

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

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focus

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Rumble

in the jungle



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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. Next Copy date is the 20th JUNE 1999. Material arriving at FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the AUGUST 1999 issue. Canoe Focus encourages contributions of any nature but reserves the right to edit and condense to fill the space available and unless otherwise stated the Publishers assume no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Canoe Union, its committees or members. The printing of an advertisement in Canoe Focus does not necessarily mean that the British Canoe Union endorse the company, item or service advertised. All material in Canoe Focus is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without prior permission from the Editor is forbidden.

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COMMENT

input & ideas

Just as I prepared to write comment for this edition of Canoe Focus I received the very distressing news that Geoff Good had died. It is fitting that we dedicate this leading section of the magazine to Geoff with words from Graham Lyon the Chair of the BCU Coaching Committee.

Everyone connected to and employed by the BCU feels a great sense of loss as Geoff was a much loved and cherished colleague and friend.

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of Geoff's death. He died peacefully at home on Saturday afternoon 8th May watching television with his wife Mary - Ann. Geoff had borne his illness with the patience and good humour that has characterised his life. Whilst it had become clear for some time that he was unlikely to make a full recovery it seems cruel that he 'was only able to enjoy such a short period of retirement. Our thoughts and sympathies must be with his family as they come to terms with their loss.

Geoff leaves a great hole in the world of canoeing and his wisdom and common sense will be greatly missed. As BCU Director of Coaching he worked tirelessly for the sport and coaching flourished during a

**GEOFF GOOD 1937 - 1999**

period of far from ideal conditions. During this time difficult decisions had to be taken and yet nobody ever had a bad word to say about him such was his skill in managing people.

We will all have our memories of Geoff and having worked so closely with him for many years I am grateful to him for the fun and satisfaction the sport has given me. I have valued his friendship but I will remember him most, like all he came into contact with, as a lovely man.

Graham Lyon Chair, BCU Coaching Committee

An Apology

Helen Partridge was elected to Council and the BCU Executive Committee at the AGM in March. Helen is currently head of policy at ILAM and previously with the Environment Agency. She is a keen canoeist and she has a particular interest in the work of the Access Committee. This information was omitted from the April Focus, sorry.

International News

Following a unanimous decision of the Board the ICF now recognises all forms of paddlesport where the crew is facing the direction of movement. This will I am sure be good news for Freestyle and Surf paddlers and the decision also means that as far as the ICF is concerned Dragon Boat Racing, Rafting and Outrigger paddling have become canoe disciplines of the ICF.

The ICF headquarters will move from Budapest to Madrid at the end of the year.

Paul Owen
Chief Executive



NOTICE BOARD

news & info

Cancelation of Redlocks Div 4 Slalom on the 12th/13th June due to engineering works on the Sluices. Many Regrets Graham Parker

Following the AGM of the Dyffyn Conwy Paddlers the new General Secretary of the club is; Antony Holden, 2 Penrhyd Cottages, Tal Y Cafn, Conw, LL28 5RW. Tel: 01492 650554

Value for money at Canolfan Tryweryn

Value for money is dead? I think not! For the 6th year on the trot Canolfan Tryweryn has frozen its day tickets prices. That's the same price as 1993. Just 'incase' the novelty of value for money has worn a bit thin there are some extra additions just to make you have every opportunity to get your monies worth.

The centre will no longer need to close in October and November. The additional 2 months paddling (subject to water) will allow year round activities at the site.

The additional 350m of paddling on the top site and an additional 850m at the bottom of the site are now assessible for canoeing (providing you park and drive back up to the centre and do not walk back through the campsite).

A new release pattern also increases the likelihood of water.

In summary – for the same price as 1993 you have an extra 1200m of water that's more reliable, year round. The site is now twice the size it was, that makes it large enough to fit all other managed sites end to end with in it and still have room to spare. If you need water information just call 01678 520826.

Canolfan Tryweryn, National Whitewater Centre, Frongoch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU
(T) 01678 521083, (F) 01678 521158,
[E-mail welsh.canoeing@virgin.net](mailto:welsh.canoeing@virgin.net)

Tryweryn Wet Fest

Good news for the Tryweryn Wet Fest on 26th /27th June 1999, Palm are taking the Lions share of the sponsorship as part of their celebrations of being 20 years in business. The Palm Extreme River Run is going to be the focus of the weekend's events, a great party is planned for Saturday night! Playboater System-X are giving a £200 prize for both the Spud event and the final of the Eskimo Tryweryn Sunday League. Perception have replaced Pyranha as the sponsor for the Novice event. Cotswold are solid as the Junior events sponsor and Mobile Adventure have gone bonkers and are sponsoring anything that has a single ended paddlers in it. A raft race for the Pro-Teams will also take place on Saturday, other teams can apply if they feel up to it! There are going to be some great prizes this year and it is going to be a weekend to remember.

Kattilakoski, class III rapid at the Arctic Cirice is opening and meeting the spring. Picture taken on April 23 rd with paddlers Goran Mortberg

Arctic Canoe Race (ACR) in a new shape - covering 311 kilometers in Lapland over five days

days of canoeing in the Arctic Circle area where the midnight sun is present all the time.

ACR was established in 1983 and become an event with world wide attraction, but in the summer of 1998 the organizers decided to make a break to establish a new ACR. After 15 years, in 1999 there's a new ACR. It will apply to a wider group of canoeists but still offering enough challenges to advanced paddlers

each a single distance. The fee is 400 FIM for the single amateur.

The idea is to widen ACR and open it to all kinds of canoeist. We like to offer them an opportunity to meet the excellent and clean waters of Lapland says the organizers.

For more information:
roger-80@hotmail.com

Scottish Canoe Association

The Scottish Canoe Association has appointed a new member of staff, Fran Potheary to the post of Access Officer for the Association. Fran's role will be to develop Access policy in liason with outside bodies, SCA technical committees and the Access Committee; and represent canoeists interests in the light of new legislation under consideration by Scottish Parliament.

Fran has been based in Scotland for eight years and has served as Chairperson of the Recreational Rivers Committee. She is an active sea and river paddler, a Level 4 sea coach and is ideally placed to understand and respond to paddlers needs. She can be contacted through the SCA Office on 0131 3177314



ACR is on again. It takes part on the borderriver (Muonio and Tome) between Sweden and Finland. But it's on earlier, it's shorter and there's a new organisation. The Finnish canoe club Muonio Melojat is running it and the starting date is July 19th and it finishes on the 23rd. This means five

looking for exciting waters.

The distances vary from 94 kms to 65 making a total of 311 kms.

There's a break-day after the second stage. You either take part in the competition class or the amateur class and you paddle single or double. There's also a class for teams covering

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Slalom site on the River Frome at Langham Farm, Somerset.

The owners of the land have asked us to remind paddlers that this part of the river is not an open site and permission needs to be obtained every time before using it. Please either contact the land owner directly for permission or contact Frome Canoe club (01373 864623) and we can make the arrangements. There is a fee of £1 per person using the site, per day. This is a great asset to the area and it would be a great shame if we were to lose it because paddlers had not observed the proper procedure.

Paddling developments in Sheffield

With the regeneration of the River Don from industrial waste land to recreational paradise, canoeing in Sheffield will receive a real boost for hundreds of paddlers who prefer the calmness of canals and slowly moving rivers.

British Waterways have invested in the Sheffield canal in order to attract more traffic and recreational use. Not forgetting your BCU membership gives you free use of this canal. An ideal section to paddle is from the Arena (Stage for man pop-stars including The Spice Girls and the Corrs) down to Victoria Quays in the centre of

Sheffield using the super Tram to run the ferry!

Additionally, with grants from Europe and other sources, the transformation of the Don Valley from industrial waste land to a recreational compendium is well under way. There are many 'two star' sections with portage platforms either built or being built around the weirs. The Five weirs walk follows a section from the city centre to Meadowhall shopping centre where you can actually transfer to the canal and paddle back to Sheffield and arrive within two hundred yards of your car!

All in all it is a great way to spend your summer evenings or to introduce people to the joys of paddling. There will be a tour on Saturday June 26th followed by a come and try it session in the canal basin. If you want to know more about paddling in Sheffield or introduce some friends or neighbours to canoeing, June 26th will be a good day to do it!!

For a free colour map and brochure or details of the tour, please send a large SAE to Dean Maragh, BCU Local Facilities Officer, 85 Edgedale Road, Sheffield, S7 2BR

Gael Force Ten project

The Gael Force Ten Project have invited Canoeing to become one of the ten sponsored sports as from April 1999. This has been approved at SCA Executive & Council and preparations are being made to enter Highland Region canoeing into the project. This means support will be available for Club coaches \ potential club coaches, Competitive canoeists and clubs in general. Contact Steve Mackinnon, the local coaching organiser for Inverness and find out more.

Symonds Yat Rapids

The National Appeal now stands at £36,000. We still need Donations, Pledges, Letters of Support. Cheques payable to Symonds Yat Rapids P.G. (credit cards acceptable) Send to Veronica Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2LU. Tel/Fax: 01452 531218

Now Available Canoeist Guide to the River Wye. Available from the Environment Agency, Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0LT Tel: 01222 770088

River Crake – sponsored paddle. A big success.

The paddle on 21st March was very well supported, with 120 paddlers coming from far and wide. They included:- White Rose from Leeds, Wigan Canoe Group, Friends of Allonby, Lancs & District, Bolton & Bury, Garstang, Preston, Chester, Oldham as well as many local paddlers. £768 was raised on the day, which has now exceeded £1,000 and money is still coming in. This money is helping to rebuild the village hall at Greenodd, and will serve residents throughout the Crake Valley. A BIG THANKYOU to all those who took part or helped. This has created a great deal of goodwill in the valley and shown how canoeists can be of benefit to local communities. The village hall committee put on a big spread for all those who took part. Many canoeists stayed for hours asking if this could be done every week. The committee also organised the shuttle and parking throughout the day. Duddon canoe club made

the whole day run smoothly by organising the start, and congestion at Spark Bridge. A really big success arranged by the club was the offer of open canoe trips from Spark Bridge for locals. Many youngsters had a go, as well as many of the not so young on the village hall committee.

Spark Bridge – 'Early notice' for new arrangements starting November '99. Changing and Parking have always been a problem in this small village. A big improvement is that we will now be able to use Spark bridge village hall (right by the river) to change and park. A small fee will be levied which will go to the upkeep of the hall. The goodwill of local residents is making this possible, and I am sure that a warm and dry place will be much appreciated.

Colin Litten – Access Officer, River Crake.

The canoeist

In my canoe one sunny day
I was going on the Dart! Hooray
My heart was pumping my mouth was dry
All the girls on the bank said 'Hi'

I was going down the waterfall
Spray splashing on my face
Down and Down I fall going at such a pace

Cartwheeling flipped me up to the sky
I feel that I can really fly
Round and Round the washing machine
Until I felt good and clean

Dipping up and down
I landed wrong upside down
Dropped my paddles so couldn't roll !
I feel as though I'm in a Goldfish bowl

By James Lawrence (Age 12)
Blackwater Valley Canoe Club.

New L.A.O.

The South West Region welcomes another LAO to their Access Team. Richard Seaby, 74 Plantation Drive, Walkford, Christchurch, BH23 5SQ Tel: 01590 676622 (Day) 01425 270143 (Eve)

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WHAT'S ON

news & info



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Hertford Canoe Race and Carnival, 12th June 1999

Come to the ancient county town of Hertford and watch the carnival parade, take part in the mini-marathon and enjoy the carnival entertainment on the Hartham Common. On the day there'll also be other canoe challenges and 'Come and Try It' all based at the Hartham Common clubhouse. The race is open to all levels of experience, for more details of the day's events contact Angela Dove 01992 503831 or a.dove@waterman-group.co.uk

1999 Cheshire Ring Canoe Race.

Will be held on the weekend of the 26th and 27th June. This is the 22nd year of the race which circles the Cheshire Ring of canals, starting near Ponton and passing through Marple, Ashton, Manchester, Lymm, Preston Brook, Northwich, Kidsgrove, Congleton and back to Poynton. There are 95 miles to be paddled, 92 locks and three tunnels to be carried around, some of it in the dark.

The most popular class is the double touring kayak relay, there are also classes for K1 and K2 relay or non stop and anything else you fancy.

For entry information send an A5 envelope to: L. Gallagher, Macclesfield and District Canoe club, 20 Coniston Way, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK11 7RX

Crewe and Nantwich Canoe Club. 10th Anniversary Celebration Day.

A canal / river trip is already being planned as a morning activity and a Mini Slalom will take place during the afternoon. A riverside party follows the slalom with a mege BBQ starting the entertainment, then have a chat with old friends and have a look at 10 years of photo's and old club newsletters. The Celebration day will be held on Saturday 10th July 1999 and would like to get as many old members as possible to join us on the day. For more information Contact: Dave Griffiths Tel: 01270 560771

Fax: 01606 862837 or e-mail dgriffit@cvl.co.uk

Nene Whitewater Centre Slalom. June 25-27th

It is the first ever public event on the whitewater course, which will be run by Northampton Canoe Club. This event is instead of the event at Cardington, and will follow the same pattern. Camping may be available on site.

Peterborough Slalom, August 20-22nd

Northampton Canoe Club are running a Div 3 / 4 event (i.e. Beginners upwards) at Peterborough. It's usually an enjoyable weekend, and a good introduction to slalom for paddlers. Camping is right beside the site.

Paddle your own canoe, run a mile or two and get on your bike for Brainwave's new appeal

A fun sponsored Canalathon and Sponsered Walk will take place on 13 June to help raise money for Bridgwater-based Brainwave's new Hydrothereapy Pool Facility and video conference facility Appeal. The events will take place during Somerset's Leisure Festival Bridgwater and Taunton Canal weekend and will be staged along the canal from Taunton to Huntworth.

The Canalathon is made up of three sections comprising cycling, canoeing and running and for an initial fee of just £5 per team, entrants can compete in all three events (although canoeing is optional) either individually or in teams of two or three. Starting at 9am at Fire Pool Lock and finishing at the Leisure Festival site, the distance to be covered is 18 kilometres. A sponsored walk will also take place at the same as the Canalathon, but starting at 10 am from Firepool Lock, Taunton.

Bigger Splash

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is calling for people to make a 'Big Splash' for Cystic Fibrosis. The trust is organising a white water rafting challenge in conjunction with Splash Whitewater Rafting in Aberfeldy, Scotland and Rafting Adventures of Pre St Didier in Italy.

The event is to take place in Aosta Valley in Italy and will take the form of a 'rafting marathon' The proposed dates for the trip are 20 - 26 June 1999. The adventure takes place over six days and begins in Milan before travelling to Pre St Didier, a small town below Mount Blanc. During the six days a variety of hair-raising rapids will be tackled before returning to Milan for a well earned rest.

For further information about participating in these events contact Emma Warren or Aaron Woods at the Cystic Fibrosis Trust on 0181 4647211



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NOTICEBOARD

BCU Internet

If you're not connected, WHY!



The Internet is the future of communication, yes I know, you've heard it all before, but, if we are going to keep up with ever changing technologies we all have to start somewhere and we canoeists have to stick together, don't we!

I've been looking at who in the canoeing world has actually connected to BCU Internet and to be honest I'm a little shocked to say the least.

Why are there so few actual MEMBERS connected to BCU Internet?

Why are all of the BCU Affiliated Canoe Clubs NOT connected to BCU Internet?

We've all seen the adverts for the FREE CONNECTION, FREE INTERNET ACCESS, but what does this actually mean?

