is usually only a matter of awareness and goodwill on the part of other participants and the consequence is often that the "disability" all but disappears. After all, those labelled "disabled" are often only "disabled" by attitudes towards their impairment.

If the goodwill that obviously exists in the world of canoeing could be channelled into inclusion rather than segregation, everyone involved could benefit.

Mike & Ginny Burton



Roofrack accident

Dear Canoe Focus

I have recently had an accident involving my roofrack coming adrift from my car, whilst driving along a motorway. Fortunately, no one else was involved as it was late at night. The car roof panel to which the roof rack attaches has actually buckled, rather than a faulty roofrack or bad installation. Although I did not overload the roofrack or misuse it, neither the manufacturer or dealership who sold me the car, are claiming any responsibility for the failure. Therefore, I am forced to go through the legal process to claim the cost of the damage to my car, canoes and paddles.

From having conversations with other paddlers, it appears I am not the first to have this problem with gutterless car roof designs. Hence, I would ask any canoeists that have had roof racks come off their car, or if they know anyone, who has had a similar problem, then please contact me at the address supplied.

If I receive enough information, I will be able to tabulate the results and issue a league table for a future issue. These results could state which cars which have had the most roof rack failures whilst carrying canoes, which may be of help to anyone looking to buy a car, but doesn't trust the current designs of gutterless roofs.

Alex Longson

3 Linley Close, East Tilbury Village, Essex RM18 8PT

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Thanks to all the paddlers

Dear Canoe Focus

On the weekend of the 27th and 28th of September Bob Timms and I, helped by volunteer 'models' were engaged in taking photographs for a book on white water safety and rescue, that is due out in time for the next International Canoe Exhibition. At times this involved working on busy stretches of the Afon Tryweryn and inevitably getting in people's way.

I am writing to thank all the paddlers who were there that weekend for their patience, helpfulness and good humour. Thanks.

Franco Ferrero

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The Petzl Saxo is the latest addition to their impressive range of head torches, as with most of Petzl range it has a rotating bezel allowing the lamp to be turned on and off also to adjust the light beam by zooming in and out. But the Petzl Saxo is not just a head torch it can be quickly unclipped from its adjustable strap and Hey Presto you have a small hand held torch. You can have your cake and eat it.



Usually something that has been designed to be of general purpose is not very good at doing a specific job but the Saxo is so moulded as to be well balanced when worn on the head and feels comfortable when used as a normal torch. I gave the torch to others to test they did find using the clip and fitting the batteries quite difficult but they all did not take the trouble to look at the instructions. All is explained quite easily using diagrams on the side of the box and once these were read then all was plain sailing. If in doubt read the instructions.

Not to be taken with pinch of salt (sorry just had to get that in somewhere) the Saxo is small and light enough to be taken anywhere. It has Petzls normal robust build quality and using 4xAA batteries with a standard bulb under normal conditions it gives 9 hours worth of light.

Information from Any good outdoor shops or <http://www.petzl.com> or petzl@dial.cleane.com.

Article by Dave Halsall

Ravenspring Thermal Wear

This new thermal wear from Ravenspring is manufactured from 'Viloft' a new Courtaulds fibre and mixed with polyester. An extremely soft and comfortable material which feels great next to the skin, not too bulky, excellent for use under dry cags. With high thermal properties the kit can be washed at up to 50 degrees C, and unlike similar thermal wear does not shrink in the tumble drier (assuming of course you do actually wash your thermal kit!) Tops have a choice of crew neck and long or short sleeves. Tops and leggings come in XS, S, M, L and XL. I trialled a small top which was just right for my size, average height female, size 12, but the leggings which were also small were a bit too short, medium would have been better. Very comfy and very cosy and reasonably priced at £16 per piece plus £1 p&p.



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Watersport Safety Signage 'Buoyancy jackets must be worn on the water' logo designed to promote water safety. Available as a static signage, printed blue on solid white on either self-adhesive vinyl; semi-rigid pvc at 480 mic; or on 3mm rigid plastic, the latter pre-drilled for screw fixing. As a sticker to go on kayak foredeck or canoe bow, the sign is printed at 125mm x 90mm on 'Supertack' vinyl that is suitable for adhesion to polyethylene boats (excluding Prijon). Available as singles or packs of 50 and 100. For more detail and prices Contact Screen Graphics.



Polartec Thermal Stretch Range From PEAK

The Polartec Thermal Stretch range, offers body hugging stretch and exceptional insulation, including Shorts (£34), Trousers (£56) and the Polartec Head Case a close fitting hat which can be worn under a helmet for ultimate thermal protection. The new Polartec short sleeved shirt (pictured) features a neoprene neck and retails at £60. The range also includes the first Dry Top for the recreational paddler (£90) and a combination top and neoprene deck for competition at £128. Polartec Thermal Stretch fabric has a 'skin-like' polyurethane face to shed water and a polyester/lycra inner surface for warmth and chafe free comfort. For more information contact PEAK Tel: 01629 825133



Less Discount for Werner Performance

In an attempt to make the outstanding performance of Werner's white water paddles more accessible to those of us with less generous bank managers, Playboater are introducing the new 'Mid Line' paddle at an affordable £129 for the new season. The Mid Line features the same blade construction as the Werner's renowned 'Wenatchee' paddle but sports a radical 'Primer Grey' fascia for the retro Blade Runner society of future enthusiasts! The blades are moulded directly onto an epoxy/wound polyester shaft which comes complete with indexed grips. What more could you possibly want... except perhaps a 60 degree feather and options on length from 197cm - 200cm as standard and other sizes to order. For more information, contact System X - Playboater on 0118 9321449

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For further information on the Microbat 240 and the Master Lite

contact:

Sales Department,
Pyranha Mouldings
Ltd, Marina
Village, Preston
Brook, Runcorn
WA7 3DW
Tel: 01928 716666
Fax: 01928 714399

Big Brother Comes of Age

Pyranha's Microbat 240 has arrived

Fundamentally it has the same features as its sibling the Microbat 230, plus a flatter hull. An excellent craft for creek running, surfing and playing, with a double concave hull and shallow rocker combined with the raked bow and stern giving excellent lift and enabling a fast and comfortable ride.

The 240 has been designed essentially for the heavier paddler (so big boys have no excuses not to shred with best!) Experienced and

less experienced will feel happy and stable in this boat.

