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John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane,
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Tel: (0115) 9821100
Fax: (0115) 9821797
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BCU Enquiries & Editorial to
above address

President
Albert Woods

Chair
David Gent

Chief Executive
Paul Owen

Editor
Roger St. Pierre

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29 Greenfields, St. Ives,
Cams. PE17 4HB
Tel/Fax: (01480) 465081
ISDN 01480 359956

[E-mail: peter@canoefocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoefocus.co.uk)
www.twobdesn.demon.co.uk

Advertising Sales
Anne Egan

Printed by
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2b Graphic Design

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Peter Tranter

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Richard O' Donovan

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COMMENT input & ideas

Sports Council Funding

The BCU has agreed the level of revenue from both UK Sport and Sport England for the final year of its development plan as follows:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| UK Sport | £225,000 |
| Sport England | £200,000 |
| A total of | £425,000 |

Membership Database

Work on the new membership database is complete and the new system is up and running. We would be grateful if all members on receipt of their membership card could check to make sure that all the information displayed is as they would expect to see it. We believe that the switch from the old system has gone smoothly but if you have any queries please let Lorna Orton, our office manager know.

International Canoe Exhibition

Later this month on February 24 & 25 the International Canoe Exhibition will be held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. The event is a sell out with all exhibition space taken. There will be a new area for talks and lectures giving more space for exhibitors.

Millennium Paddler Awards

The response to the Millennium Paddler Award Scheme, aimed at recognising those who have developed canoeing at a local level, has been tremendous with over 400 applications being received by the closing date of December 31 2000. When you consider that this represents well over 4000 years of voluntary effort on the part of those nominated I think you will agree that this is a remarkable achievement. Arrangements are being made to present the certificates to the award winners and details will be sent to those concerned when available.

BCU AGM 10 March 2001

The 21st Annual General meeting of the BCU will be held at Westminster Boating Base, Dinorvic Wharf, 136 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JY commencing at 2.30pm

Effects of Canoeing on Fish Stocks and Angling

Canoeing is not harmful to fish populations – it's official. An Environment Agency report concludes "that canoeing is not harmful to fish populations" it also concludes that the main area of conflict is disruption to anglers!

DETR Research

Environmental Minister, Chris Mullins has announced a research project to establish the current state of access to water for sport and recreation in England and Wales. Due to start as you read this edition of *Canoe Focus* the research is expected to last about five months and will completely set the scene for the future of access to water in England and Wales.

Federalisation

Attention is drawn to the progress report on Federalisation included in this edition of *Canoe Focus* (page 45). Progress towards a more Federal structure continues.

ICF Congress

The XXVIII ICF Congress was held in Warsaw Poland on November 24 & 25. Sadly BCU president Albert Woods was unsuccessful in his attempt to become the ICF's first vice president. Albert was narrowly beaten in the last round of voting by Marcel Venot of France.

Other notable Congress decisions were: -

- The introduction of an Athletes Commission
- Junior Wild Water Racing Championships 2002 awarded to - Great Britain - Bala
- A new Canoe Polo Under 21 World Championships
- Marathon Junior World Championships agreed from 2001 - First Event to be held in Stockton GBR.
- In sprint racing Ladies K4 1000m has been added to the World Championship programme.
- The boat width restriction has been removed in sprint and marathon racing
- Ali Ghalamsiyam of Iran has been elected ICF 3rd vice president.
- Retiring ICF secretary general - Otto Bonn was awarded Honorary Membership of the ICF after 46 years service

The following BCU Members were elected to ICF Committees

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Canoe Slalom | Sue Janes |
| Marathon Racing | Alan Laws |
| Wild Water Racing | Mike Tordoff |
| Sailing | Alan Powell |
| Medical | Nick Peirce |

Changes to technical competition rules will be made by the ICF Specialist Committee and the ICF Board of Directors in the future. They will no longer be decided by Congress.

In future for an event to be categorised as an official ICF World Championships there will need to be competitors representing six nations from three continents. This new ruling applies to each class individually with the exception of canoe sailing.

The next Congress will be held in Madrid in 2002

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

MORE ACTIVITY

NOTICE BOARD news & info



New team head up

Bob Slee of Palm Equipment and Pete Howard of Paddle Sport were unanimously voted in as chair and vice-chair respectively. With Dean Maragh appointed as chief executive, the team are committed to furthering the work of the ACT with particular emphasis on:

- getting more people into the sport as can be seen by last year's articles in many national magazines and papers and the production of 'Go Canoeing!' a booklet for newcomers to the sport, supported by the BCU
- working towards increased access for paddlers, working with the BCU to lobby parliament, participating in Raw Deal and the DETR's consultation
- Providing members with the facility to contribute, interpret and implement into the many standards affecting canoeing including helmets and personal flotation devices.
- Promoting international trade through trade shows and DTi export missions

Bob Slee said 'Over the past two years, the ACT's activities have grown massively with many national and international bodies being involved. Many members go away from each meeting with a plethora of ideas to improve their business that can only be gained when the trade discusses matters around the table. Not too many secrets are given away, and it is clear that

traders can work together with numerous mutual benefits, why else would they be members?"

The ACT is the only trade association for the UK canoe and kayak industry and is recognised by the BCU, British Standards Institute. The ACT is a group association of the British Marine Industries Federation <http://www.bmif.co.uk>

For further information, please contact **Dean Maragh on 07050 645 272** or email act@bmif.co.uk

Prijon Playboat 2001 Sponsorship

Are you a budding rodeo or freestyle star of the future and are looking for sponsorship? If you are, Team Prijon is looking to sponsor both new junior talent (girls and boys) as well as established senior paddlers throughout the UK. Two levels of sponsorship will be awarded based on the applicants' current and potential ability. The Machine (winner of Slovenian International Rodeo 2000), the Liquid Utility Vehicle (LUV) and the Delirious (winner of Euro-Cup Rodeo 2000) playboats are included in the Team Prijon Sponsorship Program. For more information give Avoncraft a call on (01707) 330000 or e-mail us at sales@avoncraft.co.uk

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Not guilty!

New research published by the Environment Agency concludes that canoeing has little or no impact on fish stocks.

The research, which was undertaken by the agency on behalf of the Angling and Canoeing Liaison Group – a committee established to encourage communication between the angling and canoeing communities – involved consultation with both anglers and canoeists, along with independent opinion from a panel of 10 experts.

In recent years there has been ongoing debate over the compatibility of angling and canoeing activities, particularly where these activities occur on the same stretch of water at the same time.

The research found there is no empirical evidence linking canoeing with damage of spawning grounds and stocks. Evidence provided by both sides of the debate was either circumstantial or anecdotal and produced no conclusive evidence to make a causal link between the two activities.

However, a subject of concern was the argument put forward by some anglers that canoeists using the same stretches of water at the same time are devaluing anglers' licence privileges.

Comments Environment Agency head of recreation and navigation, Eileen McKeever: "The issue could be addressed through more access agreements. Currently there are a few stretches of water in England and Wales where such agreements exist and the agency is keen to extend the use of these agreements and is well placed, given its responsibilities in the areas of fisheries and navigation, to facilitate such agreements. We have a unique role to play in helping create a mutually agreeable working relationship between the angling, canoeing and land-owning communities."

Helen's on a roll!

Canoeing got a welcome plug from BBC1's 'Record Breakers' programme when Nottingham-based slalom exponent Helen Barnes broke her own world record by completing 100 consecutive eskimo rolls in just 3 mins 42 sec, shaving five seconds off her previous best.

Helen has turned a safety technique into a sport of its own but echoed rower Steve Redgrave's famous response when she breathlessly commented: "Never again!"

Added the gutsy 27-year old: "After 70 rolls I felt completely shattered but I was determined to keep going. By the end I felt dizzy and totally drained but I was utterly elated too!"

Now sponsored by Malaysian car manufacturer Proton, Helen recently qualified for Great Britain's canoe slalom winter squad.



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MORE ACTIVITY

NOTICE BOARD

Palm at ICE 2001

Palm Equipment will be at this year's canoe exhibition in force. This time around the stand is going to be bigger than ever before and will now cover 95 square metres. All that extra space won't go to waste as there will be three brand new whitewater kayaks on show.



Honcho - brand new model to go into the already established High Noon series. This is the big sister to the Outlaw and Showdown. Price and availability : TBA

Ego and Super Ego - The brand new freestyle designs for 2001. The two designs revolve around the same ideas, one simply being bigger than the other. Early reports from the United States are favourable and we can't wait to get our hands on them. The boats are shorter than their predecessors for extra manoeuvrability however they will feature highly tweaked hulls to ensure performance is better than ever.



Other news

The Palm Extreme dry top has just had a bit of a face lift. The design classic is now constructed from three-ply Tactel which is lighter in weight than the previous fabric and is also less absorbent. Production

has also finally been able to get into full swing at the new Clevedon factory, which means that the revitalised bag is now available at £185

Get your signed freebies

On the stand this year Palm will have the reigning Junior Freestyle World Champion - none other than their very own Mark Birkbeck. He will be there signing fresh copies of the latest (limited edition) Palm / Dagger poster, bearing the image of the boy wonder himself. Don't forget to swing by the Palm stand to get your free signed copy.

There will also be the odd product launch or two at the show so don't miss it!



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New Perception kayaks

Perception are to exhibit four new kayaks at the 2001 Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show.

The new kayaks on display will be the Madness river running freestyle kayak, Sierra recreation kayak, Kiwi 3 tandem touring kayak and an upgraded version of the Carolina touring kayak.

The Madness is the latest addition to the extremely popular Method family that will delight larger and heavier paddlers who struggle to find space in modern, river running freestyle kayaks. It has all the loose freestyle performance of the Methods with the volume distribution that has made them such a hit with river runners around the world.

The Sierra mixes recreational boating and touring design to give a highly manoeuvrable, compact kayak with speed and directional stability. At under 3.5 metres, the Sierra is ideal if you are looking for a kayak, to explore lakes and rivers, which is easy to transport and store.

The Perception Kiwis have defined recreational kayaking since they were first released almost ten years ago. The Kiwi 3

takes the same philosophy of stability, user friendliness and a safe, open feel and adds a more defined keel line for speed and directional stability when touring. The high back tandem seat configuration and provision for a child seat make the Kiwi 3 ideal for couples, friends and families who wish to explore the UK's waterways.

The Perception Carolina is seen by many as the ideal touring kayak. It has the feel and look of a sea kayak but offers greater stability and user friendly performance. To accommodate gear stowage for overnight and weekend trips, a large oval hatch has now been added to the rear of the kayak in place of the round hatch to give improved access for larger items such as tents, sleeping bags and packs.

The Boat, Caravan and Leisure Show is held at the NEC from 17th to the 25th February 2001 and is joined by the International Canoe Exhibition for the weekend of 24th and 25th.

Below: Perception's The Madness



Canon competition winners

Winners in our Canon camera competition were **Archie Bowman** and **Miss R Bursnall**.

Runners-up prizes of towels have gone to **Thomas McLaughlin, Guy Jackson, Marcus Irving, Adrian Bigg, CL Edwards, Ruth Wilson, B Hewitt, Lynsey Evans, Victoria Reid** and **Douglas Paton**.



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Lost and stolen

If you've been a victim of canoe theft of late, there's help available from within the sport. A new free-access web site at <http://itsBeenStolen.com> is designed to help reunite people with their identifiable lost or stolen property. Says Richard Webster, who can be e-mailed at richardW@itsbeenstolen.com "Together with Matt, at www.marinerkayaks.com, I have added in 146 kayaks which have been reported as lost or stolen.

"Anyone who has been a victim can enter their loss into the database while those buying items on the secondhand market can first check out to see if they have been reported as stolen."

Sponsorship for RCC



Specialist marine insurers CAN Maritime have helped fund the purchase of six double canoes and six single canoes which will be used by the members of the Teddington, Middlesex, based Royal Canoe Club, ranging from children through to Olympic hopefuls.

CAN Maritime's sponsorship donation was matched by a Sportsmatch award from the government and a contribution from RCC.

Left to right: Eric Farrell, Lady Mayor of Richmond, Chris Pooley U/W Operations Manager - CNA Maritime, Ross Battersall, Ian Wynne, Trevor Hunter, Paul Darby-Dowman.

Adding power to their elbows

At its annual national conference for waterways societies, the Inland Waterways Association demonstrated its continuing commitment to the volunteers up and down the country who are helping to rescue the UK's historic canal network.

National chairman Richard Drake used the occasion to announce a new IWA training award which will provide a bi-annual prize of up to £750 which will be given to volunteers to assist with the cost of training in the skills associated with inland waterway restoration.

Comments Waterway Recovery Group chairman Mike Palmer: "Volunteers have achieved much, but so often a restoration scheme is delayed due to a lack of the specific skills needed to complete one critical part of the project. This new award should help create a more skilled workforce."

IWA has encouraged and supported many restoration groups over the years, leading to more than 400 miles of waterways been successfully restored to navigation and a similar mileage where restoration schemes are currently active or pending.

"Applications will be particularly welcome from canal societies which form partnerships to maximise the benefits across more than one waterway."

Guidance notes and application forms are available from **Ian Wingfield, at IWA head office, PO Box 114, Rickmansworth WD3 1ZY.**

Drawn from a legacy of nearly half-a-million pounds which was left to the IWA by the late Neil Pitts, an IWA member from the West Midlands, a memorial award of £100,000 has been made to the Droitwich Canal Trust. Though only 11 km in length, the Droitwich Canals provide a unique historical combination: the western Barge Canal, connecting the town to the River Severn, was one of the earliest man-made navigations in Britain, while the Junction Canal, connecting to the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, is an example of one of the last and most sophisticated narrow canals of the 19th Century.

As part of a larger conservation project, the Neil Pitts Award will be used to complete the full restoration of locks one and three on the Droitwich Junction Canal, with the Trust providing the £7,900 balance of the cost of this particular restoration which also involves the local authorities and other environmental bodies.

Paddlers will be among the waterway users to benefit from the full restoration of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal and the Droitwich Canals, which will create a 22-mile ring, which also includes the River Severn.

Another legacy this time from the late Tim Wilkinson, the well-known waterways author, has enabled the IWA to make a £92,127 grant to the Wendover Arm Trust, which looks after an extension of the Grand Union Canal. The Wendover Arm is currently navigable for just under two kilometres and the award will be used to complete the lining of a further length of about 260 metres which extends beyond the current head of navigation. Due to be completed in 2004, the work will largely be carried out by the Trust, which will be erecting a cast iron plaque by the restored section as a permanent memorial to Tim Wilkinson.

Enabling the disabled

TSB/Lloyds Foundation has agreed, in partnership with Oakwood High Youth Club, Salford, to fund a six-month inclusive project at Salford Water Sports Centre.

The project will employ an instructor from April through to October this year, with the task of instructing young people with learning difficulties and supporting the integration of such individuals into the general canoeing activities organised by Salford Water Sports Centre on Saturday mornings.

Acknowledging our canals' value

British Waterways, which cares for the nation's more than 2,000-mile network of canals and rivers, has been named 'The Tourism and Heritage Organisation of the Year' by The Good Britain Guide 2001.

Recognition of the value of the UK's inland waterways to leisure and tourism has further been bolstered by the announcement that The National Waterways Museum, which is managed by The Waterways Trust, is 'Gloucestershire Family Attraction of the Year'.

Originally built as the transport network for the world's first industrial revolution, Britain's inland waterway network is today

visited by more people and enjoyed for a wider range of activities than at any other time in its 200 year plus history.

Half the population of the UK lives within five miles of one of British Waterways' canals or rivers and there are 160 million visits to them every year.

Users include canoeists, boaters, anglers and cyclists, as well as nature lovers and 'goongoozlers' – the canal term for people who just enjoy watching the boats go by. *The Good Britain Guide* (Ebury Press, £14.99), compiled by the acclaimed Good Pub Guide team, has been pointing the way for day-trippers and holidaymakers for the past five years.

Independent and reliable, it gives up-to-the-minute information on more than 10,000 places to stay and eat and attractions to visit, from zoos to art galleries, theme parks, country homes, beautiful walks and city secrets. Discount vouchers in the book can be used at nearly 800 British attractions.

Young Father Thames

The Environment Agency has announced details of its new initiative to develop navigation and leisure pursuits on the upper reaches of the River Thames.

The Thames Ahead programme has been developed in close consultation with the boating trade and river users, including the canoeing community, to establish a collaborative blueprint for future use of the river and the finding of new funding sources for a sustained programme of investment in facilities for users of this beautiful waterway.

"The Thames is a magnificent river and is a significant part of our national heritage. Keeping it that way is the basis for Thames Ahead," comments the Environment Agency's navigation and recreation manager, John Redmond, adding, "We need to redress the past under-investment and ensure that leisure development is planned in a sustainable manner in the future. There are thousands of jobs, hundreds of businesses and tourism attractions, as well as local authorities and others who depend in some part on the future of the river and whose energies can be harnessed to preserve it."

The programme has three main strands: raising revenue to re-invest in navigation and leisure facilities on the river; promoting boating in all its forms, including canoeing, and halting the recent slide in numbers of craft on the river, and establishing a partner approach for the river's ongoing development."