Well, they are NOT FREE, they charge over the odds if you have to call their help line, up to £1.00 per minute. Imagine being on the phone for twenty minutes.

If we all used BCU Internet, you would not only get a great service and automatically connect to the BCU Web Site; we would also be benefiting ourselves. Let me point out, if I may,

what the benefits are and what they actually mean.

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Sea Kayaking

A Log from the Sea of Cortez

Five days of sea kayaking in idyllic waters was the primary purpose of a journey to Mexico. James and Christine Heward travelled to La Paz near the foot of the Baha (Ba Ha) peninsular on Mexico's West Coast to try their hands at sea kayaking for the first time. Joining with a group of fourteen others; all clients of guide company, Baja Expeditions, they spent five stimulating days in the sun on the uninhabited island of Espiritu Santo, learning to kayak, snorkelling among sea lions, whale watching and hiking. Report by James Heward



"Put your money away, you won't need it for the next five days and absolutely no watches" said Jose Sanchez, the group leader at the start of our adventure. We had just landed from a privately chartered ferry onto a pristine beach on the island of Espiritu Santo. Lined up at the water's edge was a row of modern two-person and singles sea kayaks. Across the beach stood the kitchen, a large igloo tent complete with four staff. At the foot of a small cliff a line of two-person tents had been arranged; our home for the next five days.

After a wide-ranging safety briefing including the dangers of stepping on one of the many varieties of marine life that might turn nasty, jelly fish to avoid, scorpions, rattlesnakes, thirst and sun burn; some wondered what they had let themselves in for. Fortunately, by the end of the holiday nobody had suffered from anything much except an over indulgence at the daily happy hours. Before being let loose on the kayaks, a thorough briefing on water safety including a wet exit test proved that you could escape safely in the unlikely event of overturning.

At last we were off on an evening cruise around the bay. The beautifully calm sea with the evening sun striking hues of red against the contorted volcanic cliffs made an encouraging start. This was all very different from earlier visions of sea kayaking observed off the coast of Western Scotland when others had been battling against strong tides, rain and cold wind. The setting sun was just two horizontal fingers high over the distant Baja peninsular horizon, the time that Jose had informed us that the Margarita tree would certainly flower. And so it did, a cauldron of self-serve Margarita with ice on a sub-tropical desert island beach can't be so bad!

Kayaking was only one of the many activities of the week, although the most important. Tuesday opened with a short instructional hike up the canyon behind the beach. This gave the opportunity to hear about many of the plant species found on this desert island. Jose talked about the tree-like Cardon Cactus commonly associated with Western movies, the Jojaba whose leaves are used in cosmetics, Deadly Nightshade, wild Fig and Oregano.

Snorkelling around Espiritu Santo island is stunning, among the best anywhere. A trip to the North of the island provided the opportunity to observe an enormous colony of sea lions at close quarters by jumping off the boat into their midst. "Not too near" warned our guides "keep a boat length away, especially if any of the males show aggression by blowing bubbles at you". This was certainly snorkelling with a sense of

apprehension, heightened by a (hopefully) playful cub, swimming below.

We were not expecting to see whales on this trip as it was late in March. The best opportunity would normally be late January to mid-March further North on the Pacific side of Baja in Magdalena Bay, a lagoon famous for its Grey Whale breeding. The excitement was intense when on a sunset kayak cruise as far South as the Sea of Cortez a large 'blow' was spotted. Within a few minutes a Humpback Whale surfaced for air only a few metres away providing a sensational show of it's tail as it descended. Humpbacks are among the largest whales to be found anywhere. We had several close encounters with Humpback, Grey Whales and Dolphins during the week.

Wednesday was spent kayaking, snorkelling, with lunch on a different beach, some two hours away by kayak. By the time we arrived, the camp staff had set-up lunch complete with sun awning, chairs, hot soup and cold beer. On the return journey in the setting sun we were again surprised, this time by a display of jumping Manta Rays. These enormous creatures obliged our group by jumping clear of the water within just a few metres of the nearest kayak.

To many, the highlight of the week was Thursday, a windless day devoted only to a one and half hour kayak journey across placid waters to El Cardonita, a beach with pristine sands and shells at the foot of a deep fjord-like inlet. This offered an ideal place for snorkelling. An hour spent drifting, weightless, face down observing a coral garden and an amazing array of multi-coloured fish would alone have justified the journey. Afterwards, those with enough energy were off on a hike to the top of a mountain to view the former pearl fishing beds in a remote bay far below. It was hot, very hot, on the way up so a cool rest in a cave proved welcome. The cave roof was blackened from the smoke of long ago fires and the floor were deep with Mother of Pearl clamshells, evidence that clams were a major part of the diet of the tribes that once inhabited the island.

Friday was 'pack-up' day. As it was unusually windy, plans for a final kayak cruise had to be abandoned, so we spent the morning with new found American friends learning the subtle art of 'hanging out'. Thus we passed a pleasurable and relaxing end to an experience that had been enhanced immeasurably by phenomenal customer service. Finally, we reluctantly waded out to the ferry returning to the mainland with memories; secure in the knowledge that sea kayaking is fun, especially for softies. ●

g for Softies



James Heward travelled as a guest of:
Baja Expeditions,
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E-mail: travel@bajex.com
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Above: Base camp beach. Espiritu Santo Island in the Sea of Cortez



Below: Hanging out at 'Happy Hour' - sea kayaking does not have to be a tough sport



Right: Our homes for the five days on the beach



ACCESS

news & info

Access Action in the Eastern Region

There will be an access get together as part of the Easter Region Canoe Day at

Friars Meadow, Sudbury on 13 June.

Full details from Lesley Quinlan on 01255 815093.

Lesley has recruited a new access officer for the river Thet. He

is Dick Foyster, 115

Norwich Road,

Wymondham,

Norfolk NR18 0SJ

(01953 606910).

Contact Dick for access information before paddling the

Thet.

Access Action in

Cumbria

The Crake

agreement

continues to be a

success story

following ten years

hard work by LAO

Colin Litton. The

turn round from

animosity to co-

operation is a classic

example for other

rivers. Duddon

Canoe Club and

Colin have been

helping riparian

owners with

clearing fallen trees

and hedge cutting.

At Spark Bridge

canoeists have been

invited to use the

village hall for

changing. A

sponsored paddle

has been arranged

to raise funds for

Grenodd village hall.

The Colour of Canoeing

by Helen Partridge

At the April Access Committee, in discussions about projecting a better image and promoting responsible and considerate use of water, the issue of canoe clothing and its many varied colours was raised. Are we canoeists, clothed in our many splendid colours, bringing unwanted attention to ourselves from concerned local residents? I thought about this and decided to look at why the need for colour in the first place. Looking at the use of colour in nature proved a useful starting point.

The most colourful animal and bird is generally the male of the species. They use colour to show off and attract the opposite sex; the peacock is an excellent example. Parallels are here I thought; as a female of the species I too love colour. However, the widest adoption of colour amongst the canoeing fraternity is by the whitewater and freestyle contingent. This type of canoeing by its very nature encourages show offs, the peacocks of the canoe world. The aim of the game is to

out perform other competitors by displays of courage, feats of endurance, ingenuity, creativity etc.; the use of colours may very well have an important role in this. My experience, albeit not wide but it is varied, has been that freestyle and recreational whitewater canoeists are indeed the colour junkies of the canoeing world, perhaps for this very reason.

Colour can be used to warn off predators, to warn of danger from potential harm. Wasps, bees and some caterpillars use red and yellow to display their hazards, other insects mimic this to avoid predation. Perhaps we canoeists use bright colours to warn off other recreational users who may cause us harm in some way. I wonder whether others would agree with this!

Many animals use colour to disguise themselves and as camouflage, this is in the main to hide from predators or to use it as a disguise in selecting and approaching prey. Difficult to see any parallels here you may think. However, the main danger, "predators" you could say, to canoeists is

the revoking of access agreements and the lack of access in the first place. "Predators" in this sense are those who do not enable access to happen such as riparian owners, local residents and other water users. To achieve more access from our "predators" should we be avoiding them by camouflaging ourselves, to fit into the background quietly without being noticed? Should we be camouflaged to pass quietly and unnoticed past anglers so as not to disturb them?

Luckily, unlike animals we have the choice of how to dress and adorn ourselves. The bright clothes that are on sale, make the sport seem fun; they attract youngsters to the sport and provide an opportunity to reflect our own personalities. Canoeists are individuals and like to reflect that in their choice of boat, colour of clothing and safety equipment. It is difficult to see how we could influence any changes in canoeing culture. However, I think that in relating this issue to animal psychology, somewhat tongue in cheek, it has shown that perhaps we should be more aware of the effects that our use of colour can have on other water users and local communities. It would be a lot easier if we have chameleon like properties and could change colour to match the circumstance and the environment!

Access Chairman sets the course for the next two years

Colin Kempson, Chairman of the Access Management Committee (note new title!), fired up members to positive action over the next two years. Despite all our strenuous efforts, canoeists and the BCU are still very much out on their own. We receive sympathetic noises from outside agencies, but things are not improving. All our lobbying has to date failed to get the Government to add water into their draft Right to Roam Bill. After two years of hard work, the Country Landowners Association has not yet been able to help us get a single new agreement on our 20 target rivers (progress on the Mole has been due exclusively to work by Noel Humphrey and his team). We have so far failed to persuade the Environment Agency to secure the necessary change in legislation so enable them to make a licensing agreement with us on the Thames.

The message for the immediate future is to step up action at local level specifically, but not necessarily exclusively, on our target rivers project. This progress is only likely to come from strenuous, focused effort by our local access teams. We use the word team to underline that Local Access Officers cannot do it all on their own. The message to go out to all clubs is that our success will be greater if they can provide members for access teams in their areas. There are now more central resources in place for providing the support needed by local teams; local access teams will not be out there on their own. Offers of help please to your regional access officer, Carel Quaife at the BCU office or Colin Kempson.

Access Action in the South East

Noel Humphrey and his team have been very active as usual. Another access officer training day including a short "Valuing Volunteers" course was held at Ardingly in January, with Colin Woodward and Alison Thorp from the Environment Agency present. Twenty canoeists from several local clubs attended the meeting in March at Maidstone Canoe Club to discuss responding to the Local Environment Agency Plan (LEAP) for the Medway; this is one of the best ways of getting our voice heard. The Adur and Sussex Ouse LEAP was launched in May; if you paddle these rivers and want to improve the access situation, your help is needed, so please contact Noel on 0181 654 0845.

Purley Canoe Club and Noel's access team organised an open canoe rubbish collecting meet on the Mole; they also were able to inform the Flood Defence Officer of the Environment Agency about fallen trees across the river. Thank you to Purley Canoe Club for their donation of £22 to the target rivers project raised at the event. On another trip a representative from Surrey Wildlife was taken down the Mole and evidence was found of water voles, which the Environment Agency are trying to reintroduce.

Access Action in the North West

Regional Access Officer Chris Cleaver continues to play an active role in the Environment Agency NW Regional Fisheries Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee and has contributed to NW Fisheries Legislative Review meetings. He has ensured responses to recent LEAPs on the Douglas, Crol, Irwell, Mersey and Bollin. Other current projects include Sale Ees Weir, access to the Mersey in Stockport and a canoe trail on the Goyt. Dek Davie is setting about updating the NW region rivers guide. Chris is looking for eight more local access officers to complete his team.

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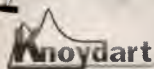
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White W

Article by Peter Packard

That was it. A year later, after much fantasising, several inoculations and one week of thorough preparation, Aeroflot, the international airline not renowned for its safety record, had us in the belly of a flying tin can. We were 3 in total, myself, Dan Tebay and Colin Lively. All good friends, all just graduated, all experiencing the East for the first time. However I was the only one with premonitions of a fire-balling aircraft and fatality pins if we did manage to survive to the rivers.

The allure of Nepal was not solely the 'river runners paradise'. It was the anticipation of entering absolute alienation. A culture set in the world's largest massifs. Where celestial divinity embodies literally thousands of things, from bumble bees to waterfalls. Indigenous folk living hand to mouth in an essentially agricultural existence, with an average national income equivalent to a good weekend out in London. A country which let two world wars go by unnoticed, yet now attracts thousands of tourists from around the globe each year, to trek, raft, kayak and behold, in Disneyland wonder, the undeniable beauty within its borders.

Any jet lag that had weaseled its way into our systems was dispelled by an onslaught to the senses, on exiting Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport. An almost comical plague of Nepali taxi drivers and hotel owners swarmed us as they saw potential cash to be made from ferrying three boats. Suddenly I'd befriended half of Nepal's population, without even saying a word. Or so it seemed. To our fortune, our man in Kathmandu was there to greet us. His experienced judgment on local tariffs took our entirety to Thamel, a 'vogue' district of Kathmandu, without any misdemeanors. The horn sounded relentlessly to fight a way through the hectic streets. Soon enough we arrived at Mt. Fuji Hotel. Exhilarated from our first descent in the Himalayan Kingdom.

Let's get on with the paddling!!

6 a.m. There it was. The Marsyandi, the 'raging river'. Lit by an orange/pink sky. A dream realised. The lower section from Paudi to Dumre was to be our warm up. The adjustment to volume and gradient was essential. Kit loaded into boats gave a graceful finesse, like that of Sherman tanks. We slid in.

"Off...OFF...everybody off the water!!"

Seconds into that monumental taste of Nepalese water, my paddle snaps. It was only class II water! Never again will I use fibre glass paddles as spits. Like a frenzied homicidal, I reached the bank, got spares and we were off again. This time for real.

The pace rapidly took us into friendly, slightly heart fluttering, class III water. The width of the river was most unnerving. It was like a sea between opposite banks, well almost. Boulders the size of houses sat lordly, with no sign of ever moving. Water funneled as the banks rose and closed in. We entered our first class IV. Dan led, cutting a smooth line, I followed just making a clean pass round a boulders left rim. Then Colin...Colin, what are you doing, go left..left. Obviously the right side of the boulder was prettier or home to more interesting lichen!?

Power strokes couldn't recover this situation. Colin was washed through a slot and the aerated jaws at the bottom flipped him. The hold was too long for a roll to happen. Dan and I ejected. Within seconds Colin was on the bank, boat half sunk. There was no smiling. But our offensive humour soon put an end to that when we two southerners told Colin to stop paddling like a northerner.

The river continued fluxing between class II, III & IV. Kayaking spirits were rising. On turning one blind corner we were confronted by a rhesus monkey. He was big, looked unafraid and probably the troop's dominant



"So Nepal...what do you think?"

"Well, it's the rivers, they're going to be so big."

"Of course they are, they run from the highest mountain range besides that's the whole idea!"

"It scares me, I may not come back alive."

"Hey, neither might I!"

"I'm not joking!"

"Nor am I."

"Do you think I'm ready for it?"

"Yes you are."

"I'm being paranoid aren't I?"

"Yes"

"Okay, let's go. Let's see what that crazy place has to offer...first writing a will!"

Water Nipples



on the planet. And

t things first though, I'm

male. We smiled and floated by. Only one more swim, from me, apparently a soft southerner. However, my hole was twice the dimensions of Colin's. If you know what I mean!