It has great advantages for the extreme paddler with more stern buoyancy than the 230 and features the unique Pyranha ICS adjustable seat and thigh grips, with a key hole cockpit for easy access. Combined with the ICS system this allows comfort, control and rigidity.

American Clay Wright, World Squirt Kayak Champion says of the Microbat 240: "It's great, I noticed an increase in speed - top end and cruising speed, the boat is much more stable than the 230 - front to back as well



as side to side, beginners are going to feel more comfortable in it for sure. It doesn't carve quite as easily as the 230, but is still better than other creek boats".



Dimensions: Shell Length: 244cms (8'1"),
Width: 60cm (24"), Volume: 255 lts.
Cockpit length: 84cm (33.25"),
Width: 39cm (15.5")
Weight: 18kgs (39lb),
Material: Manufactured from recyclable High Density Metallocene Polyethylene.
Price: RRP from £499 inc Vat



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web site <http://www.arrowmcc.demon.co.uk>

email wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk



Master Lite

Based around the very successful Master launched in 1983, the Master Lite has been designed with the smaller paddler in mind e.g. youth and ladies.

Proportionally smaller than the Master it has the latest in design features with a scaled down rim, seat and fittings. It's moderately rockered keel provides high manoeuvrability and easy forward paddling. The hull rail provides stability whilst giving lift when side surfing waves and allowing fast, clean carved turns.

As per the Microbat 240 the Master Lite features a keyhole cockpit, end grabs and built in foam buoyancy and the ICS seating system

with foam fitting options. Dependant on specification it also comes with a retracting skeg, drain bung, thigh grips and back strap. It's most welcoming feature though is it's light weight, I am 5'4" tall and an average sized female, and for once I could easily carry the boat and even manage to lift it onto my roofrack without assistance.

Teenage Burton Canoe Club member, Tim Lawrenson, paddled the boat on the flat, playing on the weir and down the Washburn, and loved every minute of it, the retractable skeg provided excellent assistance when paddling in a straight line on the flat. The only possible adaptation suggested was a bow cap for that extra bit of durability.

I can see this as a very popular schools, youth group and centre boat, hard wearing, lightweight, but looking as cool and sporty as its full size counterparts.



Dimensions:
Hull: 293cms,
Cockpit: 77cms,
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Weight:
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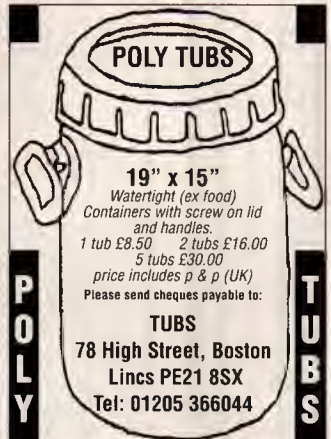
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1 **Perception Reflex**, Kioo paddles, Palm spraydeck, and helmet £150 ono, will sell separately. 4 Neoprene spray decks to go £8 each. 4 Palm spraydecks £6 each. Tel: Kim 0161 430 8589 after 6pm

3 **Canadian Canoes** Coleman Ram X15. Assorted lifejackets/paddle. Trailer for 6 Canadians/12 slalom canoes £600 ono Tel: 0410 805551

Ace Pioneer a semi decked open

canadian polythene canoe. Can easily be paddled both canadian or kayak. Fitted with footrests and spray deck for centre compartment. Great fun to paddle including white water or with the kids £150. Tel: 0181 508 8615 Essex

Blue Hurricane, vgc, 1 seasons use 6 stored indoors £320. Contact Phillip (in Durham) on 0191 383 0416.

Boats for sale at Calshot Act. Centre 2 x Islander sea kayaks. 12 x MI recreation (pool boats) £600 for fleet. 1 x ww racer £100. 2 x Perception Mirages £50 each. 1 x Vega (surf shoe) £25 each. 5 x Ardeches (GP doubles) in VGC £750 for fleet. The above are all ex-centre boats - if interested contact: Dave Gunter or Laurence West 01703 892077

Buffalo DP System mountain shirt, blue and hood £43 (new). Marlin Buoyancy aids, kids small 40kg, junior 30-40kg, baby, 20kg, all new £15 each. Grabnet Slalom vest, medium, green and black £5 Tel: 0181 644 2717 Surrey

Corsica S full plate footrest, bow cap, drain plug, green, well used but solid and watertight £220 ono Tel: 01642 865607 Teesside

Creek, red arline, full ww spec, good condition £290. Waveski, Raider custom, epoxy, 4 yrs old, very light. Floats up to 11.5 stone 28' to 32" leg length. Cost £550 sell for £280. Small wave ski, floats up to 9 stone good condition £45. Pontefract 01977 794152 eves or 01977 795009 day.

Dagger Freefall LT, black, backstrap, nose cone £310. Aquabat, light green, good beginners or pool boat £100 Southampton 01489 894131

Dancer, purple with yellow graphics, full ww spec. Ladies boat only used once (I know, I know, but it's true!). VGC £295 Tel: 01206 826318 Essex

Discovery 174 90ld Town) reasonable condition with paddles £525. Tel: 01460 67690 (Chard Somerset)

End of Season Sale - 1 Touring Plastic boat £90. 6 Mirage Perception £90 each. 20 ABS paddles £18. 20 Outdoor Leisure Supplie buoyancy aids £25. 14 spray decks £12. 6 3 or 4 man dome tent (used 4 times) £90 each. 15 rucksacks from £10/£30. 10 Canoe helmets £18 each. 20 wet suits from £5-£40. 20 Troll granite harness £20 each. 20 climbing helmet camp £18 each. 5 Gaz double burner stove £30 each. 20 centre smocks trs/jkts £38 each. 20 caving helmets £10-£18. 20 caving suits £10-£45. 5 furry suits £20 each. 20 FX2 lamps complete £40 each. Tel: 01765 604071 (Ripon) N Yorks.

Estanguet C1 for sale urgently, kevlar/carbon, Midi Bip construction (as hard as a rock) good condition, £350 ono. Ring 0171 248 5156 (Olivier Leboeuf)

Eurokayak Probe A 1 yr old, good condition £250 Tel: Keith Barker on 01732 350082

Gaybo Sanna general purpose/slalom kayak. Old but in VGC. Complete with Peak competition buoyancy aid (Youth size, vgc) nylon spraydeck, helmet, bag, paddle. Very good starter package for beginner £100. Tel: 01925 823897 (Cheshire)

Green Spud £250, no offers Tel: 01203 397249 Midlands.

