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quantity of
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winning more
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and olympic
medals

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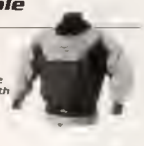
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COMMENT

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

BCU board

BCU chair David Gent has been appointed Sport England's regional director for Yorkshire and consequently has resigned as chair and as a director of the BCU to avoid any conflicts of interest. David had been chair of the BCU Board and previously Council for the last nine years during which time he has made an outstanding contribution to the sport. David will be sorely missed and presents a hard act to follow. A full appreciation of David's voluntary work for the BCU will appear in a future edition of *Canoe Focus*.

Alan Laws has been elected to chair the BCU through to the next AGM at which time the BCU Board will complete its normal annual elections.

Alan who is a partner in an insurance business and chair of the Marathon Committee has been a member of the BCU Board for 29 Years, contributing to a number of the Board's Committees including the Executive, the Sports Management Committee and the Staffing and Remuneration Committee.

Chair of the Slalom Committee, Sue Janes will replace Alan Laws as chair of the Sports Management Committee.

Andy Cook, chair of the National Development Team has been elected as vice chair of the BCU until the next AGM and takes over from Roger Fox.

BCU staff

The Olympic champion from Atlanta Oliver Fix has joined the BCU as Slalom's National Performance Coach. In addition to winning the Centennial Olympic Games, Oliver took the world championship in 1995 on the Nottingham course. He will strengthen and lead the slalom team's preparation for Athens.

Graham Campbell joins the programme as the national development coach for sprint racing and in addition the Performance Department will shortly announce two new appointments, a physiotherapist and a sports science coordinator.

The BCU has strengthened its access and facilities team with the appointment of Kevin East on a part time contract.

Sadly, as we make new appointments our senior national slalom coach, Penny Briscoe has decided to move on and take up a senior appointment with the British Paralympic Association. Penny joined the BCU during the lead-up to the Atlanta Olympic Games and has made a major contribution to the sport, particularly as one of the architects of Canoe slalom's performance, potential and start plans. We wish Penny well with her new job.

Membership subscriptions and a special offer for members taking direct debit

Membership subscriptions for the year commencing November 1, 2001 will be as follows:

Life Membership	£475.00
Adult Comprehensive	£ 31.50
Youth Comprehensive	£ 16.00
Family Comprehensive	£ 15.00
Adult Basic	£ 26.00
Youth Basic	£ 13.00
Family Basic	£ 12.00

All members paying by direct debit or choosing to renew by direct debit can enjoy membership at the existing 2001 rates prior to the November rates.

The River & Waterway Environment for small boat users

'The River & Waterway Environment for Small Boat Users' is written by Dr Tim Stott and described as an environmental guide for recreational users of rivers and inland waterways. It represents an impressive collation of recent and current research and information on how rivers work. Available from Darren Male, BCU Environmental Officer, 6 Brick Kiln Lane, Hurley, Nr Atherstone, N Warwickshire, CV9 2LU, Telephone: 01827 874262, it is priced at £15.00 (inc postage) for members quoting their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI number or £19.95 (plus £2 p&p) for non-members.

Southampton Boat Show

The BCU will attend the Southampton Boat Show in force, with the show organisers commissioning an exciting special white water feature and the BCU taking exhibition space in an adjacent area alongside. Full details appear in this edition of *Canoe Focus*.

Marathon racing world championships

This is the final *Canoe Focus* before the marathon racing world championships for seniors and juniors, which takes place in Stockton on Tees from August 30th to September 2nd. Full details of the event appeared in June's *Canoe Focus* and a summary of the timetable appears in this magazine. Incorporating the ever popular masters classes on Thursday and Friday the August 30 & 31 the event truly has something for all, with races in lightnings and bell boats and family entertainment available on the Saturday and Sunday.

The British marathon racing team has an enviable track record at international events and would welcome the support of all canoeing enthusiasts at this world championships on home waters.

News from Eurosport

The sprint racing world championships from Poznan, Poland will be shown on Eurosport with the following provisional timings;

Friday 24 August	0900 to 1030
	1000 m Semi Finals Men & Women
	1700 to 1800
	500 m Semi Finals Men & Women
Saturday 25 August	0900 to 1030
	1000 m Finals Men & Women
	1530 to 1700
	200m Heats
Sunday 26 August	22.45 to 23.45
	500 & 200 m Finals

Please check final timings in newspapers and on eurosport.com. Eurosport also hope to cover the slalom world championships from the USA once host television contracts are agreed.

Good Luck

On behalf of all BCU members I would like to wish our teams competing in major competitions during the remainder of the summer well. In particular teams attending the senior racing worlds in Poland, the slalom worlds in the USA, the junior sprint racing worlds in Brazil, the marathon racing worlds in Stockton on Tees and the canoe polo European championships in Poland.

Junior wild water racing world championships

By the time you read this the BCU in partnership with the WCA will have hosted the junior pre-worlds in Bala in preparation for hosting the junior world championships next year. The organising team has battled hard to get these events on with major concerns over foot and mouth.

Paris World Cup Regatta

A special mention goes to the sprint racing team who achieved a record ten medals (1 gold, 7 silver, 2 bronze) at the Paris World Cup Regatta. The gold medal coming from the womens K4 500m team of Lucy Hardy, Anna Hemmings, Andrea Dallaway and Abi Cattle.

Advertising

We sometimes include within *Canoe Focus* information on offers and promotions that we think will interest you. Unfortunately, despite our research, from time to time some offers are not all that they seem. If you experience any difficulties with any offer contained within the magazine, please let the BCU Office know.

Late news

As we close for press we have just received the very good news that Jenny Spencer has won the junior womens European marathon racing championships, in Győr Hungary.