Currently, the Environment Agency is responsible for navigation and recreation along 135 miles of the non-tidal Thames, including maintaining and staffing 44 locks. Each year there are between 10 and 12 million visitors by boat, on foot, by bike or by car. 25,000 craft are currently registered for use on the river to which can be added thousands of rowing boats and canoes.

Looking for that adventurous paddling holiday for 2001?

Look no further as Adventure Whitewater has trips going to Nepal, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, USA, and New Zealand. They offer rafting, trekking, kayaking and, of course, many cultural experiences.

New for 2001 is the Kayakers Paradise Adventure in Nepal... a trip aimed at advanced kayakers, which includes the Himalayan whitewater Rodeo as well as five of the finest rivers of Nepal.

There is an opportunity to learn to kayak or improve your kayaking skills in a truly remarkable setting with their October Nepal Kayak Clinic. Included will be an eight day kayak clinic covering three different rivers of class two and three, riding elephants in Chitwan Wildlife Park, a days superb rafting and for

those complete adrenaline junkies, a bungee jump!

In Peru this year they have devised a great kayakers trip covering the Urubamba & Apurimac rivers. These are two great paddling rivers and, with time allowed for Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the Amazon Rain Forest, makes for a superb holiday.

Join them on this "once in a lifetime" opportunity to be one of the first rafters / kayakers ever to explore the Rio Tumbes in Northern Peru. Right on the border with Ecuador, the Rio Tumbes flows through an outstandingly beautiful canyon in the very heart of the rarely visited Cerros de Amotape National Park.

For further information on these and many more adventures please contact: **Adventure-Whitewater Tel 0870 443 0 240** info@adventure-whitewater.com www.adventure-whitewater.com

Obituary: David Campbell 1959-2000

A popular Lincoln Canoe Club member, David Campbell joined the club in the spring of 1997 so he could improve his canoeing ability. Previously he had undergone a kidney transplant and two hip replacements and was a regular competitor at the annual Transplant Games.

David became an active, enthusiastic and hard-working committee member, both on and off the water. In spite of his disabilities, he participated in marathon division eight races and as a veteran at national racing regattas.

In 1999, David became a regatta official and was training to become a starter. He had also been taking coaching courses.

Sadly, on Tuesday November 7, David had a heart attack and died. An inspiration to us all, David will be greatly missed at Lincoln Canoe Club.

Thames Tour success

Starting from the pretty little Upper Thames town of Lechlade and finishing by the London Eye at Westminster, some 190 canoeists took part in the 150-mile Millennium Thames Tour.

Says Robin Hickman, secretary of the Thames and South East group of the Canoe Camping Club: "We had a great time and were especially pleased with the encouragement we received en-route, especially from the keepers at the 45 locks we passed through. In particular, we appreciated the overnight camping facilities made available to us at Eynsham, Day's and Romney locks.

Surf-Lines' new home

Successful retailer Surf-Lines has opened a bright new shop in the heart of Snowdonia at **Unit 2, Y Glyn, Llanberis Gwynedd LL55 4EL, tel: 01286 879001, fax: 01286 879002, e-mail: info@surf-lines.co.uk, web: www.surf-lines.co.uk**



Incident on the River Tavy

It is with regret that Focus has to report on the death of Michelle Wright following an accident on the River Tavy on 11th November 2000. Michelle, from Stoke Climsland, was an experienced paddler with a passion for her sport. At the time of the incident she was paddling with friends, all equally experienced. While the river was at above average flow following a night of heavy rain all paddlers were paddling on home waters and knew the river well.

The incident occurred within 1 km of Hill Bridge. Michelle became pinned against the branch of a tree with her boat largely under water. Other group members made numerous attempts to release the trapped boat by using a range of rope techniques, but were unable to do so. After exhausting all possible rescue attempts they called for the emergency services. The scene was attended by a Navy diver and helicopter from RNAS Culdrose, the Police Underwater Search Team, the Fire Brigade Specialist Rope Team and the Dartmoor Rescue Group. At some stage the boat became dislodged and drifted downstream but there was no sign of Michelle.

Three hours later, at about 4.30 pm, the river level had dropped enough for divers to search the river with Michelle's body being found pinned by the current to the tree branch on the river bed. Tragically Michelle leaves a partner Andy and a year old daughter, Jasmine. We extend our heart felt condolence to Michelle's family and friends at this most difficult of times.

Welcome to the sport



The Association of Canoe Trades (ACT) and the British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF) have launched a new free guide for newcomers and those returning to canoeing.

Entitled *Go Canoeing!*, the booklet is intended as a general-purpose information guide to help newcomers start canoeing and for thousands of people who have enjoyed canoeing in the past and who want to start again.

The guide covers all styles of canoeing and kayaking, from whitewater through to inland touring and from Olympic slalom through to canoe polo. "Canoeing is one of the UK's fastest growing watersports and is great for people of all ages, from children through to retirees, as well as those with special needs," commented Dean Maragh, chief executive officer of the Association of Canoe Trades, adding, "This new free guide provides all the necessary information for the first-timer, as well as those coming back to the sport. It includes basic information on essential equipment, safety issues and products, as well as important contact numbers for those who want to get started."

The guide is available free of charge from Boatline, on 01784 472222. Boatline is a free telephone helpline which can answer your questions on all boating and watersport activities.

KOGG

On the 24th of December 2000, one of the Industrial Units behind KOGG's two units in Arran Road, Perth, went up in flames. Said a company spokesman: Although KOGG suffered no flame damage we have suffered smoke damage. It left us with quite a clear up task. "We have been amazed at just where the smoke has penetrated. There have been cleaners and decorators in since boxing day. We are back in operation in the production unit and we are on the way to being fully up and running by the 19th of January 2001.

"We have lost stock, but we are replacing it quickly. New material has been ordered and delivered. Current orders will be completed by February. We look forward to seeing you all at this years ICE on stand E3.

"This has in no way slowed down the development that KOGG has seen in the last two years. We are still growing and our new product range launch in October is selling exceptionally well. For further details please contact us through all the usual channels.

"Thank you all for your support and baring with us during this period."

Holiday paddling

Sea kayaking off the coast of Thailand and Vietnam, canoeing on the Zambezi River in Africa and kayaking the Chilean fjords are some of the fantastic holidays offered by realworld-travel.com Ltd and the company's worldwide network of adventure partners.

More experienced BCU members will be interested in two adventures to Nepal which provide superb kayaking. The trip is priced for a group of 10 to allow for private departures from various parts of the UK. Smaller groups can also be accommodated, at slightly higher prices, and dates are fully flexible.

Realworld is a specialist travel company which works with overseas tour operators to bring unique itineraries to the British public. These partners are all experts in their fields and specialise in specific activities and destinations. In the UK, the tours are sold direct through the realworld office, which supplies the flights and ensures that itineraries are tailored exactly to client

specifications, offering the peace-of-mind provided by realworld's full ABTA bonding.

Realworld-travel.com Ltd can be contacted at **Blackfriars Foundry, 156 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8EN, tel: 020 7593 2323, fax: 020 7593 2324**, e-mail: enquiries@realworld-travel.co.uk.

Tough stuff!

A record number of teams competed in the final event of the Blue Eskimo Challenge 2000 series, held in the Ullswater region of the Lake District back in November, in atrocious weather conditions.

This tough event combined orienteering over Helvelyn, canoeing on Ullswater, mountain bike orienteering on Lakeland tracks and abseiling down bare crags, with the whole event lasting for up to 30 hours for some competitors.

Teams had to fight through force five winds, driving rain, bitterly cold temperatures and even snow, with 5 cm of rain falling during the first 24 hours, providing both a physical and a mental challenge for the intrepid competitors.

The overall winners were the Putney Speedo team, comprising Chris Hale, Tony Board, Sara Board and Simon Redman, closet followed by the Avengers and Wadenhoe-High 5.

Said organiser James Hopper: "It was very gratifying to see a British team fight off the might of the overseas challenge, with a display of amazing resilience, stamina and determination to lift the trophy."

Canadian Wilderness Challenge Seeks Adventurers.

A Shropshire-based charity Centre is organising a challenge of a lifetime to raise cash for young disabled people.

The Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer is seeking members of the public to take part in a sponsored challenge event which will include a six day wilderness expedition in sea kayaks and open canoes exploring remote islands of Canada's Pacific coastline.

The 'Orca Appeal' is looking to raise £75,000 to pay for equipment and some building costs of an accommodation block designed especially to meet the needs of disabled children and young people at the centre.

Pioneer Centre provides a full range of activity courses, training/development courses and holidays for young people across the Midlands and further afield. This is the beginning of a £1.5 million development appeal to replace 1939 timber accommodation buildings. "One of the original buildings had to be decommissioned last autumn, forcing us into raising the funds sooner" said Operations Manager, Stephen Robertshaw.

Pioneer Centre, working in association with The Boys' &

Girls' Clubs of Greater Vancouver and supported by Cotswold Outdoor Stores, is looking for 20 people to take part in the challenge, who will have to raise a minimum of £2,240 in sponsorship each.

The Wilderness Challenge will focus on personal challenge and achievement rather than physical challenge, offering a truly unique opportunity to make a difference. This area of Canada also provides fantastic scope to see a wide range of wildlife on the trip.

For further information about the challenge or for a registration pack telephone the **centre on 01299 271217**.



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Devizes to Westminster

Padding forwards with the phoenix

Devizes to Westminster official Sally Peake introduces the team that's bringing the Devizes to Westminster race back

There has been a great deal of interest shown in the popular Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race following the first ever cancellation of the event in its 53-year long history.

Much criticism has been levelled at the way in which the event was managed and heated exchanges between various factions claiming a determination to save the race have been well documented here and in the canoeing press generally.

The Devizes to Westminster Organisation Ltd, which organises the race, was formed to protect individuals running the event. However, the existence of the company meant that, in order to change, various legal procedures had to be followed.

Before new people could become involved in the race management, an annual general meeting of company members had to be called, at which changes to the constitution could be made.

Largely due to pressure from a large number of interested canoeists, this was achieved and back in October a democratically elected committee of team leaders was formed.

Additionally, anyone who had paddled the 2000 event and was over the age of 18 was given automatic annual membership status and membership was also opened to anyone else willing to pay a £10 fee.

All such members became eligible to vote for team leaders. As their title implies, many others are needed to help these people run the event efficiently but this team leader group is empowered to liaise and co-ordinate things.

Who are they?

Most of the team leaders have a long history of involvement with the Devizes to Westminster itself but quite a few of them are shy, retiring souls who prefer backroom beavering to the full glare of media publicity. As the newly elected publicity and marketing team leader, I thought the time right to introduce some of these people so that the canoeing community can get an insight into what makes them tick and, even more importantly, what makes them so passionate about DW, as insiders affectionately call the event.

Tom Armitstead

As chairman, Tom has a tricky role to take on at a time when everyone is feeling their way in the new set-up and he is dedicated to working to ensure that we all speak the same language and that any gaps get plugged so that nothing that needs organising gets missed.

Tom has been involved with DW for the past four years, mostly helping at Westminster and doing stints at the information centre during the race. Most recently he has been involved in helping sort out computer glitches between checkpoints and the centre. He has never paddled DW but would like to do it some day and cites his interests as sailing, narrowboating and generally all things watery.

Brian Greenway.

Brian needs no introduction to long-term DW paddlers but has never been known for pushing himself forward as a public face.

There was unrestrained delight from all when he accepted nomination for the vacant post of director. Although not directly responsible for the nitty-gritty details, Brian's deep understanding of the event's character makes his contribution immensely valuable.

Having started his paddling with Battersea Air Cadets in 1964, Brian was persuaded in 1965 to use participation in DW as the test bed for a canvas touring boat he had renovated.

In the 1970s, Brian represented Great Britain at both sprint and marathon but his forte has always been the long distance event. In the past 25 years, Brian has paddled or supported every DW. In 1977 he became the first paddler to break 17 hours and in 1985 he became the first veteran to win the race outright. Since then he has twice won the mixed class and team events.

Brian's experience extends from paddling canvas boats fully loaded with camping gear right through to competing in the lightweight racing boats of today, making him a great man to bounce ideas off.

Janice Begant.

Janice has been involved with DW for 40 years. In the early days it was 24-hour stints under the London Road canal bridge, in Devizes, helping her husband Peter to monitor the starts.

She has been entry secretary since the 1980s, co-ordinating all the enquiries for race information and meticulously checking all the entries.

Many past entrants will remember her sat in The Bear on Maunday Thursday, checking crews in and surrounded by paperwork as she sorted out the last-minute teams, yet still presiding over a calm, well-ordered office.

Tamsin Phipps

Involved in the organisational side of the sport for the past 20 years and chairman of Reading Canoe Club for 10 years, Tamsin is the resources team leader. Having participated in DW nine times in the past 13 years, she has been a winner three times (twice in the mixed doubles, once in the senior ladies) and she has trained many successful teams.

An eloquent advocate for change, she has taken on responsibility for resources of both the material (loos and so on) and human kind.

One of her aims is to improve the event's signage and she points out that volunteers are always needed to ensure smooth running.

In future years the role she now fills will develop to include the tasks of quartermaster, managing the diverse stock of equipment which DW now owns. If you have a DW sign or banner lurking somewhere in your shed she'd love to get it back and you can ring her on 01189 668140.

Paul Andrews

As event organiser, Paul is the guy laden down with the responsibility of co-ordinating all the organisational teams over Easter weekend and he has already been out and about meeting many of the individuals and groups who contribute towards the race's success.

Paul was introduced to DW in 1982 as a support crew member and has performed this role many times since helping Bagley and Fitzpatrick to third place and consequently the winners' slot in the 'Classic Series', which also incorporates the Arctic Canoe Race.

He has been involved in organising events for the British Rafting Association and has acted in a professional capacity as adviser to national watersports events and has edited newsletters for many years.

A real team player, Paul is also trained in swift water rescue techniques, which means he also understands the issues of team safety. He'll travel far and wide to promote DW – some of you may have met him at the Hasler finals or at the Liffey descent.

Jill Gibbons

Jill first encountered DW when husband Keith paddled with the Devises Police. It was the first of eight trips that she supported, so you can be assured she knows how to find those tricky portages in deepest Berkshire in the middle of the night!

When the previous clerk of the course retired, Jill was proposed as an ideal candidate for the post. She's not too fond of endless meetings but was told the job was simple and could be done at home. In reality, this so-called 'little job' involves writing hundreds of letters each year to all the relevant bodies along the course, arranging everything from hiring toilets to co-ordinating the police involvement and dealing with all the Thames lock-keepers.

She now claims to get a real buzz when things run smoothly though, sadly, she has no control over the weather.

Now do your bit

So those are some of the key people involved in the phoenix-like re-birth of this magical event. If you find yourself thinking "perhaps I could help somehow", do something about it now. Get in touch right now. There are all sorts of jobs that need doing and Easter isn't that far away.

There would be little point in all this planning if we didn't think that canoeists wanted DW to run. I have scouts out all over the country, keeping an eye on the training and spotting potential DW crews.



The new team behind the Devises to Westminster race – From left to right, back row: Tom Armitstead, Jerry Elsmore (finance), Sally Peake, Brian Greenaway and Tim Perks (safety); front row: Gil Rooke (information), Tamsin Phipps and Paul Andrews

It's an event which can fire the imagination of everyone, from the racing fraternity out to prove themselves and perhaps take top honours to the touring paddler who fancies a real fun challenge at Easter. This year the less competitive participants have the option of paddling the course over four days in the new Endeavour class if the non-stop race is not for them.

For this year, DW is pleased to have NCH-Action for Children as its nominated charity. NCH are offering a fantastic prize of a family activity holiday in the Ardeche, with a value of £1,300, which will go to the highest fundraiser of 2001.

Information and entry forms are available from **Janice Begent on 020 7620 0298** or can be downloaded from the web-site at www.dwrace.org.uk, where there is lots of useful information as well as links to other canoeing sites, or you can always speak to me, **Sally Peake, on 01380 818967**, or e-mail me at sally.peake@tesco.net. ●

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WHAT'S ON

Canadian Wilderness Challenge

Details of this year's Canadian Wilderness Challenge can be obtained from **Steve Robertshaw, Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8JG, tel: 01299 271217; fax: 01299 270948;** e-mail: pioneer@actioncentres.co.uk.

OCSG calendar

A coaching weekend in Coniston, Cumbria (June 9-10) and a coastal canoe and sailing coaching workshop at a yet to be arranged venue (July 7-8) are featured in a full OCSG programme for 2001. Early highlights include Start The Season, at Rother Valley, Yorkshire (April 21/22), Spring Weekend at Coniston (May 12-13) and A Border Skirmish, Loch Ken, Dumfries (May 26-27).

Winchester North Wales Circuit Races

Run against the clock in an unusual relay fashion between teams of two taking alternate laps, Winchester and District Canoe Club's North Wales Circuit Races are set for Sunday April 8. Entries on the day will be priced at £1.20 per seat (£3 per team) and details can be obtained from organiser **Martin Bell, at 3 Exeter Close, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hants.**

Hurley Weir Rodeo

The next rodeo at Hurley Weir on the River Thames in Berkshire, will take place on the March 2-4 weekend. The event is taking place earlier in the month than usual, in order to take advantage of generally higher water levels. As usual, this will be the first rodeo of the UK ranking events. Traditionally, it has always been the largest but despite the intense nature of the competition it always maintains its easy-going, laid-back atmosphere.

