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# Contents

## Canoe Focus

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**More Medals**  
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and olympic medals

**5 Comment**

**6 Noticeboard**

**12 Access**

An update of Access information and development

**14 Olympic review - Sydney 2000**

A report on how the GB team achieved its best results ever in the history of Olympic competition

**16 Slalom**

Updates and information on slalom events

**18 New Zealand**

paddling the best of the South Islands of New Zealand - a paddler's diary of an exciting whitewater tour

**22 PeakUK Whitewater Challenge**

An account of the exciting whitewater challenge held during Paddlefest in Nottingham

**23 The deep end of sea kayaking**

Introducing a group of lads with little kayaking experience on the South coast

**24 8th Marathon World Championships**

Held in Dartmouth, Canada. The GB Juniors bring home three medals

**26 Uncle Sam needs you!**

Working in the USA, teaching canoeing

**28 Poacher 2000**

A week long camp aimed at the Scouting movement

**30 Youth development**

National Bell Boat Championships

News for teachers

Westminster's successful Paddlepower event

Oakwood High School sea kayaking in Ireland

**31 Wild Web**

Canoe repair sites on the internet

**34 Paddler's Gear**

Great Christmas ideas from Sony Playstation, Yak, Kayak Sport UK, Polartec, Pyranha, plus books and videos

**37 What's on**

**38 Mission Alps**

York University Canoe Club and their trip to the Alps

**40 Members Classified**

**50 Millennium Thames Tour**

Paddling 148 miles along the Thames

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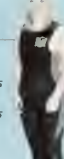
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## input &amp; ideas

## Olympic games

The best games ever - was the final verdict of all involved with the Sydney 2000 Olympics. October's Canoe Focus was the first UK canoeing magazine to bring news of the fantastic Silver Medal won by Paul Ratcliffe in the Men's K1 Slalom competition. Yet, we couldn't cover all the good news and after the magazine went to press we had the fantastic experience of seeing Tim Brabants win our first ever medal in Sprint Racing. For the BCU the XXVII games marked the most successful Olympics in British Canoeing's history. With the benefits of lottery funding really showing through we look forward to the future with optimism. Our congratulations go to all athletes, coaches and support staff who made it all possible.

## Carel Quaife

Our Access and Development Manager Carel Quaife has decided to take early retirement at the end of this month. Carel has given a lifetime of service to British Canoeing. Firstly, as a voluntary officer and then since 1985 as a member of the BCU paid staff. Carel has seen many changes to the organisation, highs and lows, he has been a key central figure in the development of the sport. From a personal point of view Carel has had to deal with many issues associated with the BCU and I have cherished his personal support as we have moved the organisation forward. He will be a hard act to follow and we all wish him a happy retirement.

## Federalisation

The separation of the British Canoe Union into a new English Canoe Association (ECA) and a refocused BCU continues to progress well. A new divisional structure came into place on the 1st November 2000. The new arrangements separated the BCU into two divisions in order to develop the new organisation's managerial and financial arrangements. Broadly speaking, the interim situation will ensure that the balance sheet can be split at a future date between the ECA and the BCU without prejudice to either organisation. A new logo and branding for the ECA will be launched at the International Canoe exhibition on February 24 & 25.

## Raw deal

We mentioned in October's Canoe Focus that further details concerning the Raw Deal campaign would appear elsewhere in the magazine. Sadly, this was not the case, due to an administrative error the planned insert to October's Focus did not appear. The mistake has been rectified this month and I am pleased to draw your attention to the enclosures. The BCU sees the development of Raw Deal as an important step forward in the Access lobby. Although independent of the governing bodies, its aims are well supported and I would like to encourage all BCU members to support the lobby.

## Floods

Some would argue that the floods have brought jolly boating weather but in all seriousness the floods have obviously brought great hardship to many people, some of which are BCU members. If you were affected please accept our heart felt sympathy. Indeed at one stage we thought that we had lost the BCU office. Cut off for three days when the River Trent re-routed through the regatta course.

## World class events

The BCU is looking towards hosting several World Class Events in the next few years. Firstly, and already awarded next year's Marathon Racing World Championships on September 1 & 2 in Stockton on Tees and the 2005 IC 10 Sailing World Championships. Also bids are being explored for the Junior Wild Water Racing World Championships and the World Freestyle Championships.

## Rates

The Government have issued a Green Paper entitled "Modernising Local Government Finance". This paper looks at all sorts of issues associated with Local Government Finance. However, in particular I would like to draw attention to Annex E "Rate Relief for non Profit Making Sports Clubs" This makes suggestions to alter the current arrangements for sports clubs to

introduce mandatory relief. Good news as Charities already enjoy mandatory rate relief of 80 per cent and many consider that Sports Clubs should enjoy the same. Unfortunately, despite advice received from Sporting Governing bodies through their representative organisation the CCPR, the current proposals are likely to adopt a system proposed for small businesses, whereby 50% relief would be given for clubs with rateable value of less than £3000. The percentage of rate relief is reduced for properties with higher values, up to £6000 where the relief would be 20 per cent. Properties of a rateable value of £8000 receiving no relief. Please write to Kate Cassidy, LGFI, DETR, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU. Refer to the Green Paper and welcome the principle of relief but state that it should be on the same basis as charities. As unlike small businesses, sports clubs being membership organisations occupy larger premises to cater for the needs of the community and in the case of Water Sports Clubs these are often given higher rateable values because of their location.

## 1999/2000 BCU Key achievements

- In competition the BCU enjoyed its best Olympic Games ever, headlined by Paul Ratcliffe's Silver Medal in the Men's K1 Slalom competition and Tim Brabants Bronze Medal in K1 1000 metres, Sprint Racing, being the first Olympic medal to be won in Sprint Racing for Great Britain
- In Canoe Polo the World Championships were held in Brazil. The Men's team took the Gold Medal and the Women the Silver. The discipline of Canoe Polo continues to be a major growth area for the sports development.
- Potential funding agreed (part in full and part in principle) to 31 October 2001 with all appointments made, to commence 1 November.
- Meetings held with Sport Scotland and Sports Council for Wales to identify the way forward for GB teams at a Potential level. (costs for Scottish and Welsh to "buy in" to GB programme being agreed)
- A round of the Marathon Racing World Cup was successfully hosted in Stockton on Tees, arrangements for the Marathon Racing World Championships to be held at the same venue in 2001 continue.
- Funding bid to Welsh Sports Lottery fund made to host the Wild Water Racing Junior World Championships in 2002.
- The BCU AGM in March 2000 approved the Memorandum and Articles of Association for a revised BCU and a new English organisation — English Canoe Association (ECA).
- The BCU President Albert Woods retained his Vice Chairmanship of the British Olympic Association (BOA) and has been proposed as a candidate for the First Vice Presidency of the International Canoe Federation (ICF).
- The BCU Chief Executive was nominated to the Ethics and Anti Doping Committee of UK Sport and was elected to the Council of Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)
- Following a year of political delays associated with the relationship between Rushcliffe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, the BCU National Canoeing Development Centre is now being taken forward by Sport England.
- The BCU Facilities and Planning service continues to support the programme of work set out in the BCU's Facilities Strategy. In particular the development of a White Water Course in Exeter, improvements in the provision of facilities on Thames Weirs, the continued search for a Canoe Slalom course within the London catchment area (suitable for use in a British Olympic bid)
- The Boathouse and first 1000m of Regatta course were opened at Eton providing the GB Olympic Sprint team with training opportunities.
- October 2000 saw the organisation of the first ever BCU Facilities Conference.
- The BCU's efforts to gain greater access were frustrated by a failure to get waterways into the Countryside Bill. However, the associated lobbying process has enabled the BCU to establish a sound group of supporters amongst MP's and Peers.
- The BCU Young Peoples Programme became fully integrated into the Coaching service.
- The BCU's efforts to recruit a Communications Manager have been frustrated by the failure to find a suitable candidate.

## BOA news

Congratulations to Albert Woods, the BCU President, who was re-elected Vice Chairman on the National Olympic Committee. A post that he will hold until after the Olympic Games in Athens. We wish Albert well in the forthcoming elections for the International Canoe Federation First Vice Presidency.

## Board

The BCU AGM on March 10th will consider nominations to the posts of President, Treasurer and for elected members of the Board. Nomination forms are available from Vera Whalley in the BCU Office.

## Audio facilities

The BCU office is now able to provide Information leaflets on Audio tape. The question of course, is which leaflets to record? Anyone wishing to make use of this service please let Vera Whalley at the BCU Office know which of the canoeing information leaflets you would like recorded. Vera has a full list of the leaflets available.

## International Canoe Exhibition

This will take place at the National Exhibition Centre on February 24 & 25. Please see February's Canoe Focus for full details.

## And finally,

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all BCU Members.

Paul Owen  
Chief Executive

NOTICE BOARD  
news & info



# FIRST Cadet Leader Award, well done to Carol Hawkins

Following the introduction of the Cadet leader award this year we have now had the first successful young person to receive the award. Carol's coach takes up the story....

Carol is a member of Stafford Canoeing and Watersports Club which is based right in the middle of Stafford alongside the River Sow. She first joined the club when she was 7 years old and has attended regularly ever since. Many of the club members hold coaching qualifications but none were juniors. This seemed to us to be an anomaly since by the age of 16 some of our members have been paddling for over 8 years. Then enter stage right – the new Cadet Leader Award July this year. We immediately got details – and I had a meeting with Carol. Could we do it before her 16th birthday? Would it be worth doing? We decided we could do it but it would mean Carol using most of her summer holidays to achieve it.



After 7 weeks of helping out with Scouts, Guides, Special needs groups, DoE and general holiday courses for children Carol had clocked up 200 hours coaching and leadership and had completed her log book and it was despatched to the BCU. The certificate arrived and with some subtlety a presentation of the award by Stafford Borough Mayor was arranged much to Carol's surprise and delight.

Inspired by Carol's efforts - SCWC already has 2 more youths who wish to undertake the Cadet Leader Award!

If the above sounds daunting then consider how it would work for you if you spread it over 1-2 years – two hours a

week maybe? Adapt the activities you do in Your Club and GO FOR IT!



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Also in stock at Carlisle Canoes, Performance Kayaks - Bristol, Nomad Paddle Works - Bala, Sterling Canoes - Scotland

## Freestyle News

**F**or all you playboaters out there here's the latest news from the BCU freestyle committee about events to put in your diary's for next year, and what new projects to keep your eyes open for.

The BCU Freestyle committee met at the NENE centre at the start of October to decide on key changes for next years British Team Selection for the Spanish hosted World Championships, and how to run events for next years National Championships.

### British Team Selection

If you fancy having a crack at one of the places on the British team then get yourself along to the selection events at Hurley, Nottingham, and the Tryweryn (dates TBC). It's two out of three count, but you'll need to register your interest and some cash (£20 in total) by Hurley at the latest. Take a look at the Web Site for more on the different categories, dates, and scoring using the all-new Peak Score system.

[www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk](http://www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk)

### Hurley Rodeo

**Hurley Rodeo, 3 – 4 March.** The Hurley weir event on the weekend after the Canoe exhibition (gives you a chance to try what you buy) is going to be BIG. Your hosts Mr. Baker and pals are putting on no less than a Euro cup, British Championship, and Selection event all in less than 48 hrs. Should be well worth a visit either to get in and have some fun, or watch the Best in Europe do their thing. For more info call the guys at Playboater or look on the web at: [www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk](http://www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk)

### Euro Cup

Plan your Holidays now. Lots and lots of events to go to this summer. The Euro cup series is going to take in 8 events including Hurley (UK), Plattling (DR), Lofer (AUS), Sort (ESP), Rabioux (FR), Italy (I), Norway (NR) and Thun (SWZ). These usually form big river

## Palm Website

The new Palm site is now up and running. From there you can find all the information you'll ever need plus the ability to request a technical poster online - all for free! Other things knocking around the design office include the development of the brand new Dagger Europe website. Palm feels that the european market deserves its own dedicated website and that should go live by Christmas. Any and all feedback on either of the sites is welcomed - do you have any special requests or ideas for the sites? If so please email the design office at [design@daggereurope.com](mailto:design@daggereurope.com)

### The Oven

It's all systems go with the moulding department. Preliminary trials have gone very well and final preparations are underway for production. Bob and the boys have been putting in monster hours over the past few months to get the job done and their hard work is finally paying off.

### Other stuff

Apart from the rather large task of building an oven, Palm has now finally got everyone under one roof at the new factory and life is getting back to something approaching normal. The development is now totally complete and everyone at Palm is enjoying what the new facility has to offer.

festivals that have good boating, comps and parties. Worth planning into your summer paddling trips. For more info check the official website: [www.eurodeco.com](http://www.eurodeco.com)

### The National Championships.

The events that go into making the championship series are still to be confirmed but so far there have been some big decisions made by the BCU Freestyle committee on the formats.

If you are thinking of organising an event next summer, or are a club officer, get in touch with the freestyle committee about their club program and BCU Freestyle Championship format. [www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk](http://www.ukrodeo.demon.co.uk) or [www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)

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### Thank you **Go on Challenge yourself to the Ultimate Expedition**

The members of Oakwood High Youth club, Salford want to thank Salford Canoe Club members for helping us raise £1500 during a weekend sponsored paddle in July. The event took place on Worsley Canal and Salford Quays. Up to 50 people were involved over the two days.

Whether you are mushing a team of huskies across the Arctic Circle or shooting the rapids of the Kali Kandaki River in Nepal, the Disabled Living Foundation has an adventure to challenge and inspire you. In March and April 2001 a series of Global expeditions will be arranged for adventure-seekers to raise funds for the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF)

The DLF is working for freedom, empowerment and choice for disabled people and others who use equipment or technology to enhance their independence. For a full colour brochure and information on any events: call 0207 4328008 or email [active@dlf.org.uk](mailto:active@dlf.org.uk)

### Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve – New Bylaws

A further agreement is in place with Nature who manages the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. The area of this reserve covers the entire coastline around Holy Island, from Cheswick Black Rocks (5kms / 3 miles south of Berwick) to Budle Point. It includes most of Holy Island Bay and Budle Bay. The new bylaw prohibits the launching of a boat into any part of the reserve, carrying a boat across any part of the foreshore and camping within the reserve. The Access Agreement states, there are no restrictions on launching from Holy Island harbour or paddling around Holy Island, however the warden Phil Davey (Tel: 01289

381470) would appreciate a call to inform him that your group is in the reserve. Anyone wishing to launch, land or paddle in any other part of the reserve needs to obtain permission in advance from the warden, Phil Davey (Tel: 01289 381470). This permission will be given, but this procedure enables them to inform you of any particular areas that need avoiding, and to suggest alternative sites if appropriate. Obtaining permission to launch from the causeway should never be a problem.

If anyone has problems with access to Holy Island, or needs further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact **John Rae, BCU Coastal Access Officer, North Northumberland. Tel: 01289 381218** or email [john.rae@dial.pipex.com](mailto:john.rae@dial.pipex.com)

### LSF Launch New Sports Directory

The London Sports Forum for Disabled People (LSF) has compiled a directory of sports opportunities in Greater London for young people with learning disabilities. The guide prepared by Bob Bilson, LSF Development Officer, lists comprehensive information for each of the London Boroughs and is available on request in different formats such as large print, audio-tape, floppy disk etc.

There is a £1 cover charge for people wishing to purchase their own copy of the directory, and it will be updated throughout the year. General enquiries should be addressed to: **London Sports Forum for Disabled People, Ground Floor, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London, N1 3QP Tel: 020 7354 8666.**

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# Awards for All Grants

**Gladiator Canoe Polo Club** – Have received a £5000 'Awards For All' Lottery Grant to enable us to buy the equipment necessary to play canoe polo. We are based in Brigg, North Lincolnshire and are looking for males/females of all abilities who are interested in playing canoe polo. It is an advantage if you have canoed before but not essential. Canoe Polo is a game with five players in canoes whose objective is to gain possession of a ball over the opposing team and score a goal into a net suspended over a swimming pool.

The lottery grant has enabled us to purchase all the equipment needed to kit a further two teams out to play the game. We currently have two teams that play in the Yorkshire league and also in the National league. If you think you would like to know more about the club, make new friends and be part of a team, please ring **Maria Portess on Brigg 01652 653804.**



**Walsall Canoe Club** – recently received a grant of £4960 from the National Lottery under the 'Millennium Festival Awards for All Scheme' This grant has been combined with £1200 raised by the club to purchase six playboats, a Canadian canoe, a waterproof video camera and a variety of other equipment.

**Midland Canoe Club** (Derby) – has been lucky enough to receive a grant of £4174 from the Millennium Festival Awards for All Scheme. The money will be used to purchase 4 kayaks, paddles and buoyancy aids all in junior sizes and a container to keep it all in. The money will also be used to send club members on various coaching courses and to organise a

Millennium paddle. The club wishes to increase its junior element with more regular pool session and training on the River Derwent. For more information on the Midland Canoe Club (Derby) contact **Steve Adams on 01283 734487.**

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# MORE ACTIVITY

## Environment Agency and Sport England

The environment agency, Sport England and the Countryside Agency renewed their commitment to working together for outdoor sport and recreation by signing up to an updated Memorandum of Understanding. One of the first initiatives to take this partnership forward has been to hold a joint seminar focusing on the use of Lottery funds to encourage more people to enjoy the countryside and waterways.

## Devizes to Westminster Update

At a meeting held at Baden Powell House on the 17th October members of the newly revamped DW voted in a new chairman. Tom Armitsted. A new director was also voted in Brian Greenway, Sally Peake became head of the marketing team, Jerry Elmsmore became accounts executive. Tim Perks head of safety and first call rescue. Communication Gill Rooke, resources and co-ordination Paul Andrews. There was a call for more help to run this unique event both on the marketing side and also for the safety team who are looking for additional staff to train in rescue techniques. A member of DW stated, that he, as a member of the safety team had personally visited many of the locks along the river and had spoken to the lock keepers, he has asked for additional help for people to form crews to adopt a lock and its keeper and to get to know them. The Lock Keepers are interlay behind this event, in fact one lock keeper has done the DW five times. **Sally Peake Tel: 01380818967. Tim Perks Tel: 01905351506.**

## Access Information (Also see page 12)

### Dart Access – Staverton Mill Egress Point

The new owner of Staverton Mill wishes all groups who want to park there to seek permission from him individually. This is because the site is soon to be cleared prior to development and may not be accessible for certain times and dates. Some of the buildings contain asbestos and so the site will have to be sealed off whilst they are demolished. There will also be heavy machinery there and the owners cannot accept responsibility for vehicles parked at any time.

## Arc and Sparc "Classics" planned:

Perception plan to bolster their mid-priced classic line with the extremely popular Arc and Sparc early in 2001. The Perception Classic line is a range of intermediate white water kayaks that offer proven designs at a great price (£399) for occasional and up-and-coming white water paddlers.

Outfitting is expected to be similar to current boats in the Classic line, with superlinear polyethylene construction, tie-dye colouring, full plate footrest, thighbraces, adjustable seat, full length microcell walls, backrest, heavy duty grab handles, drain plug. You can contact Perception on 01825 765891, at [www.perception.co.uk](http://www.perception.co.uk), or visit your local Perception stockist for further details.



## Tie dye colouring and new graphics for the whips

From the new year the Whip-It and Whiplash will feature new graphics, Perception's extremely popular tie-dye colourwash options of electric lime & sunshine yellow, sunset orange & firecracker or sunset orange & sunshine yellow; what's more, Perception won't be adding a penny to the price of £399.00.