Aliens on earth

Next, the Seti Khola. A relatively small volume, class III river, with stretches of class II and deathly moments of class IV+. The level was dropping, rocks exposed and stoppers becoming more enraged. Class IV's turned to V's and some long tiresome portages were made. The landscape throughout constantly altered, from Himalayan massif, to jungle corridor. Waterfalls spilled into the river and farmers hollered in delight and amazement, like excited youngsters. On meeting a potentially 'doable' class V, we scouted ahead on foot to assess. Our prolonged procrastination of uncertainty attracted some attention from the local nearby school. So rare was the sight of large plastic objects floating by, the entire student population gathered en masse. In sheer fascination they watched as we seal launched back into the water. We felt famous. But probably just looked strange. Our egress point arrived as the sky went black, 28km of paddling, we needed beer.

Beware!! The Gods are unsettled.

A bus from Pokhara to Naya Pul took 2.5 hours and cost 300 rupees (approx. £3), that's including the boats. The get in was one days walk away. We tried our luck to find porters. It wasn't easy. These guys were taxi drivers and short distant strollers. Never had hagging been so difficult. Eventually we agreed on a price that should have taken us to Everest Base Camp and seen us down the Dudh Kosi in the footsteps of Dr. Mike Jones. Later, we were to learn from a veteran Nepali, that our porters were greedy rogues. With his help we managed to pay them accordingly. Not all Nepalese are friendly. It's a tricky situation, but

you've got to keep a rational head. £1 was relatively unsubstantial to us, we'd just spent 420 of them to get to Nepal. Yet its significant to a Nepali. Upsetting the balance of their local economy would only encourage indignation.

Credit to them though. Their pace was fast, in fact it was surprisingly incredible. I usually complain when having to do a 50m portage in the UK. These chaps flew over the ascending terrain like ferrets on amphetamines. Most impressive. The next day's sun rose as normal - preparations finalised - we were ready.

"You're about to paddle the river I see." A voice whispered.

"Yeah, it's said to be a great continuous river." I replied.

"Well, just be careful, it's a very holy river and the Gods are unsettled. Anything could happen." Louder this time, but she then silenced.

Err...thanks! That's perfect reassurance for someone of my paranoid disposition. Nothing like a bit of negative reinforcement. I now had the added fear of thunderbolts and psychopathic deities.

Dan took the lead down the trickier left fork. He was over and took a few bouts like a scrum's front line. My heart fluttered. But he rolled up. 'Never leave your boat', his words resonated in my head. If it hurts when you've got a plastic carapace strapped to you, imagine the pain if you didn't! The pace was immediate. Rushes of adrenaline fluxed from fear to exhilaration to moments of crystal focus. This was our most challenging river. Its reputation was earned. Our debut swimmers, Colin and myself, made a second appearance, but this time they were worthy of a standing ovation. A class IV+ section was obviously undernourished and we made an appetising main course. Once in the stopper's jaws there were no civilities. Bracing was like being chewed slowly. I'd given everything and had to bail, thankfully river right. The swim was only mildly catastrophic. Colin was the one who suffered. He took river left. His face got friendly with a boulder. It looked bad but felt worse.

Every corner we came to looked as though it could reveal a class V. Yet it never appeared. It was a tumultuous adventure. An eddy hoppers dream. Rarely does the mind have to focus this hard on water. It was draining, and I wasn't even the lead. The eddies were fast and small, the line tight and the potential for error large. We looked out for each other.

The culmination of this river for me was a paradox. My boat wrapped itself around a rock, it was written off and I had a wave of relief. My final swim in Nepal saw the end of a Dagger Crossfire, never again would I paddle that monstrosity. I'd bought it for security, but now realised I needed a smaller boat. Big boats are for big people, small boats are



INFORMATION

Don't go to Nepal without White Water Nepal, 1999 edition coming soon. Lonely Planet's Nepal guidebook had its moments too. Ganesh Hire in Pokhara for all kayaking gear.

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for everybody. I hired a micro for the next river, confidence and performance excelled. The Crossfire now belongs to a Nepalese hotelier and is probably filled with soil, serving a greater purpose as a flower bed in its new incarnation.

He's Watching You and Waiting

If judged on holistics, the upper Kali Gandaki certainly takes first prize. The gorges, white water, sense of remoteness and decision to join a raft group as safety kayakers made this a satiating finale. Four days of being cooked for, having kit carried and good company, it was like colonic irrigation -

Bliss! A class III - IV river, bouncy and technical with play holes along its entirety. The pace was mellow, with moments of rage. A mix of English, German, Swedish, French-Canadian and Nepali gave the duration off river communicational embarrassment, and endless hysterical fits. Highly recommended.

Acting as raft support we became appreciated fairly quickly. Our first



moment of glory saved 3 bodies, 4 paddles and 5 flip flops. The pleasure gained from watching the swimmer's relaxed faces of security turn to contortions of shock and panic as they entered stoppers made me question my sanity. I concluded I was normal.

We were warned that 'Big Brother' was coming up soon. We scouted ahead and picked a line through the nastiest stretch of class IV so far. The line was scrappy. But we all survived, rushing with adrenaline. As we turned the corner the banks narrowed quickly. Rock faces blocked our view. Suddenly we were confronted by a standing wave, my mind flashed the image of the Ghostbusters encountering the Stay Puff Marshmallowman. I

faltered. Seeing Dan fall victim to river centre - what a nutter - I powered left looking for support from the cushion wave. My edge was wrong. I was over. Colin, saved from rolling, found himself terror-stricken, gazing into the throat of 'Big Brother'. An eddy had won his boat and wasn't letting him go. We'd only survived 'Little Brother', his elder had sprung himself upon us. I had to make three rolls, Dan

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two and Colin needed counseling. Afterwards we couldn't stop smiling. We stopped for lunch exploding verbal dihorea. Only too soon it was over. The last stretch paddled. Boats and kit loaded onto our awaiting bus we headed back to Pokhara.

On the now familiar bus journey, where faith lies in the Nepalese bus driver's knowledge of the poor condition roads, I lost my belief. The realisation that their religion typically believes that the after life is better than this one, broke my confidence. However there is an ironically a surprisingly high success rate of over taking on blind bends. The 7 hour trip from Pokhara to Kathmandu gave time to reflect. Time plays with you on journeys like that. Semi-conscious hours pass in minutes, but



at times the seconds slip nowhere. The next banana tree or giant bamboo could be a glimpse into the twilight zone. All of our skills had been pushed to their limits, confidence increased and respect of water heightened. We'd made it to Nepal, our conceptual ideals were realised. Somehow we felt we could achieve more next time. The challenge never ceases.

We didn't leave Nepal without a taste of trekking. In almost record breaking time we sped to Annapurna Base Camp. But that's another story. Special thanks must go to our sponsors Wilderness Expertise for their advise and support, and Desperate Measures and Pyranha, for providing equipment. ●

Office Chick swaps the desk for a kayak

So one of the guides, says to me, "learn to kayak". Always one to do as I'm told, I dutifully take myself off to The Regents Canoe Club, where some extremely patient teachers try to get across to me the fundamentals of this sport. The next few months see me on the romantic Regents Canal London. Here I am taught the theory behind going in a straight line. Everyone else on the beginners' course seems to grasp this simple concept early on but oh no, not me. I have trouble keeping up with them as I'm going round and round in circles.

Not put off by this little set back, I battle on and soon have my first taste of flowing water, the River Wye. Taste being the operative word, a tiny rapid claims me as its victim and I have the first of many swims. Despite this I have an odd feeling that I'm just going to be fine with this sport. Why I had this deluded feeling I don't know. Everyone else seemed to be staying upright and already looking rather stylish. My style is one of someone having a bad acid trip.

So whilst on holiday in Nepal I get in a few days' kayaking on a local course. This boosted my confidence no end and I come back to the UKKK with a passionate enthusiasm, purchase a Dagger RPM and a month later find myself on a 'plane to Uganda to tackle the Mighty White Nile? I assure myself over a few bottles of house red that I'll be absolutely fine and the fact I've only done four days on a river will not put me at a disadvantage on this grade five river. Also I have it on good authority that though the water is big; the river is not rocky so the chances of hurting my self are slim.

The day comes and I Christen my boat, just practising up stream. The following day I make the foolish decision to run the first rapid, Donald Duck, a friendly name for a bastard of a rapid. I succeed in breaking my paddle but manage to keep my spirit intact. Secretly I know I shan't be running that rapid in the near future.

A few days later and I'm psyched to run the river. Putting in below "Donald", a spectacular start ensues, running the first rapid backwards without a paddle. Undeterred I surface smiling, much to the surprise of my "babysitter" Andy who, although understandably dubious, is still up for taking me down the river. That first day I did ask myself why had I bothered to spend all that money on a boat when I was swimming the river?

Half way down the river, we come to Big Brother. Why do they call it Big Brother? err.. because it sure as hell ain't small in fact to my eyes it bore

a remarkable resemblance to Mount Everest. My babysitter tells me to "paddle hard and just follow me", Yeah, yeah I'll just follow you into this brick wall. Much to my surprise I break through to the other side and then, naturally turn upside down. As I perch on a rock to empty my boat, I notice my legs are wobbling... What a high! "Why don't you get PTO on the bottom of your boat?" laughs a cocky kayaker. I choose to ignore this comment and paddle down to the lunch spot.

The afternoon goes pretty much along the same lines as the morning, swimming with a bit of paddling interspersed. I watch the boys surfing and curse my Mum for not putting me in a kayak before I could walk. I do slowly start to make progress. As the days go by, I seem to be spending a lot more time in my kayak than out of it much to the relief of my babysitter.

So my final day on the river is here (no, don't worry, I didn't die and go to hell) A couple of the kayakers think I might be able to survive "Total Gunga". What this translates as I don't know but as I was being flung up into the air and dropped down into the next hole, all I could think of was that it was like riding through my love life the difference being I came out the other end upright and intact, feeling just great!

But the culmination of the trip was my visit to Itanda, "The Bad Place". I was under strict Instructions to head hard right, boof the drop and punch through the waves. However, I seemed to have become a magnet for this massive hole to the left and found myself making a bee-line for it. Also my brain seemed not to be functioning and instead of realising the error of my ways, I found myself admiring the beauty of this huge mass of white water. It was only due to the frantic waving of the video kayaker that at the last minute I managed to correct my direction.

So I'm hack in the office - what can I say? "Dull as dishwater" is the phrase that springs to mind. Give me another shot of adrenaline from the mighty White Nile! For those interested in experiencing The Source of The Nile! either kayaking or rafting, contact Sandra on 0181 874 4969. Please note due to Adrift's strict safety policy, where clients are concerned, you must already be a competent grade five kayaker to tackle the river. ●

Sandra Quiggin went to Uganda courtesy of Alliance Air and kayaked under the watchful eye of her Adrift colleagues.

Penrith - OLYMPICS

Site for the Olympic Canoeing Events - Sydney 2000

Penrith Lakes Scheme

After many years of sand and gravel extraction which has supplied about 75% of Sydney's building requirements, the quarries on the Castlereagh flood plain, 5 km north of Penrith, are being rehabilitated. The Penrith Lakes Development Corporation is restoring this 2000 hectare area into a series of seven lakes which will equal Sydney Harbour in size from the bridge to the heads, providing a magnificent public recreation facility for the people of Sydney, and Western Sydney in particular.

Situated 44 kilometres west of Homebush Bay Olympic Park and Athletes' Village, the first stage of this massive project is the completion of venues for Rowing and Canoeing for the Sydney Olympic Games.

Although there is plenty of parking at the sites, there will be no public parking facilities at either venue during the Olympic Games. Dedicated parking will be provided nearby, or in Penrith, with shuttle bus services to and from the Stadiums. Bus services will also operate from Penrith Railway Station.

Sydney International Regatta Centre

The Regatta Course is 2.3 km long and 168 m wide, with a minimum depth of 4.5 metres and accommodates nine lanes for rowing or twelve for canoeing. A valuable feature is the 1500 metre warm up lake alongside the course, allowing competitors to train while racing is in progress.

A cycleway extends around the course and a special media road runs along its northern side which is also the side for the finishing tower, 1000 seat pavilion, timing/starting huts, and two 20 x 24 metre boatsheds. These boatsheds will house the

workshops and hold at least 80 craft. Additional racking for boats is sited alongside, on fawned banks leading to the many launching pontoons onto the warm-up lake. The upper floors of the boatsheds are used as venue management offices, medical support and meeting rooms.

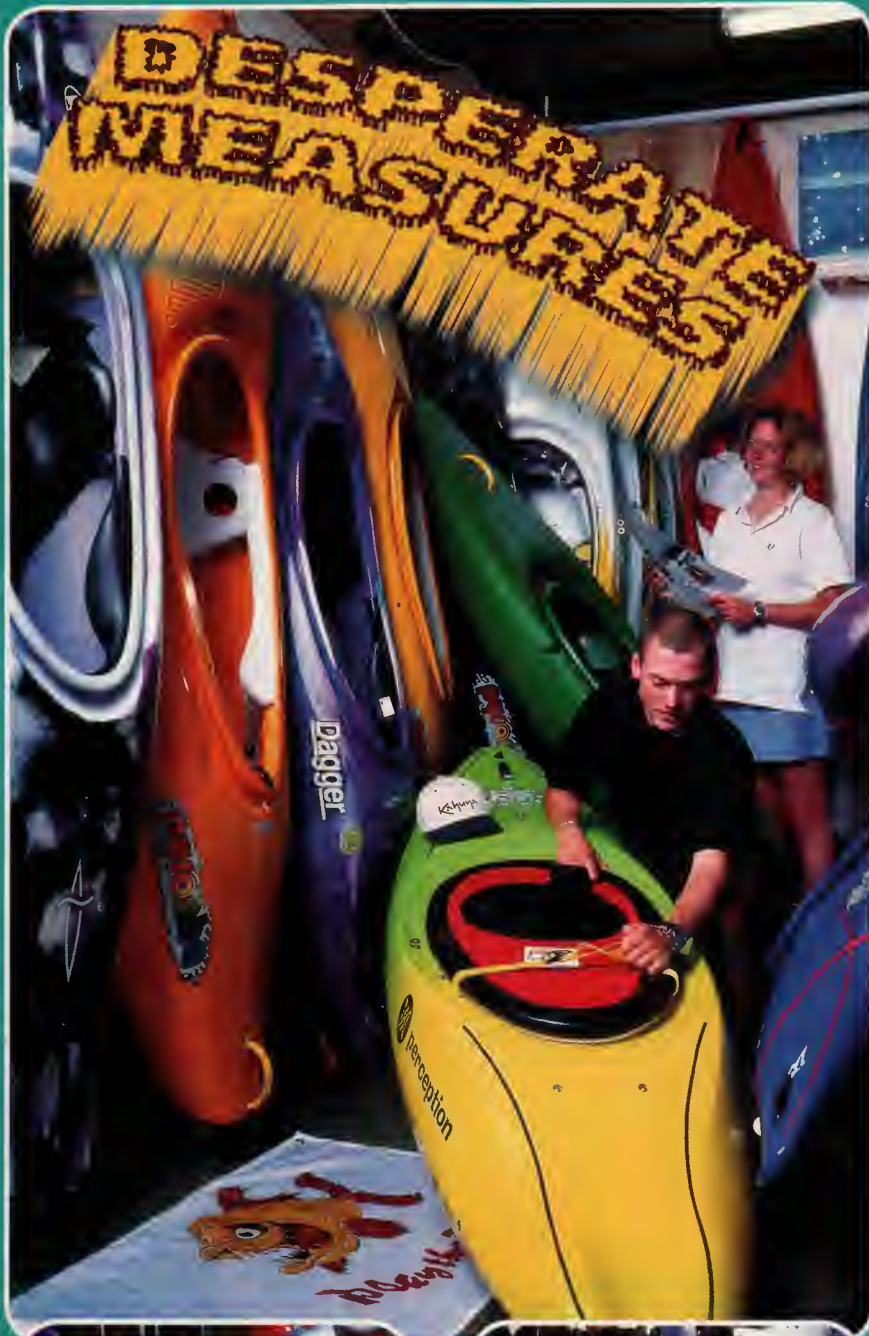
Considerable attention has been given to ensure that the complex is eco-friendly. Buildings are energy efficient, designed to maximise natural light and ventilation. Water quality is controlled through detention basins that receive water runoff from the local area. The introduction of 25000 native underwater plants and 12000 bass fish to the lakes help to maintain the regatta course's ecosystem.

