

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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quantity of
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More Medals
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world
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medals

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www.canoeofocus.co.uk

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COMMENT

BCU elections

The BCU AGM at Westminster Boating Base revealed that Albert Woods had retained the Presidency of the BCU. Albert received 339 of the 620 votes cast with David Train receiving 199 and there being 82 spoilt votes. Andy Cook, Roger Fox, David Gent and Alan Laws were elected to the BCU Board. This was the first time that we have seen such a hard fight for the Presidency.

Devizes to Westminster

With the foot and mouth outbreaks still occurring it is with deep regret that the Devizes to Westminster Organisation decided to cancel this year's race. In commenting after the difficult decision the organisation's chair, Tom Armitstead, said: "In making this early decision the organisation is able to remove uncertainty, refund the paddlers who have already paid to compete and establish a firm basis for organising the race at Easter 2002, although disappointed the D/W team is committed to bringing the event back next year".

VIP Recognition Awards

The VIP Recognition Awards are presented each year to sports organisations that are leading the way in the recruitment and management of volunteers. The awards offer winners public recognition and financial support in their volunteer management programme. The awards consist of the following:

- Nine regional club awards, worth £1000 each
- Regional club award winners gain automatic entry for the national club award, worth £3000
- 100 regional "highly commended" club awards, worth £100 each.
- One national award for the best university sports association, worth £3000
- One national award for a national governing body worth £5000

The closing date for the application process is July 31 2001. Call 0800 363 373 for information and an application form

Tell us what you want

We will be sending you a questionnaire in May requesting information to assist us with the Paddlesport Review and to provide data for the DETR research into access to water. We recognise that paddlers want to paddle and do not enjoy questionnaires but I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of this piece of work. The paddlesport review will assist us in shaping our organisation to meet your needs; it will help us put in place the right services to take your sport forward. In addition it will provide important data to assist with our attempts to gain greater access

Foot and mouth disease – general update

As we go to print, the foot and mouth outbreak is back on the front page. There have been signs that some people felt that the problem was over, and that the tight controls under which the country has been operating were no longer required. This could have caused some complacency in observing the rules.

"From a veterinary point of view, I must emphasise that we are still caught up in a serious disease problem, which may well get worse before it gets better. If we are to keep the outbreak under control, the tight restrictions on livestock movements and other activities risking disease spread are absolutely essential, and must be rigorously obeyed and enforced. These restrictions must be retained until we are sure the outbreak is over. To relax the controls too early could lead to a further deterioration in the situation".

Jim Scudamore,
The Chief Veterinary Officer 9th March 2001

Canoeing has been restricted across the entire country. In order to contain the disease, even in totally urban areas, riparian owners, such as BWB, have banned the use of watercourses in support of the precautionary principle. Paddlers are asked to continue their support in respect of the situation by ensuring common sense action in line with the BCU's overall statement.

For an up-to-date statement call the BCU Office on 0115 9821100

www.maff.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/fmd

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

White Water Warriors on line!

Check out www.whitewaterwarriors.com. Made during this year's Warrior travels, the site was built after a crash course in web design in Kathmandu. Some pages were created in a jumbo jet at 32,000 feet, some on the river banks in Nepal, in a flashy hotel in Bhutan and in the departure lounge at Bangkok Airport.

In New Zealand the laptop has been spotted in a van, near a wave, in an eddy - but now it's home. Say Allan and 'The Original' White Water Warriors:

"Check us out and boost our ratings and you never know what might happen in the future!



www.whitewaterwarriors.com

Jerry moves on

Members should note that, having moved to Sheffield, Jerry Elsmore is no longer working as a London & South East Region official: "Despite moving on, I am still currently having lots of enquiries coming through to me that I am no longer in a position to deal with," he says.



Environmental commitment

Barbara Young, the new chief executive of the Environment Agency, chose the London Boat Show as the perfect occasion to reinforce the agency's commitment to the waterways of England and Wales.

Baroness Young visited the show to meet representatives from the British Marine Industries Federation and the boating industry. The meeting discussed many issues relating to navigation, including navigational management and funding.

Said Baroness Young: "The agency is determined to continue managing the waterways of England and Wales in a way which ensures that the right balance is struck between the needs of our environment and the needs of those who use our waterways for commercial and recreational purposes.

"We have and will continue to work in close partnership with navigation authorities, as well as the boating trade and industry, to make our waterways cleaner and safer. We are actively involved in programmes such as the Waterways Trust, the Boat Safety Scheme and Navigate With Nature."

Money in leads to money out!

Ask not what your region will do for you – ask what you can do for your region. Well, in the Northern Region there are always a few jobs looking for volunteers and most of those jobs involve only a few hours work, but if no-one did them... we wouldn't have a Tyne Tour.

It's a great weekend, 700-800 people enjoy the paddling, the Ceilidh, the social whirl, but it wouldn't work without a lot of preparation and volunteers. There is a small team that masterminds the organisation throughout the year, but on the weekend itself loads of people are needed to man car parks, sell tickets, organise the camping and so on. If enough people get involved, most will only need to do a couple of hours, and can get in plenty paddling as well. It all helps make the event go smoothly.

The main targets last year were to encourage club paddlers, particularly young paddlers and women, to gain more coaching qualifications and skills. The region wants to help clubs raise their standards and knowledge and for the ideas to be fed back into clubs.

The basic policy is to provide 50% subsidies, to ask clubs to support applications – financially if possible – and

to expect the recipients to 'repay' their grant by voluntary work, either in their clubs or with regional events.

So last year we helped with first aid courses, manual handling courses, and white water safety and rescue courses. 18 young people and six women now have the skills and confidence to organise safety cover on river trips. The region also ran an introduction to sea kayaking for young paddlers - nice and lumpy it was. The young members of Durham KC had help to do their Coach 2, and have since done Coach 3 training.

Assistance is also given to young competitors, with grants to the youth polo teams and help with barrage passes for the Tees Slalom squad. Clubs needing specialist equipment for disabled paddlers had grants, and Northern Region provides two days of Paddleability events, free of charge, which are very popular.

"About £3,000 was raised at last year's tour, and the region expect to spend it the same way this year. Just remember - if you don't help the region, it isn't going to be able to help you!" comments Northern Region chair Vic Brown.

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Are you competent?

A user photo-card scheme was introduced at the Nene Whitewater Centre on February 1 in a bid to ensure that the course is tackled only by people competent to do so without endangering themselves or others.

To be approved, paddlers need to either hold a BCU three-star certificate, be a ranked slalom paddler or whitewater racer, have undertaken a centre approved test or already be known by centre staff to be competent.

Says Alan Adams, chairman of Northampton Canoe and Kayak Club: "The reason the card has been introduced is because of a worrying number of accidents, particularly in Pool A.

"The problem is that people don't – and, in some cases, can't – stop before paddling down the drop.

"If they don't stop and check first, they are unaware if their path is clear. At the same time, paddlers down below don't get the chance to see them coming.

"It's hoped that ensuring competency through the card scheme will stop such accidents from happening."

Come clean!



Surfers Against Sewage are looking for your help. Commenting on the European Union's recently published Draft Bathing Water Directive, Vicky Garner, of SAS, says: "To get what we want we need backing from all water users across the member states, including canoeists.

"We have already got them to change the definition of 'bathing' to any direct body contact with water involving head submersion and/or the risk of water ingestion – which means it now covers a whole lot more people.

"Our hopes are for a piece of legislation which will protect all water users, not just bathers, from the risks associated with sewage polluted water and to this end we have been building a 'water alliance' by pulling together the governing bodies of all water sports and asking for their support in the campaign. 12 governing bodies, representing many thousands of users, have already signed up. "We've managed to persuade the European Commission that what we are saying makes sense but to strengthen our argument we need some solid facts to present before the European Parliament, which body will have the final say on the new directive.

"Time is now short and we will have our work cut out over the next few months finding water users in all the member



states and persuading them to back what we are calling for.

"If any reader has contacts in any water sport in any country, please drop us a line with their contact details.

"Among other things, we are trying to work out where people are going into the water and what are the top watersports in each country.

"It is absolutely essential that we gather the evidence to confirm that water users don't just frequent the same waters that bathers use."

Vicky Garner or James Hendy of Surfers Against Sewage can be contacted on 01872 553001, or via e-mail at: vicky@sas.org.uk

Get in the swim



Water quality is a cause for concern among paddlers as well as everyone else who uses the nation's rivers, lakes, canals and seas – which is why Surfers Against Sewage

are calling for the canoeing community's support.

On May 5, at more than 50 locations throughout Britain, thousands of people will be making a big splash by taking part in SAS's first ever national sponsored swim, an event which will raise funds to enable the lobbying organisation to continue its fight for a cleaner aquatic environment.

The aim of SAS is to ensure that whenever, wherever and in whatever way you choose to partake in leisure activities you should be safe in and around the waters. When serious health risks are present, SAS wants the information prominently displayed, so that members of the public have the chance to make an educated decision and not an ignorant one.

"Health risks can be removed and you have the right to see that this happens," says SAS representative Paul Owen.

"If you are interested in taking on the challenge, dive on in and set yourself a target: you can swim five to 500 lengths, or more... it's up to you!

"Embrace it as a mission. Help us make not just ripples but waves of awareness. All the swimmers taking part will receive a thank you certificate and prizes will be awarded to those raising £10 or more.

"The total amount of sewage discharged daily around the British mainland coast is enough to fill 546 Olympic-sized swimming pools!"

Those interested in obtaining details of events in their area should contact Natasha at SAS on 0845 458 3001.

www.sas.org.uk

CANOE FOCUS NEWS OBITUARY

Peter Witheridge 1943-2000

The death has occurred of Peter Witheridge, who was one of the founder members of Potteries Paddlers Canoe Club, more than 16 years ago. He used to take his son to the rivers and they soon got to his heart and he started to paddle.

He tried kayaks, but really didn't like them – but once in an open canoe, he fell in love. His wife, Jennifer also enjoyed the sport and they were soon paddling most weekends.

Peter owned a positive flotilla of canoes – there are quite a few manufacturers who have had him on the phone discussing various points of the design at length with them, 'At length' is the right choice of phrase because one of the memories of him will always be the way a five-minute story became a three-part epic story when he told it.

With Potteries Paddlers, this great enthusiast helped to organise many of the weekends away and assisted in as many ways as he could.

His knowledge of the skills required was fantastic, and his enjoyment limitless – as long as he could have a cuppa and a sandwich when he wanted, which was usually every hour or so.

Under his direction, the open canoe section of Potteries Paddlers really took off, and they acquired a trailer and various different open canoes. He pushed for the club to go off and do wilderness paddling. The Caledonian Canal got 'petered' first, then many quiet secluded Scottish glens got the same treatment. Peter Witheridge was someone who made friends wherever he went. He will be sorely missed by many people.

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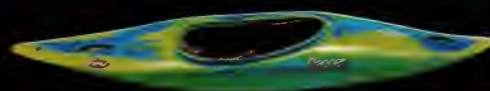
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Youngsters,
look East!

Are you a dedicated C1 who was under 16 on January 1, 2001? If you are in division two or above or are maybe at the top of division three and only just missed promotion, this should interest you.

The BCU has a dedicated C1 coach and wants to improve C1's in GB canoe slalom.

C1's are currently wanted for the summer tour to Eastern Europe.

If you are interested, contact Jim Croft, the GB under-16 manager on 01582 651615, or e-mail jimcroft@ntlworld.com

Paul peaks Olympic silver medalist and by far the fastest man on the river, Paul Ratcliffe is now part of the PeakUK development team. When not training or racing, Paul will be assisting in the development of new product designs and marketing up to the next Olympics. He will also be writing event reports for magazines and for the Peak UK website at www.peakuk.com

Coruh river

As well as having spaces left on their paddling adventures in Nepal, Bhutan, South America, New Zealand etc Adventure Whitewater are now offering exciting journeys in the land of the Byzantine Castles.....Turkey. The Coruh river is being dammed with the construction scheduled to be completed next year. Whilst all paddlers hope their progress is slow and damage to the river is limited, this year could be the last chance to enjoy all of it's whitewater.

For further details of these or any other of their trips, please do contact them at: info@adventure-whitewater.com
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Can you provide a safe and professional environment for young people to learn to canoe in remote parts of Belize, Namibia or Ghana? Would you like to work with a well-respected charity and improve your own work skills.

Youth development charity Raleigh International - formerly known as Operation Raleigh - is looking for qualified sea kayakers and inland canoeists to work on its three-month expeditions to the above countries this year.

Each Raleigh International expedition has on average 100 young people aged 17-25, and around 40

volunteer staff members aged 25 and older. The younger volunteers, known as Venturers, spend 10 weeks in their expedition country while the staff members spend around 12 weeks.

Canoeing and kayaking will form part of the young volunteers' three-week adventure project. These trips present many challenges, such as travelling in remote areas under demanding conditions and being exposed to wilderness living. Canoeing/kayaking staff need to provide a safe and professional environment for the project to run successfully.

A minimum of two members of staff run each trip and both must be experienced in all aspects of organising and leading trips. This includes route planning, group management, navigating often arduous terrain, first-aid and safety techniques.

Volunteer John Ramwell, a kayak project manager in Chile, said: "If you are looking for a serious kayaking experience in remote locations and if you get any satisfaction from seeing young people in your charge enjoy what will probably be the most exciting and challenging experience of their life, then look no further than Raleigh International."

All potential Raleigh International staff are asked to attend a UK-based introductory weekend and successful applicants then fundraise £895 towards the cost of the programme. The qualifications necessary to take part vary, depending on the specific requirements of the project. Current sea kayaking is restricted to Chile, while inland canoeing projects are undertaken in Belize, Ghana and Namibia.

Interested? Call the staff recruitment office on 020 7371 8585, fax 020 7371 5852 or e-mail staff@raleigh.org.uk.

www.raleighinternational.org

Tough... and then some

The Blue Eskimo Challenge, which catapulted onto the UK endurance sports scene when it was launched last year, is back for 2001, with the first event scheduled for Saturday April 28 on the banks of Loch Goil, Scotland.

Other events follow in the Lake District (June 30-July 1), north west Wales (August 25-26) and in the north of England (October 6-7), with the grand final in an exotic location to be announced later. Precise details of the venues are not given to the competitors until two weeks before the event, to prevent unfair reconnoitering.

The event's inaugural series last year was a great success, introducing a completely new event to the UK and gaining an amazing response from both competitors and sports enthusiasts at large and winning extensive television coverage.

Such is the interest around the world in this type of event that teams took part from all over the world, including South Africa, New Zealand and the United States. This year's challenge hopes to attract a similarly international entry and also to encourage more UK-based teams to take part with the support and sponsorship of their companies.

The Blue Eskimo Challenge pits mixed sex teams of four against each other and the elements, navigating over tough terrain for up to 30 hours non-stop. Each team has to be completely self-sufficient, carrying enough food and equipment to see them through the gruelling event.

Over the two days of each event, the teams complete punishing sections which, besides canoeing, include mountain biking, orienteering, abseiling and a lot of trail walking.

Says James Hopper, the event's founder and organiser: "The Blue Eskimo Challenge was so successful in its first year because it appeals to an urge among competitors of all ages to test themselves and fulfil a need for adventure and the physical and mental challenges so often missing in modern life."

Full details of this year's challenge can be found at www.blue-eskimo.com. Organiser John Hopper can be contacted on tel: 07747 632096 or by e-mail: james.hopper@blue-eskimo.com.

Holme Lacy College

Canoeing activities at Holme Lacy College in the Wye Valley have continued to expand with the arrival of a fleet of open canoes. As well as star award training at Upton Warren Outdoor Centre and river trips on the Wye, white water kayak skills training has been run on the Usk, Dart, Dee, Rea and Lugg. In the summer students will have the opportunity to undertake a canoe camping journey on the Wye and try sea and surf kayaking in Pembrokeshire.

A variety of courses are offered for students from the age of 16. Opportunities exist to gain a variety of Coaching Awards and many students go on to work as watersports instructors in the Outdoor Industry. For those wishing to progress from Further to Higher Education we also offer an HND in Outdoor Recreation Management and, new this year, a BSc (Hons) in Outdoor Recreation. Both of these courses are offered in partnership with University College Worcester.