## Good news on Perception pricing

Perception have announced that they will be holding their 2000 pricing structure on the majority of their kayaks into early 2001. "Proline" kayaks stay at £599, "Classic-Line" Kayaks at £399 and "Club" spec kayaks at £299. Recreation, touring and sit on kayaks remain the same price on all but four models.

# NOTICE BOARD

We are asking all groups who wish to park at Staverton to seek permission from the owner. He has indicated that he would prefer to be contacted by fax: 01548 821688 or his address is **Mr John Lown, Auratel Ltd, The Coach House, Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5HW.**

## Holy Island – Traffic Restrictions

New traffic restrictions prohibit all vehicles from access to Holy Island Harbour, effectively closing the harbour, which is the only viable launching site for circumnavigating the island. BCU members may drive to the front at Holy Island harbour to unload and load kayaks. Prior to launching the cars must be parked in one of the two council car parks. An access permit has been issued in the name of **John Rae, (Tel: 01289 381218)** which is applicable for any BCU member who wishes to unload and load kayaks and equipment at the harbour. The permit Number is 220.

## All Along the Watchtowers



Two British canoeists have recently completed the first descent of Siberia's Amur River, which flows through the sensitive border zone between Russia and China. Travel writer Paul

Grogan and environmental scientist Richard Boddington began their epic 4,400 km journey in May, from the Khan Khentii Mountains of Northern Mongolia. Following the river from its source, they paddled the first 1500 km without knowing if they would be able to continue along the border.

"It was a tense time," Richard admits. "We had no idea what sort of reception we'd get at the first border post, and we'd been told that no-one had ever been allowed to navigate this section of the river. Our permissions came through the day we arrived at the checkpoint."

For the next 2000km the pair were forced to camp within sight of military watchtowers, and they were often barricaded behind the barbed-wire border fence to stop them from talking to local villagers. "It was a bizarre time, but also quite frustrating," says Paul. "Kids would sneak up on one side of the fence to talk to us, only to be moved on by armed guards."

Despite the military presence, though, they were overwhelmed by Siberian hospitality. "People would pass us fresh bread and milk through the barbed wire, and in villages where the rules were less strictly enforced we were often invited to stay with local families or drink vodka with the soldiers!"

The weather was also a surprise: "Most of the time it was too hot," Paul explains. "We joked before we left that we'd chosen Siberia because we wanted to paddle somewhere warm, but with temperatures well above 30°C every day it was actually a struggle to stay cool. Only when we got to the Pacific did the heat start to wear off." And, presumably, the vodka.

The expedition was supported by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which helps to fund around a 100 travelling fellowships annually. One fellowship is offered each year to a project or expedition involving canoeing. For more information, contact the **Winston Churchill Memorial Trust on 020 7584 9315** or visit the trust website at [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)

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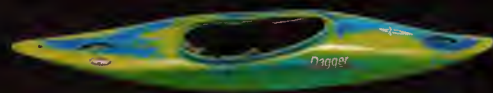
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# MORE ACCESS

## ACCESS

### Access Officer Changes

River Bollin (NW)

The new access officer for the Bollin is Dave Ash. His contact details are: **Dave Ash, 74a Bedford Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5JD. Tel: 01270 252986** email: [dave.ash@fsmail.net](mailto:dave.ash@fsmail.net)

River Ribble (NW)

Jem Lees, access officer for the Ribble, telephone number is **01254 246117**

River Wyre (NW)

Richard Chambers is the new access officer. His contact details are as follows: **11 Tuxbury Drive, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 5NF. Tel: 01253 824677** or email [rbc@talk21.com](mailto:rbc@talk21.com)

River Soar

New local access officer for the Soar is **Dave Barwell, 41 Barrow Road, Sileby, Leics, LE12 7LW. Tel: 01509 812330**

### Waterways for Tomorrow

In June this year the DETR produced a consultation document entitled *Waterways for Tomorrow*. This is the base document to be used by the Parliamentary Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee for their inquiry into The Potential for Inland Waterways. BCU responses have been sent from Nottingham and by the BCU London & South East and Southern regions. The BCU has recorded its wish to give oral evidence to the Committee.

## John Black

We are very sorry to report the death of John Black, who has been a very long serving volunteer for the BCU. He gave long service to Tonbridge Canoe Club and the BCU London and South East Region Committee; for many years he represented the BCU on the management group for the Bowles Outdoor Centre at Eridge. He was also active in coaching and access and was the BCU local access officer for the Medway. We extend our sympathy to his family at this time. It is important that John's good work should be continued by others. Noel Humphrey the regional access officer is looking for a new access officer for the Medway; please contact him on **020 8654 0845**.

## Strengthening the Access Team

The work of Kevin East designed to help strengthen our team of access officers is gathering momentum; this is so that we can have the volunteers needed at local level who have knowledge of their river and its other users and landowners and who can negotiate access agreements. By far the best arrangement is for access officers to come from the canoe clubs who paddle the rivers concerned. Please contact your regional access officer (see BCU yearbook) if your club can nominate a local access officer.

## Raw Deal Petition

As was reported on the Comment page of October Canoe Focus, the BCU is supporting the Raw Deal campaign for more access for canoeing. The BCU has made the government well aware of the lack of sufficient access for canoeing, and this will benefit from much greater credibility if the depth of public feeling is demonstrated by a large number of signatures to the petition. A petition form is enclosed with this issue of Canoe Focus. The form includes a summary of the objectives of the campaign; when signatures have been obtained please return the forms to **Raw Deal, PO Box 36, Pontypridd, CF38 2XJ** no later than the end of February 2001. If you can use more forms, please copy the form enclosed or download them from the access section on the BCU website.

## Countryside Bill

We are very grateful to the Earl of Mar and Kellie, who is a Vice President of the Scottish Canoe Association for putting down an amendment in the House of Lords. This proposed that manually propelled craft, which can be carried to the water, should be included in the Bill; this was debated on 3 October. The amendment was not successful, but it provoked a statement from the Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton speaking for the government that "...we are committed to using other mechanisms to ensure that we can achieve a real increase in access for users of canoes and other such craft".

## BCU Launches Canoeing and the Environment Guide

The British Canoe Union with the endorsement of the Amateur Rowing Association, the Inland Waterways Association and the Royal Yachting Association has recently published the **"The River and Waterway Environment for Small Boat Users - An Environmental Guide for Recreational Users of Rivers and Inland Waterways"**.

Written by Dr Tim Stott – himself a Coach Level 3 canoeist, and currently Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography and Outdoor Education at Liverpool John Moores University, the book aims to meet the need for a wider understanding of how rivers work.

Spilt into two parts, Part 1 is intended to be an introduction for those with little or no prior knowledge and develops ideas up to and including Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum. Part 2 is intended for those who wish to find out more about the introductory themes covered in Part 1 and explores some other aspects of rivers at a more advanced level. Recent and current research on aspects of hydrology, fluvial geomorphology, wildlife, conservation and river management is collated in a user friendly way. Part 2 will be of interest to aspirant or even experienced coaches who wish to improve their environmental knowledge and awareness.

David Gent, BCU Chairman, in his foreword to the guide says: "The growing numbers of initiatives throughout this decade, at local, national and international scale, which have been aimed at protecting the environment and ensuring that people live to work harmoniously with it, has prompted the BCU into supporting this publication". He continues: "I firmly believe that the deeper knowledge and understanding that this book will help to foster among river and waterway users will help to achieve this aim".

The level for knowledge about environmental issues is measured through the Coaching Service Star Awards system, but with the campaign for increased access the need for such knowledge is ten fold. In the October issue of Canoe Focus, you may have read an article on the principles of sustainable development, and this book provides a pathway (that won't erode) to meet those principles.

If you have any interest in what's in the water you paddle on, the amazing history of the development of watercourses in the United Kingdom, of how and why rivers flow, and how we can manage this resource that we need for drinking, industry, supporting habitats and as a recreational resource then I strongly urge you to read this book!

Copies of the book are available from **Darren Male, BCU Environmental Officer, 6 Brick Kiln Lane, Hurley, Nr Atherstone, N. Warwickshire CV9 2LU. Telephone: 01827 874262.** E-Mail: [stourmole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stourmole@yahoo.co.uk). It is priced £15.00 (including postage) for members quoting their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI number, or £19.95 (plus £2 p&p) to non members. Please make cheques payable to "British Canoe Union".

## Research

The research project report on the Effect of Canoeing on Fish Stocks and Angling should have been published by the time you read this. The general conclusion is that canoeing does not harm fish stocks, but anglers consider that their sport can be disturbed by canoeists.

## 7 Yard Rule

The users group or the Trent around Nottingham, which includes a canoeing voice, has agreed that at week-ends and on bank holidays during the coarse fishing season all craft will keep at least 7 yards away from either bank. Please respect this agreement when canoeing this part of the Trent.

## Symonds Yat Rapids

### Good News

- The BCU now holds a legal Options to purchase the riverbed of the Rapids including the Island
- This ties the Owners to sell to the BCU once the Option is exercised and it runs for 4 years.
- The Invertebrate study that England Nature required us to undertake has been completed.

### What Next

- We are arranging for the Design of the Groynes and Access Platforms to be carried out in liaison with the Environment Agency and English Nature.
- We will then apply for Drainage Consent and deal with the Planning position.
- In tandem we are arranging to formalise an Agreement for canoeists use of the river banks by the Rapids. Also we are finalising our Sport England Lottery Fund application ready for submission once the Planning position is dealt with.

### We still need

- Donations and Pledges, Letters of support, Contacts for major sponsors
- Prints of Lisels Walker's picture are still available at £18.00 (plus £2.50. for postage and packing)
- Contact: **Veronica Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester, G13 2LU Tel/fax: 01452 531218.** (cheques made payable to S.Y.R.P.G. – credit card facilities available.)



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# Sydney 2000



Right: Tim Brabants

The Games of the XXVII Olympiad proved to be the most successful Games for the British Team since 1920 in Antwerp. Team GB brought home a total of 28 medals - 11 Gold, 10 Silver and 7 Bronze.

With sunny skies, fantastic views and friendly people the host city of Sydney provided superb organisation and a unique atmosphere for competitors and spectators alike.

The GB Canoeing Team has achieved its best results ever in the history of Olympic competition, bringing home two Olympic medals. Silver for Paul Ratcliffe in the K1 men's slalom event and Bronze for Tim Brabants in the K1 1000m Sprint Racing, this being the first Olympic medal to be won in Sprint Racing for Great Britain.



Above: Paul Ratcliffe with parents  
Below: Tim Brabants with team manager Alan Williams

Canoe Slalom 17 September - 20 September 2000

**A**pproximately 60km from the centre of Sydney the Penrith whitewater course provided a spectacular venue for the Canoe Slalom event. The 'U' shaped course is 320m long and falls 5.5m from top to bottom with a width

between 8m to 14m. The submersible pumps provided a constant 14cumecs of water per second through the course. During the period of the slalom competition seating was made available for 12,500 spectators.



Below: The slalom support team

Day 1 - Qualification K1 Ladies and C1

Concerns were raised by team managers on day one of the slalom competition over the layout and length of the competition course. More recently slalom competitions have been reduced in length taking on average 100 seconds, but for this occasion the course designers had opted for a course of, on average, 128 seconds in length.

Qualification on day one was contested by the Women's and C1 classes. In her first Olympic competition as one of the youngest competitors, Laura Blakeman was the first British athlete to race down the course qualifying in 13th place. Stuart McIntosh put in a good performance over the longer course gaining qualification in 10th place.

Day 2 - Race Day

The atmosphere at the whitewater centre was one of tense anticipation. The course for the finals had been changed

to include more downstream gates providing a faster and more flowing course.

Laura overcame her nerves to put in a strong performance against a very experienced group. Keeping a focused mind, she put in a clear second run to finish in twelfth position. Stepanka Hilgertova, from the Czech Republic, took gold with a stunning second run, to make history as the only athlete to win back to back Olympic titles. However the biggest dramas were for Silver and Bronze positions. Brigitte Guibal (FRA) was probably relieved to win Silver after starting second runs in 1st place, but then rolling between the last two gates on second runs. Anne-Lise again did her best to give the French support and the retiring ladies coach heart failure. Lying third after 1st runs and with a solid second run as she arrived at the last up, she span out and rescued the bronze medal by backing off into the last upstream. All this from an athlete who at the age of 31 had only made the French team once before and was only at the games because of the illness of one of her team mates.

Stuart McIntosh in the C1 put in a consistent performance coping well with the Olympic pressures to take 8th place. After the race a philosophical Stu commented on being disappointed not to have finished in the top five. But feeling confident that over the next four years he has what it takes to make an impact on the worlds top three. In the medal positions the biggest surprise was Michal Martikan (SVK) poor 1st run putting him in only 5th place. But true to form he put in a stunning second run, the fastest of the day to rank him first with four paddlers left to go. As Martikan waited at the finish he watched as everyone finished behind his two run total. So with two and half minute time intervals and live commentary Tony Estanguet (FRA) approached the start knowing he was the only man left who could take the Gold. As with his previous runs he blitzed the top third of the course, things looked good until he picked up a late penalty. The crowd held their breath and watched the clock as he powered to the finish. Then 3000 French supporters roared to salute their Olympic champion. Tony had gone two places better than his brother in 1996 and taken Gold, completing the medal set for a jubilant French team. Martikan's team mate Juraj Mincik took the slot for Bronze.

Day 3 - Qualification C2 and Men's Kayak  
The previous two days of competition had set the standard for the days events and nervous tension was running high.

In the C2 event Stuart Bowman and Nick Smith put in a very strong performance to qualify in 4th place.

Paul Ratcliffe was the final British paddler to take to the course, putting in a steady performance to qualify in third place. The top four paddlers in the K1 qualification all finishing on the same second.

Day 4 - Finals C2 and Men's Kayak

The whitewater centre welcomed a capacity crowd, spectators lined the banks and filled the tiered seats, the atmosphere was electric.

In the C2 event the scene was set for a dramatic finale. After first runs the reigning Olympic champions Addison and Fergues were lying first with the fastest crew of the year the Hochschorners in second. The Hochschorners then put down the fastest run of the day leaving the reigning champs with no room for error. Things looked promising as the French crew crossed





Paul Ratcliffe

under the last bridge. The split times put them in second place, but in a bid for Gold they took a tight line under the bridge. Wilf in the back could only get half a head in the gate and the judges awarded a fifty. A sad end for the retiring champions, but a worthy young crew has succeeded them. In the other positions there was joy and pain for Smith and Bowman. After first runs they were poised for a top five finish and with a fair wind were capable of a bronze. On the day a Bronze escaped them by less than half a second. They looked back on what could have been with touches that could have been avoided and time errors on the second run. However like McIntosh although disappointed there was a tremendously positive vibe as they look forward to the next four years.

With the commentator piling on the pressure Paul Ratcliffe paddled to the start line. Paul was to provide the most heart stopping moment of the entire event. Paul was the favourite for the Gold Medal having won more World Cup races than any other K1M athlete.

He set off at a tremendous pace and unfortunately took a 2 second penalty early in his first run. Paul compounded this deficit with a near disastrous technical error just before the end of his run - he capsized and managed to roll up just before the finish line. Going into the second run he was 5 seconds down after being 1.5 up on the splits at gate 16. Paul demonstrated his outstanding talent as a racer and his mental toughness to complete another fast second run under the most intense pressure to win the Olympic Silver Medal. Thomas Schmidt (GER) paddled the race of his life to win Gold and the 1992 Olympic Champion Pierpaolo Ferrazzi for Italy took the Bronze.

### Sprint Racing - 26 September - 1 Oct 2000

After a 6 day break, the Olympic Sprint event commenced at the Penrith Regatta Course. The Sprint racing Team has gone from strength to strength in recent years winning medals at several World Cup races, and the Team were confident of some good results at the Olympic Regatta.

#### Men's K1 500m

Ian Wynne was 2nd in his heat and 4th in his semi-final just 0.9 seconds behind the winner and unfortunately missing the Olympic final by the narrowest of margins. Ian is determined to make the final in Athens in 2004.

#### Women's K1 500m

Anna Hemmings (Britain's first Women's Marathon World Champion in 1999) qualified for



the semi finals and was disappointed not to make the final in her first Olympic Games.

#### Men's K2 1000m and K2 500m

Ross Sabberton and Paul Darby-Dowman were just 0.5 seconds off qualifying for the final in the K2 500m which was a good performance but slightly less than they had hoped for. This young crew won the Silver medal at the Marathon World Cup and are a real prospect for the future.



Above: Nick Smith and Stuart Bowman

#### C2 1000m and 500m

Andrew and Stephen Train have a superb international record of achievement and have won medals at both Sprint and Marathon World Championships. There were disappointed not to make the Olympic final in their C2 1000m event.



Above: Ross Sabberton and Paul Darby-Dowman

#### Men's K1 1000m

Tim Brabants won Gold and Bronze medals at the Junior World Championships in 1995 and has made the finals at World, European and World Cup Sprint events. Tim came through his heat in 3rd place and was drawn in a very tough semi-final.

He raced a tactically perfect race to finish 2nd behind the 1996 Olympic Champion Holmann, Kolganov from Israel snatched the 3rd qualification place from the Hungarian in 4th place. Tim grew great confidence from this result and was well psyched up for the final.

The final of the Men's K1 1000m was the first medal event of the Olympic Regatta. Tim Brabants made a good start and was well placed at half way. However, he dropped back to 5th place at 600m and with only 200m to go he was in 4th place. Tim dug deep and kept his focus and maintained his technique down the last 100m to cross the line in 3rd place to win the first ever Sprint Racing Medal for Great Britain. Holmann won the Gold and the Belgian Merkov (under suspicion) took the Silver.

The Great Britain Team were ecstatic, Paul Ratcliffe was there to cheer Tim on and congratulate his medal success. Two Olympic medals for GB canoeing and the best results for the GB Team overall for 40 years.

The BCU Performance Directorate and the British Canoe Union in general are very proud of the achievements of our Olympic athletes, coaches and support staff. With the three years of support provided by Lottery funding we have met and indeed

exceeded the targets set for the Olympic year.

Many congratulations to all the athletes, coaches and staff that contributed to the most successful Olympic Games ever for the Sport of canoeing in Great Britain.