Entry categories will include float boat, open canoe, C1, ladies, squirt, novice, junior and others, plus plenty of free time.

The scores from this event will carry forward to the 2001 national championship and the European Cup and this year Hurley is one of only two events whose scores will be used by the BCU Freestyle Committee to select the UK team for the 2001 world championships.

As with last year, camping on the island is free and will be available from 3 pm on the Friday afternoon. Free rodeo training for entrants of all abilities will take place on Saturday morning – but book training places early, as places are limited. The event is being organised through Playboater Ltd by Shaun Baker, with assistance from Helen Smith and Andy 'Jacko' Jackson, with sponsorship from SAS and Red Bull.

Entry forms will be available from some canoe retailers from early February and from various stands at the NEC Canoe Exhibition, including Playboater/Eskimo. As usual, entries on the day will be acceptable.

Phone Shaun Baker closer to the day, on 01628 777702 for final confirmation and information on water levels.

First commercial descent of Peru's Rio Tumbes

Amazonas Explorer are planning some exciting South American programmes this year for class 3/4 canoeists, kayakers and raftists.

Warming-up in the wine-growing valley of the Rio Canete, they will then attempt the first ever commercial descent by raft and kayak of the spectacular Rio Tumbes, in northern Peru. Their '99 recce reported a brilliant 3-4 river in an outstandingly beautiful canyon and the biggest crocodiles ever seen!

New Year will be spent at the resort of Mancora, where huge surf and even huger parties can be expected. Dec 22-Jan 3, £1,290/\$1,795.

Just getting to Bolivia's class 1-2 Rio Madidi involves light aircraft, motorised dug-out canoes and trekking through virgin rainforest with native indian guides. Nov 3-25, £1,580/\$2,200.

Full details of Amazonas Explorer trips can be found at www.amazonas-explorer.com or ring **01874 658125**. They can also be booked in the UK through **Phil Arnold at Adventure Whitewater, tel: 0870 4430240** or e-mail phil@adventure-whitewater.com. Phil is himself running a 15 day multi-activity trip to Peru, involving mountain bikes, rafts and canoes, between July 21-Aug 3, price £930/\$1,290.

Eskimo Sunday League

The next run of Eskimo Sunday League events on the Tryweryn have been scheduled for Mar 4, April 1, May 6, Jun 1, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2. The new and improved ESL will have a river-running/freestyle through the rapid part of it as well. There will be a prize for the best scores for every two months' totals. The winner must be non-sponsored and a non-previous winner.

Contact **Dave Ayres of paddle.to, Ty Abaf, Fron Goch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU, tel: 01678 5211567**, e-mail: info@paddle.to, web: <http://paddle.to>.

Tryweryn Wetfest 2001

Dave will also be running a one-day 'new style' Tryweryn Wet Fest river-running competition on the graveyard section of the Tryweryn on Saturday April 21. Events to include: freestyle, splatting and upstream competition plus lots more. Email: hairry@paddle.to

Eurolympics 2001

Held every four years, just like the global Olympics, the Eurolympiques, which were first held in 1997, are celebrating their second edition this year. These competitions are due to take place in France and particularly in Brittany, on the River Ellé (Finistere), on February 17 and 18, and in Lannion (Côtes d'Armor), on February 24 and 25.

Both canoe and kayak events are planned for men and women and full details are now available from the organisation committee of the **Comité Régional de Bretagne de Canoe-Kayak, tel: 0033 2 98 76 21 31; fax: 0033 2 98 53 37 30;** e-mail: jyprigent@ffcanoe.asso.fr. Entries are being handled by **Marc Berçon, NEF, 11 Rue Théodore Le Hars, BP 1334, 29103, Quimper Cedex; tel: 0033 2 98 52 04 80; fax: 0033 2 98 53 37 30.**

Okanagan Paddle Festival

2001-01-18

In its first two years, Canada's Okanagan Paddle Festival attracted more than 2,500 paddlers and this year's edition, on June 16 and 17, is set to be the biggest yet. The event will feature touring kayaks, whitewater kayaks and canoes, with a programme which will include kayak demonstrations for participants wanting to try out new boats, kayak rescue demonstrations, instructional on-water clinics, skin boats, numerous international destination slide shows, outrigger races, war canoe races, cardboard kayak races and dozens of workshops, including ones concerning boat building and kayak and canoe design.

In addition, the organisers will be giving away a sea kayak and there will be Saturday night entertainment, featuring a live band.

Admission is priced at \$5 per person per day, with extra rates for on-water classes. The event is held at Peachland, in British Columbia. For information, call Janice Hancharuk at the Peachland Chamber of Commerce on 001 250 767 2455 or e-mail at peachlandchamber@cablelan.net or Phil Kachanosiki at pkach@cablelan.net.

Bratislava International Regatta

Slovak Canoe Association is looking for UK entries for its International Regatta, to be held at Zlaté Piesky Lake, in Bratislava, from May 18-20.

The programme will comprise of K1, K2, C1, C2, 500 metre and 1,000 metre; K4, C4, 500 metre and 1,000 metre and K1, C1, 3,000 metre events for junior men (born 1983-86); K1, K2, K4, 500 metre and K1, 3,000 metre events for junior women (born 1983-86); K1, K2, K4, C1, C2, C4, 500 metre and 1,000 metre events for senior men under 23 (born 1978-82) and K1, K2, K4, 500 metre and 1,000 metre events for senior women under 23 (born 1978-82).

The participation fee, which includes food, accommodation and local transportation, is priced at \$40 per day. Road transport to the venue for teams flying into Vienna, the nearest major international airport, can be laid on for \$20 per person.

The best national team and three best athletes will receive valuable prizes while the coach of the best team, which will take the Nations Cup, will receive a special award of \$300. Training during the week preceding the regatta can be arranged for any teams who are planning to travel to Bratislava directly after competing in Austria's Linz Regatta.

Details may be obtained from the **Slovak Canoe Association, Junácka 6, SK-832 80, Bratislava, Slovakia. Tel: 004217 49249145; fax: 004217 49249557;** e-mail: canoe@internet.sk.



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MORE MEDALS

Czech out Britain's 4x4!

Information on triathlon is available from the British Triathlon Association. Contact: Peter Hart on 015394 36289.



Above: Colin Hill and **left:** Colin with Peter Hart

Involving the demanding disciplines of swimming, cycling, running and kayaking, the sport of triathlon is big in Eastern Europe, so it was fitting that the middle distance world championships were held at Sedcany, a Czech town some 60 km south of Prague.

Attracting a good mix of nationalities, including competitors from New Zealand, Canada and Norway, the race found more than 150 hopefuls battling it out on a hot August day.

The Czech Republic has dominated this event and despite a slow start, defending champion Miroslav Podborsky was on to flying form.

Though he only came out of the water in fifth place, Miroslav's kayaking and cycling skills put him out in front of his fellow Czech Radan, with Thoralf Berg of Germany finishing third.

Four UK triathletes, including former age group world champion Peter Hart, had travelled out to the home country of the Skoda and the beautiful city of Prague, knowing that no British competitor had ever finished in the world's top 10.

Colin Hill, in his first world triathlon race – with sponsorship help from Octagon CSI, Adidas sports eyewear, Pal and Eskimo Kayaks – managed to pull back six places to finish in 3 hrs 49 mins 21 secs, taking seventh position, while Welshman Dai Richards, fresh from the European triathlon championships in Berlin finished in 3 hrs 50 mins 25 secs to make it two British athletes in the top 10.

There was plenty to celebrate in the age groups too. Peter Hart, finishing in 4 hrs 23 mins 56 secs, won gold in the 45-50 age band to add to the gold he recently acquired in Berlin while Dai Richards repeated the achievement by managing his double in the 40-45 category.

Finishing in 5 hrs 7 mins 11 secs, Arthur Purkin finished third in the 50-55 group. What's more, Colin, Dai and Peter were only four seconds off getting bronze in the team event. ●

St. Albans tops at Hull

Dutch and Irish visitors again added the international flavour to the Hull Canoe Polo Challenge, celebrating its 11th year.

This popular event, which produced spirited competition and a much increased spectator turn-out, was run-off as four individual competitions. Division One ended in a hard fought final between Humbersiders and St. Albans A, with St. Albans winning by four goals to two.

Dutch side Zwetplassers beat Athletico Sao Paulo by six goals to one to take division two, while Manchester Exclusive beat Gladiators 2-1 in division three. The ladies competition saw Derby Rammers defeat Old Speckled Hen.

As usual, the hard working organisers put in an order for good weather but their view and that of the supplier as to what constitutes good weather seem to be rather different and there was a battle with cold winds and a virtual tempest as things were being prepared.

Phil Bennett, past chairman of the BCU Canoe Polo Committee, had been granted the Award of Honour – the highest recognition that the BCU can bestow – earlier in the year but sadly passed away before it could be presented to him. In the event, his widow, Eileen, attended the event to receive the accolade from the hands of BCU president Albert Woods, also being presented with a bouquet of flowers by Dan Rawding.

Members of the Kingston Kayak Club and Hull & District Canoe Club provided invaluable help over the weekend and a special thanks goes to all the timekeepers and others totally unconnected with canoeing, including the car park attendants, who so generously gave their help to make the event a big success.

Next year's event has been time-tabled for the weekend of June 30-July 1.

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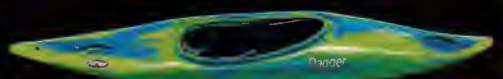
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MORE MEDALS

Slalom in the news



Talk to the stars

Sydney Olympics silver medallist Paul Ratcliffe will be presenting at the International Canoe Exhibition, along with GB team-mate Tim Brabant, who took the bronze in the Sydney Olympics canoe sprint.

The session is intended as a profile of the level of training involved in reaching the Olympics. It will also provide attendees at both the International Canoe Exhibition and the Caravan and Boat Show with a rare opportunity to ask Paul questions about his Olympic experience.

Of course, Sydney was not Paul's first appearance in the world's greatest gathering of athletes as he had already competed at Atlanta in 1996. In Sydney, Paul became only the second British canoe slalom paddler

to gain an Olympic medal and, while he came home with silver not gold, he still managed to finish the 2000 season with a rating as world number-one.

The hour-long sessions to be held on both the Saturday and the Sunday of the exhibition at the NEC should provide a valuable insight into the lives of two of our finest Olympians.

It is also hoped that Paul will be available on one of the two BCU stands to sign autographs and copies of the 2001 BCU Canoe Slalom Yearbook.

A competition to win an Olympic 2000 Punters Guide To Form, signed by the entire Olympic canoe slalom team is planned. Check the exhibition programme for further details.

Marketing canoe slalom

BBC TV's *Paddles Up* programme, sponsored by Norwich Union, was brought to an end back in 1991. It was a loss which has had a marked effect on sport's public profile, to the point where it could be argued that canoe slalom is less well known now, at a time when we have two Olympic medallists, than it was back in the 1980s heyday of Fox.

Now a new group has been formed, with the task of lifting the brand value of this branch of the sport.

The aims will be to maximise the use of Paul Ratcliffe and the other GB medal winners to promote the sport, to create greater media coverage, to raise awareness of key events, to improve internal information flow and to gain sponsorship, all of which should serve to boost participation at club level.

All this will take several years to achieve but everything needs to start from small beginnings. In 2001, measures adopted will include a press release approval system for race organisers and local media lists to help press secretaries to raise the profile of their events through the local press.

Anyone interested in the group or wanting further information should e-mail john.gregory@aah.co.uk

New executive faces

The organisation of canoe slalom is made up of voting clubs, which comprise the Slalom Committee. At each year's agm, in November, the Slalom Committee elects individuals to act on their behalf as the Slalom Executive.

After having contributed a massive amount of effort to the sport, Colin Woodgate stepped down as secretary last year, receiving the gratitude of all concerned, and Irene Paxton took over the secretarial reins.

Irene has been involved in the sport for some time as secretary of the Welsh Canoe Association and serves on the BCU Slalom Advisory Group. Her son Dafydd is an up-and-coming Premier kayak paddler.

New Start for Alan

Alan Edge has exchanged one challenge for another, giving up his role as chief performance coach to take up the role of development coach.

In this role, Alan will use his vast experience of coaching at the highest level to develop other coaches and to head the planning team which is to write and implement the World Class Start programme.

Says Sue Janes, chair of the Slalom Executive: "Of all the programmes, World Class Start is the one which should give the greatest benefits to promising young paddlers and the clubs that foster them."

2000 saw the World Class Potential Programme up and running. This programme benefits our under-23 paddlers as they strive to reach world class. Staff have been appointed, with Andy Maddock as chief coach. ●

Start of a new season

The canoe slalom season runs from early March until late October each year. The opening races for 2001 are:

March 3

Canolfan Tryweryn International – Pan-Celtic Cup Wales
Welsh championships.

March 4

Canolfan Tryweryn Premier

March 10

Shepperton Division 2

March 11

Shepperton Division 1
Duck Mill Weir Divisions 3 and 4

March 17

Mill End Mill Division 1
Sowerby Bridge 2/3/4

March 18

Mill End Premier Division
Sowerby Bridge 2/3/4

March 24

Holme Pierpoint Premier and England slalom championships

March 31

Matlock 2/3 and open

April 1

Matlock – British veterans championships
Matlock – British under 14 championships

Highlights later in the year will include April's selection races for the senior world championship team, the Welsh, Scottish and English internationals, the national inter-club championships and October's British Open, in Llangollen.

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MORE MEDALS

Fun in the sluice

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Held on a challenging 'sluice' at Hayle, just 15 minutes from the club's home town, Penzance Canoe Club's first ever Rodeo Competition, organised by Drew Davies, proved a great success and is now set to be an annual event.



Right: Andrew Johns, winner of "Rodeo"

The sluice works on the incoming tide, about two-and-a-half hours before high water at Penzance. It works best on a spring tide – the higher the better – and the event's tide rose 18 ft 7 in, which was ideal.

Being tidal, once the sluice starts working this challenge does not provide a lot of time to get a stopper which is almost the same height upstream as it is downstream. It washes out at both sides but it has a very nasty tow-back in the middle downstream side of the stopper, a factor which has caused many a swim.

After about 40 minutes, the stopper abates and a wave starts. This again is dependent on the height of the tide. After a quarter-of-an-hour or so, it starts to die so that paddlers get a chance to try tail-skirts along the eddy-line for up to 30 minutes.

A team from A.S. Watersports in Exeter came down with some demo boats – the Ina Zone and a couple of Wavesports.

Three judges were on hand to look at the tricks as well as overall ability on three sections of 30-second runs.

Numbers had to be limited to 10 paddlers, as time is limited when the sluice starts operating. The first section was in the stopper, with each paddler getting four goes. There were flat spins, front and back blasts, paddle tricks and good old-fashioned sitting in the stopper, bouncing up and down, and all, hopefully, without having to swim.

Next came the wave section of the event, with paddlers carving the wave nicely from side to side, back surfing and producing a few good pop-outs and wave-wheels.

After this came tail-squirts. The canoeists had to wait their turn and the judges were looking for good upright tail-squirts and eddy-line cartwheels.

At the end of the competition, everyone got a chance to try the various different boats that were assembled. The organisers had a rope tied on top of the bridge and canoeists had to hold on to the end of it, in the manner of water skiing, to get themselves into the main flow of water, attempting to master that manoeuvre, without capsizing, and then trying carving from one side to the other; not easy.

The day was sponsored by A.S. Watersports, who supplied a Yak sak as a prize for the winner, Andrew Johns. Whirlwind Sports, of Penzance, supplied a club trophy for first place and there were prizes from local surf shops South Shore and Jabberwocky. Dick Johns and Victoria Red also made prizes for second, third and last places, which went to Drew Davies, Richard Johns and Richard Uren respectively. ●



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Where wolves tread

Sandy Franklin paddles to the tune of the ocean swell on Vancouver Island's beautiful west coast

"Come kayak with us on the island's west coast", said our friends, who live on Vancouver Island. It was an invite we couldn't resist. They promised us white, sandy beaches, peace and solitude in abundance, the joys of the ocean swell, whales, bears, bald eagles, towering mountains, hot thermal springs to soak the aching body, soul-searing sunsets, temperate rainforest, and perhaps the occasional rain shower. And it was a promise that was to be more than fulfilled.

But first, setting off, we decided we had to make a return trip to the Johnstone Straits on the north-east coast of the island. Two years ago we had spent a week kayaking from Telegraph Cove to Campbell River, a distance of 125 miles, and on that occasion we had been joined by inquisitive killer whales, sailing all around our kayaks as soon as we poked the noses of our boats into the Straits on day one. It had been one of life's most moving wildlife experiences, and we expected the same again.

Telegraph Cove is now a major centre for whale watching trips, which venture into the Johnstone Straits, where there is as good a chance as anywhere of seeing the resident population of Orcas. We attempted to paddle leisurely out of the harbour, getting used to the feel of the boats, but excitement urged us on. Soon we were out in the straits; we looked up and around expectantly, listened intently for



Sea planes ready to take us back to Vancouver from Vancouver Island



'As I let water drip from my paddle it was like scattering handfuls of silver dust or tiny jewels over the surface. What a way to end an already full day!'