When I visited in January, a full Rowing Regatta was in progress as part of the Australia Day celebrations, so I was able to see the complex in full operation. All systems appeared to work very smoothly. The 1000 seat pavilion was overfull but it is planned to accommodate 30000 spectators for the Olympic Games, in the public areas along both sides of the competition course.

However, with the £14.5 million it cost to build this centre and the attention to detail as described above, it is sad that the audience viewing area is not as good as it could be. Let me explain. The course layout was created in association with the international rowing federation, FISA. Well it shows. It is fairly easy to see a result of most rowing events from a considerable distance, given the time taken for the majority of rowing races to cross the finishing line. I also understand that many rowing supporters like to watch events from the bar with a stubby in one hand. This will simply not do for our sport. We can expect the majority of finalists to finish within two seconds of each other - and now we are blessed with 12 boats, not 9. The very

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O L Y M P I C S



best seats in the stands provide a poor view of the finishing line - the area most canoeing spectators would like to be in line with.

It should not be difficult for builders to design our regatta course pavilions and stadiums so they are more audience-friendly. The challenge is for them to be sited in a position where a maximum number could be seated closer to the line of the finish, without causing a wind and subsequent water vortex on the course, and still incorporate the best position for officials to judge and record the results. How long has horse racing been doing this? We too need to show off our sport in the best possible light. In fact it is vital.

Too many of our regatta courses lack enough careful thought and planning for spectators - the fans

- the only ones who have to pay to get in. The only hope here is that the temporary seating, to be sited on the opposite side of the course, will cover the line of finish, and for the installation of large TV screens around the complex. Otherwise, many visitors may wish they had saved the expense, and stayed at home to get a better view on TV.

Penrith White Water Stadium

At the time of my visit in January, the White Water Stadium, site for the Olympic Canoe/Kayak Slalom Events, was just a hole in the ground, so I am limited in my comments. It is being built next to the warm-up lake at the International Regatta Centre but with a separate entry off the main road. The International Canoe Federation is funding a quarter of the expected £2.4 million cost of the project.

The 'U' shaped concrete main course will be 300 metres long, with a channel width from 8 to 14 metres and a fall of 5.5 metres. Water, drawn from the warm-up lake via the tail pond, will be pumped up to the head pond through six, one metre diameter pumps, to deliver 16 cubic metres of water a second. Artificial beaches are being incorporated in the course and obstacles will be added or taken away to create different levels of difficulty. A mechanical conveyor belt will carry canoes and kayaks, with paddlers in them, from the tail pond up to the head pond.

High volumes of recycled materials are being used in the concrete for the channel, and in the construction of the administration, amenities and boat storage facilities.

During the Olympic Games, 5000 spectators will be accommodated on grassed banks with a further 10000 people in temporary grandstands.

After the Olympic Games, the facility will be managed by the Penrith City Council as a commercial venture, providing a range of uses from whitewater experiences for beginners, training and competition for elite athletes, and public or corporate functions.

I am grateful to Richard Hinds of The Sydney Morning Herald who directed my thoughts to spectators' viewing pleasure. ●

Rowland Jones



Model of the Penrith Whitewater Stadium



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WORLD CLASS competition

View from the Performance Directorate

We have recently received more good news in terms of funding support from the UK Sports Council and from Sport England.

The UK Sports Council has formally agreed the level of funding for the BCU World Class Performance Plan (WCPP) for the period 1 April 1999-31 March 2000. The agreed level of funding for this period is £1.2M; this figure is apportioned between programme funding (£750K) and athletes' subsistence (£500K) for Canoe Slalom, Sprint and Marathon Racing. However, the priority of funding lies with the Olympic disciplines. Year two of the programme has also received approval in principle. The staff in the performance office are now busy implementing the detailed plans for the three disciplines. It is also worth noting that there has been a reduction in the number of athletes supported by the BCU WCPP from 84 to 39.

Sport England has decided to support the BCU World Class Interim Plan for English athletes at National Performance level. This Interim funding is being made available to support those athletes who do not meet the revised criteria for performance but are considered to have future potential within the sport. At the present time, canoeing is the only sport in England to have received this interim support. We have recently received confirmation of a total amount of £267K, which includes £1.5K of individual subsistence for 34 nominated athletes. Athletes from Scotland and Wales, operating at this level, are also being supported through their Home Nations Sports Councils.

John Anderson
Performance Director

World Class Programme – Calendar of Events 1999

The new season has started with a vengeance and our World Class paddlers are continuing to train and race at the highest level, with many significant events already having taken place. Further events for this year include the following major internationals and training camps:

Canoe Slalom

18-20 Jun	Tacen Slovenia	World Cup 1
25-27 Jun	Skopje Macedonia	World Cup 2
July	Spain	Slalom Race Camp – Training
13-15 Aug	Bratislava Slovakia	World Cup 3
7-16 Aug	Prague Czech Republic	International Race
20-22 Aug	Augsburg Germany	World Cup 4
9-12 Sept	La Seu d'Urgell Spain	World Championships
Sept & Oct	Penrith - Australia	Training on Olympic Site
30 Sept-3 Oct	Penrith – Australia	World Cup Finals on Olympic Site
October	Holme Pierrepont	Slalom Selection Races
Nov/Dec	Holme Pierrepont	Slalom Training Camp

Sprint Racing

7-12 July	Zagreb
21-26 July	Zagreb
24-31 July	Holme Pierrepont
Summer	Hungary
23-29 August	Milan Italy
April-Sept	Holme Pierrepont
18 Sept-4 Oct	Sydney Australia
Nov	Holme Pierrepont

Marathon

7 Jun	Crestuma Portugal
19/20 Jun	Tyn Czech Republic
31 Jul – 1 Aug	Gyor Hungary
4/5 Sept	Gorzow Poland
10/11 Sept	Tour de Gudena
Nov	Holme Pierrepont

European Championships
Junior World Championships
Training Camp
Training Camp – Canoes
Senior World Championships
National Comps & Selection Races
Pre Olympic Regatta
Training Camp

Seville World Cup Regatta 16 -19.4.99

Most successful paddler of the G.B. Development team at the Seville regatta was Abi Cattle. Abi, who is still a junior, reached all three finals of the Senior Women K1 events finishing 5th in the 1000m and 8th in the 500m and 200m. This placed her third overall Women's Kayak competition behind Katrin Kiesler and Bitgit Fisher of Germany.

Joel Wilson made the semis in the K1 500m and 200m with Mally Johnson also making the K1 500m semi in his only K1 event.

The K2s of Danny Golder / Mark Burgoyne and Keith Moule / Andy Hewitt reached the semis at 1,000m and 500m with Golder / Burgoyne also making the 200m semi.

The K4 of Chris Bland / Damien Chapman / Mally Johnson / Matt Foulger had straight finals in their three events.



WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE PLAN



Canoe Sailing – French National Trophy

The 1999 French National Trophy, 'Le Coupe de France 99', was held at Loctudy, South Brittany, from 3-5 April over the Easter weekend in the 10 square metre International Sailing Canoe. Six British canoes and one German joined 10 French boats for the competition which was preceded by 2 days of training for the French sailors by top sailor Colin Brown.

RESULTS: 1. Colin Brown (GBR 283) 3 pts; 2. Simon Allen (GBR 278) 17.4 pts; 3. Richard Oswald (GBR 282) 35 pts; 4. George Gyngell (GBR 267) 35.4 pts; 5. Peter McLaren (GBR 231) 46 pts; 6. Dan Alsop (GBR 211) 60.4 pts; 7. (and French National Champion) Jean – Luc Perard (FRA 15) 61 pts; 8. Christian Hervet (FRA 7) 61.4 pts; 9. Peter Helwig (GER 67) 65.4 pts; 10. Patrick Nicholas (FRA 1) 70.7 pts

Racing News

A development team attended the first World Cup event in Seville in April. Although the competition was somewhat limited in numbers, the quality of the 16 teams was high. Abigail Cattle performed well in her K1. The best result in the men's kayaks was the K2 1000 metres crew of Dan Golder and Mark Scooby Burgoyne. They narrowly missed the final after valiantly spending most of the race recovering from a poor start. At the recent regatta

World Class Programmes World Class Potential and Start - an update.

This is the first of a series of articles through which we hope to keep you informed of progress in developing the British Canoe Union plan for the World Class Potential and World Class Start programmes. You will be aware from other articles that the BCU Performance Plan is now well under way. The scope of these new programmes is as follows:

World Class Potential – to assist the development of talented performers with the potential to win medals in significant future international competitions and events within the next 10 years
World Class Start – to help with the identification and nurturing of a specific number of performers who have the necessary characteristics to achieve future World Class success

The key aspect in planning for these two programmes will be to ensure that they fit comfortably together and underpin the Performance Programme. In fact the World Class Potential programme will focus predominantly on the 18-23 age range and will, in effect, be the development arm of the Performance programme. We would see that our prospective medal winners in Athens 2004 will be involved in this programme.

World Class Start will be more locally based and in general principles will support talent identification and development at grassroots level.

A planning team has been drawn together involving Sprint, Marathon and Slalom disciplines, the co-ordinators are Richard Ward and Brian Fuller who are now in the process of starting the research Phase of the plan. It really is exciting times and give us the opportunity to investigate all of the models of best practice to ensure that the approach we finally adopt to talent development will be the best possible.

in Nottingham selections were made for the 2nd World Cup event in Mechelen, Belgium. Tim Brabants and Ian Wynne will be competing in K1 to try and improve on their excellent performances in last year's World Championships. The sprint K4 of Train, Battershell, Tingay and Hoile (as shown on this issue's front cover) will be one of several crew boats also competing.

James Clark



Great Britain Canoe Slalom – Team Selection 1999

The 3 selection races for the 1999 Great Britain Canoe Slalom Team took place on the 1992 Olympic Slalom Course at the La Seu D'Urgell during the period 28 April – 2 May 1999

The team selected for the 1999 World Championships and World Cup Series is as follows:

Men's K1 – World Championships Team: Paul Ratcliffe, Campbell Walsh, Shaun Pearce, Ian Raspin

World Cup Race: Anthony Brown, Andrew Raspin

Womens K1 – World Championships Team:

Heather Corrie, Rachel Crosbee, Amy Casson, Kath Pigdon

World Cup Race: Helen Cardy, Helen Reeves

Canadian Singles – World Championships Team:

Mark Delaney, Stuart McIntosh, Robert Turner, Craig Brown

World Cup: Andrew Nicoll, Stuart Morris

Canadian Doubles – World Championships Team:

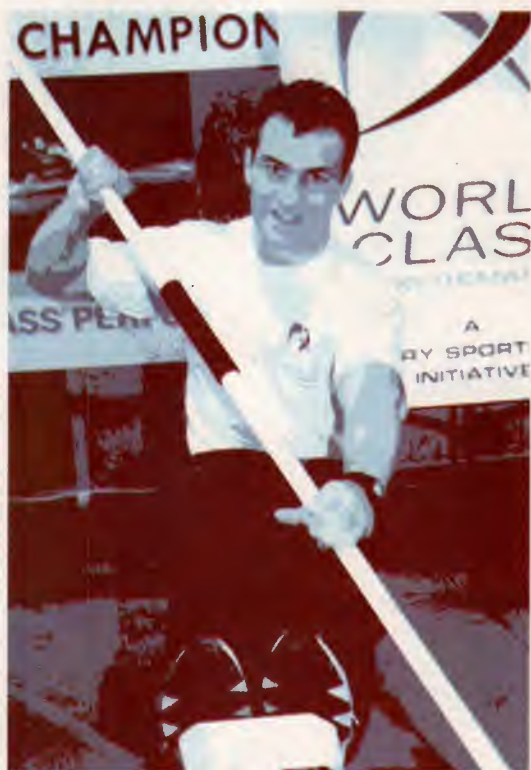
Nick Smith/Stuart Bowman, Philip Green/Steve Green

The timescales for the project are as follows:

Phase/ Month	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-00	Feb
Phase 1 - Research	■	■									
Phase 2 - Discussion & development of key areas:											
- paddler development pathway,		■	■	■	■						
- standards											
- training programmes											
Phase 3 - Construction of WC Potential submission					■	■	■				
Submission WC Potential bid 01/11/99								XXX			
Phase 4 - Development of talent identification standards and programme								■	■		
Phase 5 - construction of WC Start bid									■	■	
Submission of WCS bid 01/02/00											XXX

Within the research phase we hope to examine not only how we develop our own talent but also how other countries tackle this issue – France, Germany, Sweden are amongst some to be investigated. We will also look at other sports such as Rowing and Swimming. Most importantly we intend to talk to coaches and paddlers on their experiences and how we can make it better. Exciting times lie ahead for all of us.

world class wet seat



Ivan Lawler —

5 times World Champion takes the World Class Wet Seat.

How and when did you start canoeing?

My family was in to canoeing before I was born, so I guess it was inevitable that I would at least try it. I was probably about 5 or 6 when I first went canoeing.

When and where was your first race, how did you do?

The first race I actually remember was a Marathon at Pangbourne. I won, but was disqualified for wash hanging a motor boat, which I admit did take me from last to first.

What training do you do?

The training we do varies slightly through the year depending on which events are on. Basically our programme is 12 sessions per week of which I probably average nearer 9 to 10. I train with a group and a coach which for me is essential motivation.

What about diet?

I am not a diet fanatic, I guess I try to eat 'well' but burgers and stuff do taste good don't they! The only special attention I pay to diet is coming up to a big marathon when I will load up with carbohydrates. As I don't enjoy eating vast amounts I use Leppin Carbo loader to get in the extra.

What boat(s) and paddles do you use?

I have used Lettmann paddles now for many years and can't see any reason to change. I do however cut the blade down slightly to improve the balance in the water. The boat I use is the Aylings Kobra which I feel is the best boat for my requirements.

How has the advent of World Class Performance helped you?

World Class Performance helps me directly by providing me with a subsistence grant which gives me the security to plan my years

training and racing. Indirectly the squad also has money, from the Lottery Fund, with which they are providing other services such as sport science, diet, biomechanics etc. Having some money is still very new to all of us and we are still learning how to use it optimally.

What are your long-term aims?

If I am good enough I would like to go to the Olympic Games in Sydney. A place in the final there would be a great achievement.

What other interests do you have outside canoeing?

Outside canoeing I am an osteopath and running my own clinic in Woking takes up most of my spare time at the moment.

When you have to stop canoeing, what do you see yourself doing?

When I stop canoeing I see myself having a lot more time and energy for being sociable. I think I will take up smoking, drinking and partying to make up for lost time.

You have just been voted sports personality of the year, which three people would you thank in your acceptance speech?

If I were voted Sports Personality of the Year the first person I would thank would be the one who rigged the voting. Having done that the next two would be my parents, my Dad for all his coaching, patience and dedication, and my Mum for making me do my school work so I could have a real job when my canoeing days are over.

Who has been your biggest influence?