**John Anderson**  
BCU Performance Director ●

Capacity crowds at the Penrith whitewater course

## SLALOM

### Results from British Open and International Final

#### KIM Senior

1st Tim Morrison  
2nd Simon Jackson  
3rd Etienne Stott

#### K1M J16

1st Ryan Yates  
2nd Sam Lyons  
3rd Toni Cadena

#### K1M J14

1st Andrew Marshall  
2nd Steve Ponting

#### K1M Vet

1st Jimmy Jayes

#### C1

1st Craig Brown  
2nd Rob Turner  
3rd David Florence

#### C1 J18

1st Daniel Goddard

#### C1 J16

1st Eduard Perez

#### C1 Vet

1st Rob Moss

#### K1W Senior

1st Helen Cardy  
2nd Nerys Rowlands  
3rd Annie Christie

#### K1W J18

1st Fiona Pennie  
2nd Maialen Chourraut  
3rd Louise Donnington

#### K1W J16

1st Naiara Navorro  
2nd Tracey Kinniburgh

#### K1W J14

1st Naomi Winters

#### Vet

1st Lara Tipper

#### C2

1st Green / Green  
2nd Roden / Roden  
3rd Moore / Matthews

### Division 1 Race

#### Llangollen

#### Results

(Fastest of two runs)

#### Mens Kayak

1st Mark Ratcliffe  
2nd Ben Schur  
3rd Andrew Duffey

#### J18

Greg Hitchin

#### J16

Robin Vasey

#### J14

Andrew Marshall

#### Vet

Sean Simmons

#### Womens Kayak

1st Rachel Doherty  
2nd Rebecca Wadsworth  
3rd Tracey Kinniburgh

#### J18

Anneka Brewster

#### J16

Moyra Eviitt

#### J14

Liz Neave

#### Vet

Joan Cawthray

#### Canadian Singles

1st Adam Marshall  
2nd Tom Patrick  
3rd Gwyn Ashcroft

#### J18

Matthew Power

#### J16

Colin Radmore

#### Canadian Doubles class is combined with Premier

1st Roden / Roden

### Division 1 National

#### Champions

#### K1M

Craig Morris

#### Best Newcomer

Andrew Marshall

#### K1W

Rachel Doherty

#### Best Newcomer

Naomi Winters

#### C1

Adam Marshall

#### Best newcomer

Matthew Power

## 27th Llangollen Canoe Slalom Week

### British Open and International

The people of Llangollen are pitching to support Canoe Slalom and bring a Canoe Slalom event to Llangollen as part of the 2002 Commonwealth Games. The international was attended by a team from Spain and home nations. A Spanish C1 paddler was the highest placed J16 in the event. A number of established Senior GB team paddlers are reviewing their future and this facilitated a relatively young start list. It was unfortunate not to see any members of the Olympic team in the British Open event, even if only to congratulate them.

The weather was good and the river level had dropped from the highs of October's floods. Llangollen Town Falls is the most technically difficult course in the UK and slalomists are always keen to battle it out.

The £1 million refurbishment to the Corn Mill is amazing and worth a visit in itself. The decking provides a fantastic platform directly over the falls for judging and commentary. Congratulations to the Lyons family and race organisers for a well-organised event. The British Open results were very close in nearly all classes. It is an important 10 days as it formed two of three races for GB winter team selection.

The race was structured into two aggregate qualification runs leading the top group in each class to a one run final on the same course. Tim Morrison put in the fastest run of the weekend with an awesome 125.01, over 3 seconds quicker than any other paddler.

Sam Lyons won the prize for best Welsh Junior paddler. For services to judging Jackie Wetzig was awarded a rose bowl in recognition of her efforts at the Olympics. Andy Maddock announced that as U23 has become more important, there will be a one off U23 National Championship starting next year, run at the Llangollen British Open. This year the winners were; Simon Jackson, Helen Cardy, Rod Turner, James and Andrew Roden

## International Artificial Slalom courses

Following on from the Scottish announcement about a new Australian Penrith style centre in Strathclyde Park we look at other artificial courses in the UK and Europe. I imagine the first was Augsburg, which was built for the Canoe Slalom event at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Artificial courses have become common place and there appears to be no let up in future planning. They are an ideal site for International competition, a place for the general public to experience white water rafting and a training ground for beginner and intermediate canoeists. There are four artificial courses in the UK: Cardington, Holme Pierrepont, Tesside and Northampton. Canoe Slalom events have taken place at all these venues. A facility using pumps similar to The Nene Whitewater Centre in Northampton is planned for Exeter.

In Canoe Slalom national centres have often appeared around the focus of an artificial course, Augsburg, Nottingham and Troja. There are 20 artificial courses in Europe, with several new courses under construction, including a projected one at Athens for the 2004 Olympic Canoe Slalom and also a pumped course at Paris – conceived and built in a year, which has just opened.

## Stafford & Stone Canoe Club

Stafford and Stone has a great heritage in Canoe Slalom. Many of our medal winning team members have risen from training at Stone. Richard Fox, Jane McCormick, Melvyn Jones, Paul McConkey, Pete Bell, Maria Francis, Laura Blakeman, James and Andrew Roden...the list is endless and very impressive. They have won the National Interclubs Championships at Cardington more times than I can recall. The site itself is nothing awesome – just well structured. Stone is on the upper Trent. The course with permanent gates is about 3 metres wide, 200 metres long and a metre deep. Over the year the club has built small retaining walls to create strong eddies and floodlights. They have been one of the most proactive clubs in organising mini slalom during the off season and off water clubhouse facilities. This is, as can be shown, with good coaching the ideal environment to refine slalom gate technique. Stone has the benefit of lying within a reasonable distance of both Llangollen and Nottingham. They are one of Canoe Slalom event organising clubs with Premier/Division 1 on the calendar at both Tryweryn and Holme Pierrepont, in addition to the mini slaloms. Next issue we will look at CR Cats.

## Division 1 Race Llangollen

This was the last Division 1 of the year. The water had dropped an inch or so since the British Open on the Saturday. The course was an amended version from the previous day and a little faster. Mark Ratcliffe, brother of Paul had the fastest runs of the day and won the MK1 event. Note Adam Marshall's flying C1 run which would have placed him 4th in the Mens Kayak and 10 seconds up on second place - a Gareth Marriott in the making perhaps!

## Sydney Olympics 2000

A colour Sydney 2000 Great Britain Canoe Slalom Team poster was produced and is available from the Slalom Administrator, Rachel Buckland at the BCU for £1 with a S.A.E.

## 2000 Season

Without doubt this has been a stressful year with selection, appeals, Junior Worlds and Olympics. As predicted and as before this Olympic year will see a number of top retirements. We will miss watching them make it look easy but we hope to benefit from more quality coaches and opportunities for some of our newer seasons. Those paddlers see bowing out have been in Premier on average since the mid 80's. This should indicate to some of our Juniors making their way up into Premier that they could be part of our 2012 Olympic Team! Now is the time for all serious paddlers to get stuck into winter training in preparation for the 2001 season and selection. Helpers are always welcome at the National Development Squad weekends.

## Junior Worlds

Fiona Pennie took the K1W Junior Bronze Medal at the Bratislava Junior Worlds, and Fiona, Debbie Lomas and Sarah Kinder won the K1 Women's Team Bronze Medal. Fiona's summer continued with the K1W Junior World Cup gold and Dan Goddard took the Silver C1 medal.

## Bratislava

David Ledger, a voluntary coach with the U23 was involved in an accident in which he broke his neck. He is making good progress but will possibly be permanently wheelchair bound. We wish him all the best.

## Scotland announce Sydney style new artificial whitewater course

Coinciding with the Olympics the Scottish Canoe Association has announced a project to build a new Penrith style slalom course at Strathclyde Park on the edge of Glasgow. Scottish paddlers are campaigning to raise £3.8 million to make this happen. Andy Watt, Project Director commented "The finished course is planned for 2003. Paddlers have indicated their support for the Penrith course in Sydney and Strathclyde Park will be modelled in a similar way. Mark Delaney, Olympian, stated, "Scotland has a rich heritage of excellence in canoeing but we lack an accessible national training centre and a dependable venue for international Canoe Slalom". The venue will provide other attractions including the UK's first artificial surf wave and an outdoor canoe polo pool.

## Check out [www.canoeslalom.co.uk](http://www.canoeslalom.co.uk)

Find the latest news in British kayaking, check the event calendar for a forthcoming event and learn how to enter one. Understand the slalom rules!

## Interclub Championships 9-10 September

Described by top paddlers as a very good event with an enjoyable Cardington course, although low on entries due to an international class C in France. Won by Stafford and Stone Canoe Club after dominating the early 90's. Jim Croft, the event organiser commented that there was very noticeable improvement in the JU16 after summer tour at Liptovsky Mikulas. New attractions are planned for next year.

Next issue – a focus on international artificial whitewater canoeing.



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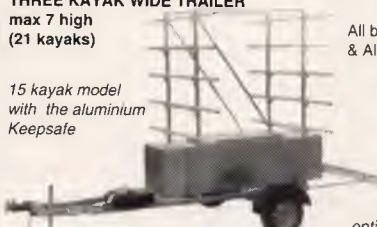
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# Paddling th

## A Paddler's Diary by Jackie Rhodes

My paddling tour of New Zealand started early on Sunday 13th February at 6.30 a.m. A cab picked me up from home and took me to Arnos Grove tube, only to discover that the station does not in fact open until 7 a.m.! But still the first train got me to Heathrow by 8.15 on a crisp and sunny Winter's day. The rest of the group were already there and booked in. After a long flight, 14 hours to Singapore, an hour in transit, 10 more hours to Christchurch, we arrived in New Zealand.

### Monday/Tuesday 14th/15th Feb

I wasn't quite sure what day it was, but it was dark. New Zealand customs regulations were fairly rigorous, you're not allowed to bring more than \$700 worth of goods into the country; whoops, my paddle and camera exceeded that. We were then met by our guides Mike(y) Abbot and Neil ("Biff") Brown who whisked us off to a nearby motel for tea and slumber. The following day we were taken by minibus to Maruia Springs Thermal Resort stopping on the way for an hour or two's paddle on the "Maori Gully" section of the Hurunui river. This was a nice stretch of grade 3 with several play waves. A few rolls were checked out, including mine towards the end. The get-out of Maori Gully was deemed by the majority of the group to be a class 4: it was aerobically challenging comprising a seemingly unending succession of large steps. Fortunately the drizzle stopped whilst we got dry and changed. We finally arrived at Maruia Springs at 7.30 p.m. Those with any energy left could take the waters of the natural (sulphuric) springs. For me it was just a shower and a long sleep.

### Wednesday 16th Feb

We were on the road again in our spacious white minibus, whose air-conditioning we generally supplement by opening the only window. About an hour and a half drive northwards (stopping to look at Maruia Falls) took us to the kayaking Mecca of the south island, Murchison. We located our accommodation at Murchison Lodges, Riverview Holiday Park, on the banks of the River Buller. We had lunch here before setting off to do the Earthquake Run section of the Buller about 40 minutes drive downstream. We had about two and a half-hours paddling, including time to play at a number of waves. The river was fairly big volume up to grade 3. The biggest rapid was "Gunslinger" which had a lot of large waves coming from various angles and a few stoppers. The get-out was again memorable, although only given a grade 2 rating, and involved getting back into your boat to paddle up a flooded track to the lay-by where Becky awaited us. Then it was back to Murchison for postcards and ice creams.

### Thursday 17th Feb

There were two rivers planned for today, which meant an early set off for the Matiri River (a tributary of the Buller). This river was smaller volume, in a pretty valley, with plenty of places to play. Half way down a narrower, more gorge section, Mike achieved his swim for Australasia, whilst attempting to cartwheel; Sue ran him down and then impeded his roll. The hardest rapid was just before the end, 100m of 3+ involving a couple of stoppers after drops; we ran the first hard right to avoid the trashing we witnessed a girl from another group experiencing! After a stop in Murchison for supplies, it was back to base for lunch and a siesta, then at 3.30 p.m. we departed for our second river, the Glenroy. The Glenroy is an upper tributary of the Matakaitaki and is a more gorge river, with boulders and rocks, twists and turns in bedrock. Mikey and Biff urged us to hone our 'boofing' skills on one drop which saw me roll (no nose clip.... hey!), Chris T. swim, Chris M. interesting backwards manoeuvre and roll. At that point it was decided that we should have a bit of coaching talk on 'boofing'. There were a couple of grade 4



sections, which we inspected. On the first we took a far left route, easy if taken slowly; and on the second we had agreed a line, but after seeing what it did to Mikey (a bit of a struggle to avoid being pushed into an undercut) we all gave it a miss and portaged. It was then back to base, stopping in Murchison to buy beers.

### Friday 18th Feb

Today we headed to the lower section of the nearby Matakaitaki. This was quite a short section but we did loads of playing. It was very hot and sunny and we found an excellent wave for attempting 360s and similar manoeuvres. I even had to take my sunglasses off as they got too steamed up! Then we moved on; there were quite a few small boulder gardens, some mellow grade 2 stretches, then the last half km was quite a long grade 3, which steepened at the end to wake you up. It was then back to base, via Murchison for sting relief and maple/walnut ice cream. After shaking off the lethargy for the afternoon trip, we headed for the Granity Creek run on the Buller. The biggest rapid, Granity Creek, grade 4, we inspected: there was a straightforward line on the right (which I took) avoiding the 'cool move' of breaking out river left in a big eddy above a pressure wave above a big hole. Dave P said that in retrospect this was a wise move! There were a few more play-spots of note and I managed to find a final burst of energy for one bury-nose, two flips and rolls and various other surfs and

# e best of the

## f New Zealand



### Sunday 20th Feb

The first two of our group left Last Resort by the helicopter but the rest of us were driven to a field beside the Karamea. Then with our kayaks strapped to the 'feet' of the helicopter, two at a time we went on the shuttle up the river valley to a wilderness area between Roaring Lion and Grey's Hut. It was quite exciting to take off and land in a small and fragile helicopter, with a great view from the glass bubble. We couldn't believe that a ten minute flight would take us five hours to paddle, and from the 'copter' all the rapids looked like grade 2s ..... we were to learn! The river began with mellow grade 2 sure enough as we eased into the run. But we started to find more sections of grade 3 boulder gardens, interspersed with the odd surf wave. After a couple of hours it started to get meatier. Half way down one longish grade 3 rapid, I dropped sideways into a big hole and did wonder if it would release me. This was just before 'Growler', a short but turbulent grade 4 with some large boulders in the middle..... our first inspection. It looked fairly straightforward but I was too complacent and ended up with two combat rolls on the way down. After lunch, a few more grade 3s then we reached 'Holy Shit', the biggest and most complex rapid on this stretch with some potential for unpleasant swims. After inspection, Sue, Lisa and I followed Biff down, mostly on far left, then ferrying across a big pile-up onto a big megalith. We gathered in an eddy for the last chunk, catching two diagonal buffers, right to left, then left to right. Three more largish rapids remained, including 'Staircase' which involved a tight breakout on the left above what looked like a mega hole, but Mikey dived into it in his heavily laden H2 Zone and pulled a few cartwheels. We had to ride a cushion wave off a boulder to get down the last bit..... Chris M slightly

misjudged it and had to roll but Sue and I got perfect lines! We loaded boats and changed and then retraced our steps to Karamea, Westport, and then off into new territory along the coast.



### Monday 21st Feb

Unfortunately it was too windy and changeable for helicopters to fly. Mikey waited in for a report on the state of the rivers so it was a good chance to post cards and explore this little touristy shanty town. After lunch, we headed south about 40 km to the Kakapotahi. It was a bit of a mega put-in, lowering the boats down on ropes. Then within half a

kilometre quite a big portage around a messy grade 4/5 drop. We ran the rest, which was grade 4 boulder gardens and granite gorges, generally eddy-hopping down the rapids. After this, the pace eased a bit. We practised more rock splats/wheels in the final half km. I managed to slip on a log on the beach at the take-out and sprain/twist/pull my big toe ligaments/tendons or something. So in the evening I hit the Export Golds (great anaesthetic).

### Tuesday 22nd Feb

Today, we were off down the coast, about twice as far as the day before, to the Whataroa (pronounced Fatter Rower). Another heli-shuttle, starting from a gold-panning centre. We had lovely views of the Southern Alps and West Coast rivers and lakes on the way to Whataroa. The river had looked chunkier from the air and indeed so it proved. There were some pretty meaty grade 4s soon after the start, which merited inspection..... huge boulders and quite powerful water. The first drop was run on the right. The second section was more complex: enter to the right of a big rock, brace on the big stopper waves, either break out left or go right immediately, avoid a huge boulder with another reef of rock about 2ft in front of it. I was back-looped and went for a super quick roll, then had to ferry hard left, escaping

semi-confused spins and rolls. I then sat out in the evening sun watching the sheep, goat, horses, dog, mosquitoes, cats, cows and wet paddling gear drying on the line, followed by the usual large supper and can of Export Gold, which had the usual effect of rendering me comatosed.

### Saturday 19th Feb

We packed everything up and squeezed it into the minibus and trailer as today we were moving base. This meant there was only time for one river, a nearby stretch of the Buller ..... O'Sullivan's to Ariki Falls. This was a big volume river with a lot of mellow grade 2 through gorges in bedrock, until we reached Ariki Falls. Biff ran it first, in the middle of the horseshoe and got 'worked'; Mikey showed a better line near the right. There was a possible line way far left. Chris M and Dave ran it, while the rest of us portaged in the end. This section was finished with a nice surf wave just before the get-out. It was then on to Westport for lunch, we back-tracked to view a seal colony at Tauranga Bay, then it was back along the coast northwards to Karamea, through lots of dense rainforest and twisty roads, past deserted mining towns until we reached 'The Last Resort' at 6 p.m., with its rooms interconnected by wooden walkways and roofs covered with sods of earth. We saw our first glimpse of the shuttle helicopter in its hanger behind its landing pad.

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the boulder. The river then eased off a while before the next gorge, which began with a bouldery rapid. We gathered up in an eddy on the right and I wondered what was behind two huge boulders. Mikey took a difficult line down on river left, then signaled us to run down a narrow slot with a 4ft. drop, keeping paddles well into the boat. Biff stressed we must hold our paddles long-wise but unfortunately forgot himself!!

Then we were in an easy gorge with very high granite walls and tree-lined tops. We emerged as if from a tunnel into a widening river valley, but it wasn't the last gorge; there was one trickier grade 4 in store. The line was from the right at the top, diagonally across to a chunky wave train on the left. Mikey had rolled in this, which made it look harder than it was. True to form, I rolled at the very bottom and Chris M ended up going down backwards. The river now eased into an open valley and grade 2/3 rock gardens. We had a brew-up and snack behind the van then set off back to base.

### Wednesday 23rd Feb

Today was a rest from kayaking day, with a long journey ahead: none of us got up early enough to sample the West Coast surf before departure. We left about 10 a.m. and headed south. First stop, Whataroa for toilets and quick tour of Maori Art and Craft Centre shop. Next stop Franz Josef Glacier. We continued onwards towards Haast, then inland along the Haast River and various canyons, over the watershed into different much drier scenery with sheep farming, Great Lakes, mountains, vineyards and fruit trees. We began to follow the Kawarau River. We pulled over to look at Nevis Bluff from on high..... class 5 even from there. Past the suspension bridge, the Dog Leg section, then crossed the lower reaches of the Shotover. We arrived at Queenstown, Kawarau Falls Lodges at 7 p.m..... a long day's travel.

### Thursday 24th Feb

After breakfast we drove to the Shotover. There were great views on the way of the Remarkables (mountains) and the lake at Queenstown. We drove a short way up a track to look at the end of the run, across the river from the Shotover Jets. This was quite a long, rather rocky exit rapid. The drive to the get-in was up a very precipitous track along cliff faces. It was then down to the beach where we got about 40 minutes roasting in the sun while Biff did the shuttle. We meandered down a scenic but not exactly white-water schist gorge until we came to the rapids. I copied Biff in back looping on the 'Mother' but had a nice line down 'Jaws' and 'the Toilet'. Then into the tunnel..... it was dark and not very turbulent, but none of us got a good line on the gnarly exit rapid. I went over the slabs on the right and bashed my paddle, Dave had a rocky line, Chris M. bashed his elbow, Sue bounced sideways over the rocks, Mick rolled at the bottom. We kept in tight formation on river left while the jet boats whooshed up the river. It was then back to Kawarau Lakeside Park for a late lunch and then our second river of the day, the Dog Leg section of the Kawarau. This was a bigger volume river, with a lot of flat stretches. There were a few grade 2/3 surf waves before the excellent and challenging wave where we stayed for about 1-2 hours. Tired out, we at last moved on, but it wasn't all over yet, the eponymous Dog Leg lay another half mile ahead, a



long grade 4 with a straightforward route on the left and some mega huge holes on the right, piling into a cliff. Of course Mikey was able to go into these and play. We were late back to base, but then it was time to hit the thriving metropolis of Queenstown.