The author, Sandy Franklin, Echo Bay, British Columbia - kayak packed ready to head back to Telegraph Cove (first part of the holiday).

and eagles soar...

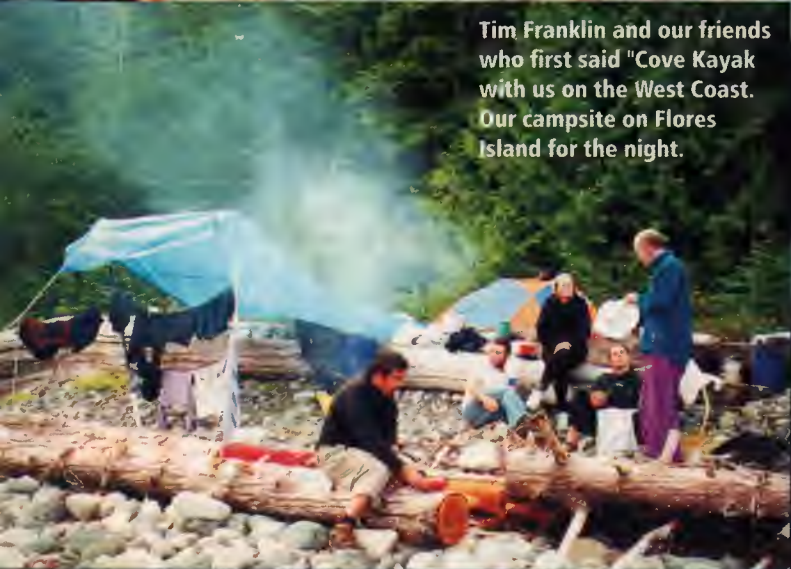


that 'whoosh' which once heard is never forgotten... But we saw and heard nothing.

It was not until day three, as we were leaving Echo Bay, on the mainland, that we heard the sound we had been waiting for, coming over our right shoulders. We turned and spotted three killer whales cruising up the sound. For the next three days we heard and saw the whales at times when we least expected them. We completed our trip, returning to Telegraph Cove via the plethora of islands that litter this coast, and prepared for our first kayaking expedition on the west coast and out on the open Pacific Ocean.

Tofino is a hub of kayaking activity in the summer months. It was the ideal starting point for our trip, offering the choice of an inside passage or an outside passage to Hot Springs Cove and Clayoquot Sound. We hoped to take the outside route on the way out, though that would depend on weather conditions, and the inside route on the return journey. The forecast had mentioned three-metre swells, which had already thrown me into a panic. I imagined what the North Sea would be like with waves of that size and expected the same confused seas here. I was to discover otherwise.

As we set off up the east coast of Vargas Island and across to the Whale Islands archipelago, the rain lashed down. "One of those occasional showers," I thought as the rain began to penetrate every layer of clothing and the sea mist rolled in, obliterating the world. But



Tim Franklin and our friends who first said "Cove Kayak with us on the West Coast. Our campsite on Flores Island for the night.



Soul-searing sunset from Mad Woman's Cove.

nothing could dampen the joy of being in Canada, especially in a sea kayak. As we crossed to Flores Island I lost myself in the motion of the sea involuntarily raising me up and down, and as I rode the waves I was filled with exhilaration. But, I wondered, not without some trepidation, how I would feel in the ocean swell on the morrow.

"Beware – wolves in area" warned a sign on Flores Island, where we were planning to camp for the night. Umm, not sure we were promised wolves. Apparently the deer population on the island has collapsed and the wolves have discovered that an easy meal is available around areas where kayakers camp, especially if people camp carelessly and messily. But I pushed the slight nagging fear out of my mind and concentrated on the beauty of the island, the white sandy beaches, and that peace-inducing sight of nothing but sea, sky and islands stretching before us.

"The pattern for kayaking on the West Coast," Robin had said, "Is to be up early and paddle in the morning as the wind gets up by midday". At 5 o'clock the next morning thick fog and an eerie silence met us as we climbed out of the tent. We also discovered enormous wolf tracks along the beach!

"We'll have to hug the coast," Tim said as we pushed off, "and hop between Whitesand's Cove and the Garrard Island Group." But as we neared Cow Bay the fog cleared and I began to feel the Pacific Swell. It was not long before I was hooked; the motion of the long wave base lulled me along; it was nothing like the chop of the seas around the British Isles!

Despite the swell, the water was glassy calm. Ahead, all I could see was Tim's tilly hat rising and falling, and as we rounded Rafael Point I lost myself in the mesmerisation of paddling a kayak to the tune of the ocean swell. And then there was the wildlife!: Dall's and Common porpoise were leaping out of the water and feeding around our boats, bald eagles were soaring above carpets of black and common guillemots, rafts of northern phalaropes, the call of the loons, and, flying way overhead, we spotted another of the auk family – the murrelets.

With the sun now shining, the sea and the sky a deep blue, the white surf crashing against the shore, and the ancient Douglas firs, hemlocks and cedars growing straight out of the rocky coastline, I paddled on towards Sydney Inlet and Mad Woman's Cove, where we were to camp for a few nights. It was truly paradise: a white sandy beach, rocky islets, temperate rainforest, mountains, and more beauty than I thought I could cope with.

Sandy Franklin and Tim Franklin - majestic scenery of the west coast of Vancouver Island



We pitched our tents, ravenously ate lunch, swam in the sea, read, wandered along the deserted beach, ate dinner, savoured nightfall, sat by the camp fire, and watched the night sky fill up with stars and the shadow of the Milky Way. Soon you could barely see the sky for stars! And this became the pattern of our days – and our nights.

Yet we still needed to reach our destination – only 40 minutes by kayak across Sydney Inlet and round the headland into Hot Springs Cove. We finally tore ourselves away from the idyllic life at Mad Woman's Cove and were soon pitching our tents under the huge ancient hemlocks and cedars. The hot springs, after which the cove is named, are formed by geothermal activity along a faultline which runs between Mate Island and Hot Springs Cove. We walked through the rainforest to the springs, where the hot, sulphurous water pours over the rocks into rock pools, creating a heated tub right on the edge of the ocean.

Our dip coincided with the high tide and the cold surges of seawater gushing into the pools were highly invigorating. I sat in the warmth of nature's hot tub looking out to sea and watching one of those soul-searing sunsets we had been promised, and thought that only nature could create something so perfect.

But even after wandering back through the forest as night fell, the day

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was not done. "The bio-luminescence is awesome," the owner of a boathouse restaurant said, "you should try a night-time paddle." So, at 10pm, in pitch blackness, we pushed our kayaks into the water, took a stroke, and saw the vivid glow of the bio-luminescence, and as I let water drip from my paddle it was like scattering handfuls of silver dust or tiny jewels over the surface. What a way to end an already full day!

Our holiday was passing far too quickly and we had to turn our thoughts to returning. But first a visit to Cougar Annie's garden, further up the coast at Boat Basin was a must. We did not have time to paddle, so organised a water taxi, run by one of the local Hesquiat people. Cougar Annie's garden is set amidst the west coast rainforest and is a place of strange and compelling beauty. Cougar Annie, or Ada Annie Rae-Arthur to give her correct name, moved to Boat Basin from Vancouver in 1915 and there she remained until 1985.

This formidable woman outlived four husbands, two of whom she reputedly shot, created the magnificent five-acre garden by importing plants and trees from all around the world, ran the local post office, and gained the name Cougar Annie for the number of Cougars she shot, both to protect her goats and to sell the pelts.

Sadly we could not linger, and the next day we set off in torrential rain

to return to Tofino via the inside route. We paddled for most of the day beneath towering mountains and across sounds, with mystical inlets heading off in all directions. But as we camped the rain ceased and the sun came out. Above high water mark, we found a space just large enough to take a tent and listened anxiously in the night as the tide got dangerously close. But it was not only the tide I heard in those hours of darkness, but a cougar pounding by. And the next morning we found a large, fresh, bear turd within two-metres of our camp spot.

High winds and rough seas accompanied us, and forced an alteration of our course for the last leg: the Pacific Ocean side of Vargas Island would have to wait for another time. We pushed our way through narrows, not always able to get to where we wanted to be at the same time as a favourable tide, and we arrived back in Tofino even more passionate about sea kayaking and Canada.

We had experienced all we had been promised and had still been startled by the beauty, and the silence and the darkness of the nights. And we did get more than promised too: wolf tracks, cougars, porpoise, seabirds in abundance, remote gardens, and finally the thrill of a seaplane journey back from Vancouver Island to Downtown Vancouver. If you want to know how an excited kitten feels I can recommend replicating this trip. We certainly hope to do just that ourselves. ●

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INTERNATIONAL CANOE EXHIBITION 2001

PRESENTATION PROGRAMME

24th & 25th Feb, NEC Lucas Suite

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10.45 - 11.45 hrs

Franco Ferrero

Head of Canoeing at Plas Y Brenin and author of White Water Safety & Rescue. Franco explains what can go wrong and how to avoid accidents on white water.

An opportunity to win a canoeing or rafting session

12.00 - 13.00 hrs

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An opportunity to win a pair of Five Ten Aqua Shoes

13.15 - 14.15 hrs

Pete Knowles

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An opportunity to win a Special edition video of ID3

14.30 - 15.45 hrs

Shaun Baker & Richard Bell

Canoeing film star & dare devil Shaun Baker with film Director and cameraman Richard Bell premiere the World Showing of their new film ID3 with an opportunity to interact and ask questions.

An opportunity to win a copy of 'Many Rivers to Run'

16.00 - 17.15 hrs

Dave Manby

Why not round off your day at the NEC with a fantastic speaker and great expedition leader. 'Tiptoeing into the gorges' is Dave's fantastic account of his trip to the Dez River in Iran last year.

There are great prizes up for grabs on the Gee Force Interactive climbing wall.

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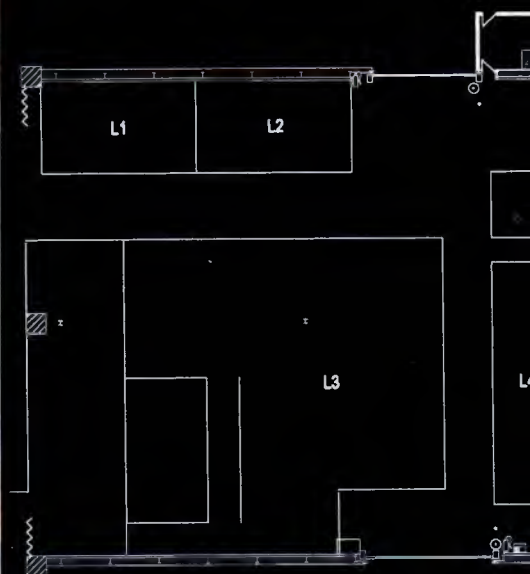
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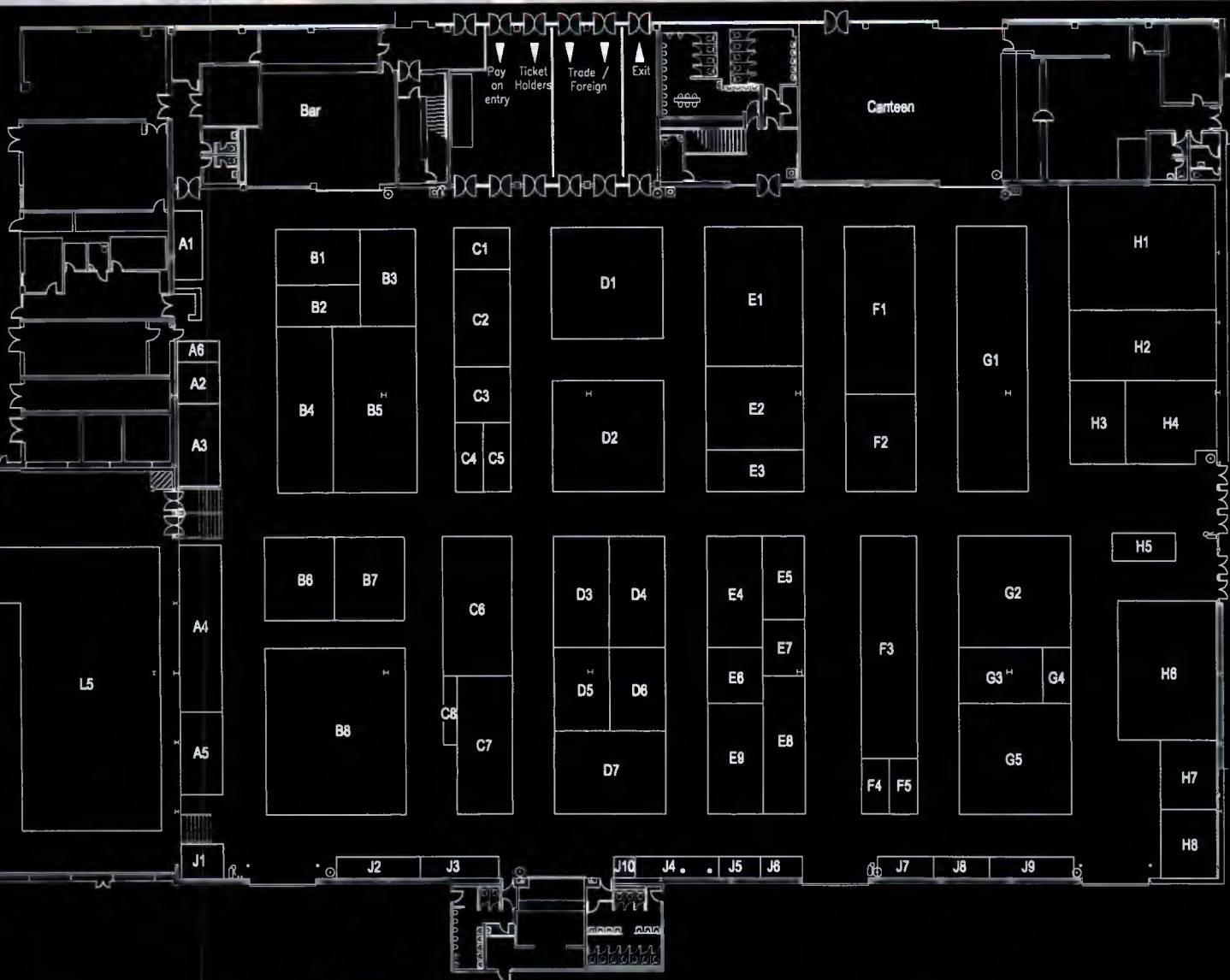
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Year 2000 saw the birth of the Cornish Paddlesport Championship and the creation of a competition that captured the interest of an incredibly wide range of paddlers.

It certainly wasn't the Olympics or even of interest to our nation's elite, but therein lay the roots of its success: a totally unpretentious series of events where organisers bent over backwards to encourage participation.

If this meant age grouping, differentiation of men and women and categories for general-purpose craft, then so be it.

Entry procedures were kept simple, event formats straightforward and organisers' details readily available. The formula was followed event after event and the result was a huge success.

New events have been created and a broad cross-section of paddlers has had the opportunity to sample the competitive environment, with many finding their own particular niche. And, perhaps most important of all, a lost tribe of paddlers have been given a new lease of life.

This lost tribe includes a huge diversity of paddlers who have either lost or never did find their way in our sport. Some paddled years ago and have now found a reason to return, others are young and inexperienced, some were from clubs where events of this level came as a welcome relief to their intensive coaching and awards programme and others still had always been keen but felt they had never previously had a chance to become competitive.

So why did it work so well? Cornwall, after all, has a diffuse population that shares a pathological hatred of travel. So, given that it's a long and slender county and that the event venues stretched its length, you could not say that geography was of any help. That particular problem was got around by approaching organisers to put on their own stand-alone competitions in which they had total freedom to establish their own rules, charge their own fees, and present the event in their own style.

Events were then linked only by a desire to encourage as wide a participation as possible, to permit an egalitarian points scoring system and agreed category structure – namely: juniors, senior men, senior women and veterans (over 50s). In addition, a concerted effort was made to establish a database of active paddlers in the country – an effort that was rewarded with an initial poster of the year's events being mailed out to more than 200 addresses.

Nine events were held through the year, with a paddler's best five results counting towards the championship. This number of events was not arrived at by accident, coming about because of the recognition that our paddlers fell into two camps. You could use terms like 'closed cockpit versus open cockpit' or 'recreational versus racing' but we defined the essential split in the paddling community as being between those who want to roll in their sport and those who don't. Having identified two separate populations of paddlers, we then felt the championship ought to encourage some dabbling in each other's strengths, hence the best five scores out of nine to count, and not merely the best four.

The year kicked off early with a whitewater race on the River Lynher. There wasn't a whitewater racer in sight. Instead, craft were restricted to plastic GP boats, less than 4 m in length. It was a great race, with such craft as Dancers, Europas and Mirages taking the top positions – something that surely can't happen very often!

Next came an open-air polo tournament, with boats supplied by Hayle, one of the most westerly clubs in the county, but hosted in Bude, on our eastern border.