Jura Sea Double, red, 3 hatches, decklines, stern rudder control, fast and sturdy, excellent condition £650. Can be seen at Kayaks and Paddles (Plymouth). Tel: Colin w/e or eve 01364 661457 or Kayaks and Paddles 01752 335176

Ki Sabre, carbon/kevlar, red & white, u/s rudder, good condition £200 ono. Sea Kayak, Bardsea, yellow, 2 round hatches, reasonable condition £175 ono. Tel: 0181 940 1651 (Surrey)

Ki Spartan, ideal boat for anyone who is starting marathon or sprint canoeing. Good condition, price to include paddles, V Bars. £120 Tel: 01386 860862 (Worcs)

Kayak with buoyancy, spray deck and paddle £50 Tel: 01297 23786 (Seaton, Devon)

Large Canoe Trailer too big for clubhouse doors - open to offers Tel: Coventry 01203 616560

Nomad C2, kev/carb, navy blue, comes complete with Peak neoprene decks and deck covers. New seats and padding. Paddles available £275 ono Tel: 01608 730512 (James) Banbury, Oxon

Nomad Magic Slalom K1, black, epoxy - kevlar/carbon, Italian seat, heat shrink endcap, adjustable footrest. Suit paddlers between 7.5 to 9.5 stones. £150 ono. Nomad Mystery MS Slalom K1, purple, Italian seat, heat shrink endcap, adjustable footrest. Suit junior paddler £100 ono. Eskimo Kendo, red, 9 months old, full ww spec, inc airbags £375 ono. Pyranha Magic Bat, white, full ww spec, inc airbags £250 ono. Local to Cardiff but at rodeos, slaloms and tours throughout the country Tel: Duncan, Nathan or Colin 01222 843073

Nordkapp HS VGC, no damage, tidy, watertight boat £320 ono. Dancer, VGC, choice of 2 £180. Tel: Chris 01437 541318 West Wales.

Open Canoe - Dagger Impulse, fully fitted out for whitewater, buoyancy bags, saddle etc, great condition £750 ono Tel: 01846 652171 eves Co Antrim

Open Canoe, Peace River Cruiser, good condition with paddles £450 ono. Also Sea Kayak, plastic Skerray, good condition, with paddle £425 ono. Tel: 013 2687 594, or 0374 975823 (Leeds)

P&H Baidarka Explorer little used, excellent condition, foot pump, front 6 rear hatches, retractable skeg and full rig of deck lines, compass and light split paddles included. £500 ono. Tel: Robin 01280 704072 (Brackley)

Perception Dancer white water spec, kayak, good condition, Teal Green, knee braces, back rest, bow cap, drain plug, spray deck, Pyranha paddle £150 Tel: 01384 378805 Dave/Wet Midlands

Perception Dancer, in red with airbags, backrest and Palm Gasket spraydeck £160 Tel: 01748 811385 N Yorks.

Perception Super Sport, purple, good condition with Playboater deck £350 Tel: 01626 62044 (Devon)

Perception Whip-it, yellow, only 2 months old, VGC £450 ono. Contact Chris 015 9568212 (Notts)

Pirouette S, ww spec in purple with backrest, bulkhead and footrest. Good condition £230. Also 2 Ace Swings in good condition, open to reasonable offers. Squirt Boat, Bigfoot Shred, good condition solid boat with Playboater squintdeck £250, can take to Pierrepont. Tel: Nick 01708 702314 eves & w/e (Essex)

Prijon Invader, yellow, full ww spec. Good condition, airbags front and rear £220 ono. Contact Mark on 01248 371195 N Wales Email: eduz229@bangor.ac.uk

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Prijon T Canyon, with neoprene spraydeck, air bags and Schlegal paddle. 2 boats available, one with deck fittings, other in very good condition. £250 each ono. Tel: 01457 763480 (Manchester)

Pyranha Creek 280 good condition, purple, with airbags £350 Call Alan 01433 670239 (Sheffield)

Pyranha Creek 280, black, 12 months old, excellent condition, includes airbags & backrest, only £300 Tel: 0114 2684915 S Yorks

Pyranha Creek 280, good condition, stored under cover, 12 months old, £300 give Lee a ring on 01928 572729. (Cheshire)

Pyranha Master good condition, full plate footrest, airbags etc £175. Ainsworth Paddle R208 £15 Tel: 01444 455986 (Sussex) can deliver to Nottingham.

Pyranha Master Skeg, keep on the straight and narrow for only £8 inclusive p&p. Tel: Paul 01647 252254

Pyranha Razor, arline - black, blue & red. Only 2 months old and in excellent condition £400. Spud, black, 12 months old, in excellent condition £350. Available to view at Holme Pierrepont - Tel: Matt 01673 885 736

Pyranha Traveller open canoe, well used but sound £175. 2 x Prijon T-Slalom kayaks. WW spec with plate footrests and airbags £145 each. Tel: 01874 665241 (ask for Martin) S Wales.

Pyranha Traveller with rudder, lee boards, mast and sail £400 or exchange for light weight open canoe) Tel: 01984 63104 (Somerset)

Pyranha Whip-it, yellow, nearly brand new, excellent condition, unused Pyranha foam fitting kit. Also Playboater neoprene spraydeck £430 ono. Tel: 01243 372854 Portsmouth

Roofrack for Peugeot 205, good condition £50 ono Contact Anne 013967 22886 (N Ireland)

Sea Kayak, Skerray, plastic, good condition. Move forces sale £425 ono. Tel: 013 268 7594 Leeds

Sea King sea kayak, 20 foot, orange with black seam, 2 large watertight hatches fore and aft decklines and deck pump. £500 Superb condition Tel: David 01293 285401

Slalom C1 & Slalom C2 for sale together with Falcon Tutor Instructor Kayak. Any reasonable offer considered. C1 Deck and Paddles also available, hardly used. Interested? Then ring .

Graham on 0956 516713 (Herts)

Slalom C2 £50, Slalom C1 £40 Tel: 01622 812755 Kent

Slalom Canoe, Fury Concept design, manufactured by Arrowcraft, carbon kevlar construction, heat shrunk end protectors, one repair professionally done by Arrowcraft, excellent competition boat £250 ono Call Jame on 01926 312472 or 0958 435630 Leamington Spa.