### Friday 25th Feb

Showered, packed and breakfasted we started away at 9.30 a.m. but Nevis Bluff exerted its lure over Mikey and Biff. We watched their careful inspection from on high then took the pictures and gave a commentary to the many tourists who stopped to gape. The holes must have been huge and steep. We headed on for Roaring Meg, a less demanding stretch of the Kawarau with lots of whirly boils. We stayed a long time at the get-in play wave (possibly because our guides were waiting for one of their River Gods (Jon Sanderson). Anyway, I kept working on those side surfs and eddy-line interesting rolls. Then we bounced and swirled down the rest of the pretty gorge, which had a few decent waves. Onwards, ever onwards, to the delightful township of Cromwell on the shores of Lake Dunstan. We set off northwards through the dry grasslands populated only by the occasional sheep. There were great views of the Southern Alps to the left and smaller ranges to the right. We passed the turquoise blue lakes of Pukaki and Tekapo, through Fairlie and on to the town of Geraldine (famous for its antique tractor museum and tractor races) where we located the farmhouse Holiday Park and another excellent lot of accommodation. It was then time for a few silly photos and some laundry before hitting the town..... our first meal in a pub, and very nice it was too, with all the courses served to the right people in the right order.

### Saturday 26th Feb

We headed to the nearby Rangitata, stopping off at the rafting station to check the level..... 76 cumecs (lowish). The river began deceptively simply, winding through gravel banks then building up to more bouldery rapids then in the last one and a half km was the gorge..... grade 4+ drops. At last the river got me, flipped in the 'Rooster Tail' rapid we inspected; I hung in for ages but could never feel any decent water to roll up on. The hardest rapid 'Hell's Gates' was yet to come..... very powerful section, go to the right of a rock then it looked like a drain-hole to the left, big waves in front of a wall kick you right, ride the waves into an eddy; eyes on stalks, mouth agape. Finally we were out of the gorge. Good job we hadn't inspected that bit first! Then it was a mellow paddle out and time for lunch. We took everything out of the boats, wrapped up our paddles, took a wistful look at our last river of the trip and turned the van towards Christchurch and the return journey home. ●

This trip was organised by Adventure-Whitewater and covers some of the best kayaking rivers in the South Island of New Zealand. A similar trip is planned for February 2001. For details contact Phil Arnold on 01992 712006 or e-mail him [phil@adventure-whitewater.com](mailto:phil@adventure-whitewater.com)

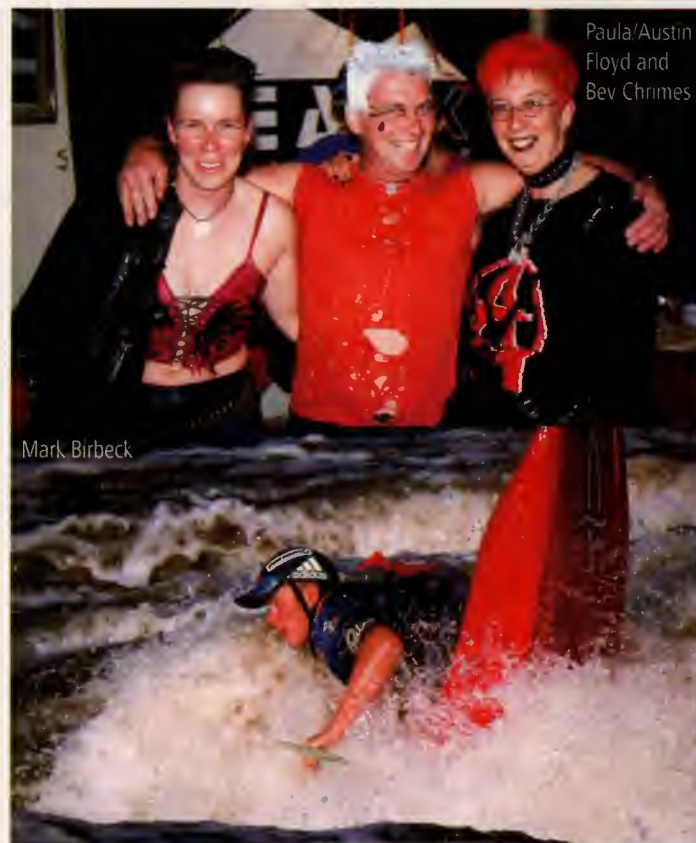
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# PeakUK Whitewater Challenge

## BCU Paddlefest Holme Pierrepont 23/24 Sept 2000

**T**he third and final event of the series kicked off big style on the Friday night with the Punk, Mod, and Skinhead themed Y10PQK party - celebrating ten years of Peak UK!!! The first event of the weekend was the head to head Downriver. The start was an out of the boat Le Mans style on the far side of the regatta course and then involved a sprint across the regatta lake, a portage over the hill into the Winfield Pool and then down the whitewater course to the bottom bridge. As usual it was carnage from the start, with 100 paddlers all trying to launch through a small gap into the Winfield Pool. In the end the men's race was won by Tim Morrison, Richard Chrimes was top junior, and Treena Stephens the top lady.

The Freestyle event then followed late on Saturday afternoon. 2 x 45sec runs in the plughole and muncher were scored for each paddler. Matt Stephen's new instant scoring computer software was working perfectly, displaying each paddlers score on the riverside scoreboard instantly after their runs. This awesome system looks set to revolutionize the sport at top level. In the ladies Paula loyd took the honors, Junior Richard Chrimes won the men's with Mark Birkbeck taking top junior spot. The third leg of the challenge went off on Sunday morning. The Extreme Slalom ran from the pyramid eddy to the sperm rock. The course combined a series of slalom and freestyle moves including a spin, cartwheels, and a wavewheel gate, as well as the now legendary Snakey zigzag move. Ex slalom boy Bledd put in a flyer and would've won but for a pathetic finish sprint, but British Slalom Champion Tim Morrison took the men's win. Richard Chrimes was top junior again, and Lara Tipper scored gold in the ladies event. ●



Paula/Austin  
Floyd and  
Bev Chrimes

Mark Birbeck

The overall results for the weekend were:

Ladies:

- 1st Lara Tipper,
- 2nd Treena Stevens,
- 3rd Lyndsay Evans

Men:

- 1st Tim Morrison,
  - 2nd Richard Chrimes (J),
  - 3rd Snowboy
- with Snowboy Mark Robertson, Junior Bill Anderson, and Treena Stephens taking the overall Challenge series titles for the year. Well done...

Thanks to everyone for turning up, all our devoted helpers and sponsors: Landrover, Peak UK, Riot, Necky, Five Ten, Clif Bar, Pyranha and Cotswolds... plus anyone else that helped!!!

Pete Astles [www.peakuk.com](http://www.peakuk.com)



Eli Herbert - world OCI champ

# The Deep End of Sea Kayaking on the South Coast



Into the sunset, mad dash for the last night's camp spot

How do you introduce a group of lads with a few months of paddling experience to sea kayaking? Gently or all in one go? Mark thought all in one go would be a good idea, so the five guys on a youth training programme (affectionately known as the Hendra boys) were asked to prepare... The rest of us, Adam myself and my partner Steve were along for the ride.

**I**t was wet and windy as we loaded our assortment of sea kayaks onto the trailer. Dodging raindrops we made our last minute kit checks and began to doubt the wisdom of the planned mini epic three day/two night trip on the coast of Cornwall.

Nonetheless we set off from our base at the Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre near St Austell in Cornwall, and made the two hour trip to Kennack Sands near the Lizard. Fortunately by this time the rain had stopped so we were able to load our kit into the boats in the dry. However there was still a good force three blowing and the launch through otherwise ideal couple of foot of surf suggested a possible challenge to the less experienced of the our group. However the launch went smoothly and although it took a little while for everybody to get used to the following wind and swell. Fortunately once we rounded our first headland we were sheltered from everything, and from then on our trip enjoyed largely completely calm seas. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly paddling conditions can change dependant on the lay of the coastline or the strength and direction of the wind or swell.

The first days journey passed quite quickly as we made our way along the dramatic coastline of the extreme south west. We saw gravel pits and remains of old mine workings, but unfortunately no basking sharks which had been previously plentiful this year. We also paddled over The Manacles, a bay of

Jack's fish



First night's camp



underwater rocks that have brought disaster to many a larger vessel. To us in kayaks however, that legendary place of silicone destruction looked as gentle as the proverbial lamb.

Our first bivvy site was planned to be at Nare Head, just before the Helford River. We got there in good time and spirits and began about the important tasks of camp building and wood finding. Jack and Alan raised a few smiles with their plans to 'sleep under their kayaks' and an interesting pair of shelters was produced making use of balancing acts and tarpaulins. To give them due, the kayaks held up, and if Jack and Alan were at all uncomfortable overnight neither of them said anything. As darkness fell we all got busy cooking tea. To everyone's surprise the Hendra lads showed off a wealth of experience of catering under the stars with a fantastic display of what can be done with a Trangia. Steve did his hunter gathering thing and collected and cooked some limpets, with some of the lads also enjoying the delicacy.

We got a really big campfire going and spent the evening around it, chatting and drinking any alcohol we had brought with us. The boys had just got back from a trip to Ireland, so spent a bit of time regaling us with Irish jokes and stories. It was very pleasant and we didn't make it into our tents until nearly midnight.

The following was notably lacking in sunshine and we had only just managed to pack the boats before it began to rain. On entry to the Helford estuary the wind had picked up to about force four so we found some shelter and went through some sea kayak specific skills. From there we paddled up the heavily wooded river mouth and passed some very expensive yachts to stop for lunch at Gweek, with the opportunity to replenish food stocks. Back down river again with the tide and wind behind us and the skies brightening considerably it was time to make serious progress for our bivvy spot. Unfortunately this was still a long way off and we were all getting tired.

Meanwhile Jack and Allan continued their relentless search for fish. Now at this point it's worth mentioning that when the trip was first suggested, Alan decided that he would like to 'live off the land' and asked what seagulls tasted like. Obviously he changed his mind later, but he and Jack had unsuccessfully tried for most of the trip to catch some fish. However into the late afternoon of the second day Jack finally had a bite that wasn't sea weed, and managed to reel in a small mackerel which he planned to have for his tea. This proved a bit of a high spot in an otherwise hard slog to make camp before dark.

After a fruitless search for a closer camp site we eventually we got into the Fal Estuary, and then to Falmouth for fish and chips and a short break before heading onwards. The boys battled on uncomplaining. Special mention must be made of Gavin, who, when he thought that he might be holding the group up paddled the last mile on a blistering second wind. By this time the sun was going down rapidly although the sunset was breathtaking. Dodging a sailing school we finally landed and made camp just before it got dark.

The following morning instead of our previous twenty four miles we had just five more to go – and that with the wind and tide with us. We gently paddled up the river to Truro passing loads of huge ships moored up waiting for the scrap man. After the ready availability of stopping places whilst at sea, it came as somewhat of a shock to the system to find all of the river beaches adorned with signs forbidding trespassers. However the river eventually brought us to Truro where all we had to do was get changed and await the welcome arrival of the minibus.

So was Mark's 'in the deep end' decision justified? I think so. The Hendra boys rose to the challenge fantastically, providing enjoyable, entertaining and often amusing company. The trip was considered to be a big success and spending three days around people that you don't normally see outside of working hours provided a great opportunity to get to know everyone better. Besides, as the only girl in the group I had fascinating window on lads behaviour that I wouldn't otherwise have got to see! ●

# MORE MEDALS



Ed McKeever  
and Ali Rosier

# 8th Marathon World Championships

Dartmouth,  
Canada 2/3  
September  
2000

## 3 Medals for G.B. Juniors

The marathon World Championships were held this year in Nova Scotia, Canada on a series of lakes. The juniors had to race laps of the first two lakes which were connected by a narrow bridge whilst the seniors also had a feared 700m. portage out to the third lake and back.



Jenny Spencer

Andrew Kelly  
and Tim Sowry

### RESULTS

#### Men K1

1	M. Busto	ESP	2:22:30.4
2	I. Salgar	HUN	2:22:32.4
3	M. Leverett	AUS	2:22:32.7
5	C. Holmes	GBR	2:23:16.3
6	I. Lawler	GBR	2:23:17.7

#### Women K1

1	M. Santos	ESP	2:34:20.7
2	K. Szonda	HUN	2:34:22.0
3	C. Meek	AUS	2:34:22.1
7	A. Cattle	GBR	2:43:47.0
10	Y. Ford	GBR	2:47:44.7

#### C1

1	C. Scales	DEN	2:40:19.1
2	P. Bednar	CZE	2:40:19.7
3	P. Petervari	HUN	2:40:37.8
11	J. Lee	GBR	2:53:38.4

#### Jun. Men K1

1	A. Van Koeverden	CAN	1:15:38.8
2	B. Borsok	HUN	1:15:39.7
3	T. Sowry	GBR	1:15:39.9
4	A. Kelly	GBR	1:15:49.1

#### Jun. Women K1

1	J. Spencer	GBR	1:23:22.3
2	V. Tuttle	CAN	1:23:47.5
3	J. Nordlow	SWE	1:23:53.4
11	R. Bates	GBR	1:28:53.4

#### Men K2

1	S. Guerrero, J. Alonso	ESP	2:12:44.6
2	J. Martinez, R. Quevedo	ESP	2:12:45.9
3	M. Pinto, M. Gomes	POR	2:12:46.5
21	J. Block, G. Slater	GBR	2:21:23.6

#### Women K2

1	R. Csay, A. Pitz	HUN	2:25:27.6
2	K. Szonda, E. Javorszky	HUN	2:26:07.9
3	M. Barford, J. Knudsen	DEN	2:26:08.6
6	A. Dalloway, H. Gilby	GBR	2:36:13.9
9	L. Hardy, B. Campbell	GBR	2:44:47.3

#### Jun. Men K2

1	A. Kelly, T. Sowry	GBR	1:11:17.3
2	N. Andersson, P. Svensson	SWE	1:11:18.9
3	T. Murray, C. Gorrie	AUS	1:11:26.6
8	E. McKeever, A. Rosier	GBR	1:14:25.9
9	S. Fennemore, A. Bayliss	GBR	1:14:25.9

#### Jun. Women K2

1	Y. Larsson, I. Ed	SWE	1:18:35.3
2	A. Caiger-Watson, V. Tuttle	CAN	1:18:36.3
3	Z. Kollar, J. Kollar	HUN	1:19:51.7
8	C. Hannon, C. Gillbe	GBR	1:23:06.4
13	N. Taylor, J. Barrell	GBR	1:26:05.2

Saturday morning was junior singles racing and the G.B. team got off to a great start. Tim Sowry and Andrew Kelly were in the leading group of the junior men's K1 right to the end with Tim taking the bronze medal 0.2 second behind the Hungarian and Andrew pushed into 4th place. In the women's race, Jenny Spencer took the gold with a clear win over the local girl, Tuttle from Canada, who had to be satisfied with silver in both K1 and K2. Ros Bates was 11th in her first major marathon international. In the afternoon it was the turn of the seniors with high hopes for reigning world champion, Ivan Lawler, and Connor Holmes, winner of the Stockton World Cup. Although in the large leading group for most of the race, neither managed to make the breakaway group of three on the final lap. The win went to the Spaniard Busto with Salga of Hungary taking the silver medal for the second year running. Australians were 3rd and 4th with a very disappointed Connor 5th and Ivan 6th. In the women's K1 race, Abi Cattle finished a creditable 7th in her first senior world championships with Yale Ford 10th.

Sunday was doubles day. Again the juniors had the best result with Andrew Kelly and Tim Sowry taking a fine win in the junior men's K2. Three minutes further back the other two G.B. boats were having a ding-dong battle with McKeever & Rosier finally beating Fennemore & Bayliss by just 2/100ths of a second. Best junior women's K2 was Claire Hanon & Clare Gillbe in 8th place - lower down the field than they had hoped.

The weekend finished with the senior doubles racing. The men's K2 race was disastrous for G.B. with James Block & Greg Slater the only boat to finish and in 21st place. In the women's K2 the results were almost identical to last year with Andrea Dalloway & Helen Gilby finishing

6th and Lucy Hardy & Beth Campbell 9th.

Overall the Spanish seem to have established themselves as currently the strongest country, taking three of the senior titles, ahead of the Hungarians and with the Australians re-emerging as a force both in senior and junior categories. For Britain it was a disappointing Worlds in a rather low key atmosphere, rescued by some outstanding junior results. Next year the Worlds are on our doorstep in Stockton giving us the opportunity to take major titles in front of a home crowd at a more up-beat event.

### David Enoch

BCU Performance Director, John Anderson and Chief Executive Paul Owen at the sharp end - supporting on the long portage.

Photo: David Enoch



Connor Holmes and Ivan Lawler finishing 5th and 6th.

Photo: Barney Wainwright



Andrew Kelly, pushed into 4th in the K1 but gold medallist in K2

Photo: Barney Wainwright



Abi Cattle at the portage with the Hungarians

Photo: Barney Wainwright







## Instructor Training Course Loch Rannoch Outdoor Centre

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# Uncle Sam Ne

Stepping off the plane in Boston, in the Middle of May, I was surprised to see the heavens open up and bolts of lightening try to hit me, whilst a deluge of rain fell from the sky. I had enjoyed the British summer (you know, the one that we had in April!), in shorts and t-shirts, and had been expecting a climate similar to Spain at 43 degrees North- so had brought the shorts and t-shirts with me to work in the US- my first mistake.

**A**t last, I had arrived at my final destination Peaks Island, 3 Amiles East from the city of Portland, Maine, 8 hours and 3500miles from the UK.

My first assignment- to take out a group of Green Berets for the week, training them about the different strokes, and how to use their kayaks in conditions. Great, I thought, going out, exploring new territory with a group who would no doubt be fit, able to learn quickly, and cover some ground. When I met these towering beef cakes they had brought along their kayaks, double Kleppers, some of which I am sure still dated back to World War 2! I knew that my work was going to be cut out for me.

Never the less, this was a very enjoyable week that really kick started my season- I even learnt a new kayak term, "the funky chicken". This is where you hold your breath underwater until your chest starts to heave involuntarily, only then are you allowed to exit. Not to be recommended for other clients!

## Guide training

The first week of June was spent staff training- or guide training. This was both an eye opener and a great way to learn about the way the US delivers kayaking and to share views and information. There are definitely 2 branches of kayaking delivery to US clients. One is the guide route, and one is the coaching route. Both requiring transferable skills, but each having its own focus and philosophy. In the UK there are not many multi day trips going ahead yet, where as the market in the US dictates the need to supply multi-day, mainly camping based trips.

Many clients wish to fulfil the vision of travelling serenely from Island to Island, picnicking, enjoying the seashore environment and using the kayaks to camp from, gaining the basic skills to allow them to get from a to b.

Others are hard core kayak skills learners- wanting to know about the nuances of the hanging draw, sculling for support or the paddle float rescue, the theory behind navigation, trip planning and weather forecasting. Both of these jobs require a high level and concentration of delivery in their different ways, neither offering time for complacency.