As well as work experience placements in the UK we

are now able to offer the opportunity for HND students to undertake a summer placement in Norway. To find out more about any of these courses or for information about Open Days in May and June please contact Admissions on 01432 870316 or e-mail:holmelacy@persshore.ac.uk.

www.holmelacy.ac.uk and www.worc.ac.uk

Making the Move...

Glenmore Lodge, Scotland's National Outdoor Training Centre will be joining forces with gear specialists KOGG

Senior Paddling instructor, Ian Sherrington said "In KOGG we feel we have found a company that has a reputation for quality and reliability that matches our own. They produce stylish, functional equipment that meets the needs of all our students."

"We are a unique testing ground in that we cater for people taking their first paddle strokes through to working with paddlers at an elite level"

Cam Allan from KOGG explains: "The philosophy of KOGG is simple, we design hard wearing functional paddling gear. Our mission in the new millennium is to just keep going."

"We have teamed up with Glenmore Lodge to work together on product development. To do this we have to work with the most experienced in the business. Glenmore Lodge as a centre of excellence can provide this testing ground"



WILD web

With winter rushing to a close and spring making an appearance we start turning our minds to re-birth and renewal. Maybe its a time when you too could be born again, looking towards a new paddling challenge, changing from being a crazy creeker to becoming a long distance strong man. Or

maybe your gear is due for renewal, and its time chuck out the old and buy some new.

There are plenty of on-line shopping experiences to be had on the internet, but advice can be a little slim on the ground, so heres a few suggested sites.

If its open canoeing your looking to take up then youll need to make decisions about hull shape and size. Can you fit in the three kids and a dog, and will you be able to surf in this 15 monster? A good place to start is <http://www.canadianwaters.com/shopping/canoes/designs.htm> which covers the basic differences between the various types of open canoe. Its a question of more than just length and size. Hull shape can effect stability and manoeuvrability, and theres a plethora of materials to choose from. As for surfing the beast take a look at http://www.gorp.com/gorp/activity/paddling/howto/can_surf.htm.

Adventure rather than short term excitement might be your future desire, and theres no better source of adventure than sea paddling. Getting the right equipment is critical in this exposed environment where battling the waves is only part of your problem. An excellent and very technical guide to hull shape can be found at <http://www.oneoceankayaks.com/kayakpick.htm> which boast excellent line drawings and descriptions. Another less technical but good guide is The Hull Truth at http://www.canoekayak.com/annuals/ktarticles/kt_article_3.htm which points out that women make better touring kayakers than men. It all has something to do with the weight being distributed below the waist. Hmm. Moving swiftly to less dangerous topics it remains only to look at the white frothy stuff.

White water and canoe surfing has been the major area of development recently. Choosing the right kayak is very complex, and sadly theres not much on the net to help. There are many things that effect your paddling in white water such as hull shape, weight distribution, volume and where its placed, material, and

length. Try http://www.outdoorplay.com/headlines/type_wh.html which gives a good description of the basic white water canoe types. The pyranha FAQs page gives reasons why you should move your seat at

<http://www.pyranha.com/ques3.htm>, and they make the good point that a beginner intending to paddle white water may as well start with a flat bottomed boat straight away <http://www.pyranha.com/ques2.htm>.

I guess the only solution is to try your mates piece of plastic and see if you like it. So now theres no excuse. Go for re-birth. Go for renewal. Get some nice shiny new kit.



Tony's award

Old Town Youth Club official Tony Harris, a man best known for his involvement with canoeing, was one of six local sports organisers

recently honoured by the Mayor of Croydon for their total of nearly 200 years of work providing sporting opportunities for people in the London borough.

Tony, who has also managed Croydon borough teams in the London Youth Games, has encouraged young canoeists for more than 35 years.

"I regard this as an award not just for myself but for all our instructors - 20 or more of them down the years plus the countless support staff who have helped it all happen."

French summer

The French Canoe Federation has a number of international events set for this summer.

The flatwater racing World Cup will be held at Mantes la Jolie, in the western suburbs of Paris, from June 14-17.

Bourg St. Maurice, in the Savoy area of the Alps, has been chosen to host the slalom pre-world championships competition, from August 17-19.

Details of these events can be obtained from the **Fédération Française de Canoë-Kayak at 87 Quai de la Marne BP 58, 94344 Joinville le Pont, Cedex, France. Tel: 00133 (0)1 45 11 08 50, fax: 00133 (0)1 48 86 13 25, e-mail: ffck@ffcanoë.asso.fr**

River Usk Canoe Race

All-comers are welcome for the 2001 River Usk

Canoe Race, set for Sunday July 15, starting from Newbridge-on-Usk and finishing seven miles away at the Hanbury Arms Hotel, Caerleon.

Starting time has been set at 2.15 pm and further details are now available from **Alan Baker, 20**

Larkfield Close, Caerleon, S Wales NP18 3EX.

Tel: 01633 421629.

E-mail: baker@alval.freeserve.co.uk

1st World Masters

July 7-8 at the Lake Velence venue, Budapest, is the date set for the 1st World Masters Canoeing Cup competition, organised by the Hungarian Canoe Federation, who can be contacted for further details at **MKKSZ/HCF, 1138 Latorca.u. 2, Hungary, fax: 001 36 1 4650095, e-mail: mkksz@mail.elender.hu, or alternatively from József József, fax: 00136 28 402031**

e-mail: canoedoc@mail.digital2002.hu

Duisberg 2001

Kanu Duisberg 2001, the German town's 20th international canoe regatta, is set for June 22-24.

The new world championship programme will be carried out and four boats per nation will be allowed in each discipline. Details of the event can be found at www.kanuduisberg.de

Japan for ladies

Promoting international friendships through the sport of canoeing, as well as providing an opportunity to improve racing skills through contact with other highly skilled athletes: those are the declared aims of Japan's Miyoshi Club international ladies kayak competition, to be held from April 27-29.

The town of Miyoshi is located almost in the middle of Japan and is next to Toyota, the famous automotive manufacturing city. The setting for the competition is a beautiful lake in the town.

The race course is equipped with an automatic launching (starting) system which was made by the Seiko Corporation.

The organisers are prepared to provide transportation, bed and board for teams of up to four paddlers and one official, as well as a participation allowance of 100,00 yen

Contact: **2001 Miyoshi Cup International Ladies Kayak Competition Organising Committee, 50 Kosaka, Miyoshi, Miyoshi-cho, Nishikamo-gun, Azichi-ken 470-02955, Japan. Tel: 001 81 5613 2 8027. Fax: 001 81 5613 4 4379. E-mail: miyo-edu@hm.aitai.ne.jp. Web: www.town.miyoshi.aichi.jp**

European canoe polo champs

Bydgoszcz, a city between Warsaw and the Baltic port of Gdansk (Danzig) is the venue selected by the Polish Canoe Federation for this year's IV European Canoe Polo Championships, for seniors and I U-21 paddlers.

The event will be staged from August 1-5, with qualifying on the Friday and Saturday and the semi-finals and finals played on the Sunday.

There will be three pitches, each with a length of 35 m by 23 m and three training pitches will be available at locations outside the pool area.

Under ICF rules, each national federation is allowed to enter one team in each category: senior women, senior men, under-21s women and under-21s men.

Enthusiasts wishing to spectate may obtain details of the championships from the organising committee of the **Polish Canoe Federation at 17 Erazma Ciolka Str, 01-445 Warszawa, Poland, tel/fax: 001 48 (22) 8374059 or 00148 (22) 8371470, or e-mail: kajac@hbz.com.pl.**

Canoe polo championships

This year's BUSA Canoe Polo championships will take place at Compton Verney on the weekend of the May 12-13 and is expected to attract more than 50 teams, making it the biggest yet! Spectators are more than welcome.

The event is being run in conjunction with Loughborough Students Canoe Club, as usual, and Cherwell Canoe club, who will be providing food and drinks (hot and cold) throughout the event. A Saturday evening meal is included in the team entry as usual and extra tickets for spectators are available from the organiser at £7 each.

There will not be any bar facilities this year, however there will be no restrictions on entry into the marquee. More info on the event is available from event organiser **Jonathan Walder at 98 Beacon Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 2BH. Tel: 01509 551241; mobile: 07879 843021; e-mail: J.M.Walder-97@student.lboro.ac.uk**

Oops!

Our apologies to Martin Bell for misnaming his North Walls promotion on Sunday April 8 as the 'North Wales Circuit Races', which must have struck readers as odd since it is run under the auspices of Winchester and District Canoe Club in Hampshire!

Anyway, just to remind you, this interesting event consists of a relay fashion race against the clock for teams of two. Entries on the day are priced at £1.50 per seat (£3 per team).

There will be classes for kayaks, whitewater racers and Canadians, with prizes for age groups, with check-in/entry at 11.30 am, briefing at 12.20 pm and start at 12.30 pm.

Contact **Martin Bell, 3 Exeter Close, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hants, for further details.**

2001 Eastern Region Weekend

Following the success of last year's event, we are planning to hold another event this year at Herts Young Mariner's Base, Cheshunt, Herts, on June 16th/17th.

All canoeists and their families are welcome; there is no admission charge.

Camping is available at a nominal charge from the Friday evening onwards, but needs to be booked please.

The organisers intend to run more subsidised coaching courses: Child Protection, Injury Prevention, hopefully a Disability Awareness course, seminars for Racing beginners and enthusiasts, as well as coach revalidation sessions on both days. There will also be an opportunity to take BCU star tests in both Kayak and Open canoes, as well as Canoe Safety Test training and assessments. Special events for younger paddlers are also planned this year.

There will be a barbecue on the Saturday evening and trade stands will be offering their wares; we are also planning another raffle to raise money for the Eastern Region Coaching Fund, with a wide variety of canoeing prizes on offer.

For further details, or to book places on courses, please contact **Lesley and Terry Quinlan on 01255 815093** or e-mail at: lesleyquinlan@hotmail.com

Flanders Cup entries

Though national teams will be given priority, club teams may also enter the 9th Flanders cup canoe polo tournament, set to be run at Hazewinkel, just outside Antwerp, on June 30-July 1. If more than three teams enter from any country, the best three will be chosen to take part.

Teams which do not provide two qualified referees and two line judges will be required to pay fees of 1000 Belgian Francs.

Entry forms may be obtained now from **Christel Van der Avorty, Van Lerijslaan 188, 2850 Boom, Belgium. Tel: 00132 3 844 48 10, fax: 00132 3 353 26 78, e-mail: flanderscup@belgacom.net.**

More open

Since 1997, there has been an annual Open Canoe Symposium in the UK, alternating between Wales and Scotland. The calendar is now being extended to include an English Open Canoe Symposium.

In order to make information about the forthcoming events more widely available, a website has been launched.

Please visit www.canoesymposium.co.uk for full details of the next Open Canoe Symposium as well as articles and pictures from the last year's event in Scotland.



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Feature
NEPAL

FALL IN

Steve Brooks guides a group of British soldiers down Nepal's Sun Kosi – the 'River of Gold'

We collected a group of British soldiers on a mission to paddle three big rivers in the exciting Himalayan country of Nepal: the Sun Kosi, the Karnali and the Tamur.

My own mission was to jointly lead on the Sun Kosi with Ram, a Nepalese expedition leader with Equator Expeditions.

After a day of administration and showing our team around ever fascinating Kathmandu, we headed off to Sukute, a beach camp conveniently located on the bank of the Upper Sun Kosi.

A great couple of days ensued, with both the raft and the kayak teams being put through their paces by Ram and myself.

With the monsoon still raging, it certainly was an eye-opener for our army team. I also managed to sneak a high-water trip with two of their top kayakers on the Balephi Kola – a tributary flowing into the Upper Sun Kosi – a great way of finishing the first leg of the expedition.

With everyone chilling out nicely at the camp, it was time to move on. The first couple of days saw us really playing



around on the eddy lines and practising our Nepali language on the crowds of kids who gathered at each village we passed through. The rain continued and Ram and myself were reckoning on the river flowing at around its late August level, which was rather high as we had yet to see any major tributaries or confluences.

We then reached our first rapid, the forbiddingly named Meatgrinder. After eddying out on river right to inspect, we found our reckoning was correct. The river was indeed very high and the Meatgrinder was, in fact, completely washed out.

It was not until we reached Hakapur village that Ram and myself noticed our group looking a little anxious. Prior to this everyone had been washed or just thrown about on some very big and bouncy waves.

The group stocked up on beer, rum and chocky bars – rafts are useful in some ways – and then we headed for the major rapid of the river.

On eddying out left, we clocked our first view of the rapid. It was thumping,



LINE



something that Ram and I were pleased about in an odd way, as now the soldiers were beginning to respect the mighty Sun Kosi River.

Ram and I gave the team the line and then we set off. The first group of kayakers was led by Ram and then my team followed with the paddle raft and the oar (beer!) rafts.

Ram took a sweet line and his kayakers were right there with him. My guys followed.

Getting everyone in their boats, after a few nervous calls of nature, the last chants were said and we paddled up the eddy, ready to meet the Sun Kosi's might.

I led, with the team following my line, and it was only then that it dawned on me how small one feels when approaching the horizon line.

With the line impregnated in my mind, I dropped in... no worries: right angle, speed and power. Through the first drop and up and over the huge waves behind it I went until I reached the last eddy on river right before what is known as Hakapur II.

As I arrived in the eddy, I saw the next paddler trying to roll up after

some unsuccessful attempts, to be followed into the safety of the eddy by the rest of the team.

After lunching at the Dudh Kosi confluence and my telling stories of another raft trip the previous year and the great first descent, one paddler recounted to everyone that he thought I was too far to the left at the entrance to Hakapur, so he had decided to scoot right a little only to get a nice working - over from the diagonal wave. It had taken him a while to realise why he had made a wrong move and after fathoming out why he got worked, his conclusion was to trust the lead line in future.

The funniest story came from Andy that night, as we sat around the campfire. After answering his nervous calls of nature before getting into his boat at Hakapur, he had headed out following my line.

It was about 30 seconds later that his brain took over and he said to himself: "Look, Andy, eddy out - you still have time."

Fortunately, Andy's instinct for adventure took over and he carried on, but, as he entered Hakapur, he felt a lot of water enter his boat.

At the take-out for lunch, he was a little confused as he has neither capsized, nor had his deck popped: he had actually nailed the line! It was only when the smell started to seep through his wetsuit shorts that he realised he had produced a mass of coloured water in his wake.

Past the Dudh Kosi, life began to chill out once more. Jaws was pushy, not too bad; Dead Man's Eddy was almost non-existent; Rhino Rock - the infamous two stones - was just waves and it was not until we reached the Jungle Corridor that the fun really began again.

What normally consists of six rapids in 10 kilometres turned into a continuous wave train - truly awesome.

With big grins and wide eyes we camped for our penultimate night. The river took us at an extraordinarily fast pace to the infamous temple just before Chatra, our take-put.

The whole experience was amazing - and something our soldiers are bound to remember vividly, thanks to the unusually high water and heavy rains encountered that season.



info

Our thanks go out for the help provided by Peak UK (www.peakuk.com); Perception UK (www.perception.co.uk) and Smith USA (www.smithsport.com).

Take care!

Large parts of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act came into force on January 30.

Restoration groups and waterway users, including paddlers, should be aware of tough new penalties for wilful disturbance of wildlife protected under law, with maximum penalties of fine of £5,000 and two-year jail terms.

Access volunteers needed

The search is on for access officers for the Nene, Ise and Tove rivers in Northamptonshire, which currently have nobody filling this important role. This is a voluntary BCU job which involves being the contact point for people who are thinking of paddling a particular river and need accurate local information on such matters as access points, places to avoid and any problems likely to arise.

The BCU is trying to break rivers down into more manageable sections in the hope of making the job easier, though it, of course, creates a need for a lot more volunteers.

Anyone interested should contact Chris Rance, of Northampton Canoe and Kayak Club, at 57 Georges Avenue, Bugbrooke, Northants, tel: 01604 831183.

Who's to be in charge?

In a statement that evoked an immediate angry response, the IWA has announced its support for a proposal that the navigation authority functions of the Environment Agency should be handed over to British Waterways.