Stable K2, fibreglass, understern rudder, stored inside, 1 yr old, £395. Little used due to lack of sons unwilling to partner mother! Rutland 01572 770202.

Stunt Bat, excellent condition, full ww spec, Aquamarine, £265 ono Tel: Martin 0151 726 1507

Stuntbat ww spec, excellent condition, £230 Tel: 0151 291 6976 or 0191 488 2479 NW

Surfski Palm Wave Rider in excellent condition complete with MI paddle, lap strap, bum pad and Full Boar leash. (New Ski £240) complete package £150. Also whitewater touring kayak, MI 380 Discovery Pro. X Linked full ww spec. Has impact absorbing full plate footrest, plastic repair strips, spare nose cap, skeg and heavy duty Perception air bags. In superb condition with Playboater ITS neoprene spraydeck. Would suit beginner or intermediate paddler £295. Also Aeroquatic Playboat, a

whitewater classic, this is a fantastic all round playboat. As the name suggests this kayak produces effortless vertical moves. Purple coloured kayak in great condition comes with Yak spraydeck and heavy duty airbags. Full package only £300

Contact Mark Sabine 01239 851794 (Llandysul)

Wiplash, red, good condition, airbags, deck etc. Only £450 ono. Breathable 'dry fashion' dry suit, hardly used only £180 ono.

Contact Angus 01462 632157

Yellow Rotabot ww spec in VGC £160 ono Contact Janet Adcock on 017 989 9000 ext 4714, or 0802 525695 (Mob/ansaphone) Bristol.

Wanted

An old stretched canvas over wooden framed canoe, give Lee a ring on 01928 572729 Cheshire.

Any number of wetsuits, required for embryonic youth group for 10-14 yr olds 01784 741022 Maggie (NW Surrey)

Discovery K2 or **Mystere K2** (preferably with seats) willing to collect. Tel: Marten on 0181 560 3888

K1, secondhand, Cougar, Cyclone, Wildcat or similar (inc seat if possible). Must be in London/South East area. Tel: 01483 537615 Nordkapp Jubilee sea kayak Tel: 01206 826318

Open Canoe 16' / 17' suitable for a young family. Tel: 01235 762039 Oxon

Open Canoe, fast tourer/racer two person for use in DW marathon. Contact Kevin 0191 4824576 work 0191 4879356 Tyne & Wear

Scout Group are looking for 4 inexpensive plastic kayaks, Yorkshire area Tel: Colin 01302 890153

Sea Kayak wanted for 8 stone adult, small Sirius or Romany or similar. Tel: 01766 514298 (Gwynedd)

Sea Kayak, preferably Skerray or Pintail with retractable skeg and hatches. Tel: 01453 543010

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Veneer Ranger K1, good price paid for model in VGC, or exchange for Jaguar K1 with neoprene seat in VGC 01905 455007 Worcs.

White Water Spec Kayaks, e.g Stunt Bat, Acro, Creek, Corsica S etc. Must be cheap (£200-£250) and vgc for uni club. Can collect. Contact Neil Dixon on 01223 339213, email nd212@com.ac.uk.

Lost/Found/Stolen

Found Did you lose a spraydeck on the Dart on 18 October. If you can convince me its yours then ring Martin on 0152 61213. (Fleet)

Found, Flask, on Tryweryn, Sat 13.9.97, at bottom section Tel: 01788 575892 eves.

Missing! Canolfan Tryweryn, middle car park, Sunday pm, 21 Sept. Helmet Jade Protec. Dry bag, Yak, ladies medium, pink with purple collar. B/aid Red and blue ribbed. Splash deck, turquoise, plastic. Paddle, black blades, silver shaft with black and white tape. Any info please Tel: Alison on Chester 01244 535 838

Stolen on a recent visit to Chester I had my kayak stolen from the car park at the Mollington Banastre Hotel. The boat was a Pyranha Razor multi art and was purple in colour. It was also distinctive in that it had a repair to a hole in the side and several black marks on the side. If any of your members sees such a boat for sale or in use on the river please could you notify me and the police (crime reference no: A1/97/15852). My number is 017 9899000 ext 4714, or 0802 525695 mob/ansaphone Janet Adcock.

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Dates: 20 January - 20 March 1998/99

Cost: £2800. This includes instruction, equipment, food, accommodation and assessment.

Cost: \$35. Includes: entry,
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3RD HIMALAYAN WHITE WATER RODEO 30-31 OCTOBER 1998

Join us for fun and entertainment on the Trisuli River.

30th Oct Private bus from Kathmandu to the Trisuli - lunch on the beach. The action starts with the novice and intermediate classes all afternoon. Wild Boar Bar B.Q party.(Sponsored by Nepal's local drinks company...say no more)

31st Oct Advanced and Nepali Class and Grand Final. All proceeds and sponsorship goes to sponsoring the top 2 Nepali kayakers to the 1998 World Rodeo Championships in New Zealand.

**10% discount on all Equator
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Our travel agency can arrange any transport, accommodation or safaris in Nepal. Contact our head office with any questions.

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Our 4 week mountaineering instruction course in the Everest region will lead you to the summit of two Himalayan peaks - Island Peak (6189m) and Mera Park (6419m). Your professional instructor/guides will cover all basic mountaineering skills, including crevasse rescue, glacier travel, belaying and much more. The last week involves leaving the support team of cooks and porters behind to go on a self support expedition across the Mingbo La to climb Mera Peak.

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For further information on anything in Nepal, contact our head office:

E-mail: equator@mos.com.np Website: <http://www.equatornepal.com>

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SITUATIONS VACANT

**INSTRUCTORS
REQUIRED
Long & short
term contracts
Summer 98**



- * TSI Level 3 (training)
- * BSA Level 1 Coach
- * Bronze Medallion (open water)
- * Current first aid certificate (St. Johns or equivalent)
- * SPSA Assessment

If you have a combination of the above, please send a CV and a cover letter by December 31st, to John-Paul Eatock at **Twr-y-Felin Outdoor Centre, St Davids, Pembrokehire, SA62 6QS.** Tel: 01437 720391 email: tyf@compuserve.com

SITUATIONS VACANT**BURRS ACTIVITY CENTRE
ACTIVITY MANAGER**

April-Oct 1998. BCU Level 2 Coach, SPSA minimum, for schools, colleges and public courses.