## Massive growth market in the US

Travel the Interstate in your car and every ten minutes or so you'll see the kayaks on the roof racks. Kayaking is a massive growth market in the US. All clients are eager to go kayaking, pay good money and expect a good product. Many of the clients are in high-powered jobs and use kayaking as a way of filling in their precious vacation time. This means that days will often start by 7am, getting all boats and equipment prepared based on the heights and weights of your clients, and will go on until 5 or 6pm and until bedtime when guiding. Not as laid back as some places in the UK!

All of these potential kayakers need coaches and guides to get more out of this increasingly popular past time. The American Canoe Association (ACA) run great courses for those teaching the basics, but the BCU has a system that allows further development of skills of seamanship, decision-making factors and the use of skills and

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Article written by John-Paul Eatock L5 Aspirant Sea kayak  
Pictures taken by Steven Allen L3 trainee Sea kayak

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The Real Thing chip shop

knowledge in conditions. BCU qualifications therefore are highly recognised and sought after by businesses that are delivering kayaking. They also have a standard attached to them that means that US employers and potential clients know exactly what they are hiring and what you know.

You may end up taking out the client who, at 3pm on her kayaking trip has ran out of water, scoops up some salt water in her drink container, takes a good gulp and then opens her eyes in surprise whilst spurring out the water exclaiming- "This water is very salty!", or the client who just can't keep their sea kayak going in a straight line nor get their rudder to work the way they want after a whole day.

You will also get to explore some great and very different coastline. Increase your camping, group dynamic and communication skills massively. Work with some great people, and share the adventure of sea kayaking with people who appreciate your level of kayaking experience, and who are only too keen and willing to learn from you. ●

# Needs You!



**Above:** Equipment talk

**Left:** Coaching break

**Below:** Isle Au Haute area



**Above:** Me, Thor and Brian, Peak Island

**Left:** Michael in the boathouse



## More Information:

### What is the current exchange rate?

- 1 pound = 1.6 dollars

### Do I pay extra on the plane for a kayak?

- Yes you do, try to get it on saying that it is like a surfboard, and it will be cheaper than paying for a kayak.

### How do I start a Work visa?

- Talk to your possible employer and start the process as soon as possible.
- Get your employer to advertise the position to see if there are any local takers in the US that come up to their requirements.
- Send in your C.V., qualifications, letters of support and anything else required by your employer to satisfy the State.
- The employer fills in a form that they get from the State to apply for people from abroad to work in their company. All of the information is sent in to the State and the employer gets approval or not.
- The employer then sends this information from the State to the Federal Government.
- You then go to the American embassy in the UK with all of the relevant paperwork for an interview and approval or not to pick up the work visa (probably the H2B).

### What happens if my BCU application is declined?

- All BCU admin goes through the representative for the Nordkapp Trust. They then scan the paperwork and send it through to the BCU for approval or recording. Only Coaching courses and 4 star and above can be ran through Nordkapp Trust Approved Members.

### Do I require (or need) insurance?

- It is always advisable to get insurance out. You will probably not be eligible to it if you are working, but whilst travelling and doing things on days off it will be useful.

### What is the Nordkapp Trust?

- A group designed to promote safe sea kayaking worldwide. It has several appointed sea kayaking Centres that are instrumental in conducting BCU sanctioned sea kayaking courses. These Centres include staff that hold BCU qualifications, and use staff from GB to provide higher caliber instruction.

### Problems of working in the US

- Clients who think they have more experience than they actually have- In the US there is a tendency to be over confident, thinking you are an intermediate with your 3 days of experience on flat water.
- HMU (High Maintenance Units)- Identify them and sort out their problems first, and usually they will be fine for the rest of their time with you.
- Tips, accept them politely and say thankyou very much- it is a common way for US clients to thank you.
- When filing BCU paperwork make sure that all of the t's are crossed and the l's are dotted- Everything needs to be totally correct to make the information flow easily between the BCU, the course director, provider and the client. (Keep copies of all paperwork sent away.) Thankyou to Bill Lozano for being patient with my paperwork!
- American beer is pretty light and just doesn't have the taste of home- brace yourself for this experience!

### How do I go about working in the US?

- Start to surf the web, sending out polite emails to companies that you may be interested in- check out their website first to see if it is a place that you'd like to be in and the sort of company that you would like to work for.
- Go to trade fairs in the UK and talk to the retailers about who they ship to, maybe they know of people who are interested in British Coaches to work for them.
- Look in the back of Sea Kayaker Magazine, Paddler Magazine or Canoe and Kayak Magazine, get the adverts and write, ring or email.
- Contact Tom or June Bergh on [info@maineislandkayak.com](mailto:info@maineislandkayak.com) for more information regarding advise for working in the US.
- For information from the British end, contact [jpeatock@virginnet.co.uk](mailto:jpeatock@virginnet.co.uk)



# Poacher 2000: Canoe Team



clear to see that as well as a good group of instructors, we also had a good group of entertainers! Even though it was raining, everyone was having a great time! Even the instructors!

As with all events, there is always a group of individuals who take charge. Well that was us! As level 2 coaches we were in charge on the water but also took charge of the entertainment. The three of us (Mark Everitt, Jimmy 'JJ' Johnson and myself, Steve 'GONZO'

Held at the Lincolnshire showground, Poacher 2000 was a week long camp aimed at the Scouting movement. During the last weekend of July, several hundred Scouts, Guides, Cubs, and Ventures, from all over the country, and the world, descended on the showground in anticipation of a week of activities and fun! Which leads to us...

**B**ased at the Hykeham Pits in Lincoln, the water village was formed. This was our base for the next week. Our objective, to teach canoeing to around 120 Scouts and Guides a day. With three level 3 coaches, four level 2 coaches and a merry bunch of eager 2/3 star paddlers, we hatched our action plan on Sunday afternoon. After a group 'bonding' paddle and some team building exercises, the canoe team was ready for anything... That was until it started to rain on Monday morning, just as 60 canoeists arrived for a 2-hour canoeing session! Our action plan changed to accommodate for the wet weather. After the group was divided into abilities and instructors were assigned, it was

Newton) formed 'the knights that say nie'. With our impressions of Monty Python sketches and Harry Enfields English for Aliens, we entertained the kids for as long as our voices lasted (which was till the end of day one!). With cries of 'Tree', 'Car' and 'ickle baby Jesus' we provided the on and off the water entertainment.

At the end of each session, the group was gathered into a large raft circle for the 'get wet' entertainment! Led by the knights that say nie, the vocal cords stretched to renditions of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and JUMP!' with the inevitable raft running and 'Cat and Mouse' games taking place.

With the sun making a welcome appearance for the rest of the week, everyone enjoyed the weeks canoeing. The Scouts and Guides had a fun introduction to canoeing, the young canoe instructors gained a valuable week of coaching skills, and as for us...well we eventually re-gained our voices a few days later! ●

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Mark Everitt, Jimmy 'JJ' Johnson and myself, Steve 'GONZO' Newton) formed 'the knights that say nie'.

Our thanks go to all the instructing and service team, Sam Turner and the catering staff, Andrew Turner and Garry Knight for the level 3 cover and leadership, and special thanks go to the water village co-ordinator, Richard 'More cheese Boggit' Arden, for the great job of organising the event. See you all in 2004!  
Steve 'GONZO' Newton



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# news & info

## National Bell Boat Championships 2000



Above: Cedric meets some young paddlers

**A** total of 20 teams battled it out for honours at the second Bell Boat National Championship event held at the National Watersports Centre Nottingham on a gloriously sunny Saturday at the end of September. In the under 12 group Storey School (Newham) were out to defend their title from last year – but there were many really good crews more than ready to deprive them of the title. It was a very close final race but Storey School yet again were the victors. In the under

14 and under 18 there were some more very close races which had the judges eyes totally focussed on the finish line as the boats flashed passed. The final race was an "all comers" race which gave all the helpers/parents and coaches an opportunity to race. Naturally what really made the event was the enthusiasm of the young paddlers and their helpers as they cheered each other along with a huge amount of fun for everyone!

The event was also pleased to welcome NCH Action for Children who brought along their mascot, Cedric the dragon who made friends with many of the paddlers and even took to the water in the "all comers" race. Next year teams will be invited to raise funds for the charity through the season with a grand final and prize giving at the National Championships.

Thanks to Cedric for presenting the prizes The Bell Boat event was part of the Paddlesport weekend and many young paddlers took the opportunity to participate in the programme of events running for youth through the weekend – which included a "Come and try it" session, coaching in the new youth racing boat – the Lightning, ergo paddling machine challenge, Diamond slalom challenge and Lightning Challenge. Here's a brief summary –

Slalom challenge. For some this was a totally new experience – others were able to demonstrate their skills and gain a certificate. A total of 19 awards were achieved - 2 silver awards, 5 bronze and 12 blue – well done to all for your efforts. Special congratulations to paddlers who gained the following awards:

- Jasper Thompson: Silver
- John Mansfield: Silver

For details of how you could run a Diamond slalom challenge at your local club/organisation call the BCU Coaching Office for the latest information leaflet.

### Challenge Event

Unfortunately the weather did not hold for this event – and the rain hit paddlers and spectators alike just at the start of this event. 27 young paddlers lined up for the 1500 metre race – paddling off into the rain and gloom – but gloomy was certainly not the spirit! This was followed by a 200 metre sprint event – with competitors set off in 5 or 6 boat races. Congratulations to all for their efforts. Certificates were awarded to all competitors and special congratulations to the winners of the distance race which were as follows:



Pos	Under 11 Girls	Under 11 Boys	Under 13 Girls	Under 13 Boys
1st	Laura Ferguson	Pip Ede	Rohan Battison	Mason Stavri
2nd	Jenny Swallow	Carl Ainsworth	-	Alex Hall
3rd	Shea Hickman	Jacob Saunders	-	Daniel Simpkin

## News for Teachers

**A**s part of the National Coaching Foundation, Coaching for Teachers Programme, canoeing is now included in the Coaching Incentive Programme and in some regions for the Easter course programme.

The Coaching Incentive Programme is accessed via your local education authority – details of the Easter courses are available from your local NCF Regional Training Unit. Alternatively, call BCU Head Office for dates and details. The Easter courses include Bellboat Helm and Placid Water Level 1 and we have courses planned so far for Exeter, Nottingham and Teeside – with more hopefully to come. We will post full details of all the courses on the BCU web site (Young People) once dates have been confirmed.

## Westminster's Boating Base successful Paddlepower event

**P**addlers from the central London watersports centres flocked to Westminster Boating Base on Sunday, September 11th, to take part in a low level slalom



### Diamond Slalom Challenge

On the Sunday over 32 young paddlers took to the water on the Wingfield pool site for some slalom practice and the Diamond

YOUTH

competition on the only day of the year when father Thames stops rolling along.

For the second successive year the Base has staged the competition on the day that the Thames barrier is raised for its sole annual test - with the tide stopped almost totally for the better part of the day.

The fully adjusted fourteen gate course was constructed with gates hanging from the pier leading to the Base's pontoon, and from gates slung from cables from the pontoon on the shore.

The forty or so young paddlers were drawn from several Inner London centres as part of WBB's Paddlepower development plan - many of them never having paddled the Thames at all previously. With quite a small crowd watching the unusual event from the neighbouring park, contestants were kept energetic with a free barbecue laid on for them.

The only hiccup was when practice times had to be extended as the full closure of the Barrier was delayed by almost an hour with a sluggish tide running until 11.30am. The late start meant pushing the event along and the two full runs had only just been completed when the river burst into life again as the Barrier was being opened.

The success of the second running of the event almost certainly means that it will become a regular fixture on the Thames calendar - and according to WBB's Paddlepower representative Adam White it could be the precursor to further added 'fun' events to celebrate No-Tide day.

Principal medals were shared fairly evenly between the home paddlers and visitors from Islington Boat Club (IBC) and Surrey Docks Watersports Centre (SDWC).

Results: Overall Winners

Boys:			
1st Chris McBae (IBC)	2nd Charlie Power (IBC)	3rd David Holtam (WBB)	
Girls:			
1st Sarah Holtam (WBB)	2nd Rosie Moxham (SDWC)	3rd Sarah Rex (IBC)	

Age Group Winners

Boys:	J18 Oliver Sloggett-Taylor (WBB)
	J14 Mathew Ellen (SDWC)
	J12 Daniel Stephenson (WBB)
Girls:	J18 Nicola Dicks (IBC)
	J14 Lavinia Engleman (WBB)
	J12 Kelly Arachaveleta (WBB)

At the prize giving the trophy for Westminster Boating Base's season long Slalom League, which was won by David Holtam was also presented. The David Graham gold medal, together with a £50 cheque for equipment, which is awarded to the young paddler showing the most determination to succeed as chosen by the instructional staff, went to 12 year old Josh Borin.

The privilege of being there

A group of special needs young people from Oakwood High School, Salford spent a week sea kayaking in West Cork, Ireland.

Last year we decided to set as our Millennium Challenge: a canoeing activity in each of the countries of the British Isles. With the highlight being a sea kayaking trip to the West of Ireland.

Prior to Ireland we organised several day trips, using local water and a weekend trip to Anglesey. Fiona Taylor a volunteer spent several evenings on Worsley Canal giving one-to-one instruction to members of the group and the Anglesey weekend prepared us for the constant rain we anticipated meeting in Ireland. The experience of these preparation activities proved to be invaluable for a group such as ours. Along with the assistance offered by Hexagon International and Stena Ferries in organising the trip.

Having been to Ireland before on a family holiday it was decided to give us two days to make our way down to West Cork. The ferry crossing from Holyhead to Dublin occupied the first two days, an overnight camp in Co. Wicklow and a 5/6 hour drive to our destination. The roads are slow, rarely being able to travel over 50 mph and by the end of the second day we had two very irate drivers, me being one of them. Ironically I did hear an argument in favour of the slow road system: as a way of protecting the beauty spots of the West Coast from the hordes of tourists, which will

Wild Web



Modern materials have completely altered the world of canoeing, and kayaks in particular have benefited from the new materials. Fibreglass offered a cheap material which brought kayaking into the realm of most ordinary people, and Kevlar is taking the composite technology into the new millennium. It is undoubtedly plastic, though, that has been the great material invention of the twentieth century for paddlers, and now virtually every canoe on the river is made of this versatile substance. The technology of laminates is making this substance even better with the invention of plastics such as Royalex which combine the properties of various plastics to produce products with magical properties. Indeed, there is now such a bewildering array of plastic materials that it can be hard when choosing a canoe to decide which plastic to look for especially for open canoe paddlers. Old Town Canoes website gives a handy breakdown of the various

plastics they use at <http://www.otcanoe.com/const-polyethylene.html> with an easy to use comparison chart at the bottom of every page. Although we have come to consider plastic as indestructible it is possible to hole or gash a canoe. If you need to repair a plastic canoe then one of the first places to look is Jacks plastic welding page which has been around a while, but which offers good advice. <http://web.frontier.net/jacks/repweld.html> The site offers a particularly useful guide to spotting Ultra Violet damage, which often initially appears as a crack caused by an impact with a rock. UV damaged boats are probably not worth repairing as the problem could easily recur. Jack recommends using specialist hot air plastic welding equipment for your repairs, but Imperial College student Neil Shirtcliffe discovered his own method of plastic welding detailed at <http://www.su.ac.uk/~canoe/guide/fix.html>. If we skip quickly over the fact that he managed to set light to a Bat with a blow torch his technique with a hot air paint stripper looks very interesting. The trick it seems is to apply gentle heat over a period to gain the required degree of melt, and not to rush in and zap everything in sight. Royalex offers its own challenges, especially as it's foam core is very susceptible to UV radiation. The hot tip is to cover abrasion marks with tape as soon as possible. Mad River canoe at <http://madrivercanoe.com/care-repair.html> suggests repairing big holes with Kevlar rather than fibreglass as it is more flexible, or using a proprietary Royalex repair resin available from dealers. For those of you paddling fibreglass then very comprehensive repair advice can be found at <http://sites.state.pa.us/PAExec/FishBoat/julaug99/fiberglass.htm> If you wish to suggest a site or subject for this column to review, e-mail [steve@canoeocus.co.uk](mailto:steve@canoeocus.co.uk)

## YOUTH



inevitably arrive with a fast road system. When we did finally arrive at Maria's Schoolhouse, our lodgings, and were provided with wonderful tea and scones (only to be surpassed by a meal I describe later) all the frustration of the trip disappeared.

We had arranged to link up with Kennedy, Atlantic Sea-Kayaking, who possessed a thorough knowledge of the area and was destined to lead a very enjoyable and rewarding week with us.

The first day's weather was miserable. High waves which were totally unsuitable for our group. Jim put his local knowledge to the test and suggested a piece of protected water near Castletownsend. Which we later used for a night paddle, exploring the nooks and crannies looking for phosphorescent sea life. The first day was spent on becoming familiar with safety equipment, basic strokes; forward, backward, beginning of corrective strokes, the sea kayaks themselves, etc. This was all achieved by exploring a small estuary running in Rineen Woods. The group began to recognise why touring is so fascinating. The wood had numerous herons positioned in the trees fishing, waiting to spear any fish they saw and in turn numerous scavengers - seagulls - were waiting to pounce on any successful heron. Later on in the week we saw seals playing off Rabbit Island. These sightings quickly became a high spot of the week, along with the exploration of the coast and its rock formations.

The second day was spent on the tidal Lough Hyne. This Lough runs into Barloge creek via a section of class 2/3 rapids. Its quickly became clear the Lough offered us a protected site where we could extend the skills learnt the previous day. We came into contact with a variety of wind conditions, an experience which we were to need for the following day's kayaking. Without doubt though the delight of the day was a run through the rapids. First the members went down in pairs, in sea kayaks and then as individuals. For Dave and myself it was Jim taking us out onto the open sea. Its amazing how quickly the waves can take you and with so little effort from the canoeist, (my type of paddling, some people believe I should be a sailor because it requires little effort).

Our trips are not just about canoeing; they are also about building up life skills. We always go for a meal in a nice restaurant. Well this time we hit the jackpot! Maria offered to cook our group a three course meal: vegetable soup; locally caught sea salmon marinated in ginger and lemon, which she



barbecued along with a fabulous home made burger; strawberry and rhubarb pie with ice cream to finish. It was wonderful to see our kids praising this food in comparison with the normal junk food many of them eat. It is all part of personal development and raising aspirations.

The target for the week was a 10km, coastal paddle. We put in at Squince Harbour, to paddle around Rabbit Island. The breeze was coming from inland so keeping close to the shoreline where it was relatively flat and calm, left only small swells to deal with. From Rabbit Island we turned west following the coastline. Jim was constantly encouraging us to let the breeze, tide, water do as much of the work as possible, reminding us that we were out for the whole day. For lunch we turned north into Blind Harbour, which was a slog as we were going inshore into the wind. Again it was a steady consistent stroke, to conserve energy.

After having lunch we paddled west out of Blind Harbour. Again following the coastline, keeping close to the cliffs, gaining shelter from the shore-side wind. We slipped through the passageway between the cliffs and Skiddy Island, to turn into Castle Haven Estuary. The last leg of the day's paddling. The enthusiasm for the trip kept to the end. The group was so motivated they loaded the trailer, without any help from me. I have been working with Stuart Gibbon for too long. I see this as a successful delegation. The final day's paddling was spent playing on the surf and a beach picnic. A good fun day, as well as strengthening our basic skills.

Driving back we camped in Co. Wicklow again. Being told there might be some traditional music in the local public house, we all trotted down there. It looked like it had come out of a Dickens novel; a derelict coach-horse stop, the toilets were an out-house, no draught pumps, everything was sold in bottles, the cash till was a cardboard box, the dart board was covered in mould and fungi and the counter was a plank. Within an hour there were about 12 musicians in the room, the place was packed. The landlord was running about with a wide grin on his face and charging £2.50 a bottle of Budweiser. Our Problem! We had to leave early! A wonderful time was had by all.