While recognising that there are widely varying opinions amongst its members in different parts of the country, on balance the IWA council has concluded it would be in the national interest if the management of the rivers Thames, Medway, Nene and Great Ouse, along with the agency's other navigation interests, were to be passed to British Waterways.

Says IWA chairman Richard Drake: "We took a long term view of the respective abilities of the Environment Agency and British Waterways to encourage investment in the nation's inland waterways in view of their existing legal duties, powers and structures."

Responding to the IWA statement, the Environment Agency has expressed its dismay at the views expressed: "I can only support one comment Richard Drake made on the issue," says Environment Agency chief executive Baroness Young of Old Stone, "and that is his speculation that the agency would be disappointed with his organisation's position. I can assure Mr Drake and the IWA that the agency is committed to continue managing waterway navigation and ensuring that the right balance is struck between the needs of our environment, the needs of public safety and the needs of the people who use our waterways for commercial and leisure purposes.

"The rivers of England and Wales are not the sole preserve of navigating authorities. Our rivers are at the heart of our land drainage and flood defence system; vital to the maintenance and enhancement of our water supplies; vital habitats for our diverse and unique wildlife, and the economic and cultural focus of many communities.

"Separating what are inextricably linked uses of critical rivers, which are currently managed by the Environment Agency, could produce a range of negative impacts, including a potential increase in flood risk and a decline in river wildlife."

The agency currently manages more than 800 km of river navigations, maintains and operates 126 locks and associated weirs and sluices and provides public access to these sites.

Angling & Canoeing Liaison Group update

As reported in the last edition of *Canoe Focus*, the 'Effects of Canoeing on Fish Stocks and Angling' research project generally concluded that canoeing is not harmful to fish stocks. As a continuation of this work, the Environment Agency opened discussions on a further study at the most recent ACLG meeting in February.

The new work proposes "to undertake a review of existing voluntary canoe access agreements and explore the reasons for the success or failure of certain schemes, particularly with respect to the resource economics involved".

Amongst other things it will seek "to place a value on the potential disturbance caused by canoeists in relation to the size and type of fishery".

It is now becoming apparent that the Environment Agency proposes to consider some form of payment structures to increase access. Any such proposals will need to be considered against the long-standing BCU Access Policy that has been re-affirmed to ACLG. Namely: where a landowner allows canoeists access to land for the dedicated use of a short stretch of water, usually a rapid, this constitutes 'occupation'. The question of any payment is between the landowner and the visiting canoeist, bearing in mind the various market factors.

Further, for passage along a stretch of water – ie touring – payment is not considered appropriate.

This position totally concurs with the government white

paper leading to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, which made it clear that there would be no question of payment for access to the countryside itself. However, where ingress and egress to the river is made available over private land and the landowner provides a facility, such as car parking, then this could be the basis for making a charge.

Details of this further study have to be finalised, but it seems certain to have a financial aspect and in time scales is likely to overlap the DETR research project, also reported in the last edition of *Canoe Focus*.

Scottish access enshrined

The Draft Land Reform (Scotland) Bill was launched in late February in Aberfoyle. Part one of the bill provides for a responsible right of access to land and inland water.

The draft bill was launched by Jim Wallace, deputy first minister and Sam Galbraith, minister for environment, sport and culture.

In addition, the draft Scottish Outdoor Access Code, drawn up by Scottish Natural Heritage in consultation with the Access Forum, was published for consultation in parallel with the bill, on the same day.

The Bill will be available for viewing on the Scottish Executive Website www.scotland.gov.uk, and will be introduced into the Scottish Parliament no earlier than September.

Further information about the bill, the impact it is likely to have on canoeing in Scotland and how you can have your say, can be obtained from scaadmin@dircon.co.uk.

Cash for access

Some 50 awards of between £2,000-£10,000 are available from the Fieldfare Trust's Millennium Awards Scheme to give to disabled people residing in Scotland and who want to improve access to the countryside.

This is in addition to the 26 awards, worth some £100,000, which have already been given.

One recent recipient was an Aberdeenshire man given just over £7,000 to enable him to promote the accessibility of skiing for disabled people.

Ideas for making canoeing more accessible would be welcome. The Fieldfare Millennium Awards team can be contacted on tel: 01334 657708, fax: 01334 657978 or e-mail: awards@fieldfare.f9.co.uk.

Come clean

This year's Waterway Recovery Group national clean-up takes place at Pant, on the Montgomery Canal, on March 24-25, with the weekend's activities mainly comprising work on clearing the line of the canal, involving a lot of scrub bashing and bonfires.

Explains Waterway Recovery Group chairman Mike Palmer: "We had planned to hold a massive party at Pant, as part of WRG's 30th anniversary celebrations. Unfortunately, due to the petrol crisis, only a limited number of people could get there. Now the national clean-up weekend will carry on those activities of last year and hopefully make a huge impact on the two-mile stretch of overgrown canal bed."

The site is different from those which have been subject to previous clean-ups, in that the canal currently has no water in it: "That means there will be a shortage of abandoned supermarket trolleys and old car tyres to be disposed of," quips Mike, "The weekend is being re-named as 'The Clean And Jungle Bash' as we will be cleaning the canal bed of vegetation, rather than dredging unknown objects from beneath the water."

WRG welcomes canoeists and friends to take part and accommodation is available at West Felton Village Hall, for just £8, including all meals.

Contact Ian Wingfield, Waterway Recovery Group, PO Box 114, Rickmansworth WD3 1ZY. Tel: 01923 711 114 ext 24 (daytime) for further information, or go to www.wrg.org.uk.



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Our Idaho base has plenty of alternative activities for non-kayaking friends and family (and tired kayakers!).

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Young canoeists boosted



Over the last 25 years SportsAid has distributed nearly £20 million to thousands of British sportsmen and women.

Yet there is public confusion as to the ways in which the funds are raised and little knowledge of our past aid recipients and their achievements. The fundraising campaign 2001 – The Sports Odyssey is aiming to celebrate past successes and make sure there are even more in the future.

SportsAid funds athletes across 55 able-bodied and 25 disabled sports, including canoeing. It is a charity and can only give out the money that is raised through sponsored events, social dinners and the generosity of the public and corporations.

SportsAid's 25-year contribution to canoeing

Canoeing has benefited to the tune of £1.5 million since SportsAid was launched in 1975. Past recipients of SportsAid grants include Tim Brabants (pictured), who won an Olympic bronze at the Sydney games, and silver medallist Paul Ratcliffe.

Turning potential into success

The awesome performances of Paul and Tim are proof that if we get behind our nation's youngsters and allow them the chance to let their ability shine, then the rewards will come. But SportsAid wants to put more money into canoeing so that those with the potential to follow in the footsteps of Paul and Tim have the best chance to grab their own slice of Olympic glory.

A star of the future: Louise Donington

A young lady to look out for is 16-year old Louise Donington.

This talented slalom paddler from Louth in Lincolnshire is currently the K1 ladies under-16 national junior champion and has been earmarked by the BCU as having the potential to compete successfully at international level in the future.

Louise first received a SportsAid grant in 1999 and has recently been granted a third award. Travelling to Nottingham



d by Odyssey campaign

to find the nearest whitewater training facilities can take up to two hours, not to mention the cost to her pocket.

Other factors have made life even more difficult. Louise's mother had to give up work due to ill health and her sister is at university, so finances are stretched; yet her talent and ability has shown through. However it could have been very different if SportsAid hadn't been there for Louise.

'Without SportAid's financial help, both I and many others would find it extremely difficult to continue competing at this level, she comments'

Talent won't stop Louise getting to the top, but funds might. We can't let that happen.

'If every person who cheered us along in the Olympic final gave £1 in support of the work that SportsAid does, we'd have many more reasons as a nation to be proud,' says Matthew Pinsent – triple Olympic champion, who received ten SportsAid grants.

Why is Sportsaid launching 2001 – The Sports Odyssey?

SportsAid has been funding Britain's young sporting talent for the last 25 years but now we want to increase the numbers assist.

We give individual aid on the basis of talent and need to able-bodied and disabled athletes and also work within communities to provide sport for all.

Young talents won't become tomorrow's heroes without SportsAid funding.

What are the specific aims of the Odyssey campaign?

The Odyssey focuses on three key areas of talent:

Blossoming – supporting those who have already shown great potential

Hidden – identifying talent in previously overlooked pockets of society

Misguided – offering a truly positive channel for those at risk

Winning medals isn't everything. All youngsters deserve the chance to experience sport. It gives the disadvantaged a chance to express their creativity.

How will the Odyssey's aims be achieved?

Formal and wacky events will be taking place throughout 2001 to raise funds and a nationwide community schools programme will be unearthing hidden talents.

We need everyone's assistance to make the Odyssey a triumphant success: from corporate sports lovers to parents who cheer on their kids from the touchline – and the armchair fans who were on the edge of their seats during the Olympics.

Funding the grass roots of sport may not be fashionable, but it is invaluable. Britain's sporting success is in your hands. Don't let it slip through your fingers.

Visit our website www.sportsaid.org.uk or call 020 7387 9380 to find out about corporate opportunities and how you can make the unlikely likely.

Alternatively, you can fill in the form to receive information on forthcoming Odyssey events or to simply make a donation.

Your money will directly help to fund Britain's future sporting heroes and allow disadvantaged and disabled kids to experience the magic of sport. How proud would that make you feel?

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Diary 2001

The London Marathon – 22nd April

Our 'Runners for Sport' will be pounding the streets to raise some serious cash.

The Sports Ball – 22nd May

A thousand guests including Sir Steve Redgrave and Trevor Brooking will be attending this glamorous occasion at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

The Wacky Race – July

Driving from John o'Groats to Lands End in a wacky car. How much fun is that?

The London Triathlon – 26th August

With an Olympic challenge, a shorter sprint and even a team relay, there is no excuse not to get involved in one of the biggest participation triathlons in the world.

Californian Bike Odyssey – 28th September to 9th October

Cycle 510 miles in 12 days along the Pacific coastline, taking in the Golden Gate bridge and Big Sur National Park, and raise money for SportsAid at the same time!

Olympics plans get the bird

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is calling on a variety of organisations, including the British Olympic Association, to use their influence to prevent the Schinias Marsh, an internationally important wetland for wildlife, from being destroyed to create the rowing and canoeing centre for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

On the coast of Attica, east of the Greek capital and next to the site of the 490 BC Battle of Marathon, the marsh, which, under existing European environmental legislation, should be protected, will be destroyed by the creation of artificial lakes, a helicopter pad and

parking and seating facilities for 40,000 spectators. Plans for after-use of the site include the creation of a golf course and tourist facilities.

"The Olympics are hugely important, but surely they should not be about the destruction of our environment and heritage?" says the RSPB's international director, Alistair Gammell, who says letters of concern have been sent by his organisation to the British Canoe Union and the International Canoe Federation among other organisations.

"We know that opportunities exist for the use of other sites which will neither compromise the Olympics nor the wildlife, which includes some 176 species of bird, including the rare glossy ibis, whose numbers are in decline throughout its range in Europe, which passes through the Schinias marsh on migration."

Pool slalom winners



Campbell Walsh and Kim Walsh won their respective men's and ladies finals at the recent pool slalom. Tim Trollope was the winner of the C1.

The Olympic pool in Coventry City centre played host to the sixth national pool slalom on Sunday February 11. The event provided a great opportunity for Division 4 club paddlers to compete with paddlers from the top of the divisions, each division and class competing for its own prizes. The South West region were the winners on points from the days races.



Again well organised by the Trollopes, the event has however never attracted the kind of top level paddlers that were commonplace back at Crystal Palace. The slalom and polo competitions in the pool at the Crystal Palace exhibition were inspiring to watch. The slalom was a who's who, with an array of talent battling it out for the then coveted national pool slalom champion title, the names of Fox, Jones, Smith, Sharman, Simpson being just a few of the past winners. The return of the exhibition to Crystal Palace would surely provide a welcome boost to Canoe Slalom.



New titles to win

A new national championship for canoe slalom has been created for 2001. The races offer a chance to watch the top UK paddlers battling it out on the best white water in the country. Two of the season's three top races will be on the Tryweryn, for the first time in more than 10 years.

Alan Edge comments: "In an effort to bring the best boats together to decide who will be the UK national champions for 2001, the spring selection races for the GB teams, held during March and April, have been identified as the 2001 UK national championship races."

The races will be: senior and U23 UK championships - April 7, Tryweryn International site, April 8, Tryweryn International site; April 27, Grandtully; junior UK

championships - March 24, Holme Pierrepont; April 7, Tryweryn International site; April 21, Grandtully.

Paul Ratcliffe, Stuart McIntosh and Smith and Bowman have been pre-selected for the 2001 world championships to be held in Ocoee, Georgia, USA on September 20-23. They would have to compete at these races in order to challenge for the UK national championships. It looks as though Olympic silver medallist Paul Ratcliffe will wish to compete for the first title as UK national champion.

The GB ranking championships will be made up from the best five results from amongst the 11 premier races. These will identify the boats that perform the best over all the season's domestic races. The British Open 2001 takes place on Saturday October 20, at the start of the 27th Llangollen Canoe Slalom Festival.



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Off to a world-class start



Slalom camps

Slalom camps held have been as follows:-

Jan 12-Feb 6: New Zealand camp; Feb 7-Feb 15: St Pe Camp – France

A small group of four paddlers travelled to NZ for an extended warm-weather camp, with just one coach and one technical support person. The aim was to provide a good training block with quality coaching. This was achieved.

For those paddlers who did not go to New Zealand, a camp was organised at St Pe, in France. The purpose was, again, to provide a block of training before the Elle race. Other than having one of the mini-buses burgled and all the paddles stolen, the coaches – Dave Crosbee, Ian Raspin and Mark Delaney – were pleased with how the camp went.

The success the World Class Potential group has achieved so far is very encouraging and we can confidently look forward to even more success in 2001.



The BCU World Class Potential Programme, featuring predominantly paddlers aged 17 – 24 was launched on April 1 last year and included in the programme were 28 racing athletes and 22 slalomists.

Transition from a junior to a senior athlete is very difficult and it often takes a good period of time to become established in the senior team. Prior to this programme, there was little support available for these aspiring young athletes, outside of their local canoe clubs.

The main aim of the programme to provide invaluable one-to-one coaching support to all athletes on the programme; to provide domestic and international training opportunities and to provide international competition for these athletes

The major issue facing us in terms of implementation of the programme was staffing. We operated at a 50% staffing level due to the fact that only seven-month contracts could be offered whilst the open recruitment process was underway.

This put great strain on the coaches operating the programme to ensure that the quality coaching we aimed for was not compromised. Considering the performances achieved within the backdrop of these factors, we had an outstanding competitive season.

The following appointments have now been made within the World Class Potential Programme:- sprint racing: head coach – Claudine Le Roux; senior men's development and London coach – Imre Kemecey; Midlands and junior boys coach – Alexander Nikonorov; national development coach – no appointment at present.

Claudine headed up one of the regional development centres for the French Federation, Alex worked with the Spanish national team for seven years, taking a number of paddlers to the Olympic Games and Imre is a Hungarian Master coach and world champion in his own right. Working with these experienced coaches should make the future very exciting.

Slalom appointments are:- head coach – Andy Maddock; kayak Coach – Dave Crosbee; canoe/kayak coach – Mark Delaney; kayak coach – Ian Raspin; national development coach – Alan Edge.

We are delighted to have such good quality coaches in the programme and hopefully, with Mark and Ian making the transition into coaching, paddlers will now see that there is an opportunity for a career in coaching as well as having current role models to aspire to. Andy has been with us for a while now and provides continuity as the programme develops, whilst Dave returns from a spell working with Irish Olympic athlete Ian Wylie.

Whilst World Class Performance were sad to lose Alan Edge as their national

performance coach – we are delighted that Alan has come to work within World Class Potential. Alan's wealth of experience and knowledge of the sport at many levels will be invaluable and he will have so much to offer in his role to develop our future international coaches.

As well as providing one-to-one coaching support to the nominated paddlers, the programme has provided a number of training camps, the most significant of which were:- Oct 26-November 2: Lanzarote land-based training camp; Jan 22-Feb 4 – Seville Warm Weather Camp (seniors only); 16 Feb 16-Feb 25: Bordeaux warm weather camp (juniors only).