New centre for Welsh borders?

North Shropshire MP Owen Patterson has given his wholehearted support to plans to create a new lake at Llanyblodwel to create a canoesport centre of excellence for the Oswestry and Powys border region.

Oswestry and District Canoe Club chairman Dave Hart, the project's co-ordinator, says the idea is to create a venue close to Oswestry which would be open to all: "It will be a major tourism attraction in the area as well as a valuable facility for local people," says Dave.

A suitable site is now being sought for the project which is likely to cost between £500,000 and £1 million to bring to fruition and will be called the Oswestry People's Lake.

Tyne Tour 2001

Due to the after-effects of the Foot & Mouth crisis, there are still considerable stretches of both the North & South Tyne which are affected by 3km exclusion orders. These exclusion orders are within the vicinity of the access points that we use for the most popular stretches of the river.

We have no way of knowing whether these exclusion orders will still be in force come November, so we have decided to cancel the 2001 Tour, rather than running the risk of canoeists being blamed for bringing Foot & Mouth back to the Hexham area. (No matter how small the risk) We expect to be able to run this hugely successful event in November 2002.

www.tynetour.org.uk

Good news for some



Some 104 sprint canoeists of all ages and abilities took part in Richmond Canoe Club's spring sprint regatta, held at Welsh Harp Sailing Club, which is based at Brent Reservoir.

The foot and mouth outbreak which disrupted so much of the canoe and kayaking calendar in the early part of the year ironically helped the Richmond event by providing an injection of paddle-hungry competitors from around the country.

One notable victim of the outbreak was the 125-mile Devizes to Westminster classic in which Richmond was the last club to win the overall team category, in 1999. Sadly, last year's DW had also been called off, though in this case while already well underway. This was due to an incident at Windsor Lock, where several teams found themselves stranded and the local fire brigade had to be called to bring them ashore.

Richmond Canoe Club actively promotes the sport in the SW London borough, running a variety of courses for canoeists at all levels and participating in events throughout the UK and Europe.

Having produced a number of international and Olympic class athletes and coaches, Richmond was also the winner of the 1999 national inter-club sprint racing championship.

Contact: **Roger Overall, Richmond Canoe Club. Tel: 020 8892 9401 (h) or 0777 337 2320 (mobile).**

What's in a name?

Set up as a charitable trust in 1986 on the initiative of the BCU in its golden jubilee year, the Jubilee Canoeing Foundation has now shortened its name to simply the Canoeing Foundation.

It was felt to be appropriate to drop the word jubilee from the title as we become more active in efforts to raise funds to promote more canoeing opportunities for young

people and the disabled.

As his millennium challenge, Geoff Sanders, the chairman of the foundation since 1986, undertook to canoe 1,000 miles during 2000 to bolster CF funds. In the event, he managed to paddle 1,382 miles during the year and raised well over £1,200 in the process.

The more financial support the CF can attract, the more young people and the disabled can benefit from canoeing projects. Present resources only allow an average of around £200 support per applicant. With more sponsors or capital the amounts given could be substantially increased.

Those considering making applications for grants can receive further details from Mrs Vera Whalley, CF Secretary, BCU, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 5AS who would also be pleased to receive any donations from well-wishers. The CF reminds all local canoeing groups about the lottery grants currently available to small groups which have less than £15,000 annual income.

The Awards for All scheme can finance projects which involve people in their local communities, bringing them together, for example, to take part in canoeing activities.

You can apply at any time if your group needs between £500 and £5,000. The application forms ask for basic information and you should hear the result within three months. **Application packs are available by phoning 0845 600 2040** or visiting the web site at

www.awardsforall.org.uk.

Camera, action! Join the ultimate

Cackle TV and The Shoreline Surf Academy have teamed up to produce what they hope will be the definitive surf kayaking video. The footage being shot over the next year will include some of the most extreme surf kayaking ever seen, together with a breakdown of moves from some of the world's leading exponents.

Footage will come from across the UK and beyond but only when conditions are at their best – the aim being to be at the right place at the right time.

If you'd be interested in being filmed for this production then contact **Simon Hammond at Shoreline Outdoor Pursuits, 11a Crooklets Beach, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8NE. Tel: 01288 354039**, or email him at hammond.family@virgin.net and he will email you with

Continued on page 8



Legend in the making

Already a successful and popular touring kayak, Dagger's Savannah is now being built at an entry-level specification with a price to suit. Starting at just £405, the Savannah Legend offers superb value for money and is available in either red and mango or blue and white.

If desired, customers can choose from a wide range of optional extra fittings that are installed during manufacture.

The following fittings are standard on all models: choice of two colours: thermal-formed seat with integrated adjustable back rest support; keeper adjustable footrest; foam knee padding; carry handles on bow and stern; mould-in tee nuts for retro fitting deck lines and security bar.

Options include: rear bulkhead and sure-seal hatch cover; bow bulkhead and sure-seal hatch cover; deck elastic fitted front and/or rear decks; fitted stern rudder; additional colour; thigh brace.

For further details contact your local Dagger dealer or tel: 01275 798100

David Train: complaints upheld

As a result of complaints submitted to the BCU regarding his conduct, a subsequent lengthy investigation and due process under the organisation's constitution, well-known paddle sport personality David Train has been expelled from membership for a minimum of four years.

This action resulted from a formal complaint made by the Sprint Racing Committee in response to a long-running correspondence campaign conducted by Mr Train and aimed predominantly at three individuals, two of whom are BCU employees.

Following an extensive public campaign consisting of letters and inflammatory cartoons sent to a number of individuals, both inside and outside the BCU, which have now been deemed by the organisation's Special Hearings Committee as being offensive, defamatory and amounting, in the view of their recipients, to harassment. As part of the complaint, it was highlighted that this was not the first time that Mr Train had conducted such a campaign.