**Contact:
0161 764 9649**

**Instructor/Careworker**

Due to the demand for our resources, Corvedale care are currently expanding their staff team. We are looking for enthusiastic highly motivated staff who will be required to work with young people who present challenging behaviour. All applicants will be police checked. Cover work available possibly leading to full time positions.

**Please contact
Di Farmer/Jackie Stone
on 01588 640584
or Clive Richley
on 01584 875231**

**Vacancies exist for two
Senior Instructors Posts**

Senior Instructor - Watersports
The candidate should have as a minimum a BCU Coach Level 3 (A1) qualification with considerable experience of running a range of kayaking and canoeing courses and programmes.

Senior Instructor - Caving
The candidate should be as a minimum a Local Cave/Mine Leader - Level 2 with extensive experience of running a wide range of courses and programmes for all client groups.

For both posts candidates should have proven administrative skills relevant to staff training, development and supervision. Experience of courses management in a centre environment would be advantageous.

Lead Instructors, Seasonal Instructors, Storepersons
A number of further vacancies exist for candidates at varying levels of qualification and experience

Closing date Jan 17th
For further details and an application form please contact:

**Y.H.A. Recruitment Department
PO Box 11, Via Gellia
Falls, Bonsall, Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 2XA
Tel: 01629 822074**

MANOR ADVENTURE

(BCU Approved Centre)
in Shropshire seeks a suitable person to fill our permanent Senior Canoeist position. Must hold Level III Coaching minimum. Salary negotiable.
**Telephone Gareth Price
on 01584 861333**

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED at outdoor centre in North Devon. Vacancies from March to October. Activities include kayaking, climbing, surfing and waterskiing. Phone 01237 477637 for application.

SITUATIONS VACANT**Activity Instructors
Required**

FOR A GUIDE ACTIVITY CENTRE DURING 1998
Short and long term contracts available

Candidates should be over 18 years of age and hold BCU T.I. or BMC S.P.C.A. training as a minimum. Enthusiasm and the ability to work with young people are essential attributes.

Activities include canoeing, climbing, abseiling, archery and skiing. Experience in the other activities is an advantage although full training is given.

**Application forms and details available from
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£9,537 per annum (pro rata) + £510 Outer fringe (pro rata)
Required from 23 March to 5 September 1998 initially
**Outdoor Activity Instructors
Post Ref. No. IOA8**

Applications are invited from experienced instructors who have one or more NGB qualifications preferably in water based activities. The Centre consists of a non-residential facility based at a 27 acre lake and boasts a wide range both of activities and client groups. Also required are competent trainee instructors and locally based casual instructors

Further details and application forms, quoting Post Ref. No.: IOA8
**Thurrock Environmental & Outdoor Education Centre,
Grangewaters, Buckles Lane, South Ockendon, RM15 6RS**
Telephone or fax 01708 855228/856422
email: grangewaters@essexcc.gov.uk

**Closure Date 27 February 1998 Interview Date: 13 March 1998
Start Date: 23 March 1998**

Keen Canoeists...

If you're a competent paddler then why not train and qualify to BCU level 2 Coach (and beyond) before living and working as an instructor at one of our children's adventure centres in Britain, France or Spain? Training courses will take place between February and May 1998 and you will work right through to early Autumn.

In addition to your accommodation, meals, training and weekly wage, we are offering a terrific chance to build on your qualifications and gain valuable work experience.

**Contact the Recruitment Department now:
PGL Adventure, 820 Alton Court, Penyard Lane, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5GL. Telephone:
01989 767833.**



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**Hyde House
ACTIVITY CENTRE**

BCU Approved Centre

**INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR
1998 SEASON**

Qualified/Experienced Multi Activity Instructors Required
Season starts January ends October
Individual Instructor Training programs running throughout the season

Apply to: Personnel (Dept 4)
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Hyde, Wareham, Dorset BH20 7NX
Tel: 01929 471847

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Why tear your hair out this winter trying to recruit staff for your centre?
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For An Information Pack, Send Your C.V. & Covering Letter To: The Operations Department (Recruitment & Training), Acorn Venture Ltd, Acorn House, Worcester Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 7JG
TELEPHONE: 01562 887260 FAX: 01562 487091
E-MAIL: topstaff@acorn-venture.com

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require

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£170 p.w.w and £115 p.w.w

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Are you enthusiastic, energetic and enjoy working as part of a team.
Must hold 3 NGB instructor qualifications, one SI award preferable.

For further information and an application form
contact Kelley on Tel no, 0181-940-5550

SITUATIONS VACANT 1998 Season

(Work based in S.East
England, North Wales and
Wye Valley).

Applications are sought for
the following posts:-



Approved Centre

Freelance and short term instructors required between May-October

Combinations of the following qualifications needed: SP5A, MLTB summer, BCU Level 2 Coach (kayak and/or canoe) minimum, BOF, First Aid, Driving essential. One to ten week appointments available. Applicants should have a range of instructing experience and expertise. Applications to include names of 2 references.

Assistant Instructor Post

One or two vacancies for enthusiasts with high levels of motivation, commitment and some National Governing Body award training. NGB training and assessments provided free as part of the job, as is accommodation. Candidates should be available between mid April and October 1998



Apply in writing, with C.V. to Fourth Dimension,
13 Eskbank Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 8SL.
Job details available on written request.



Outdoor
Pursuits
Instructors

Begin end Jan - Dec 1998
Mill on the Brue, Somerset
Tel: 01749 812307

BCU Instructors (Sea) required

For family run Activity Centre in West
Wales from March to September 1998
inclusive. Full board and
accommodation provided
Send CV in January 1998 to:-
Llain Activity Centre, Llanarth,
Ceredigion SA47 0PZ

Waddow Hall, Clitheroe Activity Instructors

REQUIRED FOR SUMMER SEASON 1998
(other dates may be considered)

You should be 18 years or over and be a BCU
Instructor for inland placid water level 1.
Qualifications in other activities an advantage.

Further details from:

The Manager
Waddow Hall
Clitheroe
Lancs BB7 3LD



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We have numerous opportunities for enthusiastic and energetic young people to work as Watersports Instructors. Challenging and rewarding jobs starting anytime from January onwards at residential centres throughout the UK and Holland.

Canoeists, Sailors and Climbers are needed; Canoeists ideally should be at least Level 2 Coach Trainee (Canoe or Kayak) but if you are enthusiastic and have experience, Superchoice will organise BCU and RYA training and assessment courses.