Club La Santa, in Lanzarote, is a well-known sports club, which is highly recommended by the Sports Council. Many of the GB athletes in various sports spend time during the winter at La Santa. The goal for the October camp was to prepare for winter training and to set a good base of fitness. Typically, the athletes completed five training sessions a day. Feedback from all on the quality of the camp was excellent.

In January 2001, the senior athletes travelled to Seville for a 13-day water and land-based camp. Using one of the Spanish national training centres, the activity was based on a river. Unfortunately a number of athletes became ill and were unable to train at the intended level, but the warmer weather and the opportunity to bring the group together for an extended period of time was of great value


February saw the turn of the top junior paddlers to access high-quality training time. The camp was held at one of the French national training centres in Bordeaux. Again based on a river, the camp met excellent weather and the support from the staff at the centre was top-class. An excellent block of technical training both individually and in crew boats was the goal for the 10-day camp.

With canoe slalom coaching support being based at the National Centre at Nottingham, the aim was to offer a minimum of eight sessions per week, provided over a seven-day week but guaranteed over a four-day week. This was to be further enhanced by domestic and international camps. However, staffing ratios once again prevented running the programme at full capacity during the first even months of the year.


The floods of early November and the damage to the National Water Sports Centre course has meant that approximately two months of training time at the Nottingham course has been lost. In the circumstances, other venues such as Stafford & Stone, Matlock and Bala have been used as an alternative.



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Whitewater fun time!

This year's Whitewater Challenge Series is going bigger and better. Those fun lovin' folk at Pyranha have come on board for the weekends to run a secret fun event and provide more demo boats for everyone to try out, alongside the normal Challenge Downriver, X Slalom and Freestyle events. There will also be technique clinics available for playboating fanatics yearning for tips from the stars. This means more events, more fun, more prizes, more demos and more of a non-stop weekend of activities. The Nottingham event in June already has a music fixture, with the mighty and very entertaining Burdock set to play live on the Saturday evening. Check out the new id10t5 video to get a sample of their tunes. Dates confirmed so far are: Teesside April 28-29; Tryweryn May 12-13; Nottingham June 2-3 inc Burdock Gig; Sept 29-30 River Garry Scotland, (provisional); Oct 6-7 BCU Paddlefest. Nottingham Oct 6-7,

It's your move!

In basketball there is a Slam Dunk Contest highlighting the impressive virtuoso moves of the sport.

During the 2001 world surf kayaking championships there will be a Big Move contest to highlight the dynamic moves which surf kayakers are pulling off in the waves these days.

The contest will be run as a video-based, audience-judged contest. A team will consist of a paddler and a camera operator (who can switch roles and provide two different entries).

The goal is to capture on video the biggest most dynamic move performed on Tuesday or Wednesday at the same venue as the preliminaries (but not while paddling in the prelims). These will then be compiled and shown on Wednesday night – with the audience judging the best moves.

The following rules have been laid down: a person can be a paddler in only one team (but can be a camera operator for multiple teams); a team can submit up to three moves to be considered; each clip must capture the entire move, with several seconds of footage before and after the move; a move will be considered 'completed' if the paddler emerges upright. Incomplete moves can still be scored if they are impressive – this will be up to the audience's tastes.

It is not necessary to regain the green – exit aerial moves will be considered, but not paddle-out airs.

The move must be performed at the prelim venue, but not while the paddler is competing in a preliminary heat. So as not to interfere with the championships, paddlers must perform the moves well clear of the ongoing prelim competition area.

The paddler and camera operator must submit the clip together and it is up to the paddler to determine the partner on the team if multiple cameras should capture the same move.

Prizes will be given for both the paddler and the camera operator. Awards in multiple categories are likely (biggest move, biggest wipeout, biggest air, etc) but entries are still limited to three clips total.

Only individual moves will be judged, not entire rides – this is a contest for the biggest single move, not the best

Entry

An entry will consist of a video tape, and completed entry form. Tapes must be in NTSC format (the organisers are working on a way to accept PAL format, but no promises) please contact Preston Holmes if you plan to use PAL, you may be able to help). Preferred tape sizes are MiniDV, Digital8, or High8. Each tape should be labelled with the camera operator's name (and a number, if more than one tape is submitted).

An entry form must be included with each entry. Entry forms will be available throughout the day at the prelim venue. If you have filmed more than one person, you should submit multiple forms.

The entry form must include: the name of the paddler; the name of the camera operator the label on the tape (for people submitting multiple tapes); timecode number for each move (within a second or two); the signature of both the paddler and the camera operator. All entries must be submitted by 3:45 pm on Wednesday at the organising booth/tent/table at the prelim venue. Only entries meeting all of these conditions will be considered.

single wave. As such, the move being submitted should not be longer than 3-5 seconds in duration.

No advance registration is required, and the contest is open to everyone present at the worlds, even if they are not competing in the championships.

There are no separate categories for different boats, simply: whatever pleases the crowd most wins.

Judging will be open to the entire audience. Details remain to be worked out but will probably be by anonymous but serialised ballots handed out with the dinner tickets. Those getting clips of aerial manoeuvres, might also consider submitting them to Penstock Productions Big Gun Show: <http://www.penstockproductions.com/default2.htm>

For further details, contact organiser Preston Holmes, at pholmes@ucsd.edu

The promoters are still seeking some interesting prizes and/or cash for this event. If you are interested in sponsoring, contact Preston. The video nature of the event provides some exciting sponsorship opportunities.



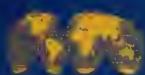
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It had been on my mind to head out to Iran to sniff out rivers for some time. Back in 1976, I was the youngest member of the British Everest Canoe Expedition and I remember climbing up huge passes to the north east of Tehran as we drove overland to Nepal and then, on the return journey, watching the truck drivers light fires under their fuel tanks to unfreeze the diesel before starting down the snowy mountains.

These mountains in Iran are over 5000 metres high along the south side of the Caspian Sea. You can go skiing here for nine months of the year – during the other three months the lifts are closed because of the blizzards. Snow melt from high mountains means rivers.

Time passed and this knowledge drifted off into my subconscious and then when running my Çoruh River Trips it was reawakened by Iran's proximity. But the Islamic revolution and Britain's siding with America in the hostage crisis made Iran a less than preferable destination. Iraq and Iran then fought a bitter war for ten years which was ignored by the west.

Later Sadaam Hussain turned his attention on Kuwait, and Britain, allied with America, defeated Sadaam Hussain in the Gulf crisis and I thought that it would now be possible to get into Iran on a British passport and have a look-see. I just needed to find the time.

Then, in 1998, Deb Pinniger and I found ourselves at the end of the season with a spare two weeks. Not only had the last group on my Çoruh River Trips cancelled but Iranian visas were available from their consulate in Erzurum in 48 hrs. So I impounded my van in the Turkish customs' pound and we jumped on a bus to Iran. A well-prepared trip; we had no map except a 1983 Bartholomew edition of the Middle East, no idea where we were heading except the insistence of Nuri, our Carpet salesman friend in Erzurum, that we should go to Isfahan: "It is crazy beautiful!" he enthused.

A chance meeting on the bus with an Iranian family and an invitation to stay at their house for a few days led us to the Eastern end of the Caspian Sea. On the bus from Tehran to Gorgan, Debs and I looked down on one river which looked like an endless stream of white water flowing to the Caspian Sea. If this was August and the end of the snow melt I was definitely leaving this river to the Allan Ellards and Jon Pearsons of the kayaking world. Debs may have had different ideas but with no boats our hypothetical conjecture was a waste of time.

Gorgan was hot and humid (35°C and 90% humidity) so any idea of travelling along the Caspian coast scouting rivers dissipated into the steamy atmosphere and we decided to go and see "crazy beautiful" Isfahan. Crazy beautiful it is. You can see how the town got its by-line "Isfahan is half the world".

I arrived back in England and started planning. I bought a couple of maps and gathered together a group of friends and acquaintances who were prepared to head for an unknown river in a country more famous for its deserts and Islamic culture than its rivers. Pyranha and Palm came in as gear sponsors, and at the beginning of May we arrived, photos and forms in hand, at the Iranian consulate in Erzurum - but the rules had been changed that March and only seven-day transit visas were available.

So, Iran 1999 was aborted but by this time we had found a river, or

ON A P CARPET C

Iran's Dez River Gorge might sound Manby is glad he and his friends

at least identified one on the map; it was a thin blue line with a darker black line alongside it. This black line marked the railway track; the railway would provide a convenient shuttle back up the river. The black line also had innumerable brackets marking tunnels indicating a gorge.

It looked like a suitable destination but we were choosing a river on a 1:500,000 US tactical pilotage map whose contours marked 500 feet intervals. The Euphrates in Turkey, between Kemah and Illic and which I have paddled several times, has a similar pair of lines on the equivalent tactical pilotage map and I reasoned that any river that has a railway line alongside cannot be that steep. But then Ross mentioned that the north fork of the Payette has a railway line alongside it!

No visas meant that it would have to wait till the next year for us to test these conflicting theories. Visas were obtained – at a price – in London and Jan, an old friend from Holland, asked to join us with his wife and 4X4 Toyota. Plans were made; well dates at least were decided! Then the team fell apart: the Iranians would not give Whit Deschner a visa, Steve Rogers, after recovering from malaria and giardia contracted on the Zambezi, fell ill to ME in England, Ross Purdy





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**and an offbeat destination but Dave
has made the effort to get there**

cancelled because he was buying a house, of all reasons, and others who had expressed an interest fell by the wayside. In the end it was left to myself, Bob Marchant and Rob Hind to drive from Europe to Erzurum to meet up with Jan and his wife, Jose, in their Toyota 4X4 and Guy Baker who flew in from Manchester.

Visas in hand, hangover in head, Carnet de Passage in triplicate and the cover of the Jimi Hendrix Electric Ladyland CD reversed, we arrived at the border. Three hours later we were in Iran. The tourist officer had helped (for \$20) to 'smooth' our way past the customs. We had changed money with the black market boys, the Disprin was kicking in, and it was time for our first discovery of Iranian customs. The diesel pumps do not have automatic cut-offs. Well, there is no real point when you can fill up a Toyota 4X4 and a Transit for US\$2, but it does make for messy filling station forecourts and slippery smelly shoes!

Two days of near continuous driving brought us to Dorud. This was our intended put-in. We were greeted by helpful locals full of advice. Amongst the blitzkrieg of Iranian I picked out some words common to Turkish and got the gist of what they were saying: "Please sir, raftan this road. This way good raftan thank you".

So off we went looking for good raftan – and found a great campsite by a small side creek. We must have missed the snow-melt by months if this was a raftan river! It took a couple of days to discover that 'raftan' was not a mispronunciation of rafting but actually means 'to go'. The following day we raftaned, paddling the main river down to the first tributary. The river was a class-three boulder garden, with the occasional class-four and a couple of portages around sumps, one of which would have been terminal and the other; well no one wanted to try the "I can roll under that rock" line. Camp for the night led to a visit from the local policeman who wanted us to go back up the rough road to Dorud and explain our behaviour to his superiors. Eventually this turned out to be a fairly friendly encounter (top tip in these situations: start talking about football and have some back-up knowledge as both the Turks and Iranians are extremely knowledgeable on the subject. They may not know where Manchester is but they sure know that Guy Baker does not look like David Beckham since his head shave!)

Our summons was because when photographing the paddlers we were close to the railway line. On seeing my book *'Many Rivers to Run'* with my name corresponding to the name in my passport, it was decided that I was indeed an author and should be treated as a guest and not a spy to be locked up. Tea arrived and we could go our own way.

Whilst explaining ourselves in charades we had gleaned from the police that the road down the river, which was marked on some of the maps, was not passable even in a 4X4 and a train scout would be advisable.

Bob and I took the train to Telle Zange and the others investigated the upper reaches of the tributary. The train scout: wild! We became celebrities. We met the Tehran Mountaineering Club who were waiting at the station en-route home. They introduced us to the station manager, who introduced us to the conductor who introduced us to the local teachers who plied us with questions and helpful advice, concurred with the letter of introduction from the Tehran mountaineering club that Mr Bouzagi was a good man, and made sure that someone knew to tell us that we had arrived at Telle Zange.

As for scouting the river; from Dorud to Sephid Dasht it was more of the same class III-IV boulder garden rapids that we had paddled already and the drops that looked like they might be impossible were easily portageable.

Below Sepid Dasht the valley sides grew steeper and steeper, the views obtained were fewer and fewer; the glimpses gained were more and more impressive as the train spent more and more time in tunnels as the gorge sides towered up from the river for hundreds of feet.

We never saw anything that looked unpaddable but we did not see much of the river. The train spent 70% of its time in tunnels.

We were met at Telle Zange by Mr. Bouzagi who took us under his wing and led us out of the crowds of onlookers to his house for tea and our games of charades continued. Later we were fed chicken and chips which we ate in the company of Bouzagi's brother and friends - the arm of an unseen mother or daughter appearing at the door from time to time to pass plates of food.

Then we went down to the police station and showed our passports and continued the game of sign language. And then to bed. It had been a long day.

Trying to explain to people what you are doing when you have no common language and they have no idea of what you are therefore doing is tiring. 2am rolled around and we are awakened by Mr. Bouzaghi and taken back down to the police station where the big cheese policeman has arrived. Well I assumed he was the big cheese but he was not in uniform. More charades took place before we were sent back to the house. We were the first tourists ever to visit this village and probably the first Europeans to pass by since the railway line was improved during the Second World War by the British Army.

All the railway steel is stamped with B.S.C. Workington which led to my doing some more research on my return to England. I assumed it was constructed by Anglo Iranian Oil but it transpired that it was built to get supplies from the gulf to the Russian front in World War II. The Imperial War Museum in London has a great film (complete with a marvellously patronising Pathe News style commentary) about its construction entitled 'Via Persia'. People wanted to see us for curiosity rather than custodial reasons.

6am was the time to get up to catch the 7am. train. It was a chance to scout the river again, this time with a more rational frame of mind and less in awe of the scenery. We made mental notes of how far below the railway line the river was each time we entered and exited a tunnel. There were no real discrepancies but the conductors, our best



friends by now, took great pride in telling us the tunnels' lengths, the longest being 2.5 kms from end to end, and sometimes the gap between tunnels passed in a couple of seconds giving your eyes just time to register the change of light before being dashed back into the darkness of the next tunnel. Often it was for some distance that the river was out of view and the gradient could easily be in one

drop! Despite this, Bob and I decided that it was 'on'; all we had to do was convince the others. Talking Guy into it was no problem but Rob, nursing a shoulder he had dislocated five months earlier, thought the information a little too sketchy, our view a little too distant, and the river a little too remote to risk his recovering shoulder.

So plans were made and the three of us, Bob, Guy and I, loaded up our H2zones with food and equipment for two days' paddling. We hoped to make it to Sepid Dasht, where we assumed we would be able to re-supply, in a day – but you never can tell. Meanwhile Jan, José, and Rob were to drive the vehicles back to Dorud and then around on the main roads to Sepid Dasht to meet us. We had been assured that the road into Sepid Dasht was good.

The river down to Sepid Dasht was superb boulder garden rapids: maybe a little short of water to be at its best but for a first descent this did not bother me. Most of the river was read and run and we pushed on down the river being greeted and swamped by swimming kids as we passed the few villages.

The children, on discovering we were from 'Inglistan' erupted in a tumult of David Beckham and Manchester United screeches. One

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particular rapid led to Guy remarking that the slot would be "wider when you got down to it". Maybe so, but the tree stuck in it narrowed things. Technically it was not a swim but... A couple more portages and we arrived in Sepid Dasht after a long day. We had been in our boats for eight hours and also we were not acclimatised. Acclimatisation to the heat not to the altitude is what I am talking about. The river is on the same latitude as Damascus and by May it was getting hot; you had to put your shoes on to scout rapids or you burnt your feet!

We were tired and all we wanted to do was make camp, brew up, cook, eat and then sleep. Whether the support crew arrived or not was irrelevant. This never was going to happen. We were big news and soon we had a sizeable and ever-increasing gathering of friendly locals. Soon after we had boiled a kettle, the support crew



arrived dragging more curious onlookers in their wake.