All our members had learning difficulties. At the end of the week Jim favourably compared the ability of our group to any other age-equivalent group he had taken out. For us, that was an important statement he made. We would like to thank The Princes Trust and Soreen's for sponsoring the trip.

**Group Organisers:**  
Michael Appleyard and David Tweddle, Oakwood High Special School, Salford. ●

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# reviews...great Christmas present ideas



## Paddles Up for the Wild Rapids... First ever kayak game for the PlayStation

**W**ild Rapids is the first ever PlayStation game to deliver the adrenaline hit that is white water kayaking. An out and out arcade game rather than a kayaking sim, Wild Rapids nonetheless delivers a realistic physics model giving just the right balance between player control and being buffeted by the water.

Travel the globe competing against the best in the world or head-to-head against a friend, but remember one wrong move can result in a lung full of water.

Before taking to the water gamers must select a character and kayak. Each character and kayak has certain strengths and weaknesses such as the ability to perform a roll, speed and stability. Newcomers to the sport are advised to opt for stability over speed until they have mastered the ways of the white water.

In Championship mode gamers must compete over a number of gruelling courses from around the world contending with far more than just white water, From America to Europe and Japan, each course throws up its unique set of obstacles such as other boats, icebergs, volcanic rocks, swirling eddies and even alligators, which at the least hinder progress and at worst will cause the kayak to upturn losing vital seconds.

For those who prefer a human challenge there is a full head-to-head split screen mode where the kayaks' spin attack move really comes into its own.

## Yak's new range of accessories, they make excellent stocking fillers

Yak's new range of accessories include a, Yak Wallet (£9.95), Yak Watch strap (£4.95), Yak Rack Straps (£6.95 - £10.95), Key Rings (£1.99) and a thermal fleece beanie hats with an embroidered Yak head and logo on the front (£10.95). For more details please contact **Yak Tel: 023 9252 8621** or email [yak@crewsaver.co.uk](mailto:yak@crewsaver.co.uk)



## Kayak Sport UK [www.kayaksport.co.uk](http://www.kayaksport.co.uk)

The latest addition to the growing paddling community on the internet has arrived. Kayak Sport UK is aimed at you, the paddlers. Featuring a continually growing list of links of sites that are of interest to canoeists.

As a celebration of this we have teamed up with Radical Moves and their new website [www.radicalmoves.com](http://www.radicalmoves.com) to offer the chance to win a composite custom made paddle and a £50 gift voucher for the runner up donated by Radical Moves.

With truly user controlled content we listen to what you want us to add or change, why not meet with you friends and discuss the latest play spot or competition in our forum, buy sell and exchange in the free ads section or simply find out the latest weather and directions for your next trip, it's all available and free at [www.kayaksport.co.uk](http://www.kayaksport.co.uk)

## Polartec — Climate Control Fabrics



New Polartec Aqua Shell fabric, engineered by Malden Mills, represents the most advanced technical solution for all white water sports enthusiasts. Part of the Polartec Weather Protection family, this fabric offers the maximum warmth of Polartec Thermal fabrics with body-hugging 4-way stretch, freedom of movement, water repellancy and a windproof membrane. These combined technical features result in fabric that is perfect

for all water activities above and below the surface.

For further information please contact **Sue Pearson** at **Brahm** on **0113 230 4000**.



## NEW Ina Zone

**Aim: Pure Exhilaration Strategy: Design, Use, Improve!**

"Yeh baby" take the world's best selling planning hull boat the Ina Zone. Use it for 2 years; listen to what lots of paddler have had to say about it. Then improve it, refine it and get it in production! Result: the new Ina Zone Range from Pyranha for 2001.

So what have we changed? Firstly we have added a totally new boat to the range: the 212, designed specifically for you smaller people around the 45 to 65kgs (99 to 149lbs) weight range and who are shorter than the average bear! With it own dedicated set of Super XR Performance Kayak Fitting's designed specifically for people of this size. Not just throw in from bigger boats as an afterthought!

This thing is super sweet & smooth. It will be super fun on any size of wave or playsite, "Ho yes mama" it's got plenty of performance too. Small people have skill & talent as well!

The other boats 222, 232 and 242 have kept their user-friendly "Play the River" breeding and have been based around the original Ina Zones. Some have their own specific improvements like the 242 has a bigger cockpit and different volume distribution ratio (we kept this boat as short as we could so that you bigger people can have fun in the shallow places too! But still be able to take it down class 4/5. The 212 has recessed end grabs because of the small size of the boat (these were developed from the Pro Zone)

OK what about the design changes then, well at a rough count up we have made about 12 tweaks to the Ina Zone's. Some of the main ones are:

**Improved hull shape:** So that it will surf cleaner & cartwheel smother.

**New deck profile:** cleaner through the water both, forward, backward and end-to-end plus more foot & legroom.

**Improved volume distribution:** Smother sweeter transitions from end to end make the new Ina Zone go into auto rotate while you set up for the next move!



**New fittings:** Called Super XR. More adjustment & better power transmission.

## Wicked Liquid II....1000 Cunning Stunts



Once again Steve Fishes and Alex Nicks bring you some of the finest playboating and river running seen on the planet. Wicked Liquid II, this time includes footage from the Monstrous White Nile in Uganda, as well as a section of impressive gnarly creek runs from South Africa and the Kingdom of Swaziland. From these its back to the mighty Zambezi to watch members of the US, British, South African, French and Canadian freestyle teams as they prepare for the world freestyle Championships on the finest playboating river in the world. With good close up camera shots and running commentary throughout it is a very entertaining video. It really makes you question the paddlers sanity!

Please contact PeakUK Kayaking Company if you want to purchase a copy. Tel: 01629 581222 or email [info@peakuk.com](mailto:info@peakuk.com)

## Greenland Expedition, Where Ice is Born

By Lonnie Dupre; Windsor/Springfield; ISBN: 1 55971 707 6

Price: £16.95



While most of us live in the virtual world of voicemail and email, adventurer Lonnie Dupre immerses himself in the real world, even if it means enduring subzero temperatures of an expedition to Greenland. Where Ice is Born describes Dupre's attempt to be the first person ever to circumnavigate the world's largest island.

The project was planned as a 15-month, 4,800 mile challenge using only traditional modes of arctic travel – dog team and kayak, the way Greenland has experienced for centuries. In addition to the personal, physical challenge of the journey, Dupre also wanted to contribute to a better understanding of indigenous cultures which, in the face of an intruding 'civilised' world, strive to retain a traditional way of life based on a balance with nature.

Greenland Expedition details the journey as Dupre and Hoelscher battle the weather, hypothermia, isolation and polar bears. The enormous physical risk presented by the journey hit Dupre after he arrived home and found out that a Danish kayaker died attempting to follow the same eastern coastal route that Dupre had just finished. Nonetheless, Dupre and Hoelscher accepted these risks and in turn were rewarded with watching whales breach, the colours of the twilight sky, and their friendship with the dogs, each other and the Inuit people. An amazing 160 page book featuring outstanding photographs and enlightening journal entries.

Plus the ability to adjust your backband through your deck. Tighten it, loosen it, adjust it, its up to you!

**Fitting bag:** Lots of you have asked for the Pro Zone fitting bag to be put in all the new boats so its in! Look, if we make it any easier we will be fitting your boat out here at the factory.

So that's it! Smoother, friendlier, comfier, better all round! Available for the 2001 season. To test one of the new boats contact you local Authorized Dealer. To find them and a full write up on all the boats check out the totally new web page @ [pyranha.com](http://pyranha.com) while your at it!

## 'Other stuff'

As with most of our designs as a request from paddlers a new lower seat for the Pro Zone series of boats has been designed. The Pro Zones were originally designed to give paddlers the best all-round freestyle performance we could. This meant that a higher sitting position was required to give paddlers a more dynamic weight throw position. The new seat will accommodate people with bigger thighs and also make the boat friendlier for those paddlers who don't need this high degree of weight throw.



# Xelunt! Awesome! Wicked!

A personal account of the Open Canoe Symposium 2000 by Alastair M Seagroatt



**H**ardly the sort of headline you would expect from the veggie boaters (as one of the staff at Glenmore called us) – but explanations later. Around 100 open canoeists of various shapes, ages and sizes gathered in September at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland's National Outdoor Centre, for a weekend of fun, frolic, discussion, practise, demos and deliberation. Friday night was the intros, signing up for workshops, getting your free T shirt provided by the Symposium's generous sponsors and the bar – with homemade music by disparate folk, myself included.



Next day – somewhat woozy I had to join the Rodeo Open Boaters for a session at Grandtully on the Tay. The water was a reasonable grade 3 level, I drew the short straw and the tippy boat and

was underwater within 5 minutes. The main advice seemed to be forget J – stokes and steering and all that stuff and just paddle forward like fury. With these bits of advice I then managed to paddle backwards over the main fall – but stayed upright, a fate not shared by others. These boats are amazing, with loads of insect names such as Super Fly and Skeeter (but not midgies for some reason). They resemble bath tubs with tipped up ends and wall to wall airbags and provide great

The next Symposium is in Wales in 2001 – if it is this good, sign up as it is announced. Pictures will be available to view on my website at

[www.electroniccottage.co.uk](http://www.electroniccottage.co.uk)

The weekend was made possible by the hard work of Stephen Macdonald from Beyond Adventure plus all the other volunteers and Tutors. Also the sponsors, ... ta for the T-shirt folks.



laughs, even for the technically challenged such as me. Eli Herbert from USA (Current World OC-1 rodeo champion), James Weir and Jamie Burbeck (current UK OC-1 Senior and Junior Rodeo Champions respectively) were all brought to the Symposium thanks to generous backing from Mobile Adventure (See Eli's web site at [www.paddlelink.com](http://www.paddlelink.com)) They gave us some coaching and superb demos, doing spins off rocks, pop out from stoppers and rolling with great abandon. 'Xelunt! Wild! Wicked!' ... the Shouts of the dread locked tutors seemed so right. The number of capsizes gave us lots of opportunities for throw line practice.

We retired, somewhat battered to Glenmore Lodge to do some more shopping, courtesy of Highland Canoes, Stirling and Carlisle Canoe, Gnu Expedition Systems and Cairngorm Mountain sports who ran all retail stalls during the weekend. Then we sampled the delights of workshops. I managed to get to the rodeo boat rolling session which was amazing as well as successful for many of those taking part. Cliff Smith gave a great show on making paddles, the main gist seemed to be .... Get your waterproof glue from Woolies or wherever, get some planks, stick them together, hacksaw out your shape and whittle down with a spoke shave and sander. If you don't like the shape, glue on another bit and try again. The results look impressive and mine is almost complete already – very satisfying. Then came a slide show of canoeing in the American Rockies – which looked fabulous. The kitchen gave us a superb buffet, followed by a video of the days action – all to a heavy metal beat – once again is this the peaceful open boating I'm used to? Finally – the bar. All the assembled company seemed to have had a great day, with much uphill paddling, trips down the Findhorn and glorious sails across Loch Morlich with assorted material (sails, umbrellas, poly bags but no knickers I'm told) hoisted aloft. Then the swapping of tall tales, ideas, gossip and all, with the assembled musicians belting out a strange assortment of songs and tunes well into the next morning – and wow that sax sounded great.

The next day was calm but everyone assembled for their regatta, rodeo boat sessions, sailing or trying out of the different craft, weird, wonderful and beautiful. I was off on the trip down the River Avon with a diverse crew plus Dave Letham and Alan Beaton as the tutors. We set off down the Livot (of whiskey fame) for 500 metres or so before dropping into the main river. The water was at a reasonable height and gave us much scope for play – with some going a wee bit overboard – literally. The sun sparkled on the river for some of the time and peeked as we paddled past. A super day on a great little river.

Then it was back to Glenmore Lodge for brief farewells and thank yous. On our return we learnt that, apart from the rodeo boat paddlers, the rest of the delegates had been to Loch Morlich where demo boats were available courtesy of Carlisle Canoes, Pyranha and Mobile Adventure, Ray Goodwin (who organises the Welsh Symposium) led an interesting workshop entitled 'An holistic approach to the paddle', at the same time Ash St-John Clare of Gnu Expedition Systems, Tom Sibbald and Nick Scott had organised a hilarious team canoe event including bungee canoeing, gunnel bob races etc. etc.' ●

WHAT'S ON

## news &amp; info

## London Boat Show

5-14th January 2001

A boating fest to blow away mid-winter boating blues is planned for January's 47th London Boat Show at Earls Courts. With more than 800 boats, the best from around the world in equipment and clothing as well as the first pick of the new season boating and watersport holidays for 2001, the 47th London Boat Show is an event not to be missed. And with new extended evening hours, visitors will have until 8pm on weekdays to make the most of their day at the show. Reduced price advance tickets are now on sale through the ticket hotline at £9.50 (£11 on the door) To book tickets, call the **advance ticket hotline in 0115 9129111** or book on-line through [www.bigblue.org.uk](http://www.bigblue.org.uk)

## National Countryside Show

2nd-4th February 2001

If you enjoy outdoor pursuits then you probably love the countryside and all it has to offer. For those with a keen interest in the great outdoors, there is a major new show taking place at Earls Court, London, next February. The show will bring the best of the countryside direct into the heart of the capital providing a totally new experience in indoor events, with great deals and fabulous entertainment on offer. Tickets are from £8 for adults and £4 for children. **Tickets and further information are available by ringing 0207 3164848** or see the website at [www.countrysideshow.co.uk](http://www.countrysideshow.co.uk)

## 2001 World Surf Kayaking Championships

13-18th March

The world famous Steamer Lane point break in Santa Cruz, California will be the site for the 2001 World Surf Kayaking Championships. Event host Dennis Judson of Adventure Sports Unlimited in Santa Cruz invites contestants, sponsors, spectators and volunteers to a week of great competition and fun. In addition to spectacular waves and hot competition, the event offers paddling demos, a silent auction, boat and equipment booths and evening festivities in a spectacular beach town known for its entertainment. For more details email [dennis@asudoit.com](mailto:dennis@asudoit.com)

## The Limpopo River Expeditions

April 2001

The aim of these expeditions is to do the Limpopo from source to sea. The first expedition, scheduled for April 2001, will start at the source in the Witwatersand and travel 470km overland down the Crocodile River valley to where the canoes will be put in. The next stretch, from the Macrico to Pafuri on the Mocambique border comprises some 690 km and includes a 100km whitewater section with numerous rapids and four major falls some will require lining down and/or portaging. The second expedition, scheduled for June 2002, will paddle some 610 km down the lower Limpopo from Pafuri to the Indian Ocean.

Each trip will require some 30 days including travel, mobilisation and demobilisation. I am looking for older (over 35

years) experienced canoeists to join me on the first of these expeditions that will comprise 4 or 6 persons using 5m long fibreglass, open canoes. This is a non-commercial venture that should cost ca £1750/person. In addition, in order to give something back to Nature, each participant will be required to raise at least £250 for donation to a conservation or eco-charity. If you are interested **contact Jevan Berrange on 01822 832027.**

## The Hebridean Challenge,

April 30th – May 3rd 2001

(financial backing permitting)

A new adventure race staged in, and supported by the local community of Scotland's Outer Hebrides. It will feature running over a wide variety of terrain, including moor, mountain and machair (dunes), road, mountain biking, kayaking and swimming. Key international figures from the world of Adventure Sport Racing have pledged their support – many have said they will compete in the race. It will be a relay for teams of four. Solo competitors will compete over slightly shortened version of the whole course. Suitably qualified youth and disabled teams may participate. The race is operating via a website located at [www.hebrideanchallenge.com](http://www.hebrideanchallenge.com) where you can register to receive email updates about the event. Interested parties can also telephone **Stephanie Sargent on 01851 870716** or email [steffisar@aol.com](mailto:steffisar@aol.com)

## SCA's Coaching conference

12/13/14th May 2001

Following the success of last years conference next years will be held on the 12-14th May at Glenmore Lodge. Check out the Lodge's Website for updates as they appear.

[www.glenmorelodge.org.uk](http://www.glenmorelodge.org.uk)

## Boston Canoe Club

May 13th 2001

Boston Canoe Club will be holding it's Marathon/Tour on Sunday May 13th 2001. Watch this space for further details.

## The International Festival of the Sea

24-27th August 2001

Held at Her Majesty's Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth. For more information please contact **International Festival of the Sea Ltd, 4 The Parade (PP86), HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 3LT. Tel: 02392 725000** Email [seafest@aol.com](mailto:seafest@aol.com)

## Burrs Open Weekend

6th &amp; 7th October 2001

River Irwell. Grades upto 3, all comers welcome. Campsite, bunkhouse, café, shuttle bus, trade stands. Touring from Ramsbottom to Burrs. **More information 0161 7649649** ●

# Mission Alps: Codenam



Mountains surrounding the Durance



**Top secret destination:** L'Argentiere, Les Alpes Francais  
**Hardcore Team:** York University Canoe Club

**This was ground breaking stuff!** York University Canoe Club was off to the French Alps, officially, for the first time in living memory. Safety officers had to be pacified, insurance on top of insurance had to be proven, cars and drivers found and tunnel tickets booked. It was in an euphoric moment after surviving one of the Alpine rivers that I agreed to organise next years trip whilst the thrills of the freezing water surpassed all headache memories of the organisation.

After months of planning and 24 hours squashed in a car with only two hours sleep, we arrived at L'Argentiere slalom site in the Durance at the heart of the French Alps. Within two hours the advanced party was ready (albeit in a sleepy-eyed, not very awake manner) at the river bank to tackle their first Alpine river. Instead of revising for finals, this had been the day dream of Dan, aka Bungle, that he and John should paddle the fast flowing, powerful river Cyr (4+/5), picking up Laura and I to continue down the Gryronde (3/4) before the other cars even arrived in the Alps. In the baking heat, Laura and I struggled to stay awake as we melted in thermals and neoprene shorts. We didn't seem a very motivated and eager team when the boys arrived with tales of how they did not deserve to have survived. Very abruptly both girlies were awakened as within ten seconds of being on the water we demonstrated what not to do when you meet a strainer tree. With a few bruises, minus one wetsuit shoe, we continued down the crystal clear river. As the difficulty eased off, I realised that the privilege of paddling glacial melt rivers, surrounded by truly spectacular scenery in the scorching sun, was worth every little bit of agonizing planning.