My biggest influence in my early days was my uncle. He trained and raced with me for many years, teaching me a lot along the way. His selection for three Olympic Games has inspired me to try and emulate his achievements.

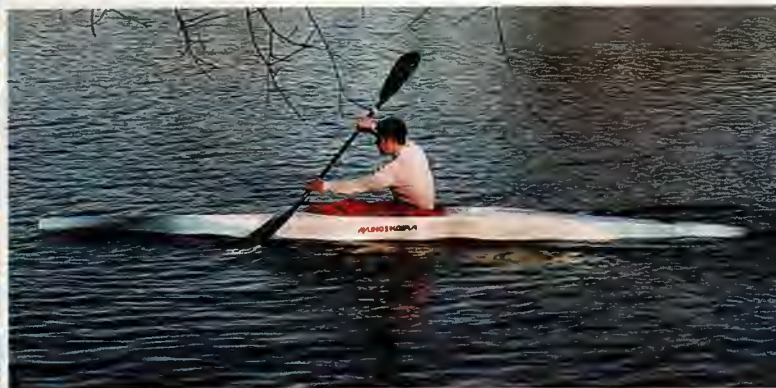
Finally, if you had the ability to change the structure of canoeing, what would you do?

If I could change the structure of canoeing, there are a lot of things you could try. I would like to see the Marathon World Championships run alongside the sprints, at the same time and in the same place. Secondly, especially since we are all paid now to some extent, I would like to see a more dictatorial running of our teams. We have nothing to lose and unless we experiment we will never make the improvement we need to make. ●

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Ivan Lawler, World Marathon Champion

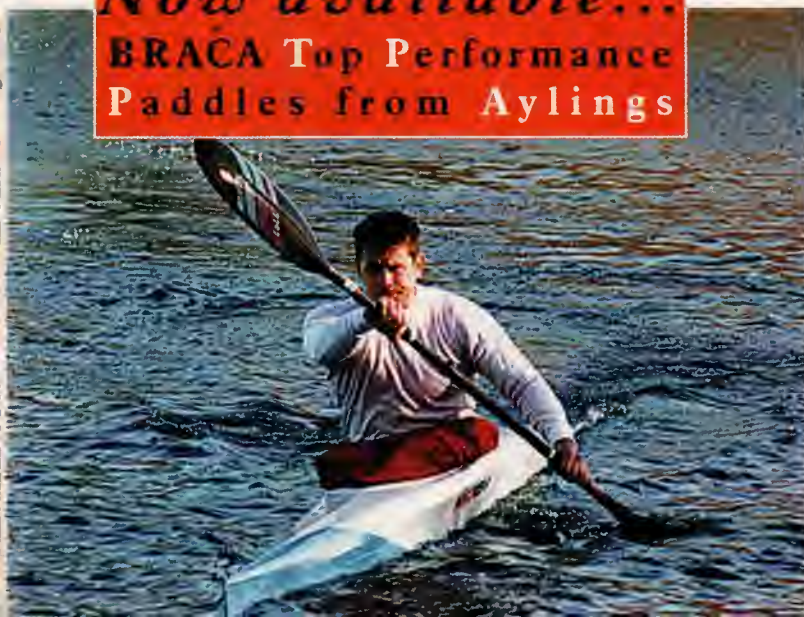
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1999 Thames Weir

1999 Thames Weir Rodeo Results

Men K1	Points
1. Simon Westgarth (EuroChamp)	339.625
2. Andy Stuart	272.75
3. Shaun Baker	262.25
4. Paul Robertson	210
5. Alex Nicks	167.625
6. Ed Cornfield	163.25
7. Andy Phillips	152.75
8. Eddie Cleator	144.75
9. Darryl Sergison	126.5
10. Ant Perkins	88.5

This year's whitewater rodeo season kicked off in March with the annual Thames Weir Rodeo at Hurley, in Berkshire. Well over a hundred competitors braved the chilly Thames as the sun shone and three gates provided perfect water conditions.



The event was run according to international rules, with each paddler having two 45 second runs, with both scores counting. The competitors paddled in bib order, in groups of ten, giving them a brief rest between runs. Points were awarded according to the number of moves and the variety. Two technical scores were totalled for each run and

multiplied by a variety score to give a grand total. It might sound a little complicated but it appears to be the fairest way to score rodeo moves and the judges were experienced and very familiar with the system.

Women K1	Points
1st Deb Pinniger	139.875
2nd Helen Gould	39.625
3rd Zoe Pierce	28.5
4th Paula Floyd	24.75
5th Vicky Young	22.5

Junior Event	Points
1. Jo Andrews	146.25
2. Richard Chrimes	139.25
3. Mark Burbeck	85.25
4. Tim Allen	87
5. Tim Copplestone	82.125

Novice Event	Points
1. James Farquarson	96.125
2. Tim Copplestone	82.125
3. Spencer Barber	56
4. Barry Dawson	52.75
5. Alex Scovell	46.5

Squirt Event	Points
1. Bob Campbell	44
2. Adam White	32
3. Chris Taudevin	30
4. Jason Smith	24
5. Hazel Wilson	23

Decked C1 Event	Points
1. Andy Nicoll	48.125
2. Peter Orton	41.5
3. Neil Thompson	29.375

Open Canoe Event	Points
1. Chris Harrison	7.5
2. James Weir	5.5
3. Ian Duffy	2.5

Red Bull, sandwiches and mugs of tea

As Red Bull, sandwiches and mugs of tea arrived for the judges, who stood in the wind, above Hurley's top wave, the competition got underway. First up were the juniors, who were battling for a fantastic prize supplied by event sponsors, SAS Institute, the world's largest independent computer software supplier. They had donated an Eskimo Zwo, a set of Werner paddles, a Playboater spraydeck, longjohn and earwig, a YAK cag, Wild Water helmet, buoyancy aid and a rackguard. Enough to make anyone go for it. Unfortunately for Jo Andrews, Richard Chrimes and Mark Burbeck, who were placed first, second and third respectively,



the prize was to go to the top non-sponsored paddler in their category and since they are all sponsored, the lucky recipient was fourth placed Tim Allen.

The novices took the floor next with a stunning display of moves from paddlers, many of whom had never competed before. James Farquarson led the field and took first place, followed closely by Tim Copplestone and Spencer Barber.

The squirt event was dominated by Bob Campbell, whose style was so laid back it appeared to be intimidating the other competitors. Hazel Wilson, Lynsey Evans and HT, made a refreshing change to the usual male dominated event and Hazel managed to pull off an impressive fifth place.

With a quick switch to the published programme, the Decked C1 guys were up next. The switch came about because some of the decked C1 competitors were also paddling in the Open Canoe event and didn't fancy getting freezing cold in their open boats right before they were due to compete in decked C1. It seemed like a fair request. Andy Nicoll took first place, followed by Pete Orton and Neil Thompson.



RODEO

Rodeo

Funnily enough, only Neil was also paddling in the Open Canoe event.

Great show

The open boaters put on a great show for the audience with two guys paddling the newly released Savage V 'Skeeter'. It's shorter, lighter and easier to manoeuvre than the previous generation of open boats but its pilots didn't manage to gain

enough points to beat Chris Harrison, who had a much better time of it in his open boat than his decked C1!

To round off the paddling, the Duo Topolinos took the limelight and performed some great stunts, much to the crowds amusement. They set the tone for the evening, as everyone descended on the East Arms pub for a cheap feast, courtesy of SAS Institute and a session of line dancing! It proved to be one of the most entertaining parties at Hurley with a lot of beered up dancers doing some fancy footwork.

Day two kicked off with the Ladies event and a spectacular performance by Deb Pinniger, the current Ladies Pre-World Champion. She clocked up more points than many of the competitors in the main event and not surprisingly was top of the Ladies. She was followed by National Champion, HT, and a gobsmacked Zoe Pierce in third place for a personal best.

The ladies were a great lead-in to the main event, which changed up a gear and surprised everyone, even the judges. The standard of paddling was the best ever for a UK rodeo and the water conditions really helped. The competitors were

able to tick of move after move with precision.

Cartwheels, wave wheels, 360s,
back to front surfs...

the list was
almost
endless.

Once the 63
competitors had
taken two runs
each, the scores were



totalled and a list of the top ten boaters was published. There were some very disappointed paddlers who didn't make it but they stuck around to cheer on their friends. The ten Super-Finalists were given three 45-second runs each this time, with the best two counting. This meant they could have one bad run and still be in with a chance of a top place. Variety was the key throughout this competition and those boaters who ran through their entire repertoire, rather than performing continuous cartwheels, were in with a much better chance of winning. It was tricky to separate the ten paddlers but eventually Simon Westgarth emerged the winner, with Andy Stuart and Shaun Baker hot on his heels.

It was a great end to the day and despite a heavy rain shower at the prize giving, the event was a great success. A second Eskimo Zwo was donated by Playboater to the highest placed non-sponsored paddler, who turned out to be ninth placed Darryl Sergison.

A welcome bonus for some of the top paddlers was that SAS Institute had kindly also put up prize money for those who took the first place positions in all the categories. ●



As well as a great big thank you to SAS Institute, who were the main event and party sponsors, we must say thank you to all the associate sponsors whose generosity helped make the event such a success: PlayBoater, Eskimo, Werner, Red Bull, YAK, Cotswold Outdoor (Reading), White Water Canoe Centre, Mean Scream and Surfers Against Sewage. Finally a big thanks to all those people who helped behind the scenes: Brian the lock keeper, the Environment Agency, Harleyford Marina, 21st Maidenhead Scouts and all the helpers, marshals and judges for their invaluable support.



PADDLER'S GEAR reviews

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Pyranha 'SHOC BLOC'

The funky new play boats from Pyranha INA ZONE 220, 230 & 240 will have an innovative and cool new footrest system in, called 'SHOC BLOC'. It is a small vac formed bulkhead, which is fitted in front of the central reinforced pillar, which we are using to assist in keeping the hull shape and as a holder for a wide mouthed drinks bottle or dry storage for your keys! The 'SHOC BLOC' is made of a tough ABS plastic and has been designed to give the freestyle performance of Yakimas with the safety of a full bulkhead, the best of both worlds for river and play.

www.pyranha.com



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The 1200 Protector Case, (also called the Mini S) is one of a unique range of 14 protective equipment cases which are water and air tight to a depth of 30 feet. They are tough, but ultra-

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The Inverness and Nairn Canoe Club have been fortunate enough to receive a grant of £4745 from the Lottery Awards for All scheme towards six P&H Capella sea kayaks, cags, buoyancies, paddles and decks. This will allow the club and other local groups to diversify, improve the activities on offer and make the best of local training opportunities on offer. The club and its members wish to thank the Lottery and awards for team for their support.



Sport England

Millennium Festival Awards for all

Sport England is delighted to be involved with the Cross lottery distributor small grants programme Millennium Festival Awards for All. This National programme was launched on April 12 1999 by the Secretary of State Chris Smith MP. This programme represents a great opportunity for sport to develop links with very local groups who want to get involved with sport. Sport England is very keen to extend the sporting network to include all members of the community

A Quick and Handy Guide What is Millennium Festival Awards for All?

Millennium Festival Awards for All is a grant programme involving all the Lottery Distributors except the New Opportunities Fund. There are no closing dates, no themes and no time limits. The grants can be used for small building projects such as disabled ramps or for costs such as hiring a coach, sending people on coaching or officials' courses. As long as it is not a recurrent cost, such as next season's hire of the sports hall you used last year, we can consider funding it using a Millennium Festival Awards for All grant.

Why is it different?

We have designed the scheme to be as simple as possible under current laws. We have heard that Lottery funding processes can be difficult for small groups. Millennium Festival Awards for All aims to make it simple so that we can get money to the people and places who have not done so well this far. The groups we want to fund are those which serve;

- > Young People
- > People with Disabilities
- > Women and Girls
- > People from ethnic minority communities
- > People from deprived communities

Who is eligible for Sports Grants?

Voluntary organisations, such as sports clubs, youth groups and clubs for people with disabilities can apply for Millennium Festival Awards for All. Schools can also apply as long as the money goes towards extra-curricular sport and building links with clubs.

How do I apply?

You fill out a form, if you are a club you include a copy of your constitution and accounts (or projections of income and expenditure if you are a new organisation), you don't need to include either of these if you are a school. Remember you do not need to submit business plans, sports development plans or any other plans. Just the Form, Constitution And Accounts.

Do we have to be affiliated to a governing body?

As long as you are a recognised sport you can apply, you do not have to be affiliated. The only exception is for dangerous sports, such as martial arts and outdoor activities, which have to be affiliated for safety reasons. You can ask your Regional Sport England Office for help with this.

Can I have more than one grant?

There is no limit on how many applications you can make but you can have a maximum of £5,000 in one year. You cannot apply for another grant until you have spent the previous one.

It says in the pack that priority will be given to organisations with an income of under £15,000 1 am a: School; Club with a bar;

Does this mean I have no chance?

No. The grants are primarily aimed at organisations, which have not benefited from Lottery funding so far, and these are mainly small groups. However as long as your project will help our target groups, get more people into sport or give them a chance to improve it has a chance of being funded. If the funding gets tight then we will have to concentrate on the smaller organisations but that will vary from month to month. If you are a school the restriction does not apply, you may safely disregard it!

What makes a good project?

- > Projects that link schools and clubs;
- > Projects that start or improve sports sections in community groups;
- > Projects that enable more people to take part in sport at existing sports clubs

These are the best ways we have found to improve sporting opportunities for everyone in the community.

How do I find out more?

After the launch date ask for an application pack on 0845 600 2040. If anything is unclear you can contact your Regional Sports Council Office for more information. They will have an officer who will take the lead on Millennium Festival Awards for All grants. Ask to speak to them.

How do I get an application form?

Call 0845 600 2040. Good luck!

Alternative funding options

The new pro-active BCU is now helping and guiding its members organisations to raise money from additional sources other than the National Lottery Sports Fund. A series of leaflets have been produced to give guidance and we can provide advice. However, you will need to follow this up and produce your own bids as appropriate. Contact the BCU Development Office.



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 **SPORT ENGLAND**

by Chris Hawkesworth. All material copyright.

How Much Buoyancy?

From empty plastic bottles to 'CEN' in 35 years

In this series of articles 'Wild-Water' founder and Grand Canyon River Runner, Film and video maker and Photographer Chris Hawkesworth attempts to decode the mysteries of the Buoyancy Aid.



Until 1994, the market was Paddler led, or in short, what paddlers wanted they got. Small companies run by enthusiasts saw to that. The 6kg of uplift though originally only for competition was looked upon as being about right for most forms of paddling and like things that look right and are right it was right.

Since 1994 and the advent of the European Community (EU) designs have been legislation led and will, I regret to tell the reader, continue to be so for ever more.

How much buoyancy - in use

The Germans used to call their BA's Schwimmvestung or swimming aid and that this sums up their intended use very well. They are not lifejackets, they will not always turn you face up if you are unconscious. They are not a lot of things but they are swimming aids.

Accidents happen in my experience for the daftest and most unexpected of reasons. The mere fact of wearing a safety device makes you aware that there is a potential problem and that by being aware in turn makes you more wary. It is a statistical fact that there are very few recreational drownings each year where the Paddler is wearing a BA.

In the confines of Slalom competition and for Squirt boating artistic reasons these paddlers want no personal buoyancy and need little. On the other hand the Paddler running big cold rivers or canoeing the cold ocean need a lot more and the rafter or the punter in a raft needs more still. Thus it can be said that an Adult Large Paddler can acceptably wear for his sport anything from 5kg to 11kg of uplift and any gradation in between. For children and small sizes the physical size of the Torso is the main restraining influence upon designers and legislators alike.