Mr Train was notified of the complaint by letter on September 2, 2000 and a hearing set for early December was subsequently adjourned to provide more time for Mr Train to prepare a defence, the officers of the BCU being determined that the hearing should be fair and follow due process.

To further this end, the BCU Board exercised its powers under the constitution and appointed two highly experienced independent individuals, Professor Rees, a practising barrister, and Stephen Stringwell JP, to sit on the Special Hearings Committee along with David Wain, the vice president of the BCU.

With Professor Reese serving as chairman, the SHC subsequently called and held a hearing on May 12, 2001. Despite having had more than eight months to prepare his case and submit evidence in support of accusations he had been making against BCU officials, Mr Train failed to provide any such evidence to the meeting and did not attend.

By way of an indulgence, the chairman of the SHC offered Mr Train the further opportunity to appear before the committee before it reached its decision, conditional on Mr Train agreeing to a timetable for the submission of any documents and witness evidence on which he intended to rely on such occasion. Mr Train refused this offer.

Consequently, the SHC handed down its decision, having considered the evidence presented and having applied the standard of proof "of beyond any reasonable doubt". The SHC unanimously found that Mr Train was guilty of conduct considered disgraceful and opposed to the general interest of the sport of canoeing.

In a published statement, the BCU Board commented: "The BCU is saddened that an individual who in other ways has contributed so much to the sport should have conducted himself in such a manner.

The BCU has a duty to its members and staff to ensure that they are not subjected to the sort of campaign conducted by Mr Train and in further ensuring that when a complaint is made that the disciplinary process is conducted fairly for all parties. The BCU is satisfied that it has met its duties in this regard."

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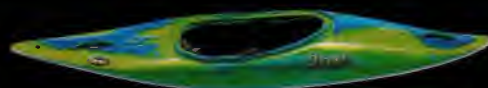
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PeakUK GB Freestyle Team...

10 members of the GB Freestyle team selected to represent their nation at the freestyle worlds in Spain this year will be styling in PeakUK kit.

In no particular order, they are PeakUK boss man Pete Astles, Tom the Sprout (in K1 and C1!), Dicki Chrimes, Lynsey Evans, Treena Stephens, Lara Tipper, Andy Nicholl, Stu Morris, Lowri Davies, and Sam Ellis. We'd like to wish them all luck and hope they all thoroughly enjoy their trip out to Spain.

For more information call (44) 01629 581222. Fax (44) 01629 581333



Pete Astles



Andy Nicholl



Tom the Sprout

www.peakuk.com

details of where and when filming will be taking place.

"The production itself is set to be a lot of fun so keep in touch and try to make it along to some of the locations," enthuses Simon, adding, "Oh, and to all of you potential sponsors, I know it's not the done thing but why don't you just get in touch with us offering your support? Together we can show the world what the UK is made of!"

Kids on the box

Over a 14 week period through till mid-September, BBC1's Live and Kicking team are filming a Junior Castaway series on a wild Scottish island on Loch Tay, in Perthshire.

There will be a new group of six junior castaways each week – three boys and three girls – with instructors from the Croft-na-Caber outdoor centre keeping a watchful eye on them. They will be set survival tasks to do each day of their stay, including a raft building exercise and canoe and kayaking tasks. To aid in their safety on the water tasks as well as when getting to and from the island they have been supplied with KOGG buoyancy aids, which have been specially made for the programme.

There will be two shows a week until mid September for you to catch up with the goings on: the main show on Saturday mornings and a follow-up on Wednesdays at 4.30pm, both shown on BBC1.

For information on the series, contact: Cam Allan, KOGG Outdoor Clothing Ltd, tel: 01738622010.

2001 World Marathon Championships

The best paddlers from around the world will descend on Stockton-on-Tees in August to compete in one of canoeing's major international events - the marathon world championships. There will be 30-plus nations attending,

including Australia, South Africa, Hungary, Spain - to name but a few.

Programme

Thursday, 30th August 2001

- 13.15 Masters World Cup singles
- 17.00 Local community challenge, bellboats

Friday, 31st August 2001

- 13.15 Master World Cup doubles
- 17.00 Local 5 km paddling challenge
- 19.30 World championships opening ceremony at Tees Barrage whitewater course

Saturday, 1st September 2001

- 09.30 Junior world championship singles
- 13.15 Senior world championship singles
- 13.40 Local youth competition finals, bellboats
- 16.45 Local Youth competition finals, canoe & kayak
- 18.00 Stockton 10 km paddling challenge

Sunday, 2nd September 2001

- 09.30 Junior world championship doubles
- 13.15 Senior world championship doubles
- 13.40 National lightning regatta, part 1 kayak
- 16.45 National lightning regatta, part 2 kayak
- 18.00 Medals presentation and closing ceremony

There are lots of events alongside the championships so people can come and watch and take part in a race too.

The challenge in exile

More than £100,000 was raised for charity when 17 teams beat all the odds to complete one of Britain's most demanding tests of endurance... which happened to be staged this year in the French Alps!

The Wooden Spoon Society's demanding Ford Great Lakeland Challenge traditionally takes place in the Lake District but had to be hastily relocated due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

So, instead of paddling the length of Lake Windermere, cycling 26 miles along England's steepest passes and running Scafell Pike, the 51 competitors found themselves travelling to the Haute Savoie region of France, close to Geneva, to tackle an alternative but equally daunting course. Teams and organisers were supplied with Ford Galaxys while a fleet of TNT trucks carried the bikes and canoes across the Channel and on to the Alps.

The £103,000 raised will be donated to the Wooden Spoon Society Cystic Fibrosis Unit at Broad Green Hospital, in Liverpool.