Camp, such as it was, was established. Then the local English teacher arrived, offering us a place to stay in his school. We declined really because we were too tired to pack up everything. When we awoke the next morning we discovered that two of the H2s had been stolen. The boats were soon found but all the gear inside them had been nicked. Soon it transpired that that was not all. A couple of saucepans, a camp chair, stills cameras and two video cameras had been taken. Paddling that day was postponed as we reported the incident to the police. The usual suspects were rounded up and the English teacher was offering bribes of exam passes to his students for information leading to the arrest of the thieves. Prevarication and procrastination followed. The police, for reasons which could be classed as either laziness or embarrassment, refused to give us the required documentary



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acknowledgement of the theft for insurance claims; they claimed to be following up leads and continuing their inquiries so the case was not closed.

There was a definite feeling of shame in the town over the theft - I pity the thieves if they are ever caught. Guy, Bob and myself managed to cobble together three sets of paddling gear from spare gear and Rob and Jan's gear and we



loaded up with food and gear for a further three days' paddling.

Snowcard Insurance would pay up and the gear could be replaced by Palm. We had spare stills cameras but the loss of video cameras was irksome as the footage shot already and what Bob and I had seen of the river downstream had the makings of a great film account of a remarkable trip. Not to worry. If the reason for doing the trip is to make

'Guy remarked that our decision to clear the river "on" was somewhat brave...'

a film then your priorities are in the wrong order.

We set off down the river. More boulder gardens with more water, since a fairly good sized tributary had joined the Dez at Sepid Dasht. This was fun paddling and should be done at a more leisurely pace but the trouble with exploratory when you have absolutely no idea what is downstream is that your mind jumps from "we should stay here all day and camp here" to "it will be better downstream" to "better leave time spare in case it is not all plain sailing".

When I first ran the Çoruh we paddled the stretch from Ispir to Artvin in four days. Nowadays when I run trips this stretch takes eight days and we do not even reach Artvin. Ok, so boats have got shorter and slower and playing has become the important thing but you get my point, I am sure...

Bob found a wondrous wave. He was even getting splitwheels on it in a loaded H2Zone. I even managed half a flat spin. But we hardly stopped. When you are on a mission, you are, well, on a mission!

The boulder garden rapids died out as the valley side steepened and turned into crazed twisted rock walls. This is geology at its most mentally mixed up. Dramatic synclines and anti-synclines lurch towards their axes. Fault lines schizophrenically split the strata. Slabs of smoothed rock rise in a straight from the river.

Climbing out of the gorge was dismissed as impossible - even if you could make it up the wall you were never going to be able to carry enough water to walk out. The train was in the tunnels. We tiptoed into the canyon carefully watching the eddies on the bends, checking to see if by eddy-hopping we could make our way back upstream to a get-out point. At one stage I remarked to Bob and Guy that this was worrying; here I was paddling into a gorge that had never been run before (as far as we knew), in a boat I had never paddled before, using paddles I had never used before with a different feather to what I was used.

Suffice to say the H2Zones were great load-carrying boats and never did anything unpredictable and 60 degree Werners are "just dandy" as Whit would say. It amazed me how quickly I adapted to the 25 degree shift and the Palm decks rock - hardly a drop entered my boat. Soon, however, we passed the point of no return and committed ourselves to running the river to the end.

Any incidental worries of equipment disappeared, as it should with good equipment. Choosing campsites became an art. You wanted to be on the left bank to get the last rays of the sun in the evening to dry kit



but more importantly to have the longest time in the shade in the morning. The two camps we found were superb - and we fell asleep with the dramatic canyon as our bedroom walls.

By the third day down from Sepid Dasht we were running out of everything: food, film and superlatives. Once I was broken-out in an eddy halfway down a small rapid, watching Guy come

down, when this small head appeared by my kayak. Bob on the other side of the river thought I was being incredibly brave as I broke out and drifted alongside this large-headed snake down the rapid. Only when we met up at the bottom was I able to tell him it was an otter and not a snake and I had the fun of drifting down the eddy line watching it dive and chase fish.

Later we paddled under a broken bridge we found out had been damaged by high water; it was a good 15 metres above the water - a sobering thought.

On round the corners and we arrived at our get-out marker; the last railway bridge over the river. This bridge was bombed by Sadaam Hussain during the Iran-Iraq war. The railway line was a major supply route to the battlefield and the bridge's destruction delayed the eventual defeat of Iraq by three years. Bob, Guy and I climbed out of the river and made our way up to Telle Zange. Mr Bouzaghi was away but the local policeman let us sleep in the police yard and one of his friends fed us. Another evening of charades was punctuated by hilarity as Guy showed off the many and wondrous souvenirs of his travels: rings on his toes produced a giggle, a bracelet in the form of a silver snake around his ankle resulted in a laugh, but his pierced nipple with a ring through it had the policeman unable to move for a good 15 minutes as he collapsed on the floor in agonised laughter. Guy, our cultural attaché, had just confirmed all their prejudices about our strange western world.

The following morning it was back by train to Sepid Dasht to share our grins with Rob, Jan and Jose. On the way back Guy remarked to Bob and me that our decision to declare the river "on" was somewhat brave when he saw how much we had seen or really not seen of the river!

On returning to Britain we discovered that a couple of Italians had paddled on the river putting-on at Dorud but where they took-out we do not know. Certainly, the locals at Sepid Dasht and Telle Zange had not seen any other kayak paddlers but they may have been keeping a much lower profile than we did.

Returning to Sepid Dasht we finally managed to get a statement from the police for Snowcard Insurance. To get this, however, we had to agree that we had lost the equipment on the river rather than that we had had it stolen. So we lost lifejackets, helmets, paddle jackets, amongst the cameras etc. whilst paddling the river! It was a measure of the sense of shame the locals felt over the theft.

We drove out of Sepid Dasht, winding our way up the south side of the Dez valley, heading for Isfahan - a spectacular drive climbing over a 3,600 metre pass. Nomads herding their goats and sheep living in black woollen tents on the mountain sides stared at us with the same look of wonder as we ogled at them. A group of carpet sellers buying carpets from the nomads we met on the roadside invited us to their house and Guy bought a couple of stinking saddle bags from them, which was nearly as good as buying directly from the nomads.

Then on to Isfahan, the second time for me, and time to be tourists rather than 'bold explorers'. It's an amazing town and any visit to Iran must include a visit to there. Many years ago Isfahan gained that "Isfahan is half the world" tag and once you visit the place you can see why.

There have been changes both in Isfahan and the world since the phrase was coined but the sentiment still rings true.

The main square, built big enough to allow polo matches to be played within its confines, now has Iranian tourists promenading



around the lakes and fountains that have replaced the polo pitch or taking rides in horse-drawn carriages.

The sides are made by parades of shops, with two mosques and a palace in the centre of three of the sides. These shops are arranged in groups, as is normal in eastern towns, so as you walk around the outside of the quadrangle you move from the noise and smoke of the copper beaters bashing sheets of copper into trays, bowls and the like, tinning some of them to be etched later, to the shops selling chess sets and other trinkets, then to the shops selling miniatures where the owner briefly looks up from his desk and then returns to painting the next miniature: another scene of polo players in the square and onto the carpet shops where endless cups of tea arrive as endless rolls of carpet unfurl in front of us tourists feigning indifference.

Set amongst the parade of shops are the palaces and mosques. The mosques are fantabulous, the most incredible edifices, the most amazing architecture, they have most beautiful tiles, the most perfect

acoustics, every corner you turn produces another 'wow!'.

Then off the bottom end of the square the bazaar disappears into labyrinthine alleyways of Eastern promise and an air of dangerous disreputability. You could spend hours here wandering the alleys, poking your nose into the little courtyards, stopping for tea and a hookah or a haggle over something that catches your eye.

Here you can find herbs and spices, ancient and overpriced bric-a-brac to haggle over, old items to be snatched up as bargains, locuum and sherbet, hookah pipes and apple tobacco, watches and glasses, tea houses, knives and nutcrackers, bowls and plates, towels and blankets, thing-a-me-bobs and whatsits and all manner of items which I have no idea what they are or what their use is, but Guy bought them anyway. Wandering around the bazaar with Guy is like the scene in Citizen Kane when Kane is shopping for Xanadu!

Go and see "crazy beautiful" Isfahan yourself, I cannot describe it adequately! And there's all that great canoeing too.

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Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The BCU Cadet Leader Award has been officially accepted for the Service Section of the award. This would ideally suit bronze or silver candidates dependent on their experience level.



First cadet leader receives award

Carol Hawkins, our first cadet leader, received special recognition for her achievement at the recent International Canoe Exhibition at the NEC. Supported by her coach – Mike Twitchen - family, friends and club members, Carol received a BCU Award of Merit which was presented by our Olympic medalists – Paul Ratcliff and Tim Brabants. Tim and Paul also delighted many young paddlers (and not so young alike) by signing autographs, sharing their experiences and displaying their medals! Not every day you get to see an Olympic medal!!

Paddlepower workshops

The following dates are booked for Paddlepower workshops this spring – if you are interested please contact the organiser listed. Further workshops can be arranged on request by contacting your local Paddlesport Development Officer (phone numbers in the BCU year book).

29th April

10am-1pm Upton Warren, Bromsgrove
Phil Hadley 01384 633 984

April/May tbc

Tonbridge CC, Kent
Paul Newman 01634 232 874

April tbc

Cambridge CC
Brian Stanbridge 01234 403 933

May tbc

Hillingdon OAC
Gordon Walling 020 8979 4990

First Paddlepower Black Award

Rebecca Parker is the first young person to achieve the Paddlepower Black Award. Rebecca, who is a member of Nottingham Kayak Club, started the Paddlepower Two Challenge in March 1998 and completed the challenges at the end of last year. During that period Rebecca has progressed her paddling and hopes soon to make the junior development squad for racing and one day the British team. To mark her special achievement Tim Brabants our sprint Olympic bronze medalist will be presenting Rebecca with a special achievement award.



Youngest yet !!

2001 got off to a good start with almost 100 young people taking part in the BCU Youth Regional Slalom Championships staged at Crystal Palace recently.

A very high standard of Slalom skills were demonstrated across all age groups, with keenly contested times in the top placings. Alongside the main event, the BCU ran a Diamond Slalom Challenge event in which many young paddlers gained their first awards and seven paddlers achieved their Gold Award. Outstanding was six-year old Mallory Franklin from Windsor CC who achieved the Blue award in the Diamond Slalom and also came 5th in the Under 12 Girls event – is she the youngest to receive this award?

Results as follows:

U12 Girls

- 1st Sarah Green Purley
- 2nd Chloe Hunter Addlestone
- 3rd Zachory Franklin Windsor

Under 12 Boys

- 1st Jason Webster Ealing
- 2nd Mikey Pritchett Canalside
- 3rd Sam Hayes Chiswick

U15 Girls

- 1st Stacey Law Hymac/Edm
- 2nd Annette Green Purley
- 3rd Rohan Battison Reading

Under 15 Boys

- 1st Matthew Adams Hymac/Edm
- 2nd Luke Banks Waveriders
- 3rd James Mugford Addlestone

U18 Girls

- 1st Elizabeth Clamp Waveriders
- 2nd Kellymarie Reed Royal V.Docks
- 3rd Abbi Law Hymac/Edmonton

Under 18 Boys

- 1st Charlie Power Islington
- 2nd David Rushton Addlestone
- 3rd Chris McCabe Islington

Medal winners will also be given the opportunity of specialist coaching and entry to the River Loddon Slalom in May. Many thanks to all our helpers and supporters for this event. Last year Dulwich Prep School made the gates for the Diamond Slalom – this year Thames Young Mariners produced all the gates for the main event. TYM and Addlestone CC also provided equipment for the day. Finally, and most importantly, thanks to Milenium Awards for All for funding the event.

Gordon Walling – PDO London



Mallory Franklin

The British Canoe Union presents:

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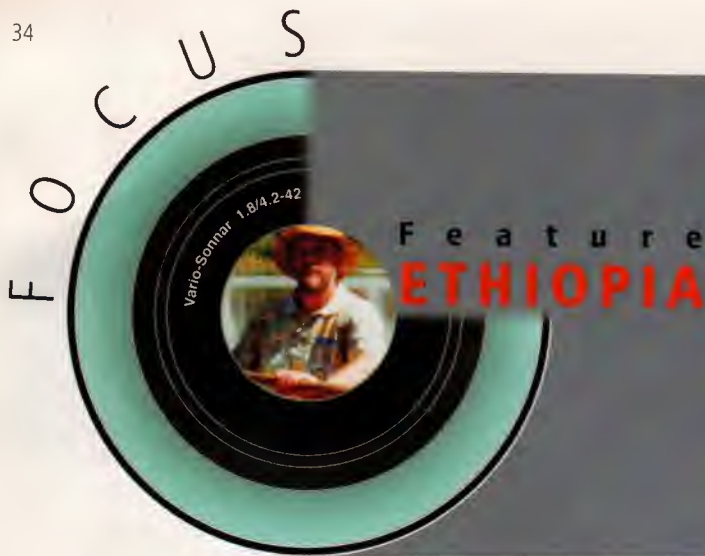
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Fax: 0115 982 1797
Email: info@bcu.org.uk



Luke Banks



PAPER TRAIL

Peter Bisset paddles the Blue Nile's source in a traditional papyrus kayak

Any canoeist travelling to Ethiopia should not miss a chance to paddle the traditional papyrus kayaks of Lake Tana. Many organised tours spend some time in Bahar Dar, on the southern shore of the lake, to visit the Tississat falls on the Blue Nile and the ancient monasteries.

This is the ideal place to buy or hire a sit-on-top kayak built of bundles of papyrus reeds. A brand new single can be bought for £2.50 while a sleek double, complete with two paddles, will set you back all of £10. Alternatively, they can be hired for a few pence a day.

It is worth seeking out special paddles, with a bamboo loom, finely carved blades and your feather angle of choice.

The usual ones, built for durability, are made of hardwood and are consequently heavy to lift, let alone to paddle. They are also balanced so that

the blades fall naturally at the right angle when the loom is held loosely – and this takes a little getting used to.

Depending on your weight and the thickness of the reed bundles, the water line can rise above the bottom of the boat, but extra bundles can be added to compensate. Adjustable lines from the bow and stern fine-tune the boat's shape and rocker.

Although vast, the lake does not generate large waves. An open-water crossing out of sight of land would be possible with a compass and rough estimate of leeway. However, more interesting, and comfortably close to Bahar Dark, is the source of the Blue Nile, where the lake narrows and suddenly starts flowing.

This area is thronged with canoes, the boatsmen ekking a living by either fishing or transporting charcoal, and weedy inlets teem with bird life. Pelicans, looming twice the size of swans, approach closely on the lookout for fish.



Reaching the nearest island monasteries involves an open-water crossing of 3-4 miles.

An early start will make good use of the lake's sea breeze, which is light or offshore in the morning but reaches force 2-3 onshore by midday.

The lake's altitude of 1,830 metres (6,004 ft) means that, despite the tropical latitude, a fleece jacket is extremely useful in the early morning and towards dusk.



Paddlesport review

Providing pathways to paddler performance whatever the paddler requirements/interests might be

Throughout the period of the BCU's next development plan, 2001-2005, the BCU has committed to a review of paddlesport and the coaching structures required to support its ongoing development.

The review will be based on well-founded academic and scientific research. The review will focus on the motivations of paddlers, discipline interests, member/non-member motivations, physiological and psychological sporting performance, coach behaviour, the effects of demographics /environment/climate etc on paddler development and performance

The review will consider a more generic approach to the provision of coaching modules offered to coaches at each of the five levels within our current awards structure

The focus of the review should be to consider a more integrated (competition/recreation) approach to the training, delivery and administration of all coaching awards.

The full process of the review/outcome/implementation will be time-phased over a four or five year period, with at least 12 months lead-in time prior to going live with any changes.

Information collated will also provide robust participation figures and support future access and facilities, debate and development.

The review will be based on full consultation at each and every stage of the process at all levels, all members, coaches in the field, national committee, discipline committee etc involved.