Twelve hours later, in the dead of the night whilst every one was catching up on lost sleep, the third and final car arrived. A carefully researched route plan had directed them on the shortest route, through central Paris! By the time they approached the mountains all the petrol stations had closed, leaving them freewheeling downhill and chugging slowly uphill on little more than fumes. The following morning the rising sun had its own clever plot for ensuring only the most resilient sleepyheads stayed in their tents long as it turned them into mini infernos. Revitalised with pain au chocolate fresh from the bakers, we set off from the campsite



'Triple Step' rapid on the Guil

on a warm up 'noddy' trip. For some of our team who had demonstrated their amazing fishing ability whilst never ceasing to smile and come back for more, the Alps trip was a grand finale to their first ever year of paddling. The harmless bouncy waves along the wide Durance gave a gentle hint of the fun to come as our trip cumulated at the European rodeo competition site of the Rabioux wave. (It was me who had paddled it several times before who demonstrated an involuntary ariel/upside down manoeuvre)

## Regained their confidence

The tempo of the river changed quickly the following day from legato (gentle, drift-along-sideways-with a polo ball) to allegretto (fairly quick, but nothing too taxing), with a little accelerando cumulating in a vigoroso paced river, (vigorous, strong, concentrate-all-the-time-otherwise you'll get pinned) The Upper and Lower Guisane was a truly fantastic paddle. The upper section was a lovely grade 3 with enough to keep you attentive in the way of boulders to dodge and a few interesting rapids where the river narrowed, but the ample opportunities to soak up the mountainous scenery. The lower section of continuous was exhilarating with no time to pause in eddies. The two girlies redeemed themselves and regained their confidence by both rolling in technical grade 4 sections much to the relief of the tail-end-Charlie as there were no eddies to fish out boats. My little brain was getting extremely exhausted towards the end from continually avoiding rocks with bow rudders and draw stokes. It seemed impossible anyone could survive without these essential slalom skills, but judging from the plastic left on some of the club boats, the attack-rocks—at-speed-and-hopefully-not-get-pinned method of paddling obviously worked in some cases, even if the boats were suffering from sore bottoms.

Through injury or exhaustion, our team the following day was greatly reduced to six hardy paddlers who braved the Guil. We didn't know what to expect as the river had been drastically changed by horrendous torrential rainfall weeks previously. An email had been circulated prior to our departure foreboding destruction and danger. The drive to the top at Abries was almost as exiting as the river as it seemed that the entire Alps gang of road builders were at work rebuilding sections of the road, reinforcing the banks and digging the river bed back out again. We could hardly believe our eyes when we saw a bulldozer driving up the riverbed, it would have been a fantastic photo with someone breaking out in the bucket. There was a sinister, ominous atmosphere as we paddled through the destruction. Huge hydro-electric pipes were mangled, dams and sluice gates choked and destroyed with trees and debris, a ski lift wrecked, huge lumps of concrete shifted and hundreds of trees lay stricken providing a constant pinning danger. An industrial wasteland or the Elephant's Graveyard from the Lion King were two analogies. The river was a mess resulting in strict

# e: Le Piss-up



alpine style eddy hopping and lengthy inspections. Our new Spud, nicknamed Golden Wonder, which was seconds old when we set off for the Alps, was looking a little misshapen after an argument with a rock. Tim collected an impressive amount of swim points with five swims, four pins and a roll, and still he was smiling! This was where the 'Jimbo Killer Mission: Part 11' plan was activated. To test that surviving the grade 5 Gyr after only two years of paddling was not a fluke, Jimbo bravely followed Dan down the much changed Chateaux Queyras gorge (minus the 360 spin/manoeuvre) With the Chateaux towering way above over the narrow gorge, it is a committing paddle with no escape.

The tales circulated by 'York Old Boys' of only one surviving upright, a flush-down-the-lavatory swim and an epic abseil to recover the boat, hardly eased the tension.

## Triple Step

There was more than one day's paddle to be had out of the Guil. This time we set off from the 'Triple Step' rapid. It had taken much deliberation and inspection by some of the hardier/madder members of the canoe club as to whether they could still run this grade 5 rapid as all the water seemed funnelled underneath a nasty looking undercut rock. It was only when a raft stopped absolutely dead for several long seconds in the first stopper that their minds were made up. The sun was shining and the water was a bright blue, reflecting the sky, evoking a much jollier mood and with it, increased confidence. There were loads of pinning opportunities and some of us has some lucky escapes. (Of course the alternative method of negotiating a narrow slot to the side of a huge boulder with a vertical pin on the boulder, drop down backwards, a second vertical pin on the river bank cliff, drop backwards finished with a casual roll back up the eddy was clearly intentional and obviously the best route!) The river monster gobbled two paddlers (spat out alive) but refused to release one set of paddles and two wetsuit boots. York displayed some of their finest faffing skills and it was a rather hot and factious team, armed with cameras, greeting us at the 'Letter Box'. Everybody had the opportunity to paddle the lowest section of the Guil. It might not have been the most exciting and challenging white water of the trip but I still think it is the most scenic. It is flanked by Mont Dauphin, the fortified garrison town built by Vauban for Louis XIV (spot the history student) and several impressive rock formations. It was easy to drift along, marvelling at the panorama only to find yourself nearly beached on



**Top:** L'Argentière slalom site on the Durance

**Above:** Rabioux rapid on the Durance

**Left:** York University Alps team

a newly formed island. Instead of being a bubbly, bumpy ride like previous years, the river banks had been gouged out, new islands formed, masses of trees ripped out an van sized lumps of concrete deposited. It was a lesson in respecting the power and force of the river gods.

In order to make the long trek to the Ubaye, today was officially faff free. Regardless of hangover, if you weren't in the car by 9.30am you'd be left at the campsite. I think everyone loved this river, there was something for everyone. We started on an easy grade 3 section which bimbled along harmlessly enabling you to admire the spectacular mountains which soared above on either side. A hardcore squad tackled the grade 5 Fresquieres section without any misadventure, whilst everyone else enjoyed a lazy lunch and joined them at the rafting centre of Le Martinet. The 'racecourse' section was a brilliant paddle with considerably more water than the upper section. There was a greater freedom of space, unlike most of the other tight, rocky rivers we had so far paddled. The larger volume water meant that it was speed and support strokes, which saw you down the rapids rather than rock dodging. The scenery deserved four stars, especially as the river narrowed to go through a step gorge with a Roman bridge way above our heads. It was a privilege to be able to paddle in such spectacular scenery.

By now you are probably yawning over what must be the umpteenth trip to the land of cheap plonk, but I think I can safely say that all who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained endless confidence and river running skills. With so many rivers to choose from, everyone found something to challenge them and push their river running boundaries a little further, even if a few swims were taken along the way. Let's hope we can return to the adventure playground of Europe next year, but first we've got to start all over again trying to persuade gullible freshers that icicles in your boat throughout the depths of winter in the frozen north really is fun!

**Written by Ruth Holdway** ●

# members

CLASSIFIED

Please forward all adverts to appear in the Members Classified direct to: BCU HQ in Nottingham. MEMBERS ADS FREE 0115 9821100

**For Sale Arrowcraft Vortex C1 slalom,** Nomad C2 Chute slalom both VGC. £250 inc. paddles and spraydecks. Phone Nigel on 020.8301.4212 (S.E. London)  
**2 Canadian Canoes,** glass fibre £100 and £120, reasonable condition. K2 Kirton Tasman, 19', rudder, adjustable seat £90 Also C1 in need of TLC £20 and 2

Canvas covered Kayaks. FREE to a good home. Phone Jim 01753 866838 (Windsor)

**Canadian Canoe,** Aluminium, paddles £200 (owner emigrating) Tel: 01332 704238

**Canvas and Wood Canoe,** Excellent condition £100 single seat Tel: 01179 659608 or 01179 511847(work)

**Canoe Trailer** with assorted canoes and kayaks, 1 sea, 2 bats, 2 doubles, Dancer and Master Will sell separate. Contact 02920 626799

**Coleman 16'** open canadian, dark green, 3 seater, 2 years old, £350 020 8883 0634 or w/e 01787 278251 or email mathewchesshyre@onetel.net.uk

**Coleman RamX 17,** VGC, £400 ono. Tel: 01833 650691 (N.E.area)

**Creek 270,** blue, GC, £250 ono. Will deliver to HPP contact Ed on 01482 794093 or work 01482 894615

**Creek 280,** new late '99, garaged, nose cap, back rest and rear airbags - ready to go. £295. Also available if required - neoprene deck and Ainsworth K104 205cm paddle. Call 01692 581867 or email davidsons@aol.com (nr. Norwich)

**Creek 280,** VGC, used only on a few rivers, WW Spec, £230. Contact Jonathan Ashton 0121 3584315 or mobile 07967 802212 Creek, red, WW Spec, Surrey/London area £250 ono, Vauxhall Cavalier roofracks £30 contact Gareth on 020 8332 9326.

**Dagger AQ11,** full WW Spec, GC, Garage stored, air bags etc. £160 contact 01484 681235

**Dagger Infrared,** multiart, used twice, end caps and air bags, as new, £480. Phone 01254 824007 E-mail: andyn@bluecarrots.com

**Dagger Medieval,** Blue/Green Multi art, airbags and bomber gear backrest, stored indoors and used carefully £350 email wonky@dwalker35.freemove.co.uk Tel: 07881654773

**Dagger Rival OC1** playboat, purple, outfitted with full airbags, foam pedestal adjustable foot braces and thigh straps £600 Pete 01752 698798

**Dagger Vortex,** Blue with full plate footrest, back rest, drain plug and rear airbags. Suit larger paddler. £200 Contact 01952 504063 or email andrew.rudge@virgin.net

**Dagger Vertigo,** multi-art redish, VGC, no space forces sale, £275 ono. Tel: David 07881654773 or email djwalker29@hotmail.com

**Dancer,** blue, VGC, WW spec, thigh braces, back rest, airbags, bow and stern caps. Ideal general purpose boat. Garaged, little used. £190 ono, Farnborough, Hants. (01252) 515693.

**Dancer,** yellow, old but still floating! Ideal beginners boat £50. Slalom K1, Gaybo built Meister, GC, might suit club, £50. Puncher plastic K1, general purpose, red as new £100. Class 3 K1, wooden classic design by Avoncraft. Collectors Item, GC, £100 Details from Graham 01234 823650 or email grahambourne@yahoo.co.uk

**Eskimo Diablo,** £240 ono blue, inc. airbags Ring Jane 01452 423124

**Eskimo Kendo,** green, excellent condition, WW spec, not used on WW. £400. Aqua Creek 280 ex. condition, WW spec, not used on WW. £350. Also buoyancy aids and paddle for sale. 01482 868550

**Eskimo Spud,** blue, Ok condition, with air bags and footrest, £200 will deliver to Northampton contact Chris on 01945 584766

**Eskimo Quatro,** red, 4 months old, excellent condition, £500 ono. Phone 01254 824007 or email daniel@bluecarrots.com

**Eskimo Topo-Duo,** £600 ono, purple, excellent condition. Has not been used within the last two years. Good sale to any families, centres or other interested parties. Contact Andrew Brierley on 01626 332081 or apb39@hotmail.com

**Eskimo topolino,** spud, black, GC with air bag and deck £225 ono. Call Josh on 01494 758563 or email josh.northcott@talk21.com

**Eskimo Zwo Playboat,** blue, 3 months old, good condition, with air bags £320 ono. Call Dave: Day 07939 286510 or eve 0151 5120580 or email etmdcabr@livjm.ac.uk

**Eskimo Zwo,** blue, VGC, £350 ono Tel: Dougie 01458 252113

**Foster/Rowe Echo,** 16ft high performance sea kayak, fast £555. Simon 02920567102  
**FREE to a good home,** 2 slalom kayaks. I would prefer them to go to a beginner or someone genuinely interested taking up the sport. Please contact Janet 0117 9686299 or 07970908558

**FREE to museum,** club or collector, 1930's canoe, rib, frame and paddle but no skin. Please call 01376 345235

**Granta 1964,** folding kayak. Accept any reasonable offer. Call 01772 862588 (Preston)

**Helly Hansen,** Aerobic Tops M/L/XL E16 new, Lettman shape paddles 218cm x 3 £25 to £100, Plastex K2 Whit Vacuum bag carbon/kevlar, Sprint weight 15kg immaculate condition £1100, Panter K1 Sky blue, sandwich construction with Gees seat, GC, £225, Regina K2, Vacuum bag Carbon/Honeycomb construction with footpumps and seats. Marathon understern Weight 13kg. GC, £800. Contact Peter Maycock on 01803 314742 or Andrew on 01803 662347.

**Inazone 220,** yellow/Mango 1year old GC, £380 ono. Will deliver to HPP, contact Emma on 01482 794093 or mobile 07775684161

**Inazone 220,** blue/black, GC, May be able to deliver to Canolfan Tryweryn £400 ring 01559 384832 or 07881697332

**Inazone 240,** grey, GC, Full WW Spec £370 Tel: 0788 0526 318,

**Inazone 230,** full WW Spec GC, £350 Tel: 01709 558050,

**Jester Storm,** Carbon kevlar construction, VGC, red and yellow diamond pattern on deck, blue hull. Reason for sale, not using it enough. £500 ono including spray deck. Ring 07909 517812 (anytime).

**K1 Cougar,** £100 and K1 Rapier £75 both in GC with seats. Tel: 01525 384917 (Beds) Kayak trailer, braked, capacity for 6-10 kayaks with storage space, electric £3000ono. Six Pyranha Master kayaks, half with airbags, plus paddles, helmets, adjustable buoyancy aids, spray decks, and a wide range of children's caps and waterproof trousers £600 for quick sale. Phone 01743 356336 (Shrewsbury) or 07968 181868.

**Kirton K1 Talisman,** VGC, w/s rudder, cover, fast and stable, Ideal DW £300 ono Richard 0208 543 8790

**Mega Rave,** yellow hull, whirly deck, kevlar construction used onced. New boat for sale open to offers. Darren 07971 565601 or email dshutler@eurobell.co.uk

**Mobile Adventure Symphony,** 16ft open canoe, mint condition £525 ono. Tel: 015395 60475 Mob: 07811 532201

**Old Town Scout open canoe,** 16ft 8', green, fully outfitted, GC - Used mainly on flat water. £375 ono. Phone Chris/Becky on 0203 80861907. Sail conversion kit also available £85ono.

**Open Canoe,** 16ft fibreglass £200, C1 Racer carbon/kevlar £125, MK1 Mountain Bat full WW Spec £175, Aqua bat good condition £150. Tel: 07771 652082 may deliver to HPP Notts.

**Open Canoes,** dagger Ocoee, airbags pedestal etc £600, Dagger Quake, airbags pedestal etc £450, Oldtown 164 with airbags and expedition spraydeck £600 All the above boats in excellent condition. Phone Sid for details 01248 602670 or 07711 587756 (N.Wales)

**Perception Amp,** purple and white, American spec, less than 3 months old and in great condition. This was the first Amp into the country and is lighter than the British ones, with Bomber or standard back rest, £450. Tel: Joe on 01225 858531 or email joekayaker@hotmail.com

**Perception Amp,** Never used, immaculate condition £450 ono. Phone Tim 01752 774248

**Perception Mr Clean,** purple, good condition, £300 ono, contact Joe on 01225 858531 or email joekayaker@hotmail.com

**Perception Mr Clean,** good boat for big people, £450 Tel: Tim 01283 542324 or email Tjlawro@aol.com

**Perception Supersport,** ice blue with air bags and toggles. 2 years old. Full WW Spec. £250 for quick sale. Telephone Andrew on 01733 205577 or email andysutton.adventure@btinternet.com

**Perception Supersport,** white granite, WW Spec £260ono. Tel: 01483 234505

**Perception Spectrum S Expedition,** VGC, red, rear bulkhead and sealed deckhatch, eddylines, thigh braces and chart elastics. Garage stored from new to include ainsworth K100 paddles and palm spraydeck £250 phone John 01252 792706

**Perception Whip it,** good all round river runner, intro. Playboat, 2 yrs old, VGC, Red/white, foam block footrests and backrest airbags included. £275 Tel: 01765 692309 (eves) (N.Yorks)

**Perception Whip-it,** VGC, £250. Dagger Piedra, as new £300. Roof bars for estate car with roof rails £50 Uprights, new £15 Contact Ian Hanson 01446 771576

**Pirouette,** full WW Spec, blue stored indoors, £160. Europa, suit large/heavy paddler £60 Mid Essex Phone Chris on 01245 465388 (eves/weekends) or 07808 739744

**Prijon Fly MK2,** Turquoise, VGC, full WW Spec £250, Prijon Samuri, White/grey fleck VGC Full WW Spec £290 Both stored in Garage phone 01384 392476 (W. Midlands)

**Prijon Fly,** full WW Spec, in ex. condition. Contact Chris on 01375 640169 or chrisahdleyfobbing@hotmail.com

**Pyranha Creek 280,** Blue, brand new been in water once £320 ono Tel: Mark 01642 457255 Email: mark\_gillhodgson@hotmail.com

**Pyranha Creek 280,** full WW Spec, air bags, yellow £100, Rota Bat £60 Paddle and deck offers Tel: 01690 760489 (N. Wales)

**Pyranha Creek 280,** blue, WW Spec, hardly used, VGC £300 ono phone Keith on 01586 553716

**Pyranha Inazone 230,** black and grey, airbags, hip-pads, gc, £400 ono. Schlegel Tech III paddle with kevlar repair: £40 ono. Phone 01743 356336 (Shrewsbury) or 07968 181868.

**Pyranha Magic Bat,** Red, Excellent Condition, Full WW Spec, £175 Tel: 01709 558050 or 0788 0526 318

**Pyranha Magic Bat,** Red/black artline, garage stored, 3 years old, very good condition £200 ono. Call Joe on 01455 613223 or email wheato@redhotant.net

**Pyranha Master 2 Sport,** back-rest, Air-bags, Full bulkhead footrest, 1 yr old, Accept £295 Phone Pip (Bath area) 01225 864509

**Pyranha Mountain 300,** blue, full WW Spec, front and rear airbags, good condition, injury forces sale. Also available: Schlegel Tech 111 Extreme paddles, Palm Alpine buoyancy aid (large), neoprene spraydeck, black Protec Helmet £325 for the lot will sell separately. Contact Pete on 01702 547447 or 07949 153469

**Pyranha Mountain 300,** black, full WW Spec, Excellent condition, 01522 872469 £230 ono.

**Pyranha Slalom K1,** blue/silver glitter, Kevlar hull, glass, some repairs but water tight. £75 ono. May be able to deliver. Contact Gillian 01926 641347 or 07970 148207

**Pyranha Storm,** full WW Spec, GC, £275 or swap for spud/microbat. Lakes: 07879455532

**Pyranha Stunt Bat,** 3 yrs old, blue, garage stored, VGC, Back rest and bung fitted Spray deck and helmet inc. £250 Tel: 07967 711248.

**Roof rack,** Thule product to fit high sided van or Campervan. Lockable Was £185 Asking price £100+ N. Wales 01766 513295.

**Riot Glide,** purple, device seat, 10 months, one owner, GC, £425 ono Call Alasdair on 0191 3831165 May deliver.

**Scarpa Manta Walking Boots,** GC, size 42 nearly new. Wrong size £60. 01305 778278 or email salmonmr@hotmail.com

**Sea Kayak,** plastic perception Sealion, red, complete with rudder, VGC, £470 ono Phone Laurence on 0117 9585376 or email laurencedoddy@hotmail.com

**Sea Kayak,** Nordkapp style, excellent condition, yellow deck, white hull, 2 hatches, fittted pump and knee tube. £595ono. Tel: 01934 613729 (Weston-Super-Mare) or email ann@kayax.com

**Sea Kayak,** Macnulty Kodiak in perfect, as new condition. Nice fast boat with front and rear hatches. Compass, spraydeck and backrest included £450 ono Pyranha Microbat 230, yellow multi art with front rear airbags, backrest and thighpads. £240ono. Ring Andy 01434 633557.