My personal feeling can be summed up as the more buoyancy in a design the better. There are of course old wives tales about stoppers and that if a Paddler had too much Buoyancy he would never get have got out, or if I hadn't been able to use the zip I would never have survived. I am sure that some of these tales are true. But these experiences are more than outweighed by paddlers who have used their BA's to survive whilst injured, out at sea, or simply been able to swim their way out of trouble.

Pockets and harnesses.

So, by 1980 the closed cell foam BA had established itself and a simple, reliable, fashionable device at or above the 6kg uplift level for adults. In the mean time Sam Cook and his colleagues wanted me to modify a BA for their forthcoming Nordkapp

Expedition. Could we add pockets to facilitate not only safety equipment like flares and an emergency radio but also creature comforts like Mars Bars and finally could they have a big back pocket to accommodate a BSI Lifejacket that was flat before inflation but could be taken out and donned over the conventional BA in the event of an emergency. The pocketed Buoyancy Aid was born and became a part of the scene. Recent experience has shown that not only are properly designed pockets very useful and an aid to both comfort and safety but the pockets have to be packed correctly to stop equipment and half empty drink bottles upsetting the buoyancy aid's flotation characteristics.

Indeed, the Americans are so concerned about this that they will not approve to their United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations any device with a back pocket. USCG also insist that a label be attached to the BA saying that front pockets should be emptied in an emergency.

Then into the early 80's and following a number of near and not so near miss entrapment situations the idea arose of incorporating a rescue chest belt into a BA. The idea was to have a fail-safe device that could be used by both the rescuer and the rescued. Designed mainly for personnel rescue rather than equipment rescue, though of course you could do both.

Assuming that a line could be clipped to the entrapped person. That person could be pulled backwards against the current and probably a life saved.

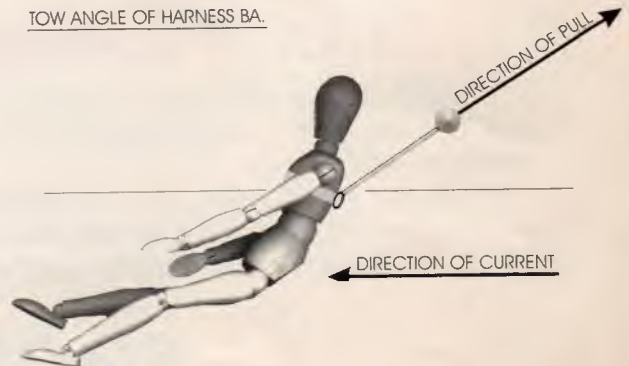
In addition a bank rescuer could attach a line to himself and around say a tree and he could in turn pay out a further line. If it all went wrong the chest harness could be released and the cows tail shed. The BA would still be in place around the person and the cows tail recoverable off the end of the line or boat or what ever.

Tests were made by Mark Attenburrow and friends using a human subject towed behind a speed boat. The speed of the boat simulated the speed of the river. The boat towed the subject on his back. Using different lines and different loadings. Finally doctors and a test house were consulted to see what loadings a persons chest could stand without major injury.

With the advent of the chest harness, personal safety kit took its largest single step forward this century.

In effect then now there is a BA on the market for all reasons and all seasons and it is up to you the Paddler to make your own choice from your own experience and/or to take advice from a qualified person.

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Trust Leaside to get it right!

With a throughput of 17,000 visits per year, a thriving club membership of 200 and a racing section (with paddlers now on the national squads), Leaside - the Trust, centre & club must be getting it right. Mickey Gordon, the Chief Executive of the Leaside Trust took some time out to tell me how Leaside turned around from an LEA recreational centre with a closure order slapped on it to a thriving CHARITABLE TRUST which houses both recreational and single discipline development side by side.



Where is it?

Leaside is located within the London Borough of Hackney, based on the river Lea and overlooking Walthamstow marshes.

Activity at Leaside

Leaside runs a balance of 95% community activities and 5% commercial activities. It receives a grant from Hackney Council to run a schools programme which helps to pay for 4 part time staff. The schools are happy to pay a realistic cost for the programme they access (excellent options for canoeing, orienteering and biking as well as curriculum sessions are on offer). The aim is to break even on school activity but any small profit that is made is ploughed back into the Trust and supports the voluntary clubs operating at the site.

There are 17 schools that take sessions at the centre. On top of this there are primary school sessions that run from April to July – more demand than the Trust can meet. These school sessions feed the Saturday group and Starter courses which in turn feed the recreational club and racing groups which operate at the same time so the youngsters can see the racing and decide whether they would like to give it a try.

How come Leaside is getting it right

What is the key to Leaside's success... Young People are the focus. Mickey is very clear on the ethos of the club – 'we are totally youth led. All of our policies reflect this:'

- > Youth have first call on the Trust's boats
- > Youth choose the option of paddling they want to do
- > Adults are not allowed to enter the changing rooms until the youngsters have left

The rationale behind this, says Mickey, is that otherwise the adults will dominate and they will put in place the policies that suit them and not young people. This is why there is a young persons representative on the Trust's Board – to reflect their views and opinions.

This focus, backed by a strong equal opportunities policy shows the following membership statistics

Age	72% U18	28% O18
Gender U18s	61% M	39% F
Ethnicity	58% White	42% Non White
Disability	88% No disability	12% phys/mental disabled

Leaside, clubs & volunteers

Many people quote parental support as being key and some demand that a child can only join the club if accompanied by a parent. I asked Mickey how Leaside tackled this issue.

Interested in setting up a Trust?

Here are some questions I specifically asked Mickey Gordon about setting up a Trust

1. Why set up a Trust

A Trust can receive tax benefits

Independent bodies will fund Trusts, not Local Authorities

It is a good all round financial decision for a facility that wants to offer some commercial activities yet strongly represents the volunteer aspect of the operation.

2. How and Where can you get advice on setting up a Trust?

We got advice through contacting a number of bodies including the Sports Council and the East London Partnership (there's one of these groups in every major city, accessible through the 'Business & the Community programme'. Contact your Local Authority or TEC for a contact number). Mickey also had access to a number of experts such as solicitors specialising in Charitable Trust work and financial consultants that could lead him through the process without incurring the costs normally associated with such work

3. Who did you choose to be the Trustees?

In order to ensure that the Trust had the best start, the Board included 2 solicitors, 1 accountant, Hackney Council Chair of Education a club representative and a youth representative.

4. Can you still run commercial operations as a charitable Trust?

Yes, as long as it is written into the Articles of Association of the Trust that the fundraising or commercial activities can be run to benefit the Trust. A trading company could similarly be set up to covenant profits back into the Trust.

5. Can you apply for funding from various grant-giving bodies

Yes. Applying to bodies such as the Lottery Sports Fund is not a problem with Trust status.

CLUBS

the club. Young people like to take on responsibilities so we actively encourage this and we have willing volunteers. We also reinforce with the paddlers, the need to put something back into the club and even our GB squad paddlers are helping out with the training programmes for the younger ones. Most of our volunteers here have at some time paddled at Leaside. Only one of these is a parent of a child.

We also treat volunteers as a member of staff. They have access to the same level of liability cover, they have 3 free training/development opportunities a year and they have trips away.'

So where next for Leaside?

The Trust's 5-year plan clearly identifies what they aim to achieve.

- > To expand the community role in Hackney and surrounding Boroughs and developing the evening and weekend programmes
 - > To regain a position of being a centre of excellence for Coach Development and Sprint/ Marathon
- We wish them every success. ●

Mickey Gordon has very kindly offered to run a workshop for anyone interested in setting up a Trust. Please contact the National Youth Officer at the BCU if you are interested. We ask you to please NOT contact Leaside directly.

'Depending on the parents of the paddlers to support the club just wouldn't work here in Hackney. We instil a strong volunteering ethos right from Day 1 when the paddler comes to

Paddlesport Challenge '99 (Berks and N Hants)



The Paddlesport Challenge series, which started last September in the Berkshire and North Hampshire, are finished with a fantastic presentation evening in April. 64 young people from 10 teams have been competing for the Paddlesport Challenge Trophy over the winter months, which has incorporated 6 low-level introductory events and a community project. The first event, which was linked in with a national marathon at Pangbourne, was a 3 mile marathon race, which also included a junior K1 lightening event with boats borrowed from Marsport. With the racing season in full swing, the opportunity to use K4 boats from the Reading K4 race was taken up and provided an exciting and very different perspective of racing for the young people. With the winter days getting shorter and the younger people's motivation never dwindling the next event saw 69 young people compete at Fleet Wharf in a mini 10

gate slalom. This was a resounding success and provided the local slalom development squad with an opportunity to do some talent identification and they now have 2 new hopefuls paddling for them. With the river Thames in full flood the challenge series moved indoors for a generation game style event which included a jigsaw boat that you had to assemble, loading a trailer, a first aid scenario and many more exciting paddling related games. Next we moved indoors again for the polo event which was an action packed afternoon and a showcase opportunity for an ex member of the women's Australian Polo team, Mo Mowlan. The young people still wanted more and more and the penultimate event provided them with some White Water racers and a sprint course over 500 metres. Many of the competitors found it hard going in a straight line but had so much fun. Lastly, the final event was to produce a

project that would promote their club to the local community. We had a video, new brochure and even a foamy tank that the club would take along to fetes.

The Paddlesport Challenge finished with a presentation evening and the Overall competition being won by the Warren Canoe Club Team One were presented with the Reading Evening Post Paddlesport Challenge trophy, second were Pangbourne Canoe Club Team One and third was Black Swan Canoe Club. All of the competitors went away with a participation medal and a really big smile.

Low level events offer more than just an opportunity for the young people to experience competition at a low level, it has offered a structured programme of events for young paddlers over the winter. It has also provided each club with more parents willing to help in the club, a sense of teamwork from the young people involved but more importantly it has helped some of the young paddlers increase in self-confidence. ●



Please forward all adverts to appear in the Members

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Ace Pioneer, 2 person Polythene boat, can be paddled canadian or kayak. Lack of space forces sale £125 Tel: 0181 5088615

Acrobat 270, 18 months old, good condition, £275. Tel: 01489 880390

Acrobat 270, red, full plate footrest and yak deck. VGC £350 ono Tel: 01473 240989 or jim.ellis@bt.com

Acro 270, Purple, full ww spec, excellent condition £350 can deliver Trywern, Pierrepont etc Tel: 01273 857551 ask for Anne/Rowan

Acrobat 300, Red, Good Intermediate playboat. W/w spec. full plate footrest backstrp airbags and drainbung. G/C £280 Call Nev Tel: 01694 763901

Baidarka Explorer; fast expedition sea kayak in very good condition. Three Bulkheads, Kneetube, Retractable Skag, Foam Seat. £300 Tel: Anne - Marie, Wirral on (0151) 6661936 (day) or (0151) 3425126 (even)

Blade, Rd, good condition £250 can deliver Trywern, Pierrepont etc Tel: 01273 857551 ask for Anne/Rowan

Buoyancy aid, Nookie extreme white water vest. Blue. Size large. Includes detachable pouches for throwline etc. Excellent condition £45 01548 856077

BMW Roofrack, suit 5/7 series, lockable, verty strong, cost £160, accept £50 phone 0181 7412875

Capella Sea Kayak, one careful lady owner - only 6 miles at sea plus playboat spraydeck. £450 or offer. Tel: Jo 0402 399921 or 01344 883647

Classic Cedar woodstrip openboat, Brand new, never been used £700 contact Lee 01162414233

Chepel K1, Kevlar/Carbon, u/s, o/s, less than 2 years old, excellent condition, c/w, seat, £350 : Thule Locking Roof bars to fit Vauxhall Astra £35 : Marsport 'wing' paddles, carbon shaft, good condition £60 Contact Mark on tel. 01380 724457 or 0589 385432

Chinooks, 2 yellow perception Chinooks in very good condition. Ideal for coastal and sea paddling, with front and rear hatches. Kept in a garage and rarely used. £320 each. Contact Gary on 01474 537467 or Paul on 01474 326215 (Gravesend, Kent)

Coleman Ram X Goldmedalist, Open canoe, black, plastic, 16ft, three seats. Gc, stored indoors, ideal for descents or touring. £250 Tel: James 01926 632739. Or E-mail james@biggles99.freeserve.co.uk

Coleman Outback 16 Open Canoe, 3 seats - 3 paddles - 3 Life Jackets. Complete with portage trolley and fitted BDH container. Excellent condition. Stored inside. £450 Tel:01827 873774 (Tamworth)

Creek 280, ww spec, good condition £330 Prem 2, Carbon Kevlar Slalom boat, v. good condition. Offers considered Tel: 01268 556764 (Essex)

Dagger Legend 15, Latest Touring Open Boat from Dagger, New still wrapped, wood trim and all the extras, £900 no offers as total bargain, Tel: 0403 465338 e-mail: 106273.114@compuserve.com

Dagger Impulse, Open Canoe Playboat. Full WW spec. Good condition. Includes spare paddle and specialist OC1 buoyancy aid. Round the world trip forces sale. Sensible offers only please. Tel: 01899 221115 Fax: 01899 220644

Dagger Freefall LT, vgc, airbags, backrest, full plate footrest. Full ww spec, good looking boat. Blue/purple £300 Tel: (Abingdon) 01235 817413

Dagger Freefall LT, VGC. Make me an offer! Tel: Chay 0161 2209888

Dagger Freefall LT, Red and yellow pattern, only used 3 or 4 times, excellent condition, basically as new £425 ono. Also, all in good condition : Perception Corsica S, purple £300 ono. Slalom boat Concept "Edge" good condition £120. C1 slalom boat £65. Car for sale (Reg. K4 N20). £600 Telephone 01904 670379 or 07801 286590

Dagger Ocoee Playboat, 6 months old, fully outfitted bags and saddle, £600 Contact Lee 0116 2414233

Dagger Reflection 15, with Dagger airbags. £500ono. Carbon paddle. £45. Carbon pole. £40 Palm Alpine Buoyancy Aid, almost new. £80. Nookie dry bag. £70 Kevin 01633 763356 Mob. 07771 895040

Dagger Transition, 3m all round playboat. 4 years old little used due to work. Stored indoors all usual dagger extras multi coloured £350 Tel: 01407 730219 or e-mail ADB74@HOTMAIL.com

Dagger Vertigo, bright yellow, reasonable condition. £325 Phone Tom or Eric on 01422 843194

Dagger Vertigo, 12 months old, multi-art (blue/purple/yellow), good condition, mega padding kit, stern/bow caps (unfitted) Excellent playboat £350 ono Pryanha Attak, 1 month old, blue hardly used, excellent condition, great performer on just about anything £320 ono Contact Adnan Coleman on 01634 256064 (evenings), Kent

Dagger Vertigo, good condition £300 contact Lee 0116 2414233

Dancer XT, WW spec with bow cap, hip pads and B/aid. Stored in garage in good condition £200 call Mark on 01327 842874 (Northants)

Dancer XL, red VGC. Stored inside garage. £200 ono Tel: 01787 248298 (suffolk)

Everest, yellow £100, 4 Ardeche canadian canoes only used on canal £150 each, Palm B/A's small medium large £15 each, Surf boogie boards cost £50 as new excess stock now £25 each. New wetsuits 1998'stock child's full suit £30 Adult £55 full titanium suit all these suits are less than half price. Please call Sam 01288 321765

Eskimo 'Diabolo' Kayak, Full ww spec, airbags front and rear, two years old, good condition. £230 ono Call Bob Gibbs 0115 9513701 or 01226 295083