The Helford Estuary Marathon followed and was probably the best-attended event of the year, capturing the interest of not only kayakers but also of the county's surf life-saving paddlers. More than 60 paddlers supported this wonderful race held on one of the most beautiful estuaries in the country.

Hayle was the venue for the freestyle event, which was so friendly and low-key that even those who just went along to watch ended up taking part in the day's on-water fun.

Paddlin



Simon Hammond suggests the Cornish Paddlesport Championship provides a blueprint for popularising competition



Veteran's Les Timmins and Chris Pease head off at the Bude Time Trial event.

Falmouth, and Cornwall's glorious south coast beaches, was the venue for a highly competitive sea kayak race which produced one of the year's closest finishes, or it would have been so if the leading pair had only headed for the right beach! It was then across the county to Newquay for the county's surf championships, while Wadebridge and the Camel Estuary provided the venue for another marathon, though this time aimed primarily at open canoes, and then it was back to Bude for an incredible morning of K1 and K2 time trial racing, followed by an afternoon sprint regatta.

The events themselves have proved good enough to stand alone but they were definitely enhanced by also being part of something bigger. Event quality and a non-Elite level of competition were certainly key factors in the championships' success. Other critical factors were the



g for all



Rory Sacree at the Newquay Surf Championship.



Sprinting for the finish of the Sea Kayak race at Falmouth.



competitive categories and the scoring system, which awarded a score, based not only on your finishing position but which also took into account how many competitors were in your category. This scoring system led to an incredibly close championship, which kept every category of paddler battling all the way to the end. The division of age categories proved to be the trickiest problem. For Cornwall's population, the decision to define

the veterans' class as being those over 50 proved just about right, although, in places with a bigger paddling population, added age groups might be necessary, while juniors too could be split into different age groups. However, each category needs to be numerically competitive and you don't want to establish so many categories that you end up with some people having nobody to beat but themselves.



Above: Simon Hammond at the Hayle Freestyle event.



Below: Alan Collet prepares for the river Lynher white water race.



So with a bit of thought, lots of hard work and more than a little luck, Cornwall has established a championship which will go on into the future. The sport will continue to foster links with the highly talented surf life-savers and will continue to re-introduce more ex-paddlers back into the sport and encourage more youngsters to get competitive.

Now we are happy with the format we might find time to get the media more involved and even go looking for a sponsor. But those are really secondary issues and should never overload the efforts of the event organisers. Oh, and we've also got a team, so if any other county thinks they'd like a challenge... ! ●

Simon Hammond and Jess McCabe portaging at the Bude Time Trials.



The 2001 Cornish Paddlesport Championship starts in January with the Lynher white water race and events are open to all paddlers.

For a full list of the events or information on the scoring system used, send an SAE to Simon Hammond, 11a Crooklets Beach, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8NE

The Rio Upano

The Upano is located in the South East of Ecuador in the province of Morona Santiago that is bordered in part by the Peruvian boarder. Nicely tucked away from the conventional tourist trails, this area of the upper Amazon basin is engulfed in dense tropical rain forest making large sections of the river inaccessible by any means other than by raft or kayak. The highlight of the expedition is the Namangosa Gorge that boasts cliffs that rise up a 100 metre from the river's edge to form a breathtaking spectacle. Impressive waterfalls emanating from the very roof of the gorge combined with the thick layers of primary rain forest give the location a truly Jurassic feel. The whole ambiance leaves you wondering if you really have discovered the lost valley of the dinosaurs! After being cocooned in this magnificent gorge for a number of days the cliffs gradually subside and give way to rolling hills covered in dense rainforest. The river then joins tributaries almost as large as itself which transforms the Upano into a tranquil yet powerful giant on it's way to meeting the longest river in the world, the Amazon.

The river was first explored only five years ago by employees of the Adrift rafting company who were conducting an exploration of the area. One of the members of the original Adrift Expedition team, Steve Nomchong a native Australian, was so taken by the beauty of the area that he decided to settle in Ecuador and launch his own rafting company, Yacu Amu (Spirit of the River). Yacu Amu Rafting now offers commercial expeditions on the Upano and is the only local company to do so. The pristine nature of the river still remains the same even after five years as the number of commercial trips on the river per annum is still in single figures. The rafted river section covers a distance of 135 km over a period of 5-6 days and provides an excellent opportunity to come into contact with and even meet the indigenous people of the area. The Shuar, a surviving orient Indian group, that live in small communities along the river in huts made of wood mud and straw. "The Federation Shuar" is an organization that has been set up in order to look after the welfare of these surviving Amazonian Indian communities. The Federation Shuar oversees the training of local guides who take small groups of tourists into Shuar communities. All commercial trips on the Upano carry such a guide to help liaise with local communities and pass on local customs and traditions. This

Recently appearing in the brochures of some of the largest and most respected rafting expedition companies in the world such as ROW, Adrift, Nantahala Outdoor Center and Sobek, the Rio Upano has been set before us as the next, very fresh helping of expedition delight. Here's the inside story from Geraint Rowlands

interaction with the indigenous people of the area is for most an unforgettable experience.

The Shuar are a very superstitious people, with deeply rooted belief system. Slightly worryingly they were still shrinking the heads of their enemies only 50 years ago. Christian missionaries were responsible for the abolition of this practice! Luckily a lot can happen in 50 years and the Shuar that we met on the Upano river seemed far more interested in making a trade for our chocolate rather than severing our heads from our bodies, good thing I say!

Dangers in the form of rapids are still present, however, there are a whole range of grade III to IV rapids to be negotiated along the route that have a distinct big water feel about them. The biggest rapids are to be found in the Namangosa Gorge itself and they supply a fair amount of kayak play spots and big surf waves. It's worth mentioning however that most of this is on the fly so keep your eyes peeled for surfing opportunities. Large boils have also provided endless amusement, sending kayakers to watery depths, and even flipping 16' rafts.

The Upano is run commercially between the months of October and February. During other periods of the year the Upano is very prone to unexpected flooding and is normally considered too high during the rainy season, the northern hemisphere's summer. Ecuador's location on the equator is of course a blessing for kayakers, the water and air temperature always being nice and warm down in the Amazonian basin. If you are coming to Ecuador however it's worth bringing a drytop as there is some amazing kayaking to be had closer to the Andes in the towns of Tena and Baeza, which of course being close to the mountains, is slightly on the cool side.

The main port of entry into Ecuador is Quito International Airport. Situated at 10,000 feet makes this capital city feels more like a climbing base camp as you gasp for air stepping off the plane. Most tourists now stay in the downtown area of Quito in an area affectionately known as "gringo land" with its abundant supply of restaurants and Internet cafés. Don't worry too much about the generic tourist village feel however, the old town of Quito with it's towering Cathedrals is only a short taxi ride away. It's a 6km-taxi ride from the airport to "Gringo land" and the taxi should cost no more than \$3 American. "Gringo land", despite it's shortcomings is a nice area in which to orientate yourself and pick up a few supplies before traveling inland to the south east to Macus. The town of Macus being the nearest settlement of any size to the Upano put-in.

Whether you make this trip by plane or by bus is entirely your decision.

Factors such as the plane taking 45 minutes and costing \$50 one way and the bus costing \$6 and taking 13 hours should help you make a decision.

Macus the capital of the Maraia Santiago province of Ecuador has a population of 14,000 and has four centuries of history as a Spanish trading post and a Christian missionary outpost. Today the capital is a sleepy little town, with its tin roofed buildings contrasting sharply with a lush jungle backdrop. An abundance of Bamboo scaffolding constructions on building sites evident in Macus signify the continuing growth and prosperity of this area, or maybe that their buildings keep falling down!

Lighter self-supported kayak expeditions tend to choose Macus as their put-in location. The river just below Macus however is braided and there is a real possibility of gear rafts having to portage across large expanses of rocks and pebbles as a result of choosing a river channel that ends abruptly in shallow waters. For this reason many raft supported expeditions prefer to start a little way down-river at the Tarabita bridge, just to the south of Sucua a small jungle village. Transportation to the Tarabita bridge can



be organised from Macus. The ride there takes approximately 45 minutes and it should cost no more than \$10 to hire a truck. Macus can supply many of the foods that you may require on expedition and you should take full advantage of an excellent outdoor fruit and vegetable market full of things that you will recognize and some that you won't.

If you choose Tarbita bridge as your put in then your first class three rapid 8km down stream will be "make a move" rapid which requires some interesting weaving through large boulders. A further 2.5km downstream the fun continues with "O S##t" rapid. This rapid came about its odd name thanks to Denise Merick, a certain Californian raft guide. You'll certainly never forget this rapid if you end up surfing in the same hole as Denise did, and you may once again bless the canyon corridor by uttering the sacred words, "O Shhhhhh#t"!

A possible first night's camp spot, 12.25km from put in lies on the river left, hidden from view by a large pebble beach. Just upstream of here on the river left is a small Shuar community, which can be seen as a collection of wood and mud huts. This is the first visible Shuar community along the banks of the Upano. On expeditions we make a point of stopping here and paying our respects to the villagers by shaking hands and making a trade for some fresh papaya to seal our friendship, fresh papaya which is just perfect for breakfast the next day.

Checking your kayak for snakes, spiders and scorpions seems to be an early morning ritual on the Upano, replacing the normal early morning stretching exercises. Some go as far as place their spray-skirts over the cockpits of their kayak and tying the body tube closed before bedtime. Any of you who have experienced the "upward travelling water drips" in your kayak know that this isn't such a bad idea.

The second day is quite mellow as far as rapids are concerned but for the adventurous there is an opportunity to explore a rather eerie cave. Look out for a long strip of sandy beach on the river left at approximately kilometre 33.25, a



Getting Around Bus & truck.

The Ecuador bus services are reliable and clean, with most buses having roof racks that can easily accommodate a kayak. Smaller trucks can be hired even in small villages to take you to put-in. The towns of Tena and Baeza are particularly used to kayakers trying to score rides to the river and drivers will frequently know put-ins and take-outs. Note that Ecuador is a small country and that you can travel to any destination within Ecuador within a day. Therefore travel costs are very low, a three hour bus journey will cost about \$1.50 American.



quarter of a kilometre below the rolling roller coaster waves of Cave Rapid. To get to the mouth of the cave walk up the little stream that flows into the bottom end of the beach. After following the stream for about 5 minutes you should come to a point where the stream runs out of a cave. Follow the path now to the left and you will come to the cave entrance. This excursion

is a must if a member of your expedition is afraid of bats; the cave is simply swarming with them. Don't forget to take your camera!

The second camp on the river for many commercial trips is Bosco's Camp at kilometre 38.25. This camp is on the outside of a bend on the river left, where a large eddy forms immediately after Chinimimi Rapid. There is very little beach here and the camp is in a jungle clearing just off the river bank. Once, while at this camp, we were persuaded to sample some chicha, the local alcoholic beverage. I remember it sort of tasting like it's been chewed up and spat out again, which indeed it had, all part of the fermentation process I was told. As you can imagine it was quite amusing to withhold this little piece of information from a few friends until they had drunk at least a cup full. Unfortunately though it's considered impolite not to drink chicha from the coconut bowl once it is offered to



Before you leave Blighty: Ecuadorian Embassy:

Ecuador as a developing nation is sometimes politically or economically unstable therefore it is always a good idea to get updated on the present situation by contacting the Ecuadorian Embassy. Flat 3B, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 0L5, Tel: 0171 584 1369, Fax: (0171) 823 9701.

Plane Tickets:

A plane ticket (London - Quito) should be in the region of £400 return off peak, and normally involves traveling via the U.S.A.



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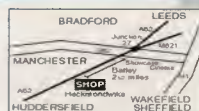
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you so I'm glad to say everyone got a chance to indulge! It was also here that I came across a huge black snake as I was moving one of the rafts. Don't ask me what type of snake it was, there was no way I was going to get close enough to find out! I just let the local Shuar Indian children to take care of it. Well actually they insisted, Shuar children 1, snake 0.

On day three if your bug bites are getting too much for you; the stories of Shuar traditions of head shrinking are making you a little edgy; the river has burst its banks and is now flowing through the trees - check your not suffering from a chicha hangover and after doing this and realizing that you do need to cut your expedition short there is a possible emergency take-out on river left at kilometre 48.25 which leads to the village of Tayuz. Taking-out here would be unfortunate, as the most spectacular section of the river is yet to come. The bigger rapids on day three are El Passilo & Anaconda. Anaconda is identifiable by one of the only road bridges that cross the river. Anaconda has an impressive reflector wave that bounces off a cliff on the river left and should only be surfed by nutters.

The camp on day three is my personal favorite. The waterfall camp at kilometre 56 is on the inside of a right-hand bend and consists of a pebbled beach that gives way to a large sandy area. A waterfall can also be seen high up in the jungle on river left directly opposite the camp and is a good reference point. Paddling across the river from the camp to the waterfall on the opposite side of the river is easy and very rewarding as the waterfall has carved a deep natural enclosed pool into the rock which is both idyllic and provides an opportune moment to take a bath or immerse yourself in the powerful spray of the waterfall. If you're thinking of incorporating a layover day into an expedition this is definitely the place to do it.

The steepest gradient drop on the river occurs over the next 20 km as you enter the Namangosa Gorge. It's a good idea to check the gauge on river left 1.25 km down-river of the waterfall camp just so that you know what you are letting yourself in for. The gorge has been run as high as 27 and gets easier as it gets lower, 21-22 seem like an ideal running level.

On entering the gorge the feeling of complete self reliance and adventure is certainly realized as any way in or out of the gorge becomes

impossible due to the steep thickly vegetated canyon walls. Signs of habitation disappear and are replaced by an immense solitude. Some way into the gorge on the river left small tracts of glimmering water can be seen in the distance, disjointed and obscured in places by the jungle vegetation. As you get closer the full splendor of Ayangosa Falls is revealed. This is an exceptional location to lie back and relax while the more adventurous weave their way through the jungle to explore the waterfall further.

The big class IV rapids now lie just down river. Rooster Tail, The Poulover, Pinpopper and Las Rocas provide the entertainment. With huge river-wide horizon lines being ever present there will never be a better opportunity than this to practice the golden rule, "if in doubt get out and have good look!" Be warned that there are almost river wide ledge holes in places, which could really ruin your whole experience. If your into planning, then it's a good idea to save a bottle of something for the end of this the forth day as a few frayed nerves may need a little patching up. A good



Vaccinations:

it's always a good idea to pop into the local travel clinic! At the moment the vaccinations required for travel in Ecuador include yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A & B, diphtheria, tetanus and polio. The majority of these are free from the nurse at your local surgery.

Insurance:

Try STA (Student Travel Agency) and the British Mountaineering Association for the best deals that include dangerous activity cover.



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



Cash:

I would recommend that you take a mixture of American dollar travelers checks and American dollars. Bear in mind that only dollar notes in mint condition will be accepted. The local currency is the Sucra which fluctuates around 1\$ = 25,000 /s. Visa is useful for larger purchases and for cash withdrawals in Quito. You can budget on spending around \$12 American a day if your bar tab doesn't wonder out of control.

campsite is located at kilometre 86.75 and can be clearly identified as a huge beach on river right. At the upper end of the beach is a small stream that is a good source of silt free water. If the river is high then there are always plenty of hero stories to be told over the campfire. The forever present, "No Sh#t there I was..." stories being a favourite, so if you can't escape them then you might as well make some up yourself!

Day 5 is another big water day and is full of Zambezi size wavy crashy things that you can play chicken with. Hard Right in particular has some huge rocks that need to be skirted on the right but this is big volume country. So make your lines as difficult or as easy as you want, it's a personal choice!! One lesson I did learn on this section however is that you should avoid surfing huge waves with fellow Welshman Skinny Jones (Peak UK) "sorry buddy..... those ends don't 'arf go round fast inne!" (to be said in a Welsh accent). It's also a good



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idea to spread yourselves out for some of the good waves you'll have to catch on the fly. I think that's how Skinny and I ended up being gracefully united in the first place. One thing for sure, there's nothing quite like the feeling of a few thousand CFS flying under the hull of your kayak as you go for yet another few spins. You're now faced with two choices, take-out kilometre 92.75 (Yukianza), or float down to another campsite and take-out the following day at kilometre 134.75 (Santiago Mayatico). The Yukianza take-out may be preferable if you just a big water junky and can be identified by a pebble and sandy beach on river right, just before a suspension footbridge. Note that the footpath cannot be seen from the river and that it's a fair walk to

the main road. From here where it's possible to catch a local bus back to Macus. If you are however in the mood for some more breathtaking scenery then I recommend continuing on down to Santiago Mayatico. This is the last possible take-out unless you have helicopter support or are writing a book entitled, "The Amazon River Source to Sea". The final recommended camp site is but a few kilometres away from the take-out at kilometre 116.25. The campsite is a beautiful huge sandy beach on river right and is yet another reason why you should continue down to Santiago Mayatico. By this time the Upano has been joined by the Rio Zamora and the Rio Coancas swelling the river to an unbelievable size, friends appearing like dots on the river when on opposite shores. Due to the size of

the river at this point it's easy to imagine someone missing the take-out. Make sure you are near the left-hand shore when you pass a military checkpoint on your left and you shouldn't go far wrong. The take-out is on river left next to a thick steel cable that runs from the bank into the river and should be easy to identify.