All instructors receive comprehensive training leading to other NGB qualifications.

Join the team. Call SUPERCHOICE now for a recruitment pack and application form.

Tel: (01305) 835966 (24 Hours)



Staffordshire
County Council

Outdoor Education Service

- The four Outdoor Centres situated within Staffordshire require Instructors with National Governing Body Qualifications:
- Jan 98 Full-time Instructors.
- Mar 98 Seasonal Instructors.
- Mar 98 Full-time Senior Instructor at Coven/Chasewater sites.
- Further details & application forms from Ewart Gardner.
Shugborough Outdoor Education Centre
Shugborough, Stafford ST17 0XA. S.A.E. please
Tel. 01889 881357 Fax. 01889 881257

KAYAK INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED... to commence early May at Multi Activity Centre. Must be BCU qualified to at least Level 2 Coach, with experience of instructing teenagers. This is a unique island-based Survival-training Centre, offering a good wage, and wonderful wild paddling all around. Apply with c.v. to Wild Island (CF), Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire DG14 0XS.

Sealyham Activity Centre

Qualified Instructors and
Assistants required for
1998 season at multi-
activity centre in
Pembrokeshire.

Age 18+
All posts residential
Send CV to:

Sealyham Activity Centre,
Wolfscastle, Haverfordwest,
Pembs SA62 5NF.

ROBINWOOD ACTIVITY CENTRE for children (Todmorden, Lancashire) require B.C.U qualified residential instructors from January, for the 1998 season, to instruct canoeing and other activities. Comprehensive training course provided leading to some national governing bodies qualifications. For details phone 01706 814554.



Scottish Centres Instructors

Activity Instructors required for 1998 season.

Employment from late Feb-Oct. Package includes food and accommodation. Wage related to recognised qualifications. Opportunities to work with a wide range of groups. Soft skills component highly relevant, with scope for all-year employment. Application forms from:

Administration Officer, Scottish Centres, Loaningdale House, Carwood Road, BIGGAR ML12 6LX
Tel 01899 221115 fax: 01899 220644

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Short term:- July - August

Applicants should preferably have
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Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1RE.**
Tel/Fax: 01628 483252

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Aviemore
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Selection day: 31.1.98; start 2.3.98

Staff Instructors

with NGB qualifications (sail, windsurf, climb, canoe) are also
required to start 2.3.98

For information packs send a large SAE to David Savage at



MEPAL OUTDOOR CENTRE,

Chatteris Road, Ely, Cambs CB6 2AZ
www.mepal.co.uk

Instructors Required 1998 Season

Activity Instructors 18 yrs + required for
our Multi-activity centre, Bude, Cornwall.
Canoeists, climbers, sailors etc. Season
starts March and ends October.

4 week training/assessment course March 98 including N.G.B.
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Wage includes full board and lodgings. Full training given prior to
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Apply for details to:

Tracy Joslyn, Personnel manager

Adventure International, Belle Vue, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 8JP

Tel: 01288 355551

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Recreation and
Heritage, Seasonal Outdoor Pursuits Instructors,
Calshot Activities Centre, March - October 1998.
You will be over 21 years of age and have
considerable experience of Outdoor Pursuits. Ideally
you will already be working, or have worked in
a centre, or have some relevant teaching
experience. You will have a depth of experience
in one of three water skills and at least working
knowledge of the other two. Skills in any land
based activity are advantageous. Preference
will be given to those with recognised coaching
awards. For further details and an application form,
please contact Vicki Kettle, Calshot Activities Centre,
Calshot Spit, Fawley, Southampton, Hampshire
SO45 1BR, tel: 01703 892077, fax: 01703 891267,
quoting Post Ref SC97008. In promoting equal
opportunities we welcome applications from all
sections of the community.

AALA licensed multi-activity centre in
Shropshire seeks Instructors for
1998 and beyond. Interviews will be
held in January, and successful
candidates will be given extensive
training and at least 4 governing
body qualifications
(BETA/GNAS/NSRA/BOF & First Aid).
**Ring 01584 861333 for
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Canoe and kayak specialists. Courses, hire,
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Middlesex TW17 8NJ. Tel: 01932 247978



Report by
Alan Powell

Also present were the 49ers, the new Olympic skiff class, many of whom had turned up a week early for the European Championship. As they had their Olympic hopefuls from all over the world, complete with sponsors vehicles and fast RIB support boats, competition for everything from car parking to launching ramps was quite intense.

In the opening race, which was the first qualifying heat for the historic Sailing Challenge Cup, the fleet was eventually led home by the defending champion Colin Brown. Chris Howarth had taken an early lead in his newly acquired Worlds winning canoe and demonstrated that he had found out how to really make it go. In the predominantly light and shifty force 2-3 conditions fortunes were bound to fluctuate and Brown finally wriggled through upwind in the latter stages of the ten mile race. Also of note was the performance of Robin Pratt who has discovered a new turn of speed straight out of the box with his new Razorback canoe.

Conditions were very different on the Sunday and PRO Frank Newton kept the fleet ashore because of winds gusting up to 30 knots. Sheltering in the clubhouse the sailors waited anxiously for some let up. The news of Diana Princess of Wales' fatal car crash was dominating all the news and media and spirits were low. In the afternoon a start was attempted at about 15.00 after the wind had eased, but this had to be postponed when the strong winds returned as the fleet were launching. One or two sailors took the opportunity for extra practice, and some photos, with some high speed posing off the clubhouse shore.

Monday provided ideal conditions with the breeze at force 3-4 and bright sunshine. Two morning races were held back to back, to get the programme back on schedule, and these were won by Mark Goodchild and Colin Brown respectively. The longer afternoon race, the second qualifier for the Sailing Challenge, was taken by Simon Allen, from Brown and Goodchild.

This resulted in the match race for the Sailing Challenge Cup being contested by Brown

Right: Colin Brown, winner of 1997 National Championship

International 10 Sq National Champio

Weymouth Sailing Centre -
August 30 - Sept 2



Results

1. Colin Brown, Scaling Dam S.C., 9pts
2. Mark Goodchild, Medway Y.C., 12pts
3. Chris Howarth, Bristol Corinthian S.C., 19pts
4. Simon Allen, Medway Y.C., 23pts
5. Robin Pratt, Grafham Water S.C., 27pts
6. Anders Petterson, Sweden 27pts

.m Canoe nship

Thirty six IC sailors, including two competitors from Sweden, sailed a very close fought series over the four days. The IC's shared the venue with the International Moth class, which is a really wild development class, the latest examples of which are as narrow as a sprint canoe!

and Allen, the historic cup being finally won by Simon Allen after Colin Brown had won the start. Five minutes after the match race start the Novices race was run and this was won by ex-505 champion Chris Howarth from Steve Bowen and Robin Pratt. The term 'novice' refers to the fact that the competitors have not won a canoe event or trophy. We have a long record of distinguished novices!