Winners included Harpooners, who took the challenge bowl for the second year running by completing the three sections in 6 hrs 34 mins and who pledged £9,000. Ford Fleet won the funding bowl by raising an impressive £12,000, while Team Orrell Post took the course by storm

to win the fastest time bowl in an incredible 5 hrs 40 mins. The canoe section was superbly won by Quodlibet, with a time of 1hr 40 mins.

Founded in Dublin, in 1983, when a group of English rugby supporters were presented with a wooden spoon by their Irish hosts following England coming last in the annual Five Nations championship, the Wooden Spoon Society is the charity of the four home nations' rugby teams and raises an average of £25,000 a week for good causes.



Phones Express BCU membership offer

Phones Express are offering an exclusive package to readers of *Canoe Focus*. When you order a mobile phone service from Phones Express, they will pay for your comprehensive BCU subscription for the next year when your current membership runs out. Alternatively, if you are not a BCU member, then Phones Express will pay for your new comprehensive BCU membership for one year.

Subscribers to the offer will receive the R310 handset, an outdoor adventure kit, car charger, personal hands-free and car mount. Connection to Vodafone or BTCellnet digital service is included together with a full one year comprehensive membership of the BCU worth £30.

The Ericsson R310 is designed with the outdoor person in mind. The unit is water, dust and shock resistant, sealed in a rubber membrane with silicon gaskets. It is also equipped with many advanced features such as voice dialling, voice answering, vibrating call alert and data/fax capability when linked to a PC. Add to this 160 hours of standby and 480 minutes of talking time and it adds up to the perfect package for the outdoor enthusiast.

For more details see the advertisement on the inside front cover or give Phones Express a call on 0800 833129.

Two lucky readers can win a free year's Phones Express subscription, the Ericsson 310 plus BCU membership by entering the free competition on page 39.



The Ericsson R310 water, dust and shock-resistant mobile with a range of accessories

Get in the club

Ever wondered how Paul Ratcliffe ended up with an Olympic Silver Medal at the 2000 games?: Because he started young and had the right sort of help along the way from people who shared his interests!

Canoe club is a new venture set up for the people of Bolton and Rossendale. It aims to provide canoeing and kayaking opportunities for interested parties from the ages of eight to 108, from beginners to confident paddlers. At present it is only a small concern, however the club is looking for new members who share a common enjoyment of paddling. The club meets on every alternate Saturday at The Burrs Country Park in Bury from 12 noon onwards. There are a range of membership options, including discounts for those not earning, students and young people under the age of 16, as well as family subscriptions.

For more information contact membership secretary Kath Wood, tel: 01706 212941, Or secretary Stuart Smith, tel: 01204 394192.

Not really sure yet? Have a trip down to The Burrs one Saturday afternoon and see what's going on. **Telephone Graham Wood on 01706 212941** to find out which Saturdays the club is going to be there.



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olympic silver medalist



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Get it right

Members should note that the correct link for the International Canoe website is www.intcanoe.org and not as previously published here and elsewhere.

www.intcanoe.org

Coaches Wanted!!

Some extra level two coaches (or above) are needed to help out at Chiswick over the next couple of months. Coaching Sessions are generally on Sunday – based around low/high tide. Pay is £12 per hour.

Contact Paul Hyman on 079 7341 4537, 020 8992 8877 or Jackie Chapelow on 020 8994 1266.

Chester Weir danger

There's a metal cage set in the bottom step on Chester Weir, providing a submerged obstacle. It has snatched and held paddles, and could just as easily hold an arm or a leg.

Please take care, pass this message on to others and report back to head office any further information you have on the subject. Volunteers might be needed to remove this danger. Please let the access officer know if you can help.

Dave Reynolds

Extreme Champion



Team Perception's Agustin Ciriza claimed Gold in the unofficial extreme kayaking world championships held in Tavascan near Sort, Spain. The competition

pits paddlers head-to-head, in groups of four, in a series of knock-out races over a 50-second section of extreme river. Paddlers use their skill in choosing the quickest line to the bottom whilst having to contend with their fellow competitors using every trick in the book to knock them off course.

Agustin showed his skill and determination to claim Gold ahead of big names such as Eric Southwick, Shane Benedict, Clay Wright and Andy Beddingfield.

Golden Boy

Team Perception's Jesse Murphy rounded off a week of outstanding competition at the freestyle world championships by styling his way to gold in the junior event. Paddling their Perception Shocks, he and fellow Team Perception paddler Dustin Urban took the top two places, consistently posting scores that would have put them in contention for medals in the senior event. Local boy Oriol Colome, also of Team Perception, was the hero of the week as he took fourth place.

In a highly successful championships for Team Perception, Bryan Kirk, also paddling the Shock, added to the medal tally by taking the Bronze in the Men's K1 as did Luke Hopkins in the C1.

Originz release new paddles brochure

Originz have been designing and making paddles in New Zealand for 35 years. The latest range of paddles, which are available from Perception Kayaks, are unveiled in a new brochure.

The current range is already proving extremely

popular and offers eight different blade types for recreation, touring and white water. Blades are manufactured in either glass-fibre reinforced nylon or glass-fibre reinforced polypropylene and are set on alloy, glass-fibre or carbon/glass-fibre shafts dependent on the model chosen.

The revolutionary Quicklok adjustment system, which allows paddles to be split into two, changed in angle from 45 to 75 degrees and adjusted in length by 8cm, is available on Originz white water or touring paddles.

Retail prices start at just £39.95 for the Zambezi recreation paddle constructed from glass-fibre reinforced polypropylene blades set on an alloy shaft.