Santiago Mayatico consists of a few wooden and brick houses, but does have a restaurant accommodation and a local bus service that runs back to Macus. We were almost stranded in Santiago Mayatico when a mudslide blocked the road. Luckily we managed to commandeer a local cattle truck and were able to forge a path over the top of the mudslide with our clients back to Macus. So don't be too surprised if the journey back to Macus by road becomes a major part of your adventure! Taking in the view from the roof of the bus as you drive back up the Upano valley is an excellent way to end this river journey giving you just one more chance to say goodbye to those beautiful glimmering waterfalls before they vanish out of sight, the bus taking another bend on a windy jungle road. ●



Kayak Hire

Kayaks can be hired from the following rafting companies: Yacu Amu Rafting. Baquedano E5-27 and Juan Leon Mera, Quito. yacuam@rafting.com.ec www.yacamu.com.ec Telefax: (593) (02) 236-844 Kayaks are \$20 a day, \$100 a week, with group reductions available, large selection. Rios Ecuador Tel/fax; (593) (02) 558-264 info@riosecuador.com The rafting base is located opposite the bus station in Tena and kayaks are available for \$15 a day.

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MORE ACTIVITY

Youth NOTICEBOARD

£1m for safety Youth programme update

The Environment Agency has warmly welcomed a further cash injection of £1 million from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, which follows a £727,000 grant in being earmarked for urgent works to make navigations controlled by the agency safer to use. Projects involved include repairs to badly lock gates at Mapledurham, on the Thames and the replacement of dangerously damaged winding gear on lock gates on the Nene in East Anglia.

If you coach young people and would like more information about the BCU Youth Programme initiatives for your people, their clubs and schools, visit the BCU stand at the International Canoe Exhibition (February 24-25) at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre.

The floating classroom

The Curriculum at Key Stage 2 & Watersports

A resource developed and published by the Youth Programme of the BCU at Canoe Users



Paddlesport can be much more than just an outdoors adventure activity for schools, embracing as it does many aspects of the Key Stage 2 curriculum. Aspects such as games, history, geography, science, technology and, importantly, environmental aspects, can all be enjoyed more thoroughly through taking the classroom out onto the water. This new pack gives lots of good ideas and practical advice for teachers taking the classroom 'afloat' using Bell boat or open canoes.

Copies of Paddlesport are available from the **BCU youth programme, tel: 0115 982 1100**, or e-mail: coaching@bcu.org.uk, at a cost of £5, including p&p.



Paddlesport development posts

The British Canoe Union wants to recruit individuals to assist with the development of the BCU Young Peoples Programme in the South West (Devon and Cornwall, one day per week), North East (Tyne/Wear, two days per week) and North Wales and Yorkshire (full time).

Fees for the posts are £17,000-£18,000pa aae (pro-rata for part-time posts).

Full job descriptions and application forms are available from the **BCU coaching department, on 0115 982 1100**, or e-mail: coaching@bcu.org.uk.

Coaching for teachers

In case you missed it in the last *Focus*, here's a reminder of an initiative between Sport England and the National Coaching Foundation (NCF) to help teachers gain qualifications in sport in which canoeing is included for 2002.

The first set of courses will be run at Easter, at a cost of £20 per person, including BCU registration. The courses are booked through the Regional Training Unit (RTU) of the NCF but if you would like further information then just contact your local BCU PDO or the youth desk at BCU headquarters. If there is not a course in your area at present, then let your LEA and RTU know and contact us to help organise it.

The current programme comprises – March 28-29: National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, Bell Boat Helm Placid Water Level 1, East Midlands RTU contact tel: 01509 223493; March 29-30: Exeter Canoe Club, Bell Boat Helm, South West RTU contact tel: 01225 826808; April 2-3: Castlegate Quays, Stockton, Bell Boat Helm, North East RTU contact tel: 0191 3747820 and April 4-5: Castlegate Quays, Stockton, Placid Water Level 1, North East contact tel: 0191 3747820.

Preston paddles forward

Preston's Ribble Canoe Club, which draws its membership from across West, Central, and East Lancashire, has been awarded a grant of £2,554 from the 'Millennium Awards for All'.

The grant will enable the club to provide opportunities for beginners to progress to intermediate level and beyond; assist club members in gaining British Canoe Union coaching qualifications; train existing members, and provide them with first aid and safety training so that they can pass on their skills and experience to new members and, finally, to increase the participation of young people in canoe polo.



The grant is intended to involve as many people as possible from the community, schools, youth groups and so on, as well as existing club members, and to that end the activities of the club and the receipt of this grant are being advertised in order to attract more interest into the sport of canoeing.

The club currently has more than 240 members and meets on Wednesday evenings at The Hand and Dagger Public House, at Salwick, and on Friday nights (9pm to 10pm) in winter at Fulwood Leisure Centre in Preston. The club offers British Canoe Union one, two, and three-star courses in the summer, and baths courses at Fulwood throughout the winter.

The club organises a full calendar of activities to suit all abilities and interests most weekends. Every first Sunday in the month a trip is specifically organised for beginners. Other regular activities include river trips, sea trips, surf trips, camps, slalom races, polo tournaments and pool sessions.

Anyone wanting to join the club or obtain more information should contact **Brian Woodhouse, 31 Gib Lane, Blackburn BB2 5BP, tel: (01254) 201730.**

Purley Canoe Club

Purley Canoe Club has been awarded a Lottery grant of £2041. The club applied for the grant under the Millennium Festival Awards For All scheme to further develop canoeing and kayaking, in particular, for young people and people with special needs.

The majority of the award will be used for the purchase of two new boats and associated equipment. The new boats – a Canadian canoe and a double kayak – will allow two to three people in each, making them particularly suitable for parents and children or instructors and pupils.

Further funds from the grant are to be used to finance our qualified instructors to attend further training courses specifically geared to teaching young people and people with disabilities.

The final part of the award is to assist with the funding of a series of 'taster sessions' during spring and summer of this year. It is intended that these sessions will be at a local swimming pool and that people from local schools, clubs and youth groups will be invited to have a go at canoeing in a warm and friendly environment, whilst being coached by qualified instructors. Further information on dates and venues will be available in due course.

For any further information on the above or any aspect of Purley Canoe Club, please take the opportunity of visiting the recently opened website, or alternatively telephone **Gary Staples on 01737 551037.**

Cash for coaching

Cambridge Canoe Club, which is based at the East Anglian university town's Sheep's Green, has recently received an award of £4,300 from the Millennium Festivals For All scheme to enable it to increase its pool of coaching skills, develop a young people's programme and forge links with local groups.

In welcoming the award, club chairman Bill Block comments: "We are delighted that this award has come now, at a time when the sport in the UK is rejoicing the winning of two Olympic medals. This funding will enable the club to improve coaching at grass roots level by helping experienced canoeists to upgrade and enlarge their coaching skills. "As the sport involves so many disciplines – touring, sprint racing, marathon racing, slalom, rodeo, whitewater and the rest – our club needs a wide skills base if it is to attract and develop new paddlers."

The award will help the club develop both placid water and competition coaches; develop a young people's programme; provide training in child protection, disability awareness and injury prevention, and provide links with local groups and schools.

Full information on the club's activities can be found on its web page at:

www.trams.freeserve.co.uk/Cambridge_Canoe_Club.htm

Wild Web

Wet, dank and cold, the British winter is unsurpassed the world over in its drabness. As we huddle in our steaming cags on the bank munching our butties, with the clag hanging low on the nearby hills, it is easy to desire adventure in another land. Wide open mountain views backed by a rich blue sky, turbulent clear water beneath our hulls, strange natives speaking stranger dialects in a strange land.

Well, provided you are able to splash the cash with the same ease as the water then an exciting exotic adventure can be easily arranged.

For an adventure not far from home Ocean Discovery run a sea paddling expedition to Norway. Here they paddle through the many inlets of the island of Sula and past the giant sea cliffs of the fjords. They also organise expeditions to Alaska and Maine and can be found at www.btinternet.com/~ocean_discovery. If you want to

escape crowded Europe and head into wilderness then America may be your best bet. A British based company www.redhouseservices.com/rafting organise trips to Idaho in the USA, a state with the land area of England and population of a small UK town. Here wilderness really does mean just that, and getting lost in the woods is a distinct possibility.

Staying with the Americas you may be attracted by the giant Andean mountains. A good place to start may be www.breathekayak.com who organise trips to the Fataleufa Valley in Chile which promise scenery as dramatic as the water you are paddling. If you wish to mix Inca history with your paddling exploits whilst in South America then head for www.adventure-whitewater.com and Peru. These guys can fix up multi-activity trips which include visits to famous Inca sites. They also take trips to Nepal and New Zealand. If all this still sounds a little cold,

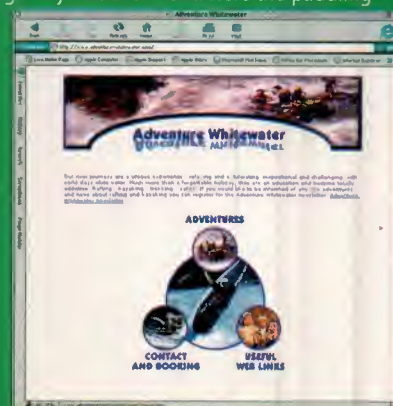
and you fancy the Tropical then why not follow James Bond to Thailand and enjoy the weird limestone scenery of Phang Nga bay National Park. Here the paddling includes underground trips through subterranean tunnels to the hidden Hong lagoons which lie in the middle of the islands.

www.santanaphuket.com/canoeing.htm

Alternatively, do it yourself. There are numerous guide books to the rivers of the world available at www.getoutcanoeing.co.uk. All you need is a canoe, some pals, and the desire for adventure.

GetOut! Canoeing

Wild Web is sponsored by www.getoutcanoeing.co.uk



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For Sale

Acron Bat 270 multi ant £360; Cosica 5 Proline, full WW spec £300; 007, with spray deck £388. All boats good condition. Tel: Dave on 01858 446448. Leics. Aquaba, £200. Tel: Robert Hazell on 020 7267 4881 (home) or 020 7679 4971 (work), or email r.hazell@ucl.ac.uk (NW London).

Arrowsport Hobby, K1 trainer, only 11 kg, immaculate – as new, used four times only, spray deck, ideal DW boat – very fast £450 ono. Tel: David Thorpe on 07785 325951 or 01488 685080 (evenings). Berkshire.

Bluewater, Canadian open canoe, 17' kevlar construction, fast/light tripper boat, imported. New price \$2,175, vgc £600. Tel: Oliver Blackwell on 01798 873904 (evenings) or e-mail blackwelloliver@hotmail.com. W. Sussex.

Boats, 9' Kiwi baths boat, vgc, mustard colour, fibreglass, built-in buoyancy £100; Pyranha C2/3 17' Canadian canoe, green, plastic, buoyancy bags and homemade sailing rig with outriggers, tiller and rudder etc to Canoe Sailing Assn standard £350; K2 17' professional build, with paddles, rudder and spray decks, yellow deck, clear hull, fibreglass, vgc £250; KW7 like K1, fibreglass, black deck, clear hull, old-style but reliable, with no patches. Good straight-line boat, with spray deck; Tyne made K1 lightweight touring boat, fibreglass, blue deck, clear hull, with spray deck, vgc £80; various sized spray decks £10 each. Tel: Ian on 0114 2551480. Sheffield.

Books, on canoeing/kayaking, including sea kayaking and canoe camping titles; also plywood round bilge 13'x24" lightweight kayak, with spray cover. Tel: 01237 475165 or e-mail: dddesigns@mailcity.com. **C2 Charles Trophy II**, £280 back left, Charles Lobster C1 good condition, very solid £350 and Midi Bip Dim X C2 £180. Tel: James Wannacott on 01234 294227 or e-mail: james.wannacott@students.dmu.ac.uk.

Capella, plastic sea kayak (P&H). Excellent club or beginners boat, vgc £400. Tel: David Thomas on 01453 860047 or e-mail david@dphthomas.freeserve.co.uk. Gloucs.

Clubs, need cheap boats for the kids? Nomad Extra £20, carbon/kevlar Flo £50, both structurally sound. Tel: Fraser on 0798 971 2569. Glasgow.

Dagger Crossfire, white/yellow, x-linked, air bags, bow cap, vgc – always garaged. Can deliver. Tel: Jon 0113 225 0984 evenings. Leeds.

Dagger Freetail, Full WW Spec, garage stored £200 Contact 01922 497 975 - David.

Dagger Gradient, Superb creek boat. Excellent condition, hardly used. Full WW spec. £250 ono. Tel: Simon on 01291 620265 (eve) or email annetteandsimon@tinymail.co.uk (South Wales).

Dagger Passage, brilliant family canoe, 17' long, teal R-light. Amazing condition, with wood trim, ash gunwales, webbed sliding wood seats and only £730! Tel: Diane on 0152877009.

Dagger RPM, really fine example of a versatile kayak, blue/white, vgc £250, available to view in Thatcham. Set of rodeo Gorilla paddles £45. Tel: 01635 826893.

Dagger RPM, £380 ono. Full plate foot rest, air bags, backrest, bow/stern caps. Great boat: reluctant sale as I think it's time for a smaller boat and I can only afford one. Call Mick on 01773 873763 (Cheshire field area, or e-mail: mick@wood9.screaming.net).

Dagger Vertigo, red/black/white, Werner full carbon paddle, Rivertec cag, vest, spraydeck, extreme paints and throwbag £450 the lot. Tel: Jon Ball on 07760 221499.

Dancer canoes, two, at £180 each or £320 the pair; canoe trailer, takes one open and two kayaks plus large (open) storage section £350. Tel: Andy Rankin on 01788 528035. Warwickshire.

Discovery 21 K2, stable fast touring double, o/s rudder, zipped decks and extended V bars. Garage stored – good condition. Possible DW boat? No reasonable offer refused – need the space. Tel: John

on 024 7638 2217. Nuneaton.

Eskimo Diablo, blue, vgc. Fully air bagged, end cap, stored indoors, £250; modified crank, 197 length, with Rough Stuff Tempest blades, 60" feather, vgc, £60, plus two cags. Tel: Richie on 01885 400397 or e-mail: canoerichie@aol.com. Herefordshire.

Eskimo Kendo, Full WW spec, excellent river runner. Good condition – stored in garage. £300 ono. Tel: Annette on 01291 620265 (eve) or email: abruno@tinymail.co.uk. South Wales.

Eskimo Kendo, good condition £390. Tel: Emma on 0114 2321472.

Eskimo Zwo, great playboat, red, garage stored, excellent condition. £450 ono. Tel: Edward on 01620 880 227.

Falchion 385, vgc, fitted backstrap, keeper footrests £150 ono. Tel: David Thomas on 01453 860047 or e-mail david@dphthomas.freeserve.co.uk. Gloucs.

General purpose kayak, afloat for 50 quid! In GRP and with spray deck and paddle. Garage stored – virtually unmarked £50. Tel: John on 024 7638 2217. Nuneaton.

Grunan, x 6, 17' open canoes, Marathon Aluminium, used only once £550 each. Tel: Stephen Blackwell on 01798 873904.

InaZone 230, good condition. Includes two end caps. Orange and blue. £400. Can be seen or delivered to Nene White Water Centre. Tel: Duncan on 07719821935 or e-mail: duncan@faulkner2001.freeserve.co.uk.

Jester Storm, carbon kevlar construction, red/yellow diamond pattern on deck, blue hull, vgc. Reason for sale: not using enough. £450 ono, including spray deck. Roof bars to fit Peugeot 306, five-door model, genuine Peugeot parts, £30. Tel: 07909 517812, anytime.

Kendo, lovely, blue/green. Good condition. Inc airbag. £300 ono. Tel: Damien on 0114 2664415 or e-mail: d.bailey@shef.ac.uk.

K1 Quantum, sprint boat, carbon/graphite hull and deck. Very solid, ex Tim Brabants (Olympic bronze medalist). Very suitable for heavier paddlers 80kg plus. Full-plate footrest, Candusen platform seat fittings, £600 ono. Tel: Nigel on 0115 846 1416 (h), 07801 27 11 33 (mobile).

K1 Racing Boat clearance! Private sale: white water racer, Nick Pink design, excellent condition, £250; Gaybo Midas sprint racer, understern rudder, excellent condition, £300; slalom boat, old but vgc, only £50. Tel: Nick on 01286 879001 or e-mail: info@surf-lines.co.uk.

K2 Gemini 1 made by Zastera, 13kg (seats in) very stiff, Carbon Kevlar, Vac Bag Foam on base Honeycomb on sides of hull. £1300. Phone James on 023 8086 3612, or Email jhines@aol.com

Kobra K1 Special, Nomex foam honeycomb construction. Only two ever built in Kobra yellow, weight 8 Kilos including Mark Gees Seat!! As new condition with no scratches along hull. Fast, this boat is made to win races! Marathon foam footrest, sprint footrest, seat, boat bag and boat stands inc., £750. Mark Edwards 01432 341 606 (Hereford Kayak Club).