**Coming soon! Your chance to win a new kayak or canoe...
...and influence the development of paddlesport throughout the 21st Century.**

Watch out for your direct mailing so that you can contribute to a review of paddlesport provision, future policy and development. Whether you paddle just once a year or every day of the week, whether you kayak or canoe, are leisure or general recreation in motivation, ardent white water paddler or competition-driven, your sport needs your contribution right now.

Contact 0115 9821100 and ask for Paddlesport Review

When your questionnaire arrives...Don't bin it... Win with it!

Questionnaires, interviews and focus groups will all be part of the review process.

The Paddlesport Review will provide you with an opportunity to comment on and contribute to the future of our sport. Watch out for your own individual mailing and event opportunities to be involved.

The Geoff Good Coach of the Year Award 2000 Congratulations to year 2000 winners

There are approximately 12,000 BCU Coaches who regularly engage in coaching activity at various levels. Many of those involved are volunteers working in local clubs and communities. Effective coaching is essential for the development of individual and team performance progress in sport. It is important to recognise and honour the efforts and achievements of all coaches on a regular basis.

The Geoff Good Coach of the Year Award is a first step towards this. The awards and event will raise the profile of coaching and the work of coaches and in so doing will honour the memory and work of Geoff Good BCU Director Of Coaching 1970 -1999. The Award is co-ordinated by the BCU Coaching Service, the awarding body of the BCU.

Award Categories

There are three awards of equal status in the categories as detailed below:

- JUNIOR COACH OF THE YEAR**
- SENIOR COACH OF THE YEAR**
- VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO COACHING**

Junior Coach of the year – for those coaches working at various levels and abilities but with young people under the age of 16 in any form.

Senior Coach of the year – for those coaches working with adults, either female or male at any level from recreational to county.

Voluntary Services to Paddlesport – for those people involved in coaching development, contributing to the wider advancement of coaching knowledge and BCU coaching awards and / or for those offering regular commitment to coaching activities in clubs.

Nominations now being accepted for 2001

Further details:

For nomination forms contact;
BCU UK Director Of Coaching, British Canoe Union,
Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS.

Year 2000 winners

JUNIOR COACH OF THE YEAR

Don Raspin

SENIOR COACH OF THE YEAR

Franco Ferrero

VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO COACHING

Bob Burnham

LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

Want a share?

I have built a coastal rowing boat, which is currently in storage near Oban, on the west coast of Scotland.

It is of modern construction and design and similar to a large kayak. Some seven metres long and 1.2 metres wide, the craft has a draught of about 15 cm.

It is designed for a crew of three, comprising two rowers - or skullers - to be more accurate - and a tillerperson/navigator and is ideal for long camping trips.

Now I would like to form a group of interested people who would like to use the boat.

Alan Read

Tel: 01483 224495 or

e-mail: alan_read@hotmail.com

Hard headed advice

If you've got an old style Protec helmet, with aluminium rivets holding on the chin-strap, my advice is for you to throw it away.

The chinstrap on my helmet fell off because the aluminium rivet had corroded right through.

Fortunately this was at home, not while I was (temporarily) upside down on Town Falls on the January Dee tour.

Prior to this there was no visible damage to the helmet.

I'd had the helmet for more than five years, and the shell was perfectly ok and had not received any heavy blows.

Jake Brandman from Protec said they'd recognised the need for stainless steel rivets "a couple of years ago", so current Protec helmets are ok.

Bob Willis

Birmingham

Email: letters@canoefocus.co.uk

Or send to Roger St. Pierre. Editor Canoe Focus
Beauval Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UQ

Head case

I was very pleased to receive the latest copy of Canoe Focus but I was rather surprised to see the photo on the front page.

It gives an impression to readers that kayaking in fast-moving water without the need to wear a helmet is endorsed by the BCU.

When I first saw the picture I thought it was taken on a river, only when I saw the picture again inside the magazine did I realise that it was actually a surfing picture. Even then, I would like to see the BCU promoting the view that helmets are worn.

Matt Joutsikoski

Snow go

Enthusiasts planning to paddle the rivers of the southern French Alps this season might appreciate the following advice I picked up during a recent visit.

Having experienced their best winter sports season in years, the mountains of the Ecrin and Queyras are now holding a lot of deep snow on their glaciers, which will keep it cold until well into summer.

As a result there should be plenty of melt water running in the rivers come late May or early June, promising lots of fun for paddlers.

Quality water should continue through to July while the lower sections of such rivers as the Durance, Guil and Ubaye should still have some reasonable water through into August and rivers with glacial run-off, such as the Gyr, Romanche, Veneon and Bonn, will keep running until the end of August if evenings stay warm.

Stuart,

Canoe Control

Canoe Control runs courses and holidays in southern France. Check out their web-site at: www.canoeccontrol.com.

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British Canoe Union Freestyle Committee

Note this release has been ammended on the 5th March 2001

Due to the out break of Foot and Mouth and the BCU's subsequent action, the Freestyle Committee is faced with reconciling the situation and formulating a plan to select a national team for the World Championships in Spain from the 25th June to the 1st July 2001.

Following a meeting held on the 2nd March 2001 the committee has agreed to take a stepped approach whereby; if one action fails the next step can be enacted easily. To keep paddlers informed of this issue, the Freestyle web site will be updated with any new information every week, and will remain the chief source of contact on this matter, please book mark (Ctrl D) <http://www.ukfreestyle@westhost.co.uk/>

Primary Response

- The committee still intends to hold two selection events by the end of May 2001 in the UK.
- To allow the maximum time to achieve this the committee will defer any selection procedure decision until 18th April 2001 at the latest, however competitors should check the website weekly as selection events will be held AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- Competitors will be required to register for selection (there will be no fee payable for registration) by 24th March 01 using email or in writing to: -

Freestyle Registration

Austen Floyd, 3 Castelo Grove, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7JU Email: austen@a-f-farm-services.freeserve.co.uk

- Wild cards will be included. Registration for wildcards will need to be before the first competition (wildcard policy and address for registration later in this release).

Secondary Response

The secondary response is based on the current situation not changing by 18th April 2001. Running in order, should one method fail, the next option is attempted.

- A single disinfected (vehicle and canoeing kit disinfection point out side site) event to be held at Nottingham. Wildcards are still applicable.
- Select at the Spanish Eurocup 8/9/10 June 2001. Wildcards are still applicable.
- Select by a panel using previous notable results in major competitions. Wildcards are not applicable.
- Worse case scenario where team cannot get to Spain because UK is quarantined. Select by panel team from available paddlers in Spain.

Application Criteria for Wildcard Places Wildcards.

The committee will offer the opportunity for Wildcard application. A wildcard panel made up of five elected officers will make selection of the wildcards. Every effort will be made to ensure there is the minimum conflict of interest, but applicants should be aware of the difficulties incurred by the wildcard panel. Person's competing in the selection event should not make Wildcard applications, as these will be discarded.

Decisions made by this panel are final and binding.

The application should contain the following information: -

1. The circumstances behind the non-attendance at the single selection.
2. A minimum of two references stating the paddler's current ability and validating the circumstances behind the non-attendance.
3. A statement of the applicant's competition results over the last two years
4. A brief summary of the preparation undertaken by the applicant over the last three months.
5. If wildcard application is made on the basis of illness, the application must be accompanied by a 'doctors certificate', stating that the applicant is unable to make the selection event due to illness and that they will be fit by 25th June 2001.

Wildcard Applications should be sent to: -

Freestyle Wildcard Application
Roy Simpson, 177 Westbury Lane, Newport Pagnell MK16
Email: roysimpson@volkswagen.co.uk

Wildcard Allocation

There will be a maximum number of wildcards per class. The wildcard selection panel may or may not use the full quota.

Men's K1

Possible 3 wildcards

Women's K1

Possible 2 wildcards

Junior Mk1

Possible 3 wildcards

Junior LK1

Possible 2 wildcards

All other classes

Possible 1 wildcard per category

PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A TEAM FOR THE FORTHCOMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW NORMAL FREESTYLE COMMITTEE POLICY.



Check out the adventures of Eddy in the new Yak Catalogue or surf with him at www.yak-paddling.com



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WYE DO IT?

Early retirement and the desire to spend a holiday with his son Mark, led Richard Watson to fulfil a long-standing ambition

This is not an account of a hair-raising trip, dicing with death round every bend in the river. It tells of a simple four-day journey along the peaceful River Wye last September, involving just a man and his son, and outlines a workable itinerary which may be of use to other relative novices, or for those for whom an easy pace has more appeal than does a mass of white-knuckle challenges

As with most things in my life, I've been a canoeist in spirit more than in deed. I only had the occasional outing, never joined a club, and so never really learnt that much about its intricacies.

As a result, and due to the fact that as a young teenager I once read something that seemed to imply the River Wye was a whitewater river, I put tackling that particular stretch of water as being in the category of 'out of my league' and never really thought anymore about it.

I bought a copy of *'The Canoeists' Guide To The River Wye'*, which still didn't rid me of my firmly based notion that this river, which for much of its length separates England and Wales, was outside my experience – even though when I was 16 I'd paddled the sea in my home-built canvas-covered PBK15 (are you old enough to remember such boats?)

Then an acquaintance told me that the Wye was, in fact, no big deal, so I started to consider it as a trip I could make if I could find someone suitable to join me.

My son Mark, had previously given me Wainwright's 'Coast to Coast' walking guide and sort of suggested we could spend a couple of weeks tackling that challenge (no, not with a canoe!). I had been a bit unsure about such a venture and had not pursued it but suddenly the idea dawned on me of asking Mark if he fancied the river Wye as an alternative. That was back at the end of 1999 and I kept telling myself I'd better start looking into the practical details if we were ever going to do it.

I talked initially with the access officer, John Westlake, who turned out to be an extremely helpful guy and gave me all sorts of extra bits of information, all wrapped up in a package which he posted me at his expense. He was so obliging that I troubled him a number of times before the trip, to check on odd details like long term car parking, river levels and so on.

Once I started looking at the details, I soon discovered that, because

of the sensitive nature of access, the problem with organising such a trip is the necessity of planning exactly where to stop each night so as to avoid any risk of upsetting landowners or fishing interests. Thus we couldn't just start paddling and stop when we'd had enough.

I got a figure of 2mph for the average river current and reckoned if we couldn't paddle at 2mph then we shouldn't even be thinking about the trip. I thus arrived at a rate of 4mph. If I haven't overwhelmed you with the maths, I will go on to calculate that five hours a day total paddling time would therefore yield 20 miles a day. On this basis I set about locating campsites at roughly these intervals.

For some of the stages this was a surprisingly tricky task until I discovered in a separate publication that there was a new site (only the one) at Ross-on-Wye. As advised, I contacted all the sites by phone to make sure they would be open and whether I would need to book.

When I use the term 'site' I should point out that in some instances we are talking about a field and a water tap. As a bonus, some might also provide a Portaloo, though I should think that during August the term 'high season' might take on a whole new meaning!

Still, I wouldn't dream of denigrating these basic facilities as were it not for the public-spirited attitude of these landowners, there would be too few sites to make the journey viable. One of these basic sites charged us the grand total of £3 for the two of us. Hardly a commercial enterprise – though to some extent the philosophy may be to provide a known facility rather than risk people just stopping anywhere and causing problems.

Various prior engagements, work demands and so on were squared away to finally allow us to settle for the first week in September. My son and I freely admit to being fair-weather folk so I was wondering whether this might have been leaving it a bit late in the year. We had originally thought of June but I hadn't actually organised anything by then.

Our original itinerary defined Tintern Abbey as the finishing point, so that was where we would need to leave Mark's car. The people we spoke to there were not terribly helpful or friendly, I have to say, but Mark was fortunate to find a very friendly houseowner in the vicinity who indicated a place he could leave his car free of charge and where it would not stick out like a sore thumb at nights when unattended for a few days. She added that she would be happy to keep an eye on it for the period. There are still some great people around!

We didn't easily find the same situation at Hay-on-Wye so we drove two miles further upstream to the Hollybush Inn where we could camp, get an evening meal and leave my car for the duration. The parking cost was reasonable at a quid a day, so we felt fairly well set up before our start the following morning.

We set off at around 8.30 on the Tuesday, under grey, threatening skies, and it dawned on me that, with the twists in the river, we now had an extra three or more miles to do that day in order to meet our schedule. Also, we had to stop at Hay to buy food for our first lunch stop – clearly I would have to keep a check on progress, particularly as we hadn't established how well we would cover the miles.

We approached the first few rapids – perhaps, 'shallows' would be a better term – with slight apprehension. I guess it was nothing to do with getting thrown in or wet; more a concern about losing or soaking our gear – a bit like the prospect of having one's home flooded, I suppose.

Of course we soon got to feel quite at ease with these tame hazards



and came to simply regard them as stretches where the boat moved at a slightly more decent speed.

At 5pm that day we reached Monnington Falls – a name that sounds formidable – but in reality, at that time of year, is simply a straight narrow channel between rocks, where the water gets up a bit more speed and generates a few low standing waves. As suggested in the book, we walked along the bank to take a look, during which time I managed to fall over twice. I think Mark was probably beginning to have doubts about my abilities, though he tactfully blamed these slip-ups on my smooth-soled sandals.

The encounter with the 'falls' passed off without even a hint of difficulty and had we not wanted to establish the night's campsite location, we might have tried to go back and have another go: backwards, sideways and upside down for a bit of variety.

The problem with a river like the Wye in the 'dry' season is that it tends to be a long way below the surrounding land, so unless there's an obvious sign, it's not easy to tell when you've reached one of the more basic campsites.

We had a map reference for Preston Court Farm but were thrown by the statement in the guidebook which said it was 100 yards below the falls. We were hesitant about going down the next lot of shallows in case the book was right, so I had to get out and scramble up through undergrowth to see if there was any sign of a site. There wasn't; in the event, at the specified map reference, I found a notice announcing the spot, so the reality is that the site is over half a mile below the falls. Actually getting to the farmhouse and negotiating the enthusiastic sheepdog on guard was another matter, and by the time we had the stuff unloaded to set up camp, another hour had passed.

Symonds Yat: the high spots

A quarter of an hour's walk that evening took us to the pub in Preston, where a very friendly landlord said we were just in time for food as he was off out in 20 minutes time, and would chicken and chips be ok? (don't bother asking for a menu – just be grateful if there's any food). The plates arrived with half a chicken each and overflowing with chips.

A bread and marmalade sandwich washed down with a mug of Earl Grey was sufficient to see us on our way the next morning.

I guess we were both anxious to know if we could just carry on for a second and subsequent days' paddling without too much trouble. After half an hour we were both back into the swing of it and feeling fairly reassured. I am constantly amazed at what the body will put up with, particularly at my age.

Thursday lunch break went a bit wrong as I had planned to get food in Hoarwithy. It's not easy to establish from the O.S. map if there's a shop around. In this instance there wasn't, as we verified in the local pub, so we thought we'd break the habit and eat in the pub instead. It wasn't that simple – the poor landlord was short staffed, hung over from the night before and still cleaning out in readiness for opening. Also, he had nobody to prepare food and he told us his wife had died only weeks before and he hadn't yet decided what he was going to do for the future. He very kindly let us in anyway for beer, crisps and peanuts; all the essentials to make up the healthiest meal of the journey.

Friday got us to the high spot of the trip – Symonds Yat rapids. We had a look and decided the worst hazard might be created by the few guys buzzing around in kayaks. This was the first and only time we donned

the helmets we'd been lent and Mark used my emergency packing tape to strap his camcorder to his helmet. The results will depend on how he'd set the zoom control and whether he managed to keep his head pointing roughly in the right direction. I've yet to see.

What turned out to be our last stop was not well heralded. We had to paddle up the river Monnow to the site at Monmouth. There was hardly any water at certain points and this was the only time we had to get out and drag the boat. That would have been no problem but for the fact that two enterprising young lads (about 11-years old, I'd guess) saw us as an easy target to practice their stone throwing.

At first I thought they were harmlessly messing about till one of their missiles hit the boat and I realised it was for real. The stone was big enough to have caused injury had it hit either of us. I tried the constructive tactic of suggesting they might like to help us with the canoe but that served only as an invitation for them to get closer and more accurate. I thus had to resort to driving them away while Mark carried on dragging the boat. We then saw a natural weir of about 18 inch drop and seriously doubted whether we were in the right river as I'd been told on the phone that we could just paddle up to the site. We carried on and gained Monnow bridge with water deep enough to continue paddling the last stretch. The final welcome was in the form of the two lads waiting for us on the bridge from which they dropped handfuls of gravel into the boat.