NAME	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	SHAFT AVAILABLE	COLOUR
ZAMBEZI	For multi-use, ideal for a wide range of water conditions.	Glass reinforced polypropylene	Alloy	White + Blue
ORIGINZ	Advanced recreational blade suited for Lake & River usage.	Glass reinforced polypropylene	Alloy	White + Blue
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's original blade with an extremely light and efficient, fully aerodynamic design for maximum efficiency.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	Red + Yellow + Blue
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's large streamlined blade ideal for advanced paddlers requiring extra power.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	Yellow + Red + Blue
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's wide blade ideal for wide conditions or use with a motor.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	White + Yellow + Red
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's original blade with an extremely light and efficient, fully aerodynamic design for maximum efficiency.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	Blue + Black + White
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's original blade with an extremely light and efficient, fully aerodynamic design for maximum efficiency.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	White + Blue + Black
PERCEPTION	PERCEPTION's original blade with an extremely light and efficient, fully aerodynamic design for maximum efficiency.	Super tough glass reinforced nylon	Glass fibre or carbon/glass fibre	Black + Blue + White

Perception's new creek boat, the Java, coming soon

Wake up all you steep creek fans. There's a new boat in town that will open your eyes to a whole new world of possibilities: the Java. Developed by world-renowned paddler Clay Wright and Perception's R&D team, this highly manoeuvrable boat answers your every desire when you're paddling aggressive lines. And when it comes to dropping over falls, its stability and volume provide effortless boofs and pillow-soft landings. The Java is perfect for boaters on their first few runs and experienced creekers will find its responsiveness incomparable.

For more information contact Perception Kayaks on 01825 765891 or by email info@perception.co.uk.

www.perception.co.uk

Cost of the sessions is £3 children, £5 adults (50p less for members of Chiswick Pier or Ealing)

Enquiries: Tel 020-8992 8877, 020-8994 1266 or 079-7341 4537

Tilting at... bridges

As a paddler, you will not need it to be operated so you can pass underneath, but the world's first tilting bridge, on the Tyne at Gateshead, is a sight to behold from the water.

Over the next few months the bridge will lift occasionally as testing continues, but it will not be open fully for pedestrians, cyclists and boats until Monday, September 17. The £22-million Gateshead Millennium Bridge – the first opening bridge to be built across the River Tyne for more than 100 years – has attracted worldwide attention because of its unique design. The world-first design, which opens like a winking eye, is the latest addition to the Tyne's famous collection of bridges.

The Bridge will provide a footpath and cycleway, linking exciting new arts and cultural developments at Gateshead Quays on the south bank with Newcastle Quayside.

Councillor George Gill, leader of Gateshead Council,

Pooling resources

Chiswick Pier and Acton Canoe Clubs are now holding regular pool sessions at Acton Baths.

"Members of other clubs or unaffiliated individuals are also welcome, although it would be nice to get some new members too!" says Paul Hyman for the club, adding, "The intention is to run these permanently, but probably taking a break for the summer holidays at the end of July and through August, depending on response."

Coaches from other clubs are welcome to send people along – or to bring them and help out. There is no charge for any BCU coach wanting to do this and if they want they can take some time out in the session to practice rolling and other techniques.

At the moment, most sessions are spent with learning to roll, teaching beginners basic skills, and capsize and rescue practices. A few polo and slalom sessions will be run over the summer, probably with more during the autumn/winter sessions.

The venue is Acton Baths, Salisbury St, W5 (behind Acton Town Hall on the Uxbridge Road), on Saturdays between 4.30-6.30pm

said: "This first opening is an historic moment. Since it arrived, the Gateshead Millennium Bridge has become a new landmark which has been seen around the world. But what makes the bridge special is the way it opens – and every time a big ship sails underneath it will be a spectacle. People will come just to see it open.

The opening can be seen live on the web at

www.tynebridgewebcam.com

www.gateshead-quays.com

Kit for the great outdoors

Overlooked by St. Paul's Cathedral, 16-18 Ludgate Hill is home to YHA Adventure Shops' newest London outlet, with 6,500 square feet of display space continuing the company ethos of providing the UK's largest range of outdoor and travel gear under one roof.

One-stop adventure shopping encompasses cutting edge products from the world's leading manufacturers of outdoor equipment, right through to food, flights and finding accommodation. Besides canoeing, all the other outdoor activities are catered for, from backpacking to biking, climbing to skiing.

Feet can find comfort with more than 90 footwear styles and YHA Adventure Shop's commitment to female focus ensures more than 40 styles are tailored to women.

An amazing array of accessories provides a superior choice for consumers with around 1,000 devoted to aiding the adventure traveller.

From Suunto altitude watches and silk sleep sheets to titanium cookware and multi-fuel cookers, there's everything to kit out the traveller for global expeditions.

Unprecedented is the new, exclusive clothing supplier scheme. Regular reports allow suppliers to dictate stock on a daily basis if they wish, ensuring the offering is up-to-date, introducing innovations as they materialise.

In addition to all this is the high quality and level of staff, on hand to provide expert advice, this combined with the company's no quibble returns and this policy guarantees to ease any doubts over equipment selection.

For further information contact YHA Adventure Shop's head Office on 01784 458 625 (24 Hours) or visit their website:

www.yhaadventure.com

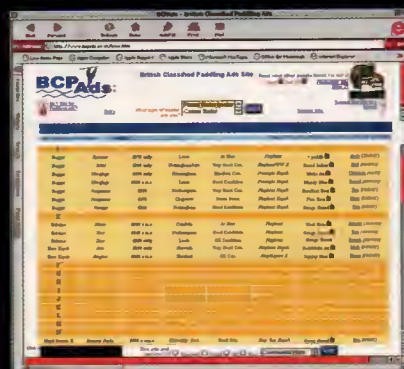


WILD web

One problem with reading *Canoe Focus* is the number of adverts for sizzling hot paddling gear. As we flick through the pages we drool and wish. For all of us the basic issue is one of Money or more precisely a lack of it.