MagiC Bat, red, three years old, full-plate foot rest and drain plug, in good condition, mostly used on creek water, bargain at £180 ono; Dr D's paddle, right-handed, 202 cm, yellow, never used £50 ono. Tel: Clive Pearson on 07771 835674 (mobile) or e-mail: Clive.Pearson@skynow.net.

Mr. Clean Purple, £325 Bargain. Tel: 01509 554177 0779 0774 696. Mark. Nottingham.

Old Town 164, with Totem expedition spraydeck, both in excellent condition. Bombproof combination £600. Call Sid on 01248 602 670 or 07711 587 756. North Wales.

Old Town 119K Discovery, canoe in red, 11' 9" x 32.5", weight 43 lbs, seven months old and under warranty, paddle inclusive £450. Tel: Martin on 01582 611909 or 0410 217607. Luton.

P&H Sirius, sea kayak. Brand new, carbon-kevlar hull, top spec, £950. Tel: David 07968 245594. Newcastle, Staffs.

PBK 2 Man Wood & Canvas Canoe, partially restored – the wooden framework is sound but requires new canvas covering to complete the project. Must clear as I need the space. No reasonable offer refused – Tel: Paul on 01493 602621 weekdays 01502 677630 evenings and week-ends.

Perception Fox, whitewater kayak, 3.58x610; beautiful boat in near perfect condition, similar to the Reflex, the Fox is a very good beach surfer. £190. Tel: 02380 404863 (evenings). Southampton.

Perception Method Air, as reviewed in last CF, only two months old, re/orange £450. Tel: Frank on 01923 210350 or e-mail frankryan@talk21.com.

Perception Overflow, white granite, WW spec, vgc £250 ono. Tel: Matt on 079 800 48881.

Perception Pirouette Pro-Line, blue, £200. Tel: Mick on 01634 388016 or e-mail: mickhorton@aol.com.

Perception Pirouette, £250; Perception Pirouette 5 £250. Tel: 01246 865609. Derbyshire.

Perception Pirouette 5, green, good condition, £240 ono. Tel: Ian on 0191 386 1979 or e-mail: ian@dphthomas.freeserve.co.uk/

Perception Supersport, blue, vgc, airbags, £250 ono. Perception Corsica 5, blue, vgc, £220. E-mail: nabe_uk@yahoo.com. Devon.

Perception 3D, yellow/green, one year old, vgc, kept in garage. Selling because I have another boat. E-mail: phil_woodhead@hotmail.com.

Perception Whiplash, used not abused, + palm neoprene deck £230; set of Gorilla rodeo paddles, gc £50. Tel: 079494 80779.

Prijon Alien, playboat, yellow, front and rear bags, vgc £360. Tel: John on 01527 877009 or 07811749419.

Prijon Fly Mk2, blue, full WW spec, stored inside, good condition. Excellent playboat £345. Tel: 01228 528455 (evenings) or e-mail: miketinnion@hotmail.com

Pyranha Creek 280, full WW spec, red/multicoloured, two careful owners, vgc £225 ono. Tel: Sarah on 07765881627. London area.

Pyranha Blade, blue, WW spec, hip pads, backrest, excellent river runner and play boat. £275 ono. Tel: Tom on 01924 271410 or 07773 605701 or e-mail: tom_veale@hotmail.com.

Pyranha Attack, red, good condition, £190. Pyranha H2Zone 245, used once. Excellent condition, full WW spec, £400. Pyranha Mountain Bat 230 Mark II, virtually brand new, full WW spec. Tel: David 07968 245594. Newcastle, Staffs.

Pyranha InaZone 220, yellow/black, good condition, stored inside, mega padding kit £420. Tel: Adrian on 07968 035666 or e-mail: adrian@junkfood.fsnet.co.uk

Pyranha Magic Bat, elderly but good condition – only normal 'wear and tear'. Backstrap, air bags, £125 ono. Tel: David Thomas on 01453 860047 or e-mail david@dphthomas.freeserve.co.uk. Gloucs.

Pyranha Mountain Bat, turquoise, WW spec. Foot rest, air bags, end caps, red handles. Good condition: always stored inside. Evesham. Tel: David on 01386 761119 or 07947 382 886.

Pyranha Prospector, Canadian canoe, only two years old and hardly used. Two new paddles, buoyancy bags throughout, trolley etc. £650. Tel: 01904 400084. York area.

Pyranha Storm, multi-art: mango/black, full XR outfittings, vgc – hardly used, £400 ono. Tel: 01534 629832/1 after 6 pm, or 0779 7762287 after 3.30 pm.

Pyranha Blade 350GBP, Pyranha Micro 240 350GBP contact Dave on 07958 656416 or dave@CoruhRiver.co.uk

Pyranha Stunbat, aquamarine, and Pyranha Rotobat, both with air bags, full-plate footrests, nose cones, spray decks. Stored indoors. £150 each. Fibreglass Viper general purpose slalom boat, little used and stored indoors. £50. Tel: Peter on 01509 816936. Near Leicester.

Pyranha ProZone 225, 6 months old, excellent condition, fantastic playboat, only £420 ono. Contact Gaz at 'Chillfactor' (Chorley, Lancashire) on 01257 272575

Racing kayaks, South African made Eagle K1, full Kevlar, understern, 9.5 kg £400; white water racing, Essex, full carbon/kevlar, 9.5 kg £300. Tel: Fraser on 0798 971 2569. Glasgow.

Ramex 17, open boat, little used £400 ono. Tel: 01833 650691.

Riot 007, vgc, light orange, only £350. Comes with helmet. E-mail Peter Lambert at unlock85@hotmail.com.

Riot Sledgehammer, yellow, with deck if needed, good condition. Tel: John on 01527 877009 or 07811749419.

Riot Glide and deck, a little battered but still with sound rails, £450. 7' thruster surf board and bag, £130. 6.9' Wayne Lynch (lovely short board) £150. Injury forces sale. Email me at: gfrarity@hotmail.com or call and speak to my mum 01684 567428

Sea Kayak Calypso Single, as new, immaculate condition, hatches, skeg, compass. Fully-fitted. £825 Tel: 01207 562884 David. Newcastle area.

Spray decks, numerous neoprene spray decks to fit a variety of boats. All in good condition. Buoyancy aids, helmets and paddles also for sale, various

prices. Ideal for beginners looking for cheap gear. Tel: Chris on 01733 241006.

Surfski Raider 230, complete with leash. Greased and seldom used £79. Tel: Ollie Fleet on 01494 786671. Bucks.

Teva Sandals (ladies), pretty, rugged (nylon). Altec design. Brand new, size five and a half, rrp £70, yours for £350 ono. Tel: Suzanne on 0114 2664415 or e-mail: suzanneandandrew@hotmail.com. Sheffield.

Thule, roof bars with fitting kits for Peugeot 205/306 or Citroen AX £20; Peugeot detachable head tow-bar for 306 sedan, c/w electrics, easy to fit. Tel: John on 024 7638 2217. Nuneaton.

Trek 950 Single Track, mountain bike. 18-in frame, STX RC groupset, little used never been off-road. Road tyres fitted, knobblys available. Must be seen £295 ono. Possible part exchange for river kayak or playboat, with cash adjustment either way. Tel: Paul on 01229 836158. Cumbria.

Wavesport XXX Blue/White/Red reasonable condition can deliver to peirpoint, teeside, tryweryn £450 or nearest offer ring Tom at 01422 843194 Or e-mail tom2626262@aol.com

Wavesport Forplay, vgc – not over-used, kept inside and looked after. Quick sale needed, £455. Tel: Matthew Morrison on 07879 816600 or e-mail: Kendo.mat@virgin.net.

Wavesport X, yellow/red, eight months old £420 ono; Sidewinder paddles, carbonfibre blades/skypole shaft, three months old £80 or £470 ono for both – student poverty forces sale. Tel: Duncan on 077900 31286. East Anglian region.

Wavesport XXX, red/black, four months old, excellent condition £300. Tel: Suzanne on 015593 84832/07881 697332 or e-mail: suzientee2000@hotmail.com.

Website, for lost or stolen boats and kit. Free access, go to <http://ItsBeenStolen.com> for details of 146 kayaks which have been lost or stolen. Add details of your losses or consult when buying secondhand.

Wetsuits, full body, adults and children from three years. Used at surf school – unwanted stock. £15 for used, £45 brand new (£25 kids). Palm b/aids £15, small and medium; four master kayaks excellent condition, £100 each. Tel: Sam, on 01288 321765. Bude, Cornwall.

WWR Essoxe, two for sale: a race boat, carbon/kevlar hull with sandwich sides, K/C deck, fitted, 9.7 kg. vgc – only raced at World Cups, fully fitted £500 ono, and a kevlar hulled practice boat with K/C deck. Very solid and durable £350 ono. Tel: Nigel Jones on 0115 846 1416 (h), 0115 9243434 (w) or 0780 127 1133 (mobile) or e-mail: nigeljones@chesterton.co.uk.

Ynis, fibreglass sea kayak, 16' long, fast narrow boat, knee tube, compass, three valley hatches, deck pump, skeg. Suit paddler less than 12 stone weight £400 inc new spray deck. Tel: Laurence on 0117 9585376 or e-mail: laurencedoddy@hotmail.com.

Wanted

Prozone 230, in good condition. Cash ready and willing to travel. Tel: John on 01527877009 or 07811749419.

Lost

Dagger Gradient, purple/red/white, lost November 12 during floods on the Derwent in Matlock area. Tel: Ben Biggin on 01909 720285.

H2 245, red and black, lost at top of Conway Falls, Sat November 18. Tel: Ian Russell on 01270 589024 Pyranha Prozone, yellow/black, lost on River Colwyn on Oct 28. May be found anywhere along the rivers Colwyn, Glaslyn or Cob. Reward for return in good condition, tel: Chris on 07976 529 264.

Yellow Werners, lost on River Kent on Sat Dec 9. Please give it back if found – reward will be given. Tel: Lee 01539 736759. Kendal.

Found

Acrobat, recovered from the River Dart Weekend (October 28-29), contact Mike on 01425 278632. Canoe, found on Tyne. Tel: Glyn on 0191 222 5946 ext 5946.

Neoprene glove, bullet throwbag, neoprene skull cap and contact lenses, found on Pont Cyfin, River Llygwy, early November. Tel: Dave on 01782 621111, ext 3753.

Priton kayak, found on the River Machno, Snowdonia, mid Dec. Tel: Steve on 01492 596780 if you think it's yours.

BCU Federalisation

During the course of 2001 look out for the branding of Canoe England and the gradual move to a different outlook for canoeing in England.

As originally explained in previous editions of Focus it was proposed that the BCU should be divided into two separate organisations as it was considered that the BCU was effectively made up of only English members and that the other national associations found that business at board and specialist committee meetings was overwhelmingly of an English nature and that the other national associations were always in the minority. At the same time English members felt that they were paying a disproportionate share of the BCU UK cost.

The BCU AGM held in March 2000 agreed to reorganise the BCU into two new organisations An English Canoe Association and a redefined British Canoe Union. The English Canoe Association will concentrate on developing the recreation of Canoeing in England, developing facilities, training English coaches and putting in place services to cater for English members whilst the BCU will concentrate on competition and ensuring a common approach to coaching and safety across all of the national associations, including the awarding of coaching qualifications.

In order to achieve this split it has been agreed to establish two separate trading organisations and a considerable amount of work has gone into dividing out the current BCU's activities and the costs involved. This process is very important and extremely time consuming. In addition there are several legislative issues which need to be resolved. Amongst these issues are the governing body recognition of the new ECA by Sport England and acceptance by Customs and Excise that the new BCU will be able to register for VAT purposes. The VAT registration issue is key, if we are not careful the new BCU may be deemed to be outside the scope of VAT as its income will predominantly be grant aid and lottery awards. If this happens then the BCU would not be able to recover VAT and we could have the very silly situation of the English Canoe Association supplying services to the BCU, being obliged to add VAT and then the BCU not being able to recover the VAT, result net loss for canoeing, net gain for Customs and Excise.

After looking at the work of the BCU it has also become apparent that it would be beneficial to the new organisations to divide some activities between the two new companies on a functional rather than federal basis. For example making the BCU the awarding body for all qualifications separates out the functions of training and awarding, which is more attractive to funding agencies. This due to the scale of awards in England is far more beneficial to the new English Canoe Association rather than the Scottish, Welsh or Irish Associations. Another aspect to achieving the division between the two new bodies is dividing the balance sheet and in particular how the current BCU's reserves are divided.

Taking all of these considerations into account it has been decided as a first stage to divide the current BCU into two divisions in order to establish a clean separation in the future into two companies. The BCU will trade as Canoe England in England whilst it will continue to use the BCU branding when dealing with competition, international affairs and certain aspects of coaching. Separate divisional profit and loss accounts will be produced on a quarterly basis allowing the organisation to establish true trading levels, which will dictate how the reserves are divided. During this period negotiations will continue with the tax authorities, Canoe England and UK Sport.

The move to a divisional structure will enable the organisation to make the transition in an orderly manner. Regulations will be brought into place to allow committees autonomy to act either in a British or an English manner.

There has been some questions with regard to the legal structure of the organisation and the relation between memorandum and articles of association and board regulations and the situation in respect of committee constitutions. Any limited company or in the case of the BCU a company limited by guarantee is governed by its memorandum and articles of association. These set out how the company trades, its objectives and constitution, how directors are elected, how AGM's etc are called. In simple terms the memorandum and articles are to a limited company what a constitution is to an un-incorporated association. Changes to memorandums and articles of association can only be made by the company through its Annual General Meeting. Sitting below the memorandum and articles are what's called board regulations. These are agreed by the board of directors and amount to operating procedures. They cover topics such as disciplinary matters and how management committees are formed.

These regulations can be changed on approval of the board of directors and do not normally need an AGM's approval. The BCU when it was incorporated pulled together into a "Union" several diverse sports and recreations. As un-incorporated bodies each of these had separate constitutions. These constitutions on incorporation became regulations of the BCU for managing the various disciplines and activities. The term constitution was never dropped and causes some confusion with the sovereignty defined in the memorandum and articles of association. During the course of federalisation the "old committee constitutions" will be confirmed as board regulations although future changes to these particular regulations will continue to take place only on recommendation of the discipline or specialist committee following consultation with the sections participants. Sitting under these regulations will be competition rules which will also be controlled by the individual disciplines, taking account of the international rules and the views of the competitors involved. ●

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Environmental guide

Copies of *'The River and Waterway Environmental for Small Boat Users'* by Dr Tim Stott are still available from Darren Male, priced at £15 post free to BCU members, quoting their membership number, or £19.95 plus £2 post and packing to other purchasers. Please make cheques payable to the 'British Canoe Union'.

New contact for Ouzel

The BCU has just been informed that the local access officer for the Ouzel in the Eastern region has passed away. The new local access officer is **Philip Tingay, 24 Brampton Rise, Dunstable, LU6 3BY.** Tel: 01582 604 361

Waterways for Tomorrow

The Parliamentary Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee is conducting an inquiry into the potential of our inland waterways. This follows on from the DETR research report *'Waterways For Tomorrow'*. The issues are slanted towards integrated transport and waterways navigable for powered craft. The BCU has submitted a memorandum of evidence to the Committee.

Cast in stone?

DETR research into supply and demand for access to British waters will have started by the time you read this. The outcome of the research and the information that is recorded will doubtless be set in tablets of stone and will be the basis for access provision for many years ahead.

That's why it's essential that the researchers get the full picture about the current demand for access, together with projected future increased demand.

At this stage we do not know how the researchers will operate, but we can be prepared to feed them invaluable information which will help them make the right conclusions. All it needs is for canoeists and clubs to let their Regional Access Officer and the BCU Development Service at Nottingham know now of their unsatisfied access needs.

Raw Deal petition

Are you collecting signatures for the Raw Deal petition? A petition form, which includes a summary of the objectives of the campaign, can be found on the BCU website. When signatures have been obtained, please return the forms to **Raw Deal, PO Box 36, Pontypridd, CF38 2XJ** as soon as possible. Numbers matter!

Countryside Act

The landmark *'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000'* has now received the royal assent.

Despite all the efforts of BCU members and staff, the question of access on water has not been addressed. Nevertheless, the clamour from canoeists was enough for the government to take the issue seriously and force their representatives to express an unequivocal intention to seek ways of achieving more access to recreational waters.

The BCU is now assisting this aim to be achieved through their preferred route of voluntary access agreements. The supply and demand research project mentioned elsewhere on this page is the first step.

Take care of your river

With spring soon on its way, the BCU Environmental Panel is interested to hear from any canoeists who are working on conservation schemes on their local watercourse. The canoe makes the perfect craft for transporting building materials in shallow waters or for spotting wildlife without causing intrusion or disturbance.

We can provide positive help to improve things. Eagle Canoe Club in Norwich, for instance, is working with the Wensum Valley Project to help move shingle in boats out to sand banks to create nesting sites, while members of the Arun Canoe Club (London & South East) are going to work with the Conservation Association, helping with tree planting and step cutting.

Other projects might include helping conservation groups improve bank habitats, or aiding your local Wildlife Trust in spotting otters, water voles, invertebrates or aquatic birds. Perhaps you could construct pathways or launching points to reduce damage to banks.