On the final day, with two more races still to sail, it was still possible for any one of four sailors to take the title. The racing was run back to back again to enable a reasonable finish time for the long distance travellers. The wind was back up to around 20 knots and the canoes were really flying in perfect conditions, with the sailors fully hiked off the end of their sliding seats. The ever present Mark Goodchild kept up the pressure to win the first race from Simon Allen



Above: Robin Pratt who moved into contention with his new razorback canoe

and Stuart Aston. This left the title even more delicately balanced between Brown and Goodchild. The final race for the Murphy Howard Cup was won by the irrepressible Rob Michael, with Brown coming home in second place ahead of Goodchild to take the championship overall for the second year in succession.

Despite the crowded facilities this year the class voted overwhelmingly to return next year for the Europa Cup when we hope to get some 50+ canoes competing. It is an ideal venue for sailing with the option of sheltered harbour or open sea sailing.

After a Worlds year there has been the usual transfer of boats and sailors but what is very evident and has given rise to much comment from other classes is the generally very high standard of equipment and the closeness of the racing right through the fleet. This brings Colin Brown's achievement into even sharper focus as he built, with John Ellis, his own carbon/foam boat, carbon mast, foils and cut his own sails!

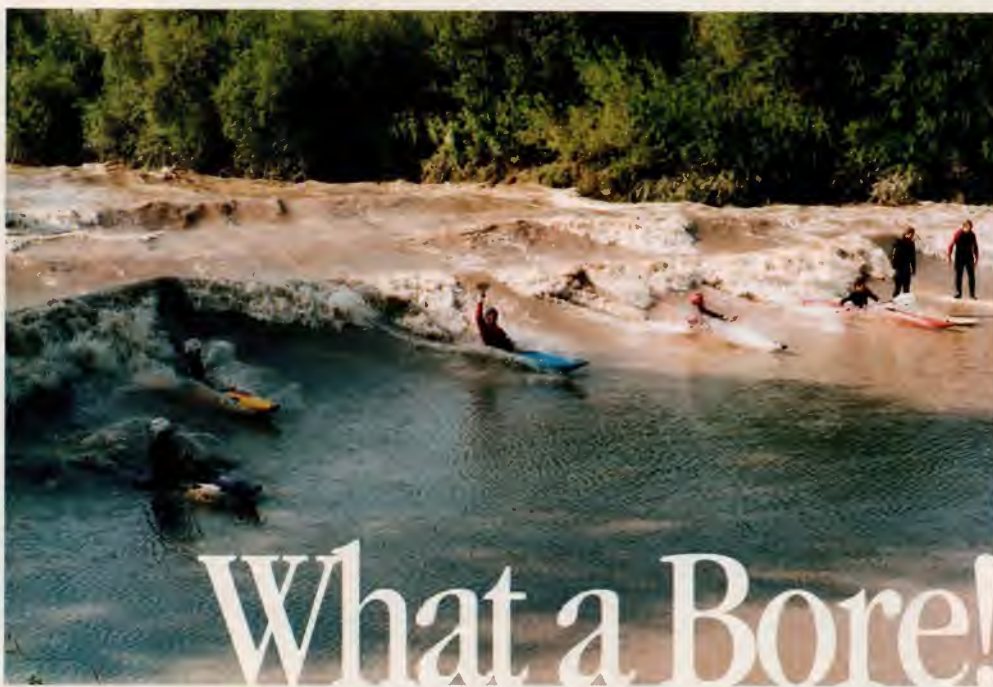


Below L to R: Simon Allen, Colin Brown, Chris Howarth, nip and tuck at the top of the fleet



Below: Mark Goodchild, runner-up 1997 championship





“The largest tides in living memory”, the information from the Rivers Authority said. Waves can be expected up to 6ft in height! Surely not I thought.

During one of my “rests”, I found myself thrown nearly to the top of the wave. Grasping the opportunity, I squared up and frantically paddled backwards to break free. But it towed me back down, the nose of the boat now diving in deep until I was submerged up to my chest. Buoyancy then took over and I was ejected up, then capsized. It all happened so fast. Rolling up from that boiling chocolate I was relieved to be 5 or 6 ft from the front, although again being dragged forwards. But from there I was now able to control my position.

The fog had now cleared and it was possible to look around and enjoy the ride as we sped up the river at some 10 miles an hour - Eddie and Dave having joined me. Eventually the Bore started to pass over dry mud banks. It was such a bizarre experience, riding for some mile or so, just feet from the front of the wave seeing birds running and then taking flight to avoid the oncoming water.

After travelling about 5 miles in total, we lost the front of the wave due to these ever changing river features, although not very far behind. At one point the bore split in two as it circumnavigated a particularly high mud bank. We took the shorter but slower route, almost catching the wave up again, until the intersection of the two flows created large standing waves and a “break in” that any white water river paddler would have been proud of.

Before we knew it we arrived at Minsterworth, Kim waiting with other spectators, the Bore having just passed through. We, got out here and after a quick discussion gave chase in the van to view the Bore from Overbridge, just a mile or so from the end of the tidal section of the river.

There were about 8 canoeists waiting at this point, the river now no more than 25 yards wide. Eddie decided to get in and to surf this last part with the others while we watched on from the bank. Looking between some trees and under the bridge we saw the Bore arrive, ploughing its way up. It was an amazing site to see about 4 surfers and all these canoeists charging along on what was now a clean wave, with Eddie in the middle of them twirling his paddle overhead as he passed.

The Bore can be very awe inspiring and spectacular. It is definitely not the place for the novice canoeist. Kim had witnessed one canoeist, too close to the bank being dragged through overhanging trees and bushes unable to help himself, and I had heard another report of a female canoeist being slammed into the pillar of a bridge.

Mistakes can be quite serious with this phenomenon, but I can't wait until my next encounter.