Therefore for most of us "new" is out, and we need to consider "second hand". But where can we buy and sell our second hand gear?

The free member's classified in *Canoe Focus* is one excellent option, but what about the internet? Surely there are places to look for and sell equipment on-line? Indeed there are, and one such place which is easy enough to find is www.bcpads.co.uk. This site boasts both Sale and Wanted pages, and carries adverts for a range of items. Unfortunately the



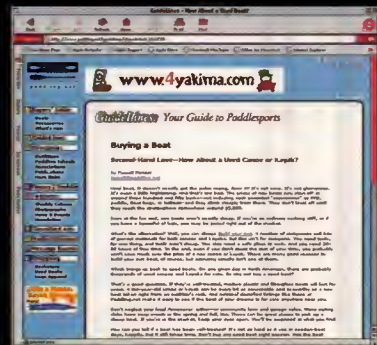
adverts are not searchable, but the compact style of the summary screen goes some way to solving this problem. Another new service has been launched by Get Out Canoeing at www.GetOutCanoeing.co.uk - click the e-classified button. This is a searchable database with sale and wanted categories, and a general outdoor gear category. Ads placed on this site only have a life of three weeks so you can be sure that they are current. A small number of ads can be found at www.britishpaddlers.iwarp.com/classified/frame.htm, but when I visited most of the ads were older than May and there was no search facility.

Buying second hand isn't just a case of looking through adverts. Unlike buying new your choice is limited, and it pays to know your brand names. If the item you are considering is a current model then you can look it up on Get Out Canoeing and view a picture, read the description, and see the original sale price. The excellent Paddler's directory at www.kayaksport.free-online.co.uk is also a good place to find links to manufacturers, where you will also find photographs and descriptions.

Another excellent option is to look at online boat reviews. There is currently no comprehensive UK site for these, so we need to look at American sites. These are obviously biased towards gear available in the USA, but most major UK manufacturers retail here anyway. Try www.epinions.com/otdr-Watersports-Paddling-Boats-All which is fairly comprehensive and has a neat search facility. You can also try www.paddling.net/Reviews/ and www.outdoorreview.com/reviews/kayaks.

A final point is knowing a bargain from an accident waiting to happen. A search found just one guide to buying second hand canoes here www.paddling.net/guidelines/showArticle.html?39. Its advice includes spotting cracks in gunwales and thwarts, de-lamination, the effects of sunlight on plastic and more.

If you wish to suggest a subject or site to review please e-mail steve@canoefocus.co.uk



GetOut! Canoeing

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

Midlands' golden day

Midland Canoe Club, based on the River Derwent, in Derby, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Amongst the events to commemorate the milestone is a Drop In Day, on 15th September 15, for old members and other paddlers. The event runs from 10 am, with food available. Attendees can paddle, browse old photos and reminisce with old acquaintances. **For further details tel: Pete Whitehouse on 01773 764209**, e-mail: mccderby@ntlworld.com or visit the club website via the BCU website, East Midlands regional pages.

Sweden's big one

Sweden's hugely popular Kungsbacka River open canoeing competition, one of the Scandinavian nation's major distance events, comprises 27 km of paddling along the Rolfan River and Kungsbacka River to the centre of Kuningsbacka town, involving portage between the two rivers. Entry fee is 195 Swedish crowns per person. Sign up at www.kungsbackariver.com or tel 0046 300 147 54 for full details.

The tough one

Entries are now being accepted for the 2001 Coates Hire Avon Descent, regarded by many as the world's foremost wild water event, and entry forms are available from any branch of Coates Hire, 96FM, Davenwood Canoes and Mainpeak at Subiaco and Claremont.

Forms are also available on the website at www.avondescent.asn.au and can be lodged electronically.

Competitors can take part in the Coates Hire Avon Descent in a number of categories in paddle craft and power dinghies sections. The Northam Avon Descent Association has limited the number of participants to 700 and 500 craft respectively on environmental and safety grounds and, as a result, early registration is advisable.

Entries close at 5.30 pm 6 July. For further information, contact: **Deanne Jones, event coordinator. Tel: 0500 556 755; mobile: 0428 311 126** or e-mail: avondescent@wn.com.au

Avon's big weekend

This year's Bradford on Avon Race & Tour Weekend races are over the weekend of August 18-19. Starting at 3pm on the Saturday is the classic Bath to Bradford race.

This is one of the last classic race courses in the racing year. The 12 mile course is not for the faint hearted. It's all upstream, with five weirs to climb.

The Bath to Bradford race is a true test of mental and physical resolve – it's an absolute must to do and can't be missed. For the lesser adrenalin junkie, just do the touring class – but be warned: it's not easy either! The tour starts an hour earlier, at 2pm

There are 2 Senior K1 and K2 classes, as well as Jun, Vet and Ladies K1 and K2 classes.

On the Sunday, the final South West Hasler qualifying race will feature events over four, eight and 12 miles, according to division. This event starts and finishes at Bradford on Avon Canoe Club, with the four-mile course starting at 11 am and the eight and 12 mile courses at 12.15 pm. Entries for both events will be taken on the day at £4 per seat, which includes refreshments. For those wishing to make a weekend of it, camping with toilets and hot showers is available at Bradford Canoe Club (please advise in advance if camping is required).

For further information, contact the race organiser Andy Phillips on 01225 812626 or Derek McKeever on 01225 865392.