We were to have continued on for half a day to Tintern but having struggled to get the boat out of the water at the campsite and thought about the unknown landing in the tidal stretch the next day, we decided to quit while we were winning. Mark had to use a bus the next day to retrieve his car and the process of then driving back to Hay to recover mine took longer than we'd reckoned so the early conclusion to the trip turned out to be a wise decision.

All things considered, we both agreed we had enjoyed the experience. True, there were the boring stretches, largely because of the grey skies, and there had been times when battling against the wind had been quite a graft but we had had enjoyed four days of peace and tranquillity and fresh air, away from the usual hubbub of society.

We had elected to camp along the way and fortunately there are just about enough places next to the river to enable this. I don't know how easy it would be to find B & B places; they obviously exist but how close they are to the river and what security issues might arise would need to be considered.

Although I had bought the relevant O.S. maps, I downloaded the river sections from the internet, printed them out and glued them together to make a strip map for each day. I used different highlighters to mark hazards and landing points as described in the guidebook, and also the locations of the selected campsites. I then folded each strip to fit into a clear plastic pocket. This proved to be very useful. The guidebook is fine but the maps in it do not keep the same compass orientation and don't show all the extra bits you can see on an O.S. map.

So, it was an enjoyable overall experience. Particularly gratifying was the friendliness of the fishermen and landowners we met. Once, when we got stuck trying to avoid one fisherman, he was sorry he hadn't seen us coming, as he would have directed us through the deeper channel which was just where he was fishing! I like to think we had the right attitude and were suitably sensitive to their wishes. We certainly didn't have any problems on either score.

Please forward all Members Classified adverts direct to the BCU office in Nottingham
Members ads are free 0115 9821100

FOR SALE

Acrobat 270 Black £200. Tel: 01634 388016 or e-mail: MickHorton@aol.com 01634 388016. Gillingham, Kent.

Acrobat 270, Turquoise multi-art, full WW spec. Well loved, used but not abused £200 ono. Tel: Helen on 07779322160.

Acrobat 275, orange. Hardly used. Fairly good condition £250 ono. Tel: Elaine on 0776 500 3791.

Attak Sport, orange £200. Tel: 01634 388016, or e-mail: MickHorton@aol.com. Gillingham, Kent.

Books, Rivers Publishing, specialist publishers of international rafting and kayaking guide books. 125 Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NA. Tel: 020 8391 0299, fax: 020 8391 5114.

Calypso single sea kayak, as new – immaculate condition, hatches, skeg, compass, fully fitted £825. Tel: David on 01207 562884. Newcastle.

Camping kit, unused. MSR multi-fuel stove plus spares and fuel bottle, cost £120, only £75. MSR stainless pans, 1.6 litre £13, 1.1 litre £10. Trangia £25. Orin sleeping bag £25. Thorb sock £25.

Vango Odyssey rucksack, 35 litre £35. Ortleib water/clothing bag, 10 litre £10. Ortleib waterproof sac, 15 litre £12, 12 litre £10. All unused, sale due to illness. Tel: David on 01253 852832 (evenings). Fleetwood, Lancs.

Capella sea kayak, versatile boat, all usual features, with an extra set of hatch covers and a new neoprene spray deck. £495 For sale due to impending house move – and the sad realisation that nobody needs all the boats that I've got. Also who wants a racing ski? good condition £50. Coleman 15 canoe – indestructible(ish) £300. Kirton Scimitar K1 suit ex-Descent £30. Tel: 01202 631186 or 07949423727. Nigetufly@aol.com

Combat Dart, extra high volume, for a paddler of 6 ft plus, weighing around 16 stone / 110 kg, good condition £350. Tel: Grunt on 01295 273193 or e-mail: m_a_punter@hotmail.com. Banbury, Oxon.

Corsica S, old school boat, purple, in good condition £200 ono. Tel: Mark on 0771 943 0696. London area.

Crewsaver dry suit and inner, large, excellent condition £100 ono. Tel: Robert on 01673 861904. Lincoln area.

Dagger Freefall, full WW spec, garage stored £200. Tel: David on 01922 497 975.

Dagger Infrared, been used as a second boat, so hardly used. Need to generate cash, so yours for a bargain £400. Tel: Rich, on 07977 290253, weekends and evenings.

Dagger Infrared kayak, full WW spec, red/yellow, good condition, inc. buoyancy bags, backrest and nose cones £365 ono. + optional phoenix spray deck £25. Tel: Peter Boddy on 01493 750115.

Dagger Medieval, 18 months old £320 Contact: 0785 501 3311. Sheffield.

Dagger RPM, multi-art, airbags, backrest, full plate footrest, vgc £300 ono. Tel: Gary Williams on 02476 597465. Coventry.

Dagger Vertigo, multi-art blue/black/white, good condition: stored indoors £275; Tel: 01904 641302. Yorkshire.

Dancer, red, good condition, stored in garage. Good all-round general-purpose kayak £180. Tel: Jonathan on 01932 570002 or 07802 463061. Chertsey Surrey.

Delphin Kevar WWR in gc £150. Slalom Kayak £100. Tel: Brychan Watkins on 07971 221919 or e-mail to bwatkins@iee.org.

Eskimo Kendo, full WW spec, excellent river runner, good condition – garage stored £300 ono. Tel: Annette on 01291 620265 (evenings) or e-mail: abruno@tinyworld.co.uk. South Wales.

Eskimo Kendo, less than 3 years old, £350 ono. Phone Emma (0114) 2321472.

Eskimo Topo Duo, turquoise, full WW spec, air bags etc, good condition: hardly used; can deliver, must be seen – ideal for Alps this summer. Tel: Nick on 01635 862111 or 07768 097628. Berkshire.

Glassfiber, one person kayak and paddle, vgc £60. 12 ft home-built one-man open canoe £50. Tel: Andy on 01889 207117. Stafford.

Inazone 220, green and yellow, vgc £400. Can deliver to Nottingham, North Wales or Nene. Tel: Paul on 01444 892050 or e-mail: pbarlowr@cs.com.

Inazone 240, blue, less than 12 months old, good condition £350. Tel: Grunt on 01295 273193 or e-mail: m_a_punter@hotmail.com. Banbury, Oxon.

Jive, less than 1 year old. Good condition 450 ono. Can deliver to HP or Trerwryn. Tel: Zoe on 07714 100066.

K1 Glass Ranger, good condition, ideal DW or first racing boat, £125. Tel: Colin on 023 8088 4579 (day) or 023 8084 2054 (evenings). Southampton.

K2 Fanfare, carbon/Kevar construction, excellent condition, inc wooden seats £900. Tel: Damien on

0115 9334768.

Kiwi K1 9 ft baths boat, mustard, vgc, fibreglass, built-in buoyancy £100. Pyranha C2/3 17 ft Canadian canoe, green, plastic, bags and home-made 'junk' sailing rig, with outriggers, tiller and rudder etc to Canoe Sailing Association standard £350. K2, 17 ft, 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, no patches, good straight-line boat, with spraydeck £60. Various-sized spraydecks £10 each. Tel: Ian on 0114 2551480. Sheffield.

Klepper Aeries doubles for sale. Good frame, slight leak in hull £600. Frame and skin vgc, double paddles, rudder, spray cover, three original storage bags £1200. Rarely used frame and skin mint, spray cover double paddles, three original storage bags, pennant, rudder, instruction book etc £1600 (new Kleppers are about £2800 each). Also K1 Sprint, vgc, ideal first boat, no seat £240. Roof rack to fit Astra 200, two winter/snow tyres plus hubs, used for 2000 miles approx only, 175/70R13, £80. Tel: John Rippon 01748 833614 (daytime) or 01765 604071 (evenings only). Rippon, Yorkshire.

Mega Sea Kayak Sovereign, 5.02m, c/k, rudder, white/black, immaculate condition: used once only £1,200. Tel: 08700 77 44 88 or e-mail: chip@chip.demon.co.uk

Microbat 230. Green. New seat, airbags. £200. View Reading Berkshire. Tel: Raeburn-Ward 0118 9472429 or e-mail dprw@patrol.i-way.co.uk

Mountain 300, red, full WW spec, hardly used, stored indoors £320. Tel: Ian Pooleman on 01904 704131 or 07870 300484 or e-mail: ian.pooleman@ntlworld.com.

Mr Clean, purple, bargain £335. Tel: Mark on 01509 554177 or 0779 0774 696. Nottingham.

Mystique and Concept slalom kayaks, old but in good condition. Olympic Junior child's fibreglass kayak, suit 8-10 yr old. All at £50 each. Tel: 01283 703576. Nr Derby.

Nordkapp style sea kayak, yellow deck, white hull, excellent condition, two valley hatches, foot pump, decklines etc all fitted £590 ono. Tel: 01934 613729, or e-mail: ann@kayax.com. Weston-super-Mare.

Old Town 119K, solo open canoe, red, crosslink. Excellent condition – two years old. Lacing points for airbag attachment already fitted £400. Tel: Ron, on 01434 632039.

P&H Orion, pump, oval hatch, skeg £500; P&H Iona, round hatches, skeg £400; P&H Baidarka Explorer, round hatches, skeg £400; VW Camper, G-reg, five-speed diesel, 2/4 berth, sea kayak roof rack £5500 ono. Tel: John on 01425 273840 or e-mail: john@sue_sutton@bcuinternet.com. Christchurch.

Perception Dancer, WW spec, vgc, with neoprene deck £190. Surf-ski Palm, polyethylene, gc £50. Tel: Pete Lacey on 01297 443630. Lyme Regis.

Perception Dancer, yellow, good condition, stored indoors. For Collection from Nottingham. E-mail b_n_scott@yahoo.com

Perception Dancer XT, excellent condition, including neoprene deck, buoyancy aid, New Wave paddle and helmet £250 ono. Tel: Ben on 01727 838291. Herts.

Perception Jib, red and yellow, used mainly in surf by careful lady paddler. Excellent surf boat, great park and play machine, ideal river runner for smaller paddler. Offers around £350. Tel: 01748 826709 or e-mail: wilf@wilfordn.fsnet.co.uk

Perception Method Air, never used. Complete with paddle, also unused £550 ono. Tel: Darren on 01246 201376.

Perception Mr Clean, two-tone blue, full WW spec, excellent condition, stored indoors. Six months old £400 ono. Tel: Richard Martin on 01903 871400.

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

Perception SPARC, blue, 18 months old, vgc, garage stored; airbags, hip pads & backrest. Tel: 01252 371582 or e-mail: Shorthop@talk21.com

Perception Supersport, red, full WW spec, three years old. Tel: Neil Hopkinson on 07956 686911 or e-mail: neilhopkinson@ntlworld.com. St. Ives, Cambs.

Perception Whiplash, red, good condition – three years old £300 ono, tel: Rob, on 01434 632039. Northumberland.

Perception 3D, distinctive green, purple, blue marble colours, super condition, as new £400 ono. Tel: Adrian on 01752 774248.

Perception Sabre, space for a weekend voyage and possibly a four-day voyage. Not used much. Big enough for a 6 ft man and it is a river boat. Big edges for surfing too. E-mail: David Gill at trymachine2001@yahoo.co.uk.

Pirouette, full plate footrest, blue, stored indoors £160. Tel: Chris Gore on 01245 223438 (evenings/weekends) or 07808 739744. Mid-Essex.

Pirouette Pro-Line, blue £200. Tel: 01634 388016 or e-mail: MickHorton@aol.com 01634 388016. Gillingham, Kent.

Prijon Fly, £300 and Perception Corsica 'S' £250. Both in good condition, with little use for age. Tel: Jon Walder 01509 551241 (evenings).

Prijon Samurais, red, full Alpine spec, good all-round water boat, vgc £250. Tel: Adam on 07974 161647. Nottingham.

Prijon Odyssey (blow moulded polyethylene), two-person Sea kayak for sale complete with rudder and deck nets, watertight compartments front & rear with easy-access deck hatches. Very comfortable seats. A good boat for day / weekend trips, although has been used for trips of up to 2 weeks, vgc £500 no offers. Tel: Simon 0711 778282. West Yorkshire.

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Prijon Slalom T, gc, £150 each or £280 for two. Pyranha Junior Master-Lite, excellent condition, almost new £225 or will deal on the four. Tel: Axe Valley Canoe Club on 01297 21928 (daytime) OR 01404 881656 (evenings). East Devon.

Prijon T-Slalom kayak £100, Prijon wooden paddle in excellent condition £35, plus some kit. Tel: Tim on 01303 770797 Folkestone.

Prozone 230, pyranha's best playboat ever! 4 months use, good condition, £499!! AquaBlade Paddles as used by loads of rodeo world champions, never used! ... full carbon shaft, poly carbon blades, £99. Can deliver to Nottingham Slalom course. Tel: Geraint on 0115 9821014 or 0787 0127566

Prozone 230, yellow and blue, just one month's use, so excellent condition; pain forces sale £550. Tel: Gavin on 0771 4511450.

Pyranha Attack, with airbags and Mega back-rest, vgc £170 ono. Tel: 01782 260895.

Pyranha Attack Sport, orange £200. Tel: 01634 388016 or e-mail: MickHorton@aol.com Gillingham, Kent.

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Pyranha Creek 280, vgc, full WW spec, backrest, full plate footrest, airbags, always stored indoors £230. River Runner neoprene spraydeck £30. Riverpaddle £30. The lot for £70. Tel: David Ceredig-Evans on 01444 484234 or e-mail: dceredig-evans@tinyworld.co.uk

Pyranha InaZone 230, excellent condition £450; Pyranha H2 Zone 255, excellent condition £450; Dagger RPM, good condition £400; Pyranha Traveller 16 ft open boat, good condition £600; Javelin K1 Marathon 3 layer Carbon Kevar, excellent condition complete with all fittings £750; Javelin K1 Marathon, full glass training boat £250. Tel: Andy on 01352 756483 or 0771 8716908.

Pyranha InaZone 220, blue. Only 10 months old, good condition. Tel: Stephen on 07808 157231. Can deliver to HPP.

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

Pyranha Microbat 230 multi art, just over 12 months old, very good condition (no dents or welds) not used much on white water, college forces sale £250-00. Can deliver to Trywren, Nottingham. Tel: Dave on 01905 427187. Worcester.

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Pyranha Stunt 300, red, full WW spec, hip pads £250. Tel: 0771 904 1939 or e-mail: charlotte mcauley@kcl.ac.uk

Pyranha Stunt 300, red, good condition. Airbags, backrest, hip pads £275 ono. Tel: Rob, on 07989 180 288. Devon.

green/white, with paddles and buoyancy aid, little used – good child's/beginner's boat for lake/gentle river use £70. Tel: Paul Aitken on 01931 714 604.

Redline blue and green £380 O.N.O. also for sale Topolino Spud green £300 O.N.O. Contact Kevin Norris on 01902 785381.

Riot Disco, six-months old, excellent condition £500. Ask for Ashley on 01622 728148 or e-mail: Ashley.Wickens@digital.com. Maidstone.

Riot Frankster Wildberry, excellent condition, factory-fitted power seat £550. Tel: Ian on 01772 204973 or e-mail: ian.newberry@baesystems.com.

Riot Slice, green, full WW spec, excellent condition £350 ono. Tel: Daz on 01904 492531.

Riot Trickster, yellow blast, factory-fitted power seat; used only once £550 ono. Tel: Dan on 01254 822440 or e-mail: danny-to-the-max@talk21.com.

Riot Trickster, only used twice, as new £550 ono. Tel: Mark on 01509 554177 or 07790 774696.

Riot Trickster 4, colour: blast, only used twice, as new, £550. Quick sale needed. Tel: Mark: 01509 554177 or 07790 774696.

Romany Explorer sea kayak, yellow deck, white hull. Skeg, three hatches, back-strap, foot pedals. Roomy, stable touring boat, vgc, plus Lendal Nordkapp modified crank, carbon shaft paddles, Rasdeck combination spray-deck/WW buoyancy aid £950. Spare set Nordkapp paddles £85. Canoe/sailboard trailer 6x4, secure storage for paddles/sails £300. Snipe fibreglass kayak.