Canoeists are advised that, if they want to carry out renovations to bank structures, riverbeds or pathways, or create new watercourses to reduce disturbance or improve access, then permission should be obtained from the landowner. The Environment Agency and the local Wildlife Trust should also be consulted from the outset. They will often be able to provide excellent advice on the most sustainable way of performing the change.

If you have any projects on the go, please contact **Darren Male, BCU Environmental Panel Chairman, 6 Brick Kiln Lane, Hurley, Nr. Atherstone, North Warwickshire CV9 2LU, 01827 874262** e-mail: stourmole@yahoo.co.uk

It's official!: we're fish friendly

The *'Effects of Canoeing on Fish Stocks and Angling'* research project report has now been published. The good news is that its general conclusion is that canoeing is not harmful to fish populations.

Conflict centres mainly on the perceived rather than real disturbance of angling by canoeing activity. This is allied to the concept of exclusivity and the financial implications for riparian interests and anglers desires.

Further research is to be considered into these issues of exclusivity. This is likely to place our view on payment for access under close scrutiny. The BCU will draw a distinction between access for making a canoe journey and access to canoe at a specific location for an extended time.

Essex paddlers beware

Warning to paddlers on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, Essex: Ricketts Weir has recently been rebuilt. As a result, this site has now become dangerous at high water levels. There is a lengthy tow-back and a wall-to-wall stopper, which is of the holding variety.

The Navigation Company has stated that it is strictly opposed to any paddler shooting any of its weirs and will withdraw access permits if this happens. Please respect the company's wishes: we wish to retain as much access as possible.

Paddling with a cause

Coming up on March 18 is the third sponsored paddle to raise funds for the local community in the Crake valley. Thanks go out to all those who have supported this event in the last two years; so far nearly £2,500 has been raised for work on the village halls in both Greenodd and Spark Bridge.

The Crake is paddled by hundreds every year and these events greatly build upon the goodwill that we enjoy in the valley.

The Duddon Canoe Club promoted event will cover the grade 2/3 rated 10km from Brown Howe on Coniston to Greenodd Shuttle and refreshments will be laid on by local residents.

Sponsor forms and more details are available now from **Colin Litten, Duddon View, Marshside, Kirkby-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA17 8UW.** Tel: 01229 889629.

Please play the game

For a number of years the management at the Little Chef at Buckfast, in Devon, have been very generous in allowing paddlers to access and egress the River Dart on to their land. Additionally, their car park has become a popular meeting place before or after a trip.

All the management of the café has asked for in return for this excellent facility is for paddlers to pop in for a cup of coffee.

Says one very concerned local coach: "I get to use this facility a great deal and over the years have viewed many canoeists taking full advantage of the Little Chef's generosity.

"Unfortunately, some groups of paddlers are not returning the hospitality shown. The management mentioned to me that only a small percentage of kayakers using their car park come into the restaurant. In fact, many paddlers add insult to injury by tucking into their packed lunches and drinking coffee from flasks right in front of the restaurant's windows.

"Some paddlers change in full view of people eating. There's no excuse. With a little thought you can change out of sight behind a fence to the side of the building. A client of mine even saw a group of guys urinating against the hedge in the car park, in full view of people inside the restaurant.

"Paddlers displaying this degree of thoughtlessness, really does our sport no good at all – particularly in today's difficult access environment when there is the need to gather support from all directions, including members of the public, companies and local businesses."

The Little Chef in question is not "at present" considering withdrawing access but please: next time you park there, act responsibly. It is after all their property and business – and we are there as guests, not out of right.



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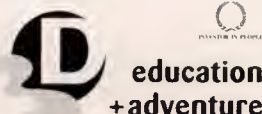
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ENTHUSIASTIC TICKETHOLDERS

required for March - Oct 2001

Minimum Qualifications:
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www.atlantickayak.com.



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
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Tel. 015395 31758

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ring:

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BCU senior coaches required for full-time
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April - October, June - September
or July - August

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

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

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These posts are from mid-March 2001 to 31st October 2001 (dates to be confirmed). The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, and have at least one RYA Instructor Award qualification in Dinghy Sailing or Windsurfing. However, candidates that hold BCU Kayak Coach Level 2 along with RYA Personal Performance Awards to at least Level 2 standard in Dinghy, Sailing or Windsurfing will also be considered.

The rate of pay will be £4.58 per hour (and accommodation is available at reasonable rates)

TWO FULL TIME SEASONAL LAKESIDE ASSISTANTS

These posts are from mid-March 2001 to 31st October 2001 (dates to be confirmed).

The ideal candidate will be highly motivated and hold NGB Personal Performance Awards at Level 2 Standard in either Kayaking, Windsurfing, Dingy sailing or Powerboating. However, candidates who have minimal experience and a strong interest in these sports may also be considered.

The rate of pay will be £3.93 per hour

The working week is 40 hours including weekend work.

All applicants must have excellent Guest Service skills, be able to work well within a team and should have a flexible approach to working hours.

Please send a CV and covering letter to:
Shirley Waddell, Oasis Lakeland Holiday Village, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2DW.
Tel: 01768 893048
Email: shirley-waddell@rank.com

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short or long contracts



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

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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

JOHNNIE JOHNSON ADVENTURE TRUST YOUTH AFLOAT CENTRE MANAGER

Youth Afloat seeks to appoint a manager for its new purpose built centre in Redditch. The successful applicant should have a proven track record in outdoor centre management, excellent communication skills and the ability to prepare written data and reports.

Ideally, he/she should hold all or some of the following:
 RYA Dinghy S1, RYA Level 2 Windsurfing Instructor, RYA Powerboat Instructor, BCU Level 3 Coach Kayaking/Canoeing, GNAS Archery Leader and a full driving licence.

For full details please apply in writing, enclosing a current CV to:
 Alex Cockshott, Executive Director, Youth Afloat, Newtown House, Hewell Road, Enfield, Redditch B97 6AY

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Park

Welwyn Garden City, Herts

Seasonal Instructors

March - September 2001

POST NOS:

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V10038 (full time) £5.33 per hour (pt 7)

We require enthusiastic RYA and BCU qualified instructors to deliver high quality instruction to adults and juniors in a fun environment, whilst maintaining safety standards.

Applicants should have a minimum of one NGB award in sailing, kayaking, canoeing and windsurfing.

Closing Date: 2 March 2001

For an application form and further information call the Leisure Recruitment Line on 01707 357281 (24 hr answerphone) or call Terry Isles, Chief Instructor on 01707 327655.



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CAMP DIRECTOR

required to manage a purpose-built outdoor centre in the Ardèche.

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For full job description and application details contact: Dept. 121, Tel: 00 41 22 990 9405 Fax: 00 41 22 990 9494 Email: personnel@villagecamps.ch

www.villagecamps.com

KAYAKING INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED...

...to help us celebrate our 26th year at our island-based Multi-Activity Adventure and Survival Training Centre.

Must be at least Level 2 Coach, with extensive experience of instructing teenagers. Starting in May, finishing in September, we can offer you full board and accommodation, a good wage and excellent wild sea paddling all around, including the Corryvreckan Whirlpool nearby.

Please apply with your CV to Wild Island (CF), Solwaybank, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland DG14 0XS.

Instructors Southern Ireland Outdoor Education Centre

Situated on the SE corner of Ireland facing S Wales with mainly a schools and groups cliental. Shilebagan OEC as part of its partnership with Pembrokeshire Watersports, is looking for staff for 2001 from February.

Qualifications in: kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, climbing, archery, orienteering or snorkelling required.

Good pay and conditions with time off to do your thing in the rest of Ireland.



Contact with CV: Suzanne Kennedy, Shilebagan OEC, Ramsgrange Co Wexford, Ireland.
info@soec.ie Ph 00353 51 389550

YMCA FAIRTHORNE MANOR

Senior Duty Staff - Multi Activity Instructors.
YMCA Payscale 3 (£7666 - £9268)

YMCA Fairthorne Manor is a leading outdoor education and children's work specialist. We deliver innovative programmes to 14000 children and young people of all abilities each year. We require three multi-activity instructors to join our expanding Senior Duty Staff Team. NGB awards are desirable with a preference for RYA and BCU coaching qualifications. Permanent contracts, residential and non-residential posts available.

Closing date Feb 19th, interviews 26th Feb, start dates negotiable. For an application form please contact: Personnel Department, YMCA Fairthorne Manor, Curdridge, Southampton, SO30 2GH Tel: 01489 785228
E-mail: info@fairthorne.co.uk www.fairthorne.co.uk



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Upminster, Essex

Vacancies for 2001 season

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More details on website: www.stubbers.co.uk

Applications with CV to Bob Edwards (Centre Director) at:
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Or email: admin@stubbers.co.uk
Charity No. 1080941



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

All these vacancies can be found on
www.canoefocus.co.uk
with direct email links wherever possible

River Leaders Required in the South of France

NST Adventure are currently looking to recruit River Leaders for our activity centre in the South of France for the 2001 season. This position requires a minimum of BCU Level 3 Open Canoe qualification.

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 and Driving. Senior staff positions also available.

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 www.nstgroup-travel.com/adventure.html

NST
ADVENTURE



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

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

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Contact Clive Richley
On 01686 640714

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For a family run Activity Centre in West Wales from April 2001. Full board and accommodation provided

Please send CV to:-

Llain Activity Centre, Llanarth,

Ceredigion, Wales SA47 0PZ

www.llain.co.uk

SEA COACHES LEVEL 3

Live and work in **New York City for the 2001 season.**

New York Kayak Company needs instructors to work under the supervision of **Len Hartley, BCU Level 5 Sea Coach,** presenting sea kayak instruction and tours.

Salary and accommodation negotiable. Please send requirements and CV to:

Randall Henriksen:

e-mail,

randall@nyc.rr.com,

fax: 001 212-924-0814

tel: 001 212 924 1327

All these vacancies can be found on **www.canofocus.co.uk** with direct email links wherever possible

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PADDLER'S GEAR
reviews



Out of the ark? No, they're the latest...

The Noah range of quality kayaks has been re-launched in the UK, some 10 years after the original factory in the USA was destroyed by fire.

Vladimir Vahna, the company's founder and designer of the boats has re-located in the Czech Republic and has built a small and highly advanced manufacturing facility to produce his latest range of boats, which will be marketed in Britain by Noah UK.

Whilst Vladimir's name is not well known to many of the new generation of paddlers, those who have paddled for a while will remember his Aeroquatic, which, the company claims, was the world's most successful rodeo kayak of all time.

The new line-up includes the Avito and Machito series of radical playboats; the Playmates river runners; the SQ family of classic three-metre boats, and the impressive Canoah Turismo (open) and Canoah Americana (C2) canoes.

Noah has a history of being an innovative company and many of the developments they pioneered are now taken for granted, including multi-coloured plastic (both roto-moulded and blow-moulded), ergonomically designed and integrated cockpit fittings and the first plastic kayaks with different paddler-sized specific

models. This tradition is continued with the introduction of bio-dynamics and new roto-moulding technologies.

Noah is also offering custom-made plastic kayaks where the paddler can specify all aspects of the construction and fittings.

Noah boats are now available in the UK and details can be found at www.paddleable.co.uk. Trade enquiries are welcome and the boats will be available at selected retailers, as well as on the internet.

A large demo fleet is also being made available which groups will be able to book for test runs. If you are interested in having them at your event, contact Noah UK by e-mail at info@paddleable.co.uk. Book early to avoid disappointment.



Mad

Here are the new madyaker fleece sweatshirts by madyaker. Three colours blue, cream, grey with a mad logo on the front and one on the back right at the bottom of the top, if you know what we mean. £23.00 inc P+P

There's also a new madyaker paddle. It is full carbon and the lightest madyaker paddle yet. One side is one of many funky new designs which madyaker paddles are famous for and the other side is to show you that madyaker blades are now all full carbon, with the new rip pole shaft.

Prices start from £169.00 to £189.00 one of the cheapest full carbon paddle on the market

For details of stockist.
 01257 272 575
www.chillfactor.co.uk



Watch out!



The Finnish company that invented the ground-breaking, award-winning wristop computer watch has launched its ritziest wristop computer yet.

Suunto's Metron has all the features of the best-selling AdVizor, but comes in a tough though lightweight aluminium casing, which is fitted with a top-quality leather weatherproof strap and a scratch-proof mineral crystal glass face.

With looks fit for a king, this stylish watch weighs just 6-g

yet incorporates a heart-rate monitor, barometer, altimeter, thermometer, electronic compass, vast memory – and it even tells the time!

With a recommended price of £249.95, the Metron uses world-renowned Polar technology to guarantee flawless reception of the heart-rate signal. Also available without the belt, at £219.95, it is compatible with all Polar transmitter belts on the market. www.suuntoeurope.com

Put a sock in it

New to Pioneer Outdoor Collection's range is the outdoor collection from Horizon Leisure Products, which includes a range of socks and thermal wear ideal for paddlers.

The materials used for all Horizon's products are carefully selected to provide excellent performance, comfort and fit.

From outdoor activity to high-performance regulated socks, the choice is endless and the prices are highly competitive.

The outdoor activity collection includes the Outdoor Classic, considered the ultimate traditional outdoor sock and combining the natural thermal properties and comfort of new wool with nylon, which give the sock a full terry loop cushioning and the durability which is required for all outdoor pursuits.

The two most sophisticated socks from the range are the Outlast, a temperature regulating sock which keeps your feet at a comfortable temperature whatever the weather or activity, and the Amcor, which is made from the first fibre to effectively eliminate bacteria and fungi – the primary causes of athlete's foot and extreme foot odour.

Developed by NASA, the Outlast's fibre consists of a unique 'phase change material', which has the ability to absorb and store excess body heat during periods of high exertion.

For information on sales outlets, contact Sowester Simpson-Lawrence Ltd on 01202 667700, e-mail: sow@sowester.co.uk, www: www.sowester.com



PADDLER'S GEAR

Info Get focused

on tap

Whitewater Adventures is a spectacular interactive CD-ROM about canoe and kayaking adventures featuring rivers all over the world. The contents of this useful accessory include 140 river runs in 20 countries on five continents, interactive maps with direct access to river reports, 40 minutes of digital video movies, more than 60 photographs that can be copied and printed on demand, 50 internet links to the best canoe sites, suggestions and equipments, a powerful search database, a glossary and a help section.

For information go to info@dreamslab.it.

Designed to withstand the hardest knocks, Pifco's new 2024 heavy-duty torch is ideal for the great outdoors.

Made from extra tough aircraft-quality aluminium, this is a top-quality high-performance product, making it equally suitable for camping canoeists as in the home or out motoring.

Fully water-resistant, the Pifco 2024 Aluminium Torch features a 70 per cent brighter krypton bulb, ensuring that a powerful beam is always at hand. The torch is operated by a push-button switch, which is located in a comfortable position on the barrel.

A handy spare bulb is supplied and is stored in a special compartment in the end cap. This torch also boasts a focusable spotlight beam, enabling the user to either focus on a particular



area or object or to take in a wider view.

Operated by three 1.5V (LR20) batteries, which are supplied, the new Pifco product has a recommended selling price of £24.99.



Pyranha new "stuff"

Over the past year or so Pyranha have been looking around for other people who make cool stuff for you to use. They will be distributing these products mainly in Europe. One of the ranges they have found is Watershed from the US who

they believe make some of the best dry bags in the world. The materials, closures and attention to detail are second to none. The bags will be available through their Authorized dealer network in the spring.

Say Pyranha; "To see some of the other stuff we're working on, pop on our stand (G2 & F3) at the Canoe Show for all the latest on boats, gear and a chat. Also the first sections of our revamped web site (www.pyranha.com) are now live. We will continue to expand the site as time goes on and have some pretty funky stuff planned for it!

"The new factory is now in full flow after our Christmas holidays. The factory is getting out all our pre season orders from around the world ready for the new season."

It's wild!

Wild Things have been receiving glowing news from users of their recently launched Wild One all-round kayak.

"Clubs, centres and individual customers all over the country are praising its versatility, comfort and performance," says Kevin Andriessen, owner of the business, "Coaches are particularly impressed with how well it paddles in the hands of a novice and yet how responsive it is for the more experienced paddler."

The full collection of quotes and letters can be seen on Wild Things' expanded website at www.wildthings-canoes.co.uk, which has been designed for quick loading and easy browsing. The Wild One is now available in red granite and yellow granite and Keith is producing a few custom graphic specials for this month's canoe exhibition at the NEC.



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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



Make child's play of shallow river features in the Evo, our first full-on, high-performance youth kayak that will blow away smaller adults when used as a squirt boat. At only 7 feet long and with a deck height of only 9 1/2 inches, the Evo's 37 gallons of volume will have 12-year-olds rippin' up the river and adults taking the hurt right out of squirt.

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

F.A.T.

Welcome to whitewater kayaking's future. Wave Sport's new Fit Adjustment Technology (F.A.T.) means you can leave your paddlesport dealer's shop with a new boat that fits you like a glove. Includes adjustable thigh braces and hip pads, as well as our new indestructo backband. This will change the way you feel about kayaking forever.



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08000 151520

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