ERDT agm

The ERDT announces its AGM for Monday 19 November 2001, to be followed by a speaker (name to be announced). It is to be held in a new venue: the Club Room, University Athletics Ground, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, but entrance to Wilberforce Road is via Grange Rd/Adams Rd only. Maps available on request. Agenda items and apologies should be sent to **Min. Secretary, May Block, 27, Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NX; 01223 311715** or FamilyBlock@aol.com.

Coaching bonanza

Again sponsored by Five Ten Shoes, the Canolfan Tryweryn Coaching Festival celebrates its sixth edition this year, on September 8-9.

The river will be open to Bala on both days. There are no rafts to get in the way and a free shuttle service will bring participants and their boats back to the centre from Bala.

All the workshops will be staffed by level five and aspirant level five coaches, ensuring top-level coaching at discount rates. Additionally, all workshops include a free tour ticket valid for that day.

Five Ten Shoes will again be providing free demo shoes and as ever there will be a number of canoeing manufacturers and retailers on-site to provide advice and the opportunity to try and buy new kit.

Alongside the workshop and tour will be a number of other events, including a freestyle competition, barbecue and evening slide show.

For details and coaching workshop booking form please contact **Canolfan Tryweryn on 01678 521083** or e-mail: canolfan.tryweryn@virgin.net.

Canoe Lifeguard nationals

Locally based Herts Canoe Lifeguards have announced that this year's national canoe lifeguard championships will be held on their home ground at Herts Young Mariners Base, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt on September 15-16.

The championships, an annual two-day event, will see lifeguards in teams from all over the country competing in a wide variety of canoeing, first aid, safety and rescue challenges to push their skills to the limit and aiming to become the national champions.

Publicity officer, Des Merrigan comments: "This year we are expecting a record turnout, with awards also presented to non-lifeguard canoe clubs, ladies, junior and veteran teams. Last year, Swiftwater 2000, a team from Wales, won the overall trophy.

"Commander Brian Smalley RN, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, will, as guest of honour, be presenting the trophies to the winners on the Sunday evening. The championships are an important event for all lifeguards, but above all, it is a learning experience and helps make every participant a safer, more confident person."

The British Canoe Union lifeguards provide various safety covers throughout the year at events that include long distance swims, white water events, holiday beaches, aquatic festivals and assisting local authorities in times of emergency.

Herts Canoe Lifeguards are keen to welcome new members to their training sessions on Monday evenings and also to the popular 'Rookie' section, where youngsters aged nine upwards are encouraged to develop their personal and teamwork skills in kayaks, open canoes, first aid and lifeguarding.

For more information please contact: **Linda Cook, secretary, Herts Canoe Lifeguards. Tel: 01279 730175 or 07770 842875**

Summer splash

Tandridge are planning their summer WW training camp, at Embrun, Southern Alps, for the week commencing August 12. It will be a mixture of youths 16+ doing three-star and four-star and leaders doing coaching assessments.

Participants will also be tackling a few runs.

If any club out there feels like doing something similar (on a self-supported basis of course), just get in touch with Tandridge's Pete Beddingfield.

Hasler finals get go-ahead

Beadle Park, at Lower Basildon, near Reading, Berkshire, is more than 300 acres of organic ancient water meadow
Continued on page 16



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Running Sport



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Paddle

Lance Corporal Dennis Barnes reports on a Central American race that's gruelling, and then some...

Probably the world's most arduous race, the La Ruta Maya River Challenge courses 180 miles through the deeply forested jungle of Belize, in Central America, and takes four days to complete. But, with a first prize of 60,000 Belize dollars, it has no shortage of competitors.

This year some 68 three-person teams took part, including nine trios from the British Army.

At dawn, the cold river gave off swirling mists as it passed 60 feet below the old San Ignasia Bridge. As the roar from the cheering crowds reached a crescendo, the competitors could barely hear the megaphone which started the race.

The paddlers were stretched in two lines across the 80-foot wide river, staring ahead at the 400 yards of straight, wide water that gradually slimmed down to pass under a low and narrow road bridge, with its two spans. Who would get there first and who would fall victim to the initial hazard of La Ruta Maya.

As the starter shouted the off, the scene was reminiscent of the early London Marathons. The highly athletic professional teams were clad in their sponsors' smart matching colours, with their light, specially built canoes resembling sleek Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race thoroughbreds. On the other hand, the majority of the field were wearing an assortment of clothing apparently bought as a job lot from

an Oxfam shop. And they were paddling a variety of craft which looked like everything from two-man Canadian expedition canoes to something found in a boating lake.

The Army had entered eight teams: two from the Royal Engineers (20 Field Squadron), the rest from MATSUB (British Army Training Support Unit Belize). The soldiers were a mixture of men and women from the permanent and exercise staff and their training varied from two weeks to three months.

As the flag dropped and the crews paddled like mad for the ever-narrowing space, a rough, rippling wave was generated from front to rear. The crews caught at the back found it difficult to steer and keep stable and as they all tried to go under the low bridge at once many crashed and capsized, some hit bridge supports and general chaos reigned.

Sapper Darren Bailey joked: "Our boat was an old Canadian expedition canoe, twice the size and weight of the others. Everyone laughed and called our boat a bathtub but our bumper-car build helped us as we banged into the bridge supports and collided with other canoes."

The entire population had turned out and these thousands of supporters cheered, threw fireworks and sang hymns. Dogs barked with excitement and it fair to say that the event was a true spectacle.

On the first day, the quickest crews were on the water for nine hours,



till you drop

the slower ones took 11. NAAFI manageress Sara Duffin was pleased with her crew's efforts: "Considering we (the crew) are built for comfort and not for speed, we have done extremely well. But I believe it is because we are all wearing NAAFI t-shirts and plenty of insect repellent."