Fast Marathon C2, Based on Sea-Eagle. Carbon Kevlar construction by Nick Pink. Good Condition £550. Also Christo designs Wave ski 225cm Sound condition with leash and bag. £150 Tel: Matt 01782 615297

Group Equipment, 8 Perception Dancers, 3 Melody Open Boats, 6 Ace Polo boats. All with paddles, Buoyancy aids, Spraydecks etc. Hardly been used. Will split if required. 1 Trailer with secureable basket capable of carrying 14 Kayaks. Call Ian on 0411 171019

Grumman 15ft Aluminium canoe, Ainsworth paddles as new £500 Tel: Coventry (01203) 449014

Grumman, 17ft Canoe with paddles and barrels (x6) £390, Canoe trailer to take 6 Canadians or 18 kayaks £500, Pyranha Master II plus deck and paddle (x4) £190 each, Miscellaneous equipment - new baby forces career change! 01403 711402 Sussex

Hobby, Stable Marathon boat. Excellent condition. Can be viewed in South Bucks or South Devon. £420 Tel: 01548 550462

Impulse Slalom boat, black, yellow trim, vgc and well loved £340 Phone Philip (Durham) 0191 3840630, 0191 3744633 (day)

JNE, brought new July '98, Hardly ever used, red/blue, vgc £425 Tel Trevor on 01372 728856 or 07771 662372

K1 3 years old, minimal use. 12kg. Oversteer with easy conversion to understeer possible. Plastic seat incl. £300 ono. View in London. Tel: 0171 5646416 or paul@schmidt.demon.co.uk

Kendo, Black, full ww spec, excellent condition £390 can deliver Trywern, Pierrepont etc Tel: 01273 857551 ask for Anne/Rowan

K4 Kiwi 2, Immaculate condition. Hardly used £200 each, 2 Two Seater Touring Kayak, £150 each, 1 Stripper Open Canoe, Cedar Strip wood canoe Peterborough design £900 Contact Chris Perry on 01299 402683

Mad River Outrage WW Open Canoe, Great condition. Fully outfitted, including super-light air bags and removable saddle system. £750. Mad River Guide, purple with wooden gunnels. Limited edition. Skid plates and fully fitted for ww or open water use. £795. Contact Martin Barry 01765 658890 (Ripon, N.Yorks)

Magic Bat, ww spec. Full plate footrest, hip pads, airbags, back strap Etc. Plus Buoyancy aid £180. Phone Peter on 01744 814973 or mobile 0780 3403588

Microbat 230, Purple, full w/w spec, airbags, vgc £275 ono, Dancer Proline, grey full w/w spec airbags, vgc. £260 ono Tel: 0191 5260794 (after 4:30pm) can deliver to Teeside White Water Course.

New Zealand Kayaks, Sissons 'Eliminator' - innovative multisport fibreglass kayak, vgc, £350ono. Andrew Martin K1 'Sprinter' red/blue fibreglass with kevlar reinforcement, raised cockpit, nothing like this available in UK, one of the fastest multisport boats, superb condition. £500. Tel Sandy on 017687 75372 (Cumbria)

Open Canoe 18' Cedar strip, Plank and epoxy 'Mic Mac' by Tyrone boats very pretty. Light use from new. Selling to pay divorce legal bill ! Photo available. Serious viewers and delivery Sussex/Surrey to W. Devon. First to see will probably buy £700 07979 886498 Trevor

Old Pathfinder, 15' Canadian canoe, blue, airbags weight 57lb, olonair / roylex hull good condition. £420 Tel: 01772 700047

Old Town Discovery 169 Open Canoe, and 4 paddles 3 years old, vgc. Stored in boathouse ideal family / touring canoe £400 Tel: 0181 9482958 (west London)

Palm/Ace Falshion 385, with pryanha nylon spardeck and ainsworth paddle and backrest. Good beginners boat. G/C £150 Tel:0483 287739 or 01929 439439

Palm Buoyancy Aid, £35, Phoenix spraydeck £30, Yak Dry Cag £40, all nearly new condition. Tel: Allen Armstrong on 01522 801878 (Lincoln)

Perception Corsica S good condition, new boat forces sale, £200 Tel: 0181 5088615

Perception Corsica 'S' Proline, Blue, Good Beginners Boat, with Spray Deck £200 ono. Phone Lindsay / James on 01202 385665 or 07801 816078

Perception Dancer, clear white colour, good condition, ideal starter boat, paddle and spraydeck included. £150 ono 01634 256074 (Kent)

Perception 3D, £350 ono deck and airbags available contact Pete (0115) 9703953 (Nottingham) all offers welcome

Perception Piouette 'S' Full White Water Spec. Fire Cracker Red, VGC, hardly ever used £300 Tel: 01227

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Perception Piouette S, Full W/W spec, including airbags. Good condition. Colour: granite (white) £220 - lower than otherwise to make a quick sale Tel: 01829 250205 (Cheshire)

Perception Piouette SuperSport, 2 years old, white/grey speckle effect, good condition, excellent surfer/river runner. £275 ono. Contact Richard on 01634 723527, Kent

Perception Reflex, Light purple with f/rets and a/bags. £100. View in London Tel: 0171 5646416 or paul@schmidt.demon.co.uk

Perception Overflow, 18th months old, VCG Fully padded out and padded backrest (mega) and heavy duty air bags. £325 ono. Tel: 0161 8813469

Perception Sabre, blue, £150 ono. Phone 01932 858054 (Surrey)

Perception SuperSport, Good Condition. 2 years old, always kept indoors £300 ono. Contact Sam on 0114 2681352 (Sheffield)

Perception Piouette SuperSport, Squirt 'n' Surf classic. Great condition, no major scars, white, WW spec, plus paddles. Ideal economic boat for newer paddler. £230 Tel: 0118 9662488 (Reading, UK)

Perception SuperSport, Red, 3 years old, good condition, stored indoors, demo at Holme Pierre-Pont, only £250 Phone Mark on 0115 9243590

Perception Sealion, in robust yellow polyethylene and reasonable condition, has not been banged about or abused. This is a good, safe, sea boat comes with paddle, spraydeck and hand pump. Could deliver within a reasonable distance of Portsmouth - asking price £350 Tel: 01705 59621 (evenings)

Perception Piouette. Good condition. Complete with neoprene spraydeck, Ainsworth paddle and large buoyancy aid £300. M380 general purpose plastic kayak. Good condition. Complete with spraydeck, paddle and small buoyancy aid £150. Thule roof bars with locks. For car with gutters £50. Tel: 01252 615260 Hampshire.

Piouette S, excellent cond. Full ww spec £290 Phone 01342 822866

Prijon Avenger, ww.spec as new Mauve £275, Prijon Topolino Spud, black good condition £300, Dagger Vertigo, as new only used 6 times £400 Tel. Chris on 01705 252385

Prijon Gattino, Blue used 4 times. Excellent condition. None nose and air bags included £375. Call Frazer 017687 73772 or Bill 01287 639585

Prijon Gattino, Purple, good condition £200, Alpha Windsurfer and Tushingham Rig, good condition £200, Adult Full wetsuits - range of sizes, good condition £40, Adult sized buoyancy aids, range of sizes, good condition £25, Child longjohn wetsuits, range of sizes excellent condition £20, Child buoyancy aids, range of sizes, excellent condition £20, Wild water helmets, good condition £10, Assorted climbing equipment all in good/excellent condition. Contact JB at 01929 481222 / 0410 280901

Prijon Hurricane, Great boat for rivers, surf and introduction to freestyle. £250 An ideal purchase for those wanting to take all-round paddling further. (Can deliver to Tees Barrage) Tel: 0191 4281740

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Prijon Hurricane (magneta) used twice £300 Perception Dancer (red) £250 ono Phone Steve 01463 790354 (Inverness)

Prijon Invader Light, Red, only 2 years light use. High spec - slotted footrest, back rest, front and back airbags. Excellent condition; stored in garage. £200. Tel: 01582 769543

Prijon Rockit, Sky Blue with full white-water spec. £450 ono. Extremely good condition, only used twice. Tel: after 4pm 01455 558820

Prijon T-Slalom Kayak, good condition, £195; Prijon wooden paddle, excellent condition £45; Helmet £12 Buoyancy Aid £15; and throwbag, hook & rope, sling Tel: 0181 3466679 (North London)

Prijon Topolino, Black £300 ono Dagger Freefall LT (white/red/black) £300 ono

Pyranha Attak, Less than 1 year old. Orange. Good condition £275 Eric or Tom on 01422 843194

Pyranha Attak, red, vgc with mega backrest and hip pads. £250 ono. Call Emma on 01895 461987

Pyranha Attak, red, 6 months old, gc £300 ono. Perception dancer full ww spec, comes with paddle, spraydeck and buoyancyaid £150 ono. Call Tom on 0181 3109497 evenings only

Pyranha Blade, 18 months old, multi-art (red/black) good condition Great playboater/river runner. £350 ono Pyranha Attak, 5 months old, tangerine, very good condition, excellent fun, surfs, spins, cartwheels. £300 ono. Enigma Squirt Boat, Great as an introduction to squirtting, aise colour, plastic good condition £150 ono. Contact Paul Drury on 0797 4140007, Kent

Pyranha Blade, 10 months old, single art (mango), very good condition, Great playboat/river runner. £420 ono. Contact Gary Jenkins on 01634 856274 (evenings), Kent

Pyranha Creek 280, blue, stored inside, good condition. £230 incl. Deck Tel: 01222 317394 or e-mail cmEthchell@aol.com

Pyranha G.P Kayak, yellow plastic complete with neoprene spray deck and training skeg surplus to requirement. Very good condition £120 ono. Phone 01634 271214

Pyranha Magic bat, multiart, full ww spec, little used about 3 years old. £230. Tel Martin 01652 649128 Lincs

Pyranha Racer, Hardly used due to injury. Very good condition. £550 ono Phone 01202 678530

Dorset Pyranha Stuntbat, purple, ww spec, good condition, £200 phone Christina on 01270 780673

Pyranha Storm, excellent condition full spec £480 ono, Pyranha Razor, excellent condition full spec £325 ono. Call Dave on 01858 446448

Raider Legend Surf Ski, vgc suit intermediate TRI fin and powder pad £225 tel: 01278 780430 (Somerset)

Red MI 380 £250, 2 seasons old excellent instructors kayak (also willing to swap for something smaller!) Phone Andy on 01483 486428

Riot Hammer (Sledge) 98 spec, excellent surfing and white water boat, 6 months old hardly used as new, reluctant sale due to financial difficulties £480 ono, Tel Alex 0181 3663617

Roof bars, to fit Citroen xania, unused £50 ono. Phone Christina on 01270 780673

Roofrack, Lockable, to fit Fiat Punto 3 door, cost new £100. 6 months old sell £50 Tel: 01299 405287 (Worcs)

Sea Canoe - Plastic Skerry £500 Tel 01564 776615 Sit-on Kayaks, two beaver kayaks for sale, may be suitable for use by disabled paddlers, £100 each including paddles, Tel: Adrian (01492) 530146 (North Wales)

Skrayer RM, Red, Rots moulded sea kayak, hardly used VGC. Additional equipment available £500 ono Tel: 01787 248298 (suffolk)

Slalom Kayak, Sturdy Fibreglass; good condition. Excellent beginners boat. Will suit paddler 50-700 kg best £120 ono. View in London Tel: 0171 5646416 or paul@schmidt.demon.co.uk

Something different. Tortured plywood DK22 Kayak, 13'2" x 24", has nylon spray deck, but no paddle. Excellent £120. Tel: 01237 475165. (N.Devon)

Surf Kayak, Mega Tico Lite, as new condition used once Carbon Kevlar, attractive pattern. £300 less than half price. Phone 01299 270975

Spud, red with airbags, full plate footrest, squashed back for rodeo! £300 ono. Also Dagger Vertigo, black/red/white mottled tyre colour £400 ono. Can bring em down to Hurley/Chertsey. Phone Mark 0468 233253

Topolino, black, good condition, £325. Tel: 01489 880390

Trailer taking 16 kayaks, Any reasonable offer. Bowles Outdoor Centre. Tunbridge Wells 01892 665665

Valley Weekender, touring kayak, excellent condition, plus two buoyancy bags, £150. Tel: 01628 525387 (eve) - South Bucks.

Wanted

Acrobat, Paddle and Spraydeck, In GC preferably in local area Mick Wood Storbroom Derbys, 01773 873763

Baron Hot Ski, Slipper surf shoe and Moccasin surf shoe please call Sam 01288 321765

2 General all round plastic kayaks, in good condition, paddles and spraydecks plus 1 buoyancy aid required. Contact Sarah (01247) 456949 N Ireland

Creek 280, Perception Overflow or Invader. Purchase of associated equipment considered Tel: Mike 01434 609613 (Northumberland)

K2, Regina or Stiletto required urgently for use at Sella in August. Good condition, overstem rudder preferred, but not essential. Will collect. Please contact Clare: 01306 876188 or Karen 0181 6810775

Kayaks for charity holiday for teenagers, Ideally a fleet of 10 or approx. Good condition. Either donated or price negotiable. Phone Chris on 0118 9744205

Dagger Atom C1 and deck, contact Martin Barry on 01765 658890

Dagger rpm, in good condition. Please telephone Pete on 01279 817453 or 01279 656851

Dagger Solo Canoe, Ocoee or Ovation or similar. Telephone Mike in Surrey on 01483 232030

Surf 'Sho' 2nd Hand Tel: Steve (m) 07970 734226 or (h) 01902 764854

Topolino Duo, any condition considered though preferably full ww spec. call Kitt on (01524) 383463 or e-mail brudd@ctp.com

Topolino Duo, Tel: Terry (01785) 664968

Lost/Found

Lost on River Garry, 1 Bushsport Neoprene Spraydeck, distinctively covered 1 repair. If found contact Sam on 0114 2681352 (Sheffield)

Lost on river Tees, just below Abbey Rapids (21st March), one pair of much beloved Gorilla Rodeo X paddles (xmas pressie from 'The Wife') Distinctive Yellow band around r/h end of shaft. If found please contact Roger on 01780 756368 or e-mail me at roger@hansn2.freeserve.co.uk

Gorilla HPS Paddles (in two halves) lost on the Orchy below Easan Dubha on the 31.3.99. Also left on the Upper Findhorn on 30.3.99 a 10-15 metre Palm Throwbag. If found please contact Tim (01302) 350573

Misc.

Back numbers of Canoe Focus, Canoeist, White Water: a vast pile from the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties: will anyone take them off my hands? Hugh Pritchard 07887 875771



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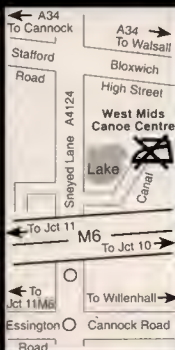
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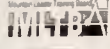
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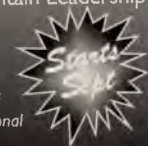
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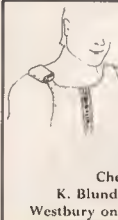
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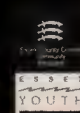
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Canoe Exhibition

Once again the International Canoe Exhibition was staged at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, and 1999 saw many canoeing enthusiasts descend on The Pavilion over the weekend of 27th/28th February. A memorable occasion as for the first time for two years there was a full hall with over 70 Exhibitors taking part. These ranged from many of the leading Canoe Manufacturers and Suppliers to a wide spectrum of canoeing specialists, publications and activity centres. The Union was able to establish a number of specialist stands where queries on specific areas of interest were able to be answered.