Report by
Richard Webb

So there we were, Eddie in a Super Sport and I in my Rush surf kayak, waiting with the most unbelievable level of anticipation on the River Severn for the unknown to happen, one Thursday morning in September. The thick fog, with at best 20 yards visibility, adding to the general feeling of, “What the hell are we doing here?”

We put in at Newnham, 20 miles or so up stream of the Severn Road Bridge. Not really knowing for certain where to start we were somewhat despondent to find only one other canoeist at this point, a chap called Dave with his Jester Surf kayak.

We became even more concerned when he explained that this was his first attempt to ride from Newnham but his third attempt to ride the wave. His first resulting in a ride of no more than half a mile and his second failing completely due to the speed of the Bore. We had, at this point, just left Kim who was going to wait for us 10 miles up stream at Minsterworth with the van.

Floating, silently in our boats we strained our ears for any signs of the approaching Bore. “Was that a train?” someone said or perhaps just a lorry on the nearby road. Eventually we were left in no doubt as the roar just got louder and louder and out of the fog came what we had been waiting for.

A clean unbroken wave of about 3ft stretching the full width of the river was charging like an out of control express train towards us, tearing away at any loose material from the banks. Determined to catch it, remembering what Dave had said about the speed of the wave, I turned and frantically paddled to build up pace, as the others did,

and then Bingo! We were surfing.

After a few minutes or possibly seconds, Eddie and our new found friend Dave, somehow lost the wave. It seemed to be continually changing in character as it passed over different features of the river bottom and this had caught them out. But there was no stopping to wait for them, they would just have to catch me up.

The wave peaked and then broke all around me, marking the beginning of a nightmare, it turned into what looked like a boiling mass of chocolate as it scoured mud and silt from the riverbed. The speed and the violence of the writhing wave made it virtually impossible to control my boat. I struggled one way then the next, calling on all the techniques I knew in an attempt to keep the kayak in a straight line. All the time the thick dark mud was hindering both my vision and the all important grip of my paddles. When my exhausted muscles could take no more I would allow the wave to turn me and carry me sideways, in the hope of a rest. But like this I was being bounced and thrown around like the flotsam I was, the foaming water making it almost impossible to breathe.

At one point, while I was looking for a possible escape, I noticed that Eddie and Dave had caught up on the faster recycling water by the riverbank. Here the wave looked a little smaller and was one of my options. Dave dropped down the front of the wave to try his luck, but immediately was having the same problems as I. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed him lose control and veer off rapidly toward the bank, striking a large rock with his glass fibre boat. This was now not an option for escape!

Right: Eddie waiting in the fog for the Bore to arrive



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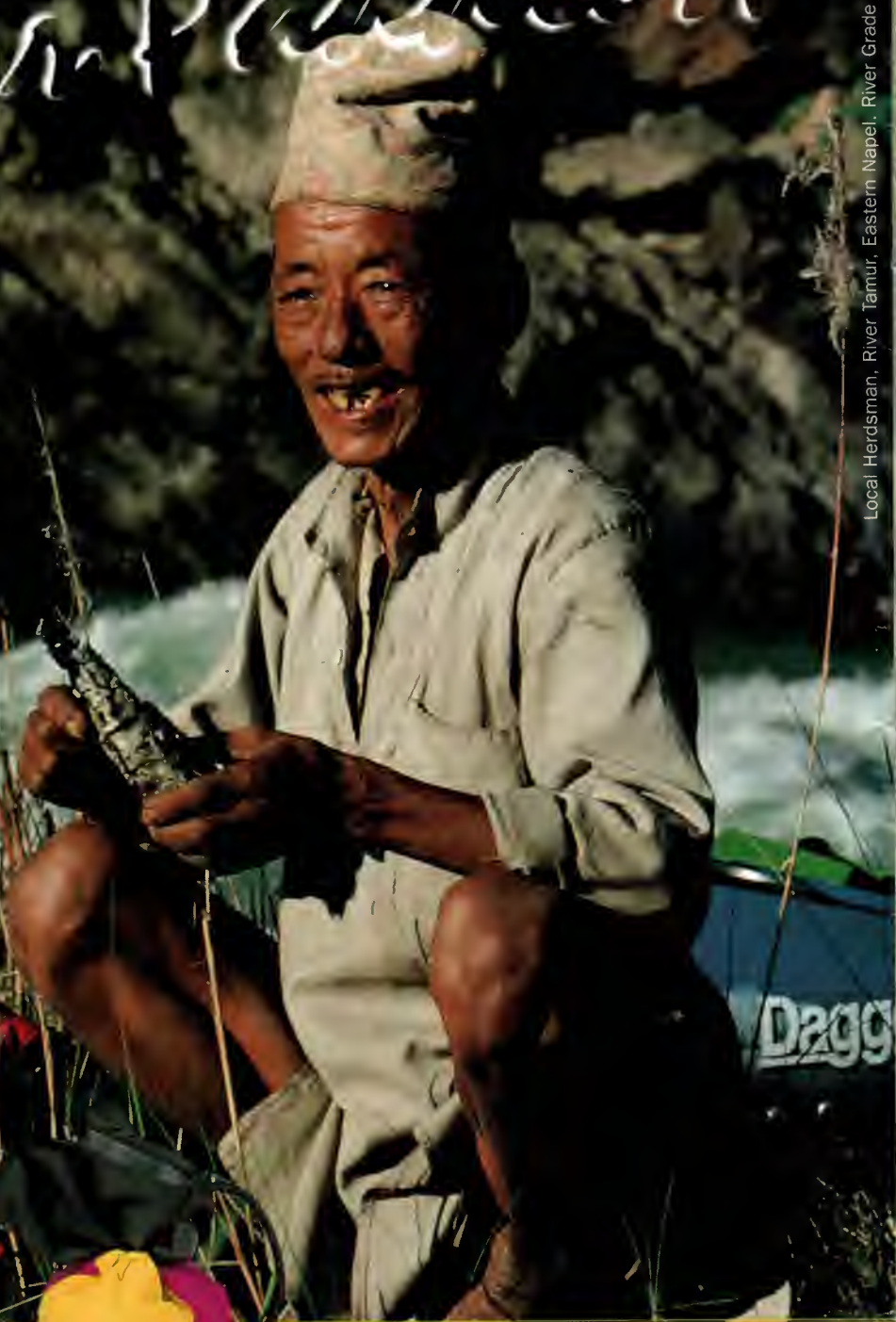
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