**Salom C1,** Arrowcraft Sensor, Carbon/Kevlar construction, excellent condition, no repairs, with spraydeck and paddle. Tel: 01642 865607 Teeside area. Or email dpcook@ntlworld.com

**Stuntbat,** Teal, WW Spec, GC, £200ono. London area. Possible delivery to WW venues. Contact fiona 07803 602299 eves.

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**Necky Jive.** Call fiona 07803 602299. Perception 5-0 sit on surf kayak, in GC, please phone Alan on 01305 835347

**Sea kayak,** must be fibreglass, preferably have skeg and other fittings though anything considered. Phone Laurence on 0117 9585376 or email laurencedoddy@hotmail.com

## Lost

**Dagger Medieval,** lost on Saturday 28th Oct. River Usk. Last sighted just upstream of Brecon. Please contact T.Rushton on 01784 457645 if you have any information

**Pyranha Prozone 235,** yellow/black, lost on the River Colwyn (N.Wales) on the 28th October. May be found anywhere along the rivers Colwyn, Glaslyn or Cob. Reward for return in good condition. Tel: Chris 07976 529264.



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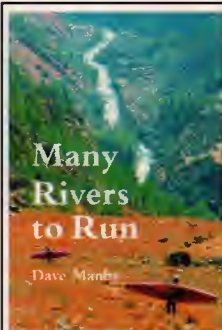
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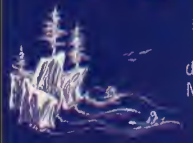


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Dunolly Adventure Outdoors, Taybridge Drive, Aberfeldy,  
Perthshire PH15 2BP.

## RISK TAKERS REQUIRED

# dart

## TRAINING GROUP

Traditional outdoor  
instructors not needed.  
Dynamic risk taking  
professionals prepared to  
gamble on a steep learning  
curve should apply immediately with a cv  
and photo to:



Paul Turner  
Dart Training Group  
Holne Park  
Ashburton  
Devon  
TQ13 7NP  
01364 653876

email [lee@dart-training.co.uk](mailto:lee@dart-training.co.uk)



**The Horstead Centre, Norfolk**

A young people's Christian residential/activity centre

is seeking to appoint a full time

**Assistant Warden**

Experienced youth worker/instructor required to contribute to the general running of the Centre, planning and delivery of programmes. NGB qualifications an advantage. This could be a training post.

Salary: £9-£11,500

Closing date: 31 December

(limited accommodation available)

Details from: Horstead Centre, Horstead, Norwich NR12 7EP

Tel (01603) 737215 Reg Charity no. 303986

horstead.centre@zoo.co.uk - www.horsteadcentre.org.uk

**Edale Activity Centre**

Vacancies exist for

**Lead Instructors, Seasonal Instructors, Storepersons**

A number of vacancies exist for candidates of varying levels of qualification and experience from March - November 2001.

\*Specific opportunities exist for candidates who wish to live out of centre.

For further details and an application form please contact:

**Y.H.A. Recruitment Department, PO Box 11.**

Via Gellia Mills, Bonsall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2XA

Tel (voicebank): 01426 938137

Closing Date - December 21st 2000

**TEOEC Grangewaters, Buckles Lane,  
South Ockendon, Essex RM15 6RS  
Seasonal Outdoor Activity Instructors  
April - September 2001 (Initially)**

A very busy non-residential LEA centre on the outskirts of London. We require a team of highly motivated instructors and trainees. A minimum of one NGB coaching award is required for the instructors posts.

Contact us on: 01708 855228/856422

e-mail: grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk



**THE GUIDE  
ASSOCIATION**

*Incorporated by Royal Charter*

**ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR 2001**

We are a youth organisation with three centres in the UK looking for enthusiastic instructors who are able to work with groups of all ages. Candidates should preferably hold at least one of the following: BCU Level 2 training, SPA Training or GNAS Leader Award. Training may be available leading to NGB qualifications.

Activities include kayaking, open canoeing, climbing, abseiling, archery, rope courses, team building activities and mountain biking.

Contracts available for full or part season.

Modern indoor accommodation available.

Good rates of pay.

For an application pack, please contact Personnel on 0207 592 1836 (answerphone)

Deadline for full season contract: 31 January 2001

Deadline for part season contract: 28 February 2001

Charity no. 306016

**Instructors Required**

Longridge SBC is a multi-activity Centre situated on the Thames near Marlow and Hurley. Our users include scouts, guides, schools and corporate clients.

We are seeking to recruit people with BCU and/or RYA qualifications who are also enthusiastic and flexible, available between Easter and September. A competitive salary is paid for these residential posts. In addition there will be opportunities to obtain further NGB qualifications.

Further details from:

Longridge S.B.C Quarry Wood Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1RE

Tel: 01628 483252 E mail: Jobs@longridge.org.uk

www.longridge.org.uk

**Instructors Required**

Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre is a multi-activity Centre in the green belt of West London.

We are looking to recruit instructors with a variety of qualifications including RYA and BCU. Opportunities for part time seasonal or full time work.

Accommodation and further training possible.

Competitive remuneration.

Contact Jeff Creak for further information.

HOAC Dews Lane, off Harvil Road, Harefield,

Middlesex UB9 6JN

Tel: 01895 824171



Lakeside is looking to employ approx. 25 Instructors from April to October 2001.

We are a big and busy Outdoor Education Centre on the shores of Windermere working with a variety of people, the majority being school groups and youth groups.

A successful applicant must have at least one NGB assessment and training in another and at least a season's prior experience of working in the outdoors. Experience of working with youth groups would also be beneficial though not essential.

If you are interested please contact:

Instructional Staff Manager

YMCA National Centre

Lakeside

Cumbria

LA12 8BD

Tel. 015395 31758

**Marrick Priory outdoor Education and  
Residential Centre require a  
Head of Centre**



To manage and develop a medium sized vibrant Christian centre providing multi-activities for children, young people and adults in beautiful Swaledale, North Yorkshire

Competitive salary, accommodation and benefits

For details phone: 01748 884434

Closing date for applications is 31st December 2000

Email office@marrickpriory.co.uk

web page: www.marrickpriory.co.uk

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Great opportunities for canoeists of all levels of ability and qualification to instruct at children's adventure holiday centres in Britain, France and Spain.

## Experienced but unqualified paddlers

Obtain coaching qualifications while working as a canoeing or multi-activity instructor.

## BCU level 2 coaches

Work as a canoeing or multi-activity instructor. Qualify as a level 3 coach after gaining the necessary logbook time and experience.

## BCU level 3 coaches

Work as river leaders and assist with staff training.

## Experienced rafters

Qualify up to SRA guide/trip leader level before guiding Alpine rafting trips on the Durance.

Training courses take place between February and May and you will work right through to early Autumn. We will provide your accommodation, meals and a weekly living allowance.

For a gateway to a career in outdoor education, or for a unique opportunity to build on your qualifications and gain valuable work experience, contact:

Recruitment Department, PGL Travel, 820 Alton Court, Penyard Lane, Ross-on-Wye HR9 5GL. Tel: 01989 767833. E-mail: [personnel@pgl.co.uk](mailto:personnel@pgl.co.uk)

[www.pgl.co.uk/personnel](http://www.pgl.co.uk/personnel)



## Senior Staff Required

The Lochgoilhead centre is looking for a Seasonal Senior Instructor for this busy Centre in the West Coast of Scotland 1 hr from Glasgow. It is essential you hold a BCU level 3 coach qualification Sea or inland. Ideally you should be over 25 with a full driving licence and have a range of other NGB awards. The post is challenging and rewarding but a flexible approach will be required and will be from beginning of April 01 to the end of October 01. The remuneration package will reflect the responsibility given.

For further details please send a CV to Jeremy Game, Centre Senior Instructor, The Lochgoilhead Centre, and Shelter Park Lochgoilhead, Argyll PA24 8AQ.

There will be several shorter-term contracts for instructors with a range of NGB awards from April to July. Again please forward a CV to the Centre

## Chief Instructor and River Leaders Required in the South of France

NST Adventure are currently looking to recruit a Chief Instructor for our activity centre in the South of France for the 2001 season. This position requires a minimum of SPA and BCU level 3 Open Canoe qualifications.

We also require L3 Canoe Coaches to work as River Leaders on the Ardeche and join our staff training team.

We require L2 Canoe and Kayak Coaches to work as Multi Activity Instructors.

We provide: Full training, NGB course opportunities, Competitive Wages, All Meals, Free Uniform, Excellent Chalet Accommodation, Comprehensive Insurance, Return travel to the UK

A variety of positions at our other centres available from January to early December:

Activity / ICT Instructors, Group Co-ordinators, Catering, Cleaning / Maintenance, Nursing and Driving.

For further information please contact:

Recruitment, NST Adventure, Chiltern House, Bristol Avenue, Blackpool, FY2 0FA

Tel: 01253 503011 Fax: 01253 356955

e-mail: [recruitment@nstgroup.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@nstgroup.co.uk) [www.nstgroup-travel.com/adventure.html](http://www.nstgroup-travel.com/adventure.html)

**NST**  
ADVENTURE



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

Two posts are available to work in an established, small and friendly outdoor centre located on the island of Hoy. The applicants will need to be organised, self motivated, creative and will preferably have worked with primary / secondary school children. Experience of instructing a wide range of activities and a good understanding of education in the outdoor environment is essential.

Both posts will start mid April until the end of June (with a strong possibility of extending the posts until mid September). Salary will be £250.00 per week. Accommodation and staff training will be provided.

### The applicants will require the following qualifications:

- M.L.T.B. Single Pitch Award
- B.C.U. Level 2/3 Coach Award (Canoe/Kayak)
- B.E.L.A. Award or Summer Mountain Leader Award
- A valid First Aid Certificate (H.S.E. Recognised)
- Clean Full Driving License

Experience in, or qualifications for Archery, Mountain Biking, Orienteering and a keen interest in Geography/Sciences would be an advantage.

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 1st March 2001**.

To obtain further details and an application form please contact:  
Mr Chris Jex, Education Department, Orkney Island Council, Kirkwall Orkney, KW15 1NY

tel: 01856 873535 (ext2414) fax: 01856 876327  
email: [chris.jex@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:chris.jex@orkney.gov.uk)

## Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre Sheffield

### Multi activity instructors required for 2001 season.

Activities include kayaking, canoeing, climbing, archery, swimming and orienteering. Applicants should ideally hold at least 2 national governing body awards. Duties will also include some site maintenance. Induction training will be given. The post will run from April to September. Positions will be live in.

For further information contact:

**Anthony Holley, Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre, White Lane, Chapelton, Sheffield S35 2YH.**

Tel: 0114 246 7912

E-mail [main@hesley.free-online.co.uk](mailto:main@hesley.free-online.co.uk)

[www.hesley.free-online.co.uk](http://www.hesley.free-online.co.uk)

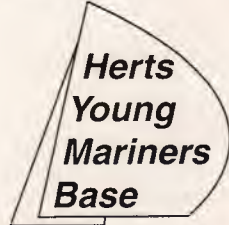
# HERTS YOUNG MARINERS INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR 2001

HYMB operates as part of Herts County Council Youth Service. It's activities consist of canoeing, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, climbing and caving/potholing. Applicants should have a minimum of NGB awards in RYA Sailing/Windsurfing, BCU or SPA

The person appointed will need to have a high level of commitment and be an integral part of the team. Both seasonal and sessional workers are required. Salary from £12,629 per annum pro rata.

Please apply for application form and personal specifications to:

Head of Centre  
 Herts Young Mariners Base  
 Windmill Lane  
 Cheshunt  
 Herts EN8 9AJ  
 Tel: 01992 628403



mountain leaders  
 rockclimbing instructors  
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 april to october 2001  
 short or long contracts



## OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

required at children's outdoor education centres in France, Austria and Switzerland

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### EXPERIENCED CANOEISTS

BCU Level 3 coach (or equivalent) for River Leader position and at least BCU Level 2 coach for support positions. Must be over 21, ideally with other outdoor and language skills and have the relevant experience to lead groups of children on descents through the Ardèche gorge, France.

Training, benefits and an allowance provided. Interviews by telephone. For an application pack contact:

**www.villagecamps.com**

Personnel Office, Dept 120, Village Camps, 1260 Nyon, Switzerland.  
 Fax: 00 41 22 990 9494 Email: personnel@villagecamps.ch



## Mill ON THE Brue

### Outdoor Instructors

Begin mid Jan - Nov 2001  
 National Traineeships available  
 Mill on the Brue, Somerset  
 Tel: 01749 812307  
 millonthebrue@compuserve.com



## SCOTTISH CENTRES

### Seasonal Outdoor Instructors

Qualified instructors, with experience of working with groups, required at our 4 outdoor centres in Scotland during the 2001 season. Food and accommodation provided as part of package.

Please send for our recruitment pack by sending an A4 stamped addressed envelope to: **Scottish Centres, Loaningdale House, Carwood Road, BIGGAR ML12 6LX** - or phone **01899 221115**  
 {personnel@scottish-centres.org.uk}

### OPEN CANOE & KAYAK COACHES

Seasonal vacancies at great locations. BCU approved centres providing a wide range of courses for adults and children

**Bembridge**, Isle of Wight  
 Horseshoe Lake, Sandhurst, Berks

**BCU Senior Coaches**  
 BCU senior coaches required for full-time residential & non-residential positions.  
 April - October, June - September or July - August

**BCU Coaches**  
 BCU coaches required for full-time residential & non-residential positions during summer school vacations (July - August). Local BCU instructors also required for part time work throughout the season


**FREE TIME** Telephone for further details & Application form  
**01252 871808 (24hrs)**

## The Venture Centre

### Isle of Man

Instructors Required March - September 2001  
 Shorter contracts available.  
 Must hold BCU, RYA or MLTB qualifications.  
 Our residential centre offers kayaking, climbing, abseiling, sailing, archery, air rifle shooting, orienteering, hill walking etc to schools, social services, corporate groups, army and other youth organisations.  
 Pay dependant upon qualifications/experience includes full board and accommodation.  
 Cleaning and catering staff also required.

For further details phone **Simon Read on 01624 814240**  
 Fax **01624 815615** or write to **The Venture Centre, Maughold, Isle of Man IM71AW**



**Co. Wicklow Vocational Educational Committee**

Require Instructors for the 2001 season at our Outdoor Education Centre in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Vacancies from March - October.

Applicants should ideally be twenty-one years old and hold the following N.G.B. qualifications B.C.U. L2/L3 coach (kayak). SPA award, MLTB, BOF instructor and GNAS leader.

Competitive salary plus Accommodation and Board provided.  
 Please send c.v. With photo to:  
 Centre Manager, Education Resource Centre, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.  
 Tel/Fax: 00 353 508 81002/81747.  
 Email boec@eircom.net

## SUMMER 2001

### We need multi skilled instructors for long and short term contracts




**Min 2 N.G.B. Qualifications (Kayak, Canoe, Sail, Windsurf)**

Located near Richmond Park  
 On site accommodation provided. Also available - 1 year contracts

**Thames Young Mariners**  
 Outdoor Education Centre  
 Tel: 020 8940 5550  
 Email: TYM.TYM@VIRGIN.NET



## MEPAL OUTDOOR CENTRE

Two vacancies for **Multiskilled Instructors** Starting in March, 2001. Applicant should hold two or more qualifications from BCU, GNAS, BMC or RYA.

**Trainee Instructor posts** are also available for young people who want to get into Outdoor Education but don't have appropriate qualifications.

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David Savage, Mepal Outdoor Centre, Chatteris Rd, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2AZ  
☎ (01354) 692251



Outdoor Education Service

## STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERVICE

Required Spring 2001 at our 4 residential centres all situated within Staffordshire. Experienced and qualified instructors to work with school groups aged 9 - 13 years.

- 6 months contract starting March/April/May 2001
- Free board and accommodation whilst at work
- 35 hours week Mon-Fri. occasional weekends and one night duty per week
- Generous holidays working mainly in school term time
- Salary of £7,760 - £8757 pa dependent on age and qualifications (pay award pending)

Contact Shugborough OEC, Shugborough, Stafford, ST17 0XA (01889 881357) for application pack

## Sealyham Activity Centre

Instructors needed for 2001 season at Multi-Activity centre in west Wales. BCU/SPA/RYA coaching qualifications required. Must be 18+ driving license preferred. Send letter of application & CV to:

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

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07710 375560

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## STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

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Vacancies for 2001 season

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required for a busy multi activity centre that provides for a wide range of clients. All activities are within 130 acre site with 3 lakes. Close to London

More details on website: [www.stubbers.co.uk](http://www.stubbers.co.uk)

Applications with CV to Bob Edwards (Centre Director) at:

Stubbers Adventure Centre, Ockendon Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2TY  
Or email: [admin@stubbers.co.uk](mailto:admin@stubbers.co.uk)

Charity No. 1080941



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# Millennium Thames Tour

Paddling 148 miles along the River Thames was a holiday for about 190 Canoe Camping Club members and their guests this summer.



**F**rom the start of navigation at Lechdale to the London Eye opposite the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, the Millennium Thames took 2 weeks with participants camping at a different site each night on the riverbank. Arranging these sites and the rest of the logistics absorbed the 4 person organising team for almost 2 years. Lots of help was received from other club members too, translating to help our foreign guests, providing minibus and narrowboat support, obtaining tour memorabilia.

The tour was one of this years International Canoe Federation touring events. The opening ceremony was supported by Barry Rook, Camping and Cravanning Club Chairman, (the Canoe Camping Club is part of this organisation) who said a few words, as did Geoff Saunders MBE, vice chairman of the BCU. John Dudderidge OBE (BCU president of Honour) was our special guest. He accompanied the tour on board the historic narrowboat Enterprise, which acted as our support vessel (thanks to owner Bernard Hales). It was fascinating listening to John describing the history of the CCC and the BCU to some of the young paddlers on the tour. He captured their interest and spanned the age gap.

Entries from overseas formed about half our number, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Alaska and Australia were represented. A good rapport was struck with the Environment Agency lock keepers at the 45 locks en route. The poor chaps tried to count each lock full for their records – what a near impossible task. We think 51 was the most at one time.

There was a variety of campsites. We made the large site near Lechdale Bridge look small, and some of the smaller sites were definitely crowded.

Queens college sports ground at Oxford was luxurious with its well manicured grass and hot showers. The ground keeper provided magnificent bar-b-que too. Other sites though basic were in really attractive settings. Those with a technical interest in touring boats would have had a field day. Classic wood/canvas double folders, newer high tech aluminum framed folders, some sea boats and a whole range of open boats including a Dacron skinned,

kevlar braced ultra-light 16 footer. With all camping kit aboard though, nobody paddled very light.

We were fortunate with mainly very good weather, though we had three days with very heavy showers whilst paddling. Final day paddling on the tideway to Westminster was exciting, the area is now a bustling tourist hotspot and we attracted a lot of attention when we arrived with over 100 canoes and kayaks. Just in time to hear Big Ben strike.

This type of event helps build friendships across various borders and I think most came away even more charged with enthusiasm than at the start.

Written by Robin Hickman ●



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PRO TEAM MEMBER TANYA "T" SHUMAN

## BIG EZ



Larger paddlers can run down the river and rip it up in the Big EZ, a boat that puts comfort on the same level as performance. Finally. You don't need 5,000 cfs to tear the river apart: Big EZ's 51 gallons of volume have been dispersed over its 7' length to create the most comfortable performance machine ever.

PRO TEAM MEMBER ERIC "EJ" JACKSON

## EVO



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PRO TEAM MEMBER BROOKE WINGER

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It's like a ForPlay for bigger paddlers, but its improved carving ability means lightning-fast waves, Ottawa River-sized holes and ocean surf will never be the same. The Score is 8' 3" of pure adrenaline pumping fun, in a 56-gallon package that means easy-to-initiate cartwheels; balanced volume makes bow stalls and stern squirts available to the masses.

PRO TEAM MEMBER SAM DREVO

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08000 151520

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