On the Saturday morning before the Exhibition opened, judging took place to determine the "Best Canoe/Kayak of the Show" award. This was judged by a distinguished panel comprised of Chris Hawksworth, the BCU Facilities and Planning Manager; Stuart Fisher, the Editor of Canoeist Magazine; Franco Ferraro, the Chief Canoeing Instructor at Plas-Y-Brenin; Whit Deschner, the well known American Kayaker and Author; and Martin Spencer, former Canoe Manufacturer (Scanro and MI Designs). Certain criteria were set, which included innovative features; safety aspects; performance, construction and sales appeal. As in previous years there was a large entry, and the new junior racing kayak from Pyranha Mouldings Limited called the "Lightning" was adjudged the outstanding new

design seen for the first time.

The standard of presentation of the various stands has of the usual high standard, which made it difficult for another judging panel – those who had responsibility for awarding the best stand of the Show. For the second year running, this was gained by Yak (Crewsaver) Limited.

In order to try to boost advance sales of tickets, a lucky draw competition was organised through Canoe Focus. Prior to the Exhibition, all advance orders for tickets were put into a draw and Miss Rachel Shepherd from Long Eaton was the lucky winner. She had the unexpected pleasure of being able to obtain £100's worth of canoeing equipment whilst at the Exhibition, which she attended on the Sunday. We believe she went home better equipped for her canoeing activities as a result of her visit to Birmingham.

A new innovation was tried this year, when a stand was put aside for a number of authors and other celebrities to perform book signings and meet the members of the general public. A number of well known explorers were on hand to pass on information, and these included Derek Hutchinson, Franco Ferraro, Peter Knowles, Dave Manby, Chris Sladden as well as Walt Deschner. We were also pleased that Peter Bray, who is attempting a solo crossing of the Atlantic next year, was able to be there. Perhaps not enough people knew of his intended exploits, but we wish him well in the Millennium year.

It has always been difficult to gauge attendance at Birmingham, since we share a common entrance (and interchange) with the National Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show. However the general feeling was that numbers were up, a guess

of around 4500 would not be far out. It certainly appeared more crowded around the middle of the day and the constant flow between the two halls was very noticeable. This is helped by the generous support from the National Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show who give the Union extra space in the link between the two Shows. This enabled us to have displays showing the work of Youth Development, World Class Performance (covered in the previous edition of CANOE FOCUS), Coaching and the other country

organisations - The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Canoe Association, and the Welsh Canoe Association.

Once again a successful Exhibition and thanks go to everyone who supported the event, either in exhibiting or coming through the doors. ●



Above: The YAK stand – photograph courtesy of Crewsaver Ltd)



Above: Graham Mackereth of Pyranha receiving the Certificate from Peter Ingram, the Exhibition Organiser, with the "Lightning" in the background. Photograph courtesy of Pyranha Mouldings Limited)

Left: Photograph courtesy of Palm Equipment International Ltd)





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A Rumble

During the course of our trip to Ecuador we experienced dramatic rises in the river levels on three occasions, luckily though, only two of them resulted in near death experiences.

We had spent a few weeks paddling various rivers in the area with all of them offering excellent boating through remote rain forests. We had teamed up with a truly International group consisting of 3 Americans, 6 Kiwis, 2 Canadians and us the two poms. At one stage there was also a French person imaginatively called Frenchy but he had since given up boating after his 6 hour solo trek through the jungle after he got too scared of the river.

It was decided that a nice lead up to Christmas Day would be to paddle a two day trip on the Rio Hollin, a classic grade 3/4 river. We spent a day buying essential supplies in the village. Howie and I decided that we would make up for the hassle we had been getting for paddling big boats (Acrobat 275s) from the others who were paddling playboats, so we made sure we had plenty of supplies, including beer!

Disturbed a snake

After a long taxi journey we eventually arrived at the put in and headed off into the jungle towards the river. The news that Adam who was up front had disturbed a snake only went to heighten our sense of foreboding about spending a night in the jungle. The first day went pretty well at first with some excellent rapids including one inside a cave. We had been told that we should reach an obvious campsite after about 6 hours paddling. So far on our trip we had hardly seen any rain except for the odd shower at night. Five hours into the trip it started to rain - alot! and we started to think about the need to camp soon. We couldn't see anything like a campsite and we were all getting wet, cold and tired. Eventually we decided to stop anyway and dragged our boats lethargically to the side. We had managed to find an abandoned lean-too shelter built by local fishermen and set about reinforcing it with plastic sheeting.

We attempted to make a fire but all the wood was wet so we managed a bit of smoke for ten minutes before giving up. Our idea that the others would be impressed by the amount of food and equipment we had brought fell flat when the Canadians pulled a full selection of camping equipment including a tent and thermarests out of the back of their tiny boats.

A night of little sleep

Once we had all eaten we huddled under the shelter which would have been ideal for four people but less suitable for eleven; so followed a night of little sleep as the rain continued. Howie's night was even more disturbed because as well as finding out his bivi bag wasn't waterproof, he also had to make frequent forays into the bushes to deal with the results of a stomach upset he'd picked up.

Suffice to say we were keen to get off in the morning and relieved to see that our boats were still there. The river had risen around six feet overnight and was running like a brown, out of control train. The idea of up to six hours on the river in full spate in our cold and tired condition was not an appealing one.

We reached the take out in just over an hour and later found out the person who advised us on timings had never paddled the river. We were relieved to have finished but disappointed that we had rushed unnecessarily. Howie continued to be in much discomfort, having placed his wetsuit shorts on an ants nest overnight. This resulted in some lovely bites to add to his general discomfort in the trouser department. All in all it was an 'interesting' way to lead up to Christmas.



in the Jungle



Main picture: Boxing day with a difference - Ian Wilson on the Chico Hollin waterfall.

Top left: The night from hell - bivi on the Rio Hollin.

Bottom left: On the way to winning the longest side surf prize.

Far right: Howard Crook on festive form.

Below: Loading up for another days paddling.

Photo credits Wilson/Crook collection.



Christmas Day

Christmas Day was similarly bizarre with a rodeo held on the Rio Napo - brilliant sunshine and a big hole. The British pretty much cleaned up in this with Andy Round winning first place, Howie winning best presentation and myself winning longest side surf when my boat decided to keep going well after the whistle, despite my best efforts to get out!

Boxing Day saw us all heading out once more to the start of the Hollin river but this time with a view to shooting the 50 foot waterfall on it's tributary. Once again it started to rain hard and as Andy sat in the eddie above it, a sudden surge of water doubled the width of the fall, with the relatively calm plunge pool now flowing directly into a rather gnarly grade 5 rapid! As Andy came over the fall he was preceded by a large tree, which generally put most people off! Two more people shot the fall with a bad winding and a suspected broken nose between them - that just left me.

I'm not quite sure why I did it but inevitably the paparazzi-like gathering was a big motivating factor. After a few quick breaths at the top I was plunging into blackness. When I landed I was ripped out of my boat and held under for far too long. Luckily I was thrown a rope before I was washed down the rapid but my boat ran it, obviously keen to try the rest of the river again.

The final time on the trip we encountered sudden river rises and indeed had a near death experience, was when we were on the Rio Cosonga. We had been based at a small town called Baeza for a few days and had done several good runs although the water levels were a bit low. We had decided that we were going to head back to Quito (the capital) for some R & R before we all went our separate ways. That night the heavens opened and tempted us to have 'one more days boating'. We opted for the Rio Cosonga - renowned for the 'Wonga Bonga Gorge' which we had paddled earlier. It would undoubtedly be even better with some more water in it - I don't think we bargained on just how much more water it would have.

It was as though we were on a different river as we avoided huge holes and massive whirl pools. We would look for the next eddie but miss it by miles because of the speed of the river. Howie was loving it as big water was his thing, I stayed near the back and looked for boats flying up in the air as a tell tale sign of a hole.

At one stage, I found myself on river right above a 'significant horizon line' - everyone else was on river left and one by one they took a sneak line down the left. I desperately signalled to them to show me if there were any other lines, but they had been washed too far down stream. So I attempted the mother of all ferry glides to get across. This did not work and left me to run the drop through the guts. What followed is somewhat blurred but it included cartwheels, rolls, bailing out of the boat, being recirculated in the hole, pinned on the river bed, being washed several feet clear then being sucked back in and trashed some more. When I eventually was washed out I had totally given up and was resigned to my fate. I was helped out and sat on the bank minus one wetsuit boot and one Acrobat 275 which despite a valiant rescue effort was never to be seen again.

A bit of a jungle trek and a weird truck journey finished up my paddling trip to Ecuador and nearly my last days paddling ever. If you fancy the idea of paddling in Ecuador give me a ring - There's even a Pyranha Acrobat 275 you can borrow if you've got a bit of time free to find it (last seen heading towards the Amazon!). ●



Article by Ian Wilson with thanks to sponsors Pyranha, Wild Water, P & H (Gorilla Grips) and KLM. Details of paddling in Ecuador from Ian on 015394 44033 or from Rios Ecuador, Tena (check the net).

BOOK & VIDEO

reviews

Sea Kayak Navigation



Franco Ferrero

Sea Kayak Navigation. By Franco Ferrero

This latest offering from Franco Ferrero, head of canoeing and kayaking at Plas y Brenin, is a long awaited manual for the sea paddler. Whether you are a novice starting out on your first attempt to cross your local water or a more accomplished paddler looking for an easier way to work out your passage planning then this book is well worth the buying.

The layout of the book is good with an index that lets accomplished navigators find the relevant section that they require. There is also a good content list, which the novice will find very useful. Topics such as tidal theory, buoyage and the compass are covered in enough detail to introduce three aspects of navigation to the beginner while still refreshing memories of a distant past for others. However, Franco has understandably placed more emphasis on the actual nitty gritty of navigating your kayak.

I think that Franco is gradually becoming less of a Jerseyman and more of a Welshman with some of the spellings. However this is not a criticism, more an observation. There is enough humour within the text and accompanying good illustrations to amuse even the saltiest of old sea dogs!

Filled with 'top tips and handy hints' this book is a must, not only for sea kayakers, but also for anyone who ventures onto the ocean whatever their craft and level of navigational ability.

Sea Kayak Navigation is a book on what can, at best, be described as a 'dry' subject. Franco has been succeeded in turning it into an interesting and user-friendly resource.

The black art demystified? It is indeed!
Gordon Brown

Knots and Splices. Steve Judkins and Tim Davidson

Fernhurst books 1998 £3-95
ISBN 1 898660 47 6



This handy book contains everything you need to know about knots, from terminology used to everyday knots and splices. Each type of knot is described using text and diagrams in a step by step sequence with a summary of the best uses. At £3-95 this handy pocket size book provides an excellent reference book at a very

reasonable price. Overall good value for money.
A.Maddock

Kayaking – A beginners guide. By Nigel Foster

Published by Fernhurst Books, Arundel, W Sussex
ISBN 1 898660 522005
Price £7-95

This book is a re-vamp of Nigel Fosters previous book – A beginners Manual and sets out to explain everything a newcomer to canoeing needs to know about paddling from launching to eskimo rolling. All the basic strokes of the 1-3 star test awards are explained in a step by step manner with accompanying pictures and the overall content of the book is comprehensive.

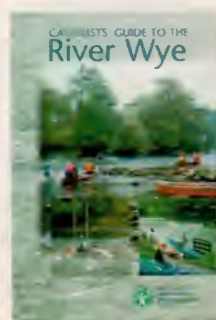


Despite the comprehensive nature of the content of this book, the reprint has been let down by the lack of update of any of the information contained in the text and the equipment used in demonstration dates from the mid 1980's. The big omission is the lack of information about the change in recreational boats since the original book was published. There is no mention of freestyle paddling

in either the choice of boat section or the section on choosing the length of paddles and photographs used reflect paddlesport in the mid 80's.

In summary at £7-95 it offers good value for money as an introductory guide to paddling a kayak, but in its recent revision a big opportunity was missed to update the contents of the book.

A. Maddock



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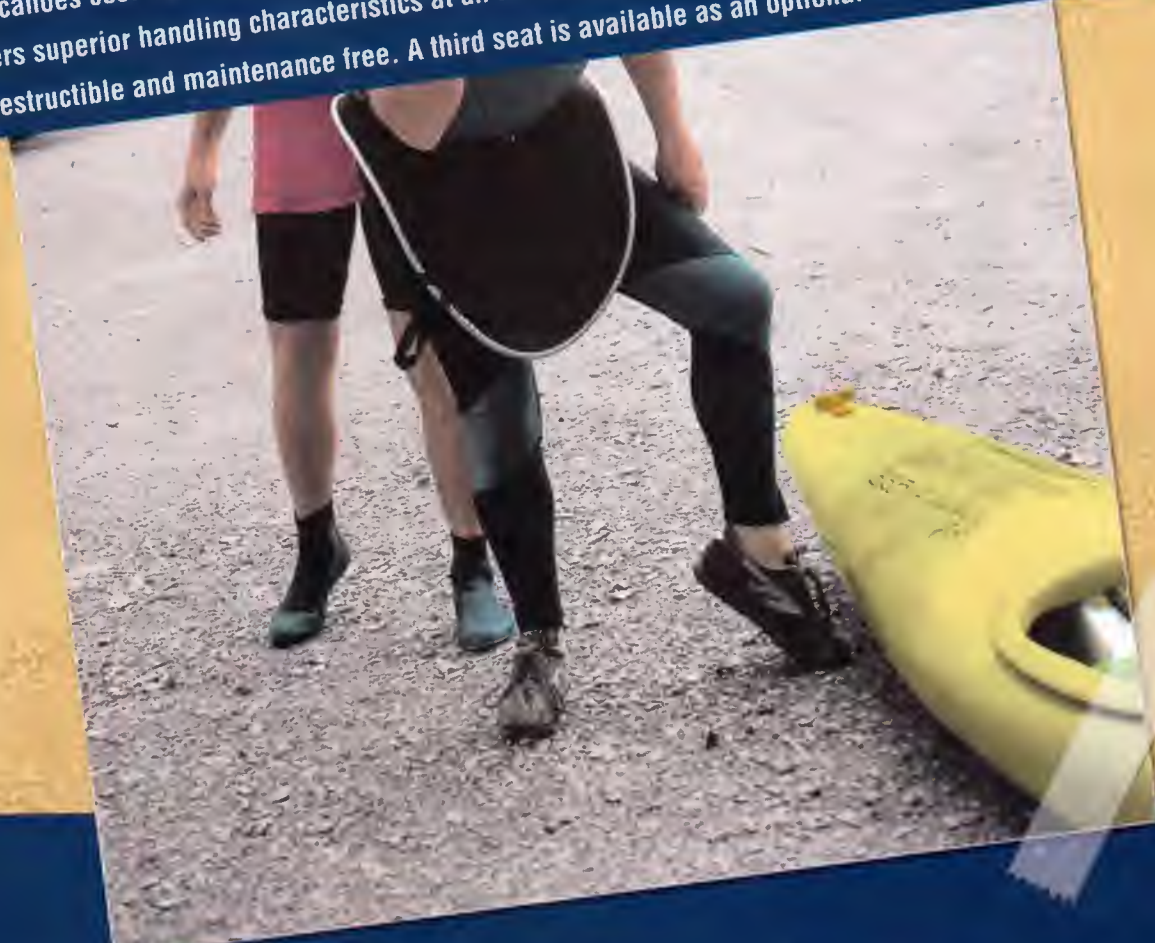
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