Roof bars, newly new, for following cars: old design Fiat Punto three-door £25; old design Fiat Punto five-door (also suitable for Tipo and similar models) £25; Rover (also suitable and similar models) £25. Tel: Jeremy Game on 01301703510.

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Oswestry Canoe Club is in the market for used craft for members: plastic kayaks/canoes, singles, doubles, tourers, pool kayaks, river kayaks, sea kayaks. Tel: Dave Hart on 01691 659 280.

RPM Dagger, wanted, in good condition, with backrest, footplate, airbags etc. Any colour. Midland area. Tel: Nolan White on 0956 422786 or e-mail nolanleigh@yahoo.com.

LOST & FOUND

Buoyancy aid, ribbed, red, lost on the top of the Trywren on Dec 30. Tel: Gary Williams on 02476 597465.

Have I got your Buoyancy Aid? You lent it to me on a river in Wales over New Year; if so tel: Jon on 01993 703308.

Left-hand paddle, white, lost at Mile End Mill on February 10 of found, tel: Peter on 019378 33876

Trousers! Would whoever picked up my Nookie dry(ish) trousers from New Bridge car park by River Dart on Sat Jan 14, please tel: Mark on 01666 822098.

Stolen! Nordkapp HM sea kayak stolen from Firbush Point Field Centre on Loch Tay in August 2000. Red deck, white hull. It has bulkheads, two round hatches, and deck lines and elastics have been fitted by putting loops of blue rope through the deck. The boat, which was old but in good condition when taken, belongs to Benmore Centre and has the centre name and phone number engraved into the cockpit coaming at the back of the seat. Anyone with information please tel: Gill Berrow at Benmore 01369 706337.

Yellow Inazone 230 and multi-coloured green, orange and red Centrifuge, lost on River Rhymney on Feb 11 and last seen heading in to Cardiff. Tel: Kevin Gilbert on 01443 862782 with any info.

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For an application pack please contact the Public Services Personnel Section on 020 8921 4368 (24hour answerphone) or write to Public Services Personnel Central, Room 210, Peggy Middleton House, Woolwich New Road, Woolwich, SE18 6HQ. No Personal Caller Please. Closing date: 20 April 2001.

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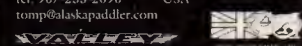
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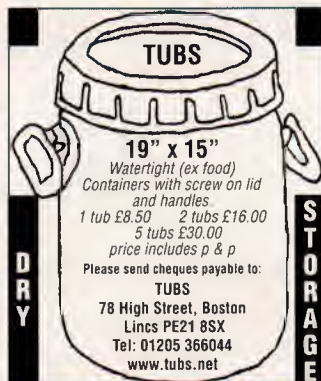
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rockclimbing instructors
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canoe instructors
april to october 2001
short or long contracts



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

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

Village Camps organise high quality supervised activity holidays in Europe for international children and are seeking experienced and enthusiastic staff for the positions on the left and...

EXPERIENCED CANOEISTS

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

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

www.villagecamps.com

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

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 Required**

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

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

Further details from:

Longridge S.B.C Quarry Wood Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1RE
Tel: 01628 483252 E mail: Jobs@longridge.org.uk
www.longridge.org.uk

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, Chiltem House, Bristol Avenue, Blackpool, FY2 0FA
Tel: 01253 503011 Fax: 01253 356955
e-mail: recruitment@nstgroup.co.uk www.nstgroup-travel.com/adventure.html

**THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION**

Incorporated by Royal Charter

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR 2001

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

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

Contracts available for full or part season.

Modern indoor accommodation available.

Good rates of pay.

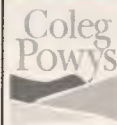
For an application pack, please contact Personnel on 0207 592 1836 (answerphone)

Deadline for full season contract: 31 January 2001

Deadline for part season contract: 28 February 2001

Charity no. 306016

SITUATIONS VACANT

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For further details please contact Sian Bourton Tel: 01874 625252 ext. 401

LOW WOOD WATERSPORTS & ACTIVITY CENTRE

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Send your CV now to Mike Coates, Centre Manager, Low Wood Watersports and Activity Centre, Low Wood, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1LP
Or e-mail watersports@elhmail.co.uk

**AVON TYRRELL ACTIVITY CENTRE
The activity and residential
centre in the New Forest**

We require BCU Level 2 Coaches for the year 2001. Climbing, Archery, Lifeguarding and Ropes Course an advantage. Long and short term contracts available with the possibility of a modern apprenticeship scheme.

We are a growing centre which offers activity holidays and breaks for a diverse range of age and ability groups. For details please write to:

Mike Paine

**Avon Tyrrell Activity and Residential
Centre, Bransgore, Hampshire, BH23 8EE
Tel: 01425 672347 Fax: 01425 673883**

**GARELOCHHEAD
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CENTRE**

West Central Scotland
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Educational Instructors

£7.09p per hour

Applicants should have good interpersonal skills and possess at least one of the following: ML, SPA, Kayak coach level 2, Windsurf Inst level 1.

Driving licence essential.
Accommodation may be available.
Please contact: *Garelochhead Outdoor Education Centre, Old School Rd., Garelochhead, G84 0AT.*
Tel 01436 810315
e.mail:
bob@garelochheadoutdoorcentre.com

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or July - August

BCU Coaches

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

FREE TIME Telephone for further details
& Application form
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canoeing industry
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**MALVERN HILLS OUTDOOR CENTRE****TRAINEE INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED**

This busy local authority residential centre is recruiting 2 trainee instructors from September 2001, for an apprenticeship of up to 2 years. Aged between 18 & 22 they should be eager to pursue a career as a leader in the outdoors and have previous experience of a range of outdoor pursuits as shown in possessing BCU 3 Star, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, BELA or suitable FE/HE qualification. Potential candidates are asked to phone our office to receive full information including a job description and person specification.

Closing date for applications April 30.

Tel 01684 574546 Email. office@malvernhillssoc.co.uk

Head of Centre, Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre, Old Hollow, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 4NR



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**Instructors Southern Ireland
Outdoor Education Centre**

Situated on the SE corner of Ireland facing S Wales with mainly a schools and groups cliental.

Shielbaggan 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, Shielbaggan OEC, Ramsgrange Co Wexford, Ireland.
info@soec.ie Ph 00353 51 389550

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Gloucestershire

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Plastic welding service also available. Call for details and quote on your boat
Iain Hutchison (01594) 826273 (Glos)

Yakkety Yak...

Specially designed for playboaters, the new Vortex Cag, from Yak, is, unlike most such items on the market, made from the highest quality, breathable, Ripstop fabric, specially developed for paddling use by Yak. It has taped seams, with reinforcement panels on both the upper and lower parts of the arm – combining strength with comfort and dryness. For extra protection, the Vortex has an adjustable twin waist seal and twin wrist seals, the inner being PU coated latex. A 'glide skin' lined Neoprene neck seal and outer cuffs make for ease of entry and exit. They provide a superb seal and ensure maximum dryness in all conditions. Other features include an improved cut for comfort and freedom of movement and a deck hook, situated between the twin waists, to hold up your deck when walking. Coloured in an attractive navy/stone colourway, the Vortex comes in S, M, L and XL sizes. Further information: Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hants PO12 1AQ. Tel: 023 9252 8621.. Roger St. Pierre



www.yak-paddling.com

Bright spark

It is often the case, especially on long trips, that you end up carrying far too much in weight and bulk and would prefer smaller, lighter kit, yet still have efficient options on a range of ancillary items, such as torches. Advanced LED technology now allows you to have just that – a torch that only measures 31mm x 45mm x 11mm, weighs next to nothing, is waterproof, durable, reliable and has a beam of around 10 metres. Dalesman distribute the high intensity LED keyring torch that has all these qualities, as well as featuring a positive on/off switch, rubber side grips, easily replaced batteries (providing approx 20 hours of constant light) and with an almost indestructible LED that itself has an approximate life of 10 years. LED technology is revolutionising torches, and modern LED lights are smaller, tougher, lighter, cheaper to run and have less environmental

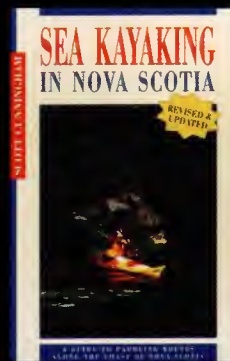
impact – thanks to fewer batteries being consumed – than standard torches, but still give an excellent light. The Ultra Bright LED light is available with five different LED lights – white, blue, green, red, yellow – comes with a keyring karabiner clip (also good for clipping to your jacket/buoyancy aid etc), lithium battery, battery replacement instructions and costs around £7.95. Further information: Dalesman International Ltd, Dalesman House, Marathon Place, Moss Side Industrial Estate, Leyland, Lancashire, PR5 3QN. Tel: 01772 45 39 18.

John Fenna



SEA KAYAKING In Nova Scotia (second edition)

By Dr Scott Cunningham



For those of you who may have been lucky to fly over the North Atlantic, you may have looked down at an impressive area of coastline as you crossed the eastern seaboard.

During the summer of 1980, Scott Cunningham

circumnavigated Nova

Scotia in an open canoe! Two years later he quit his job as a biologist and set up Coastal Adventures. Today, he still continues to run sea kayaking courses and guided trips along the shores of what is, the "jewel" of Atlantic Canada.

No one else in this part of the world is more qualified and experienced to write this unique guide!

This revised and updated second edition divides the coastline into five specific regions and chapters. The Bay of Fundy, South Shore, Eastern Shore, Cape Breton Island and the North Shore.

Each chapter or section has a comprehensive introduction interspersed with a tale or two from a past trip. Suggested Launching and Landing spots. The particular Trip Length, given in kilometres as well as hours. Excellent Maps and Charts of the route as well as the relevant Canadian topographical map and marine chart numbers. A Route Description and Points of Interest, this is where Scott's keen interest in the environment and expertise as a biologist shines through. Finally, a paragraph on Safety Considerations.

The book also has a number of black and white photographs. Having seen Scott's impressive slide presentations and the quality of his photography, my only criticism is that it would have been nice to see a couple of colour prints enclosed within the pages.

This said, perhaps it would be better to spend the extra that this would incur on a ticket to the area!

If you want excitement, then you have the biggest tides of the world in the Bay of Fundy! If you want remote coastline, peace and quiet, then you are stuck for choice.

If this guide does not inspire you to visit the area, or if the help and support you would receive from Coastal Adventures to plan the trip and hire equipment does not get you surfing the net for cheap flights? Then I suggest you take up table tennis!

Howard Jeffs, BCU level 5 Coach (sea

The case for Aquamate

Based in Thaxted, Essex, Aquamate produces a range of waterproof cases for VHF, PMR, mobile phones and personal valuables – already popular in the marine market and ideal for paddlers. The company is currently looking for dealers in the canoeing market and can offer own-branding to shops, clubs or other groups. Further information: JH Simpson, Aquamate Products Ltd, Champers Farm, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex CM6 3PX. Tel: 01371 830216. Fax: 01371 831733.

Roger St. Pierre



BasNomad PaddleWorks Galasport

BasNomad PaddleWorks have now become the sole UK importers of Galasport canoe and kayak equipment.

Well known for its durability and versatility, Galasport is able to offer a range of equipment to suit all abilities, from young exuberant beginners to experienced Olympic champions. In fact, Galasport paddlers have seen success in all three last Olympic Games, bringing home an impressive three Gold Medals. Not many other manufacturers are able to boast such success!!!

Galasport actually manufacture their own slalom boats, and their selection includes the Retro; perhaps the most popular designed boat amongst Britain's elite paddlers, and the Pyrog, a favourite world cup winner within the C1 class.

With an array of kayaks, paddles and clothing from which to choose, GalaSport has something for everyone.

If you would like to access more information on any of the products mentioned in this article, or would like to find out more about what Galasport has to offer, why not check out their web site at www.galasport.cz Nomad paddleworks on 01678 520808 (www.paddleworks.co.uk) Alternatively contact Ras Dex at the adrenalin shop on 0115 9813323.

Running Riot

Hot news for early 2001 release is the Dominatrix kayak series from Riot. There are now three sizes of Dominatrix instead of the original one.

Intended to be the link between the Disco and the Trickster, the Dominatrix is extremely forgiving and provides fun on the smallest river. It embodies many of the Disco features but also offers the speed, agility and grace of the Trickster.

Faced with the dilemma of deciding just how big to make the final boat to complete the Riot range, the company decided it was so different from the other designs they make that there was room to make several sizes so as to accommodate varying sizes of paddlers. Models available are 41 gallons (155 litres), 44 gallons (165 litres) and 47 gallons (175 litres).

While the Disco will remain the ultimate spud boat for 2001 and the Trickster/Prankster among the best river-running high-performance boats out there, the Dominatrix will provide the perfect play-specific kayak. Now available, the Dominatrix is priced at £680.

Heather Ellis



New products from Endless River

PADDLES

Eagle £ 69

Traditional beavertail paddle made from a single piece of black walnut. Supplied in 57" 60" and 63"

Hawk £ 49

A modern square shaped paddle with a 7" blade made from walnut with a laminated cherry shaft. Lengths 54" 57" 60" 63"



Vulture £ 55

A large 8" square blade designed to drive you along the river. Laminated blade from ash, poplar and walnut, it also has a resin tip for durability. Lengths 57" 60" 63"

Owl £ 45

Traditional beavertail shape but with a smaller 6.5" blade makes an ideal paddle for many canoe tourers. Ash shaft for stiffness with a walnut bade for durability. Lengths 54" 57" 60" 63"

ACCESSORIES

Sling seat £29

Need to take an extra passenger and don't want to drill holes in the canoe. The sling seat fits almost every canoe with an easy to adjust simple hook over the gunnel system. Fitted in almost any position and at your required height.

Foam block carrier £ 25

A great alternative for a roof rack. The foam blocks are fitted to the gunnels of the canoe. The canoe is placed on the roof of your vehicle and tied down.



Headway Buoyancy aid £ 80

Designed for comfort and use while instructing or touring on the river or sea 2 good-sized pockets on the front and a large pocket on the back you can keep all those essential items to hand. A front zip to ease putting on with side adjustment to get a good fit. Size small/medium, large extra large, extra extra large.

For further information and a copy of our colour brochure please contact us on 01905 640003.

www.endlessriver.co.uk

Protection racket

Being pretty serious about both canoeing and photography, I have recently been testing Peli Protector Cases to see if they can provide real protection to my cameras in seriously tough conditions – and have been seriously impressed. Billed as "the world's toughest equipment protector cases" and as "watertight – unbreakable – airtight", these cases are made from a super tough, but fairly lightweight resin with a heavy-duty construction. Some come with a choice of internal padding options. They are available in a range of colours and there are many optional accessories. I have been testing two of the 17 different models available: the 1500 case (47 x 38.7 x 17.5cm) in yellow and the 1200 case (27.3 x 24.7 x 12.7cm) in black.

Sizes range from 20.9 x 16.5 x 9.2 up to 132 x 44.5 x 15.2. Colours available are black, silver, yellow and orange, with prices from £28.11 to £301.53, so there is something for every application. The main features are pretty well the same across the range, with the external cases having a super rugged build that incorporates a large ergonomic fold-down handle, strong but easy



to use closures, padlock points, a guaranteed water, air and dustproof neoprene O ring seal and an engravable nameplate. Also featured is an 'E-Z Purge' valve – variations in altitude or temperature can cause a vacuum seal in the airtight case and this valve is to release it. Inside, you have pick-and-pluck foam padding which is pre-scored so you 'pick and pluck' out appropriately sized pieces to give a custom fit for your kit, or in the case (pun intended) of the 1500 model I have been trying, the option of nylon covered Velcro adjustable foam dividers.

The protection offered to camera kit is of the very highest order and these cases would appear to be the very best available for protecting sensitive cameras in a canoeing environment. The 1500 case – the larger of the two – costs around £122.81 with pick and pluck foam or £161.37 with padded dividers, so you can see these cases are not cheap. However, in terms of protecting valuable camera kit, they are well worth the price. Further information: Peli Products, Unit 4, Bayley Ind Estate, Bayley Street, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 1PU. Tel: 0161 304 9443.
John Fenna

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