Tall trees and overhanging branches surrounded the river. These were thick with parrots and egrets. The fish jumped out of the river splashing as they fell, telling the competitors that perhaps there were crocodiles nearby. There were certainly snakes and panthers to be seen on the jungle pathways.

But as Lieutenant Steve Phillips said: "You don't have time to look at the beauty. All you do is get your head down and paddle."

On the first night, the crews were all immensely tired: the 90° heat and 85% humidity had taken their toll.

Sergeant Ali Chippendale, who was in an all-female crew, said: "The sun is relentless. We covered ourselves in sunscreen but still got burnt. The thing that kept me going was the support of the crowds and the noise they made whenever they could see us."

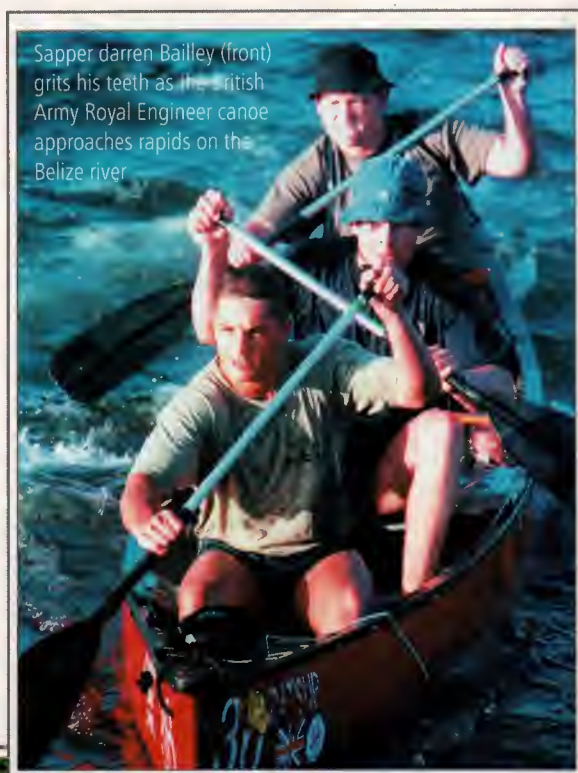
Major Nicky Few was amazed: "Even though we were in the middle of nowhere, if we came to a bridge or a small landing then there were kids singing, bands playing and people throwing cooling water at us."

The crews pulled their canoes out at the first stop-over and slept soundly at the wonderfully named Banana Boat Lodge. Next day, at the crack of dawn, they set off to paddle another eight hours, followed by seven the next day and with a four-hour sprint as the last day finale.

After four days of searing heat, the race ended up in the centre of

Belize City. The professional teams from the host nation were well ahead of the Army and other visiting crews from Canada, Mexico and the USA in this fourth edition of an event which has grown enormously in scale each year.

Lieutenant Colonel David Lee, the commanding officer of BATSUB and himself a competitor, summed it all up: "There is no doubt that the event is gruelling. It is not so much a race as an endurance test. Every single canoe that entered completed the course, despite the crocodiles, heat, capsizing and exhaustion. It is an achievement to be proud of."



Sapper Darren Bailey (front) grits his teeth as the British Army Royal Engineer canoe approaches rapids on the Belize river



A British Army canoe passes under the cheering crowds on the gruelling La Ruta Maya river challenge, the race over 180 miles lasts for four days.



Captain Simon George (right) claps the first British Army canoe to pass under a low bridge crossing the Belize river. Lt. Colonel David Lee (rear of canoe) steers between the narrow piers.

Photographs Brian Gamble

All at sea in France

Over its 12-year existence, the Rallye de la Baie des Phoques in north west France has grown from a regional competition into a national one and now into an international event which each year attracts a bigger foreign contingent.

Total number of entries climbed from 89 in 1988 to 470 in 1999. For a brochure and full entry details, contact: **Club de Kayak de Mer Baie des Phoques, 4 Rue du Chateau, 80132 Quesnoy Le Montant, France. Tel: 0033 (0)3 22 31 69 32**, or e-mail: kayakbaiphog@hotmail.com.

Surf A4 A5 meeting

Calling all surf assessors: please could you contact Sandra on 01792 390567 to either confirm that you will be at this meeting or not on Saturday September 29. This coincides with the WCA surfing festival at WLA Rhosili Outdoor Education Centre where all the toys will be available to play with. We will be running a practical surf analysis / assessment session on developments of our sport with maybe a beer or two.

Bill Beynon
Surf Development
Coach

which is home to rare breeds of sheep, goats, Highland cattle, deer and South American llamas, as well 120 species of wild birds, was closed by the foot and mouth crisis, putting September's Hasler Finals in jeopardy.

Fortunately, the park has now reopened and the event, set for September 23, has been given the go-ahead. Facilities for the weekend will include camping, an evening barn dance on Saturday September 22, and free admission to the wild life park for competitors and their families.

The course covers a very beautiful part of the River Thames, with excellent facilities for paddlers and supporters alike. For further information, contact **Adventure Dolphin. Tel: 0118 9843162**.

Of course!

For information and registration for Paddlesport courses, contact Andrea Bagnall on tel: 020 8940 1462, or e-mail: ambagnall@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Paddlesport events include: August 12: Addlestone CC treasure hunt, River Wey; August 27: Dorney Lake Regatta (replaces Welsh Harp); September 2: Islington BC bellboat regatta; September 16: Westminster BB fun slalom (no-tide day); September 23: Addlestone Navigation Canadian time trial, Wey Navigation; Regional Slalom, Canalside (date to be confirmed).

Learn the tricks in Wales

October 6-7 is the date set for the third Welsh Open Canoe Symposium, which alternates with the Scottish Canoe Symposium to create an event which brings together people of all levels of experience and ability.

The coaches who assist in running the workshops give their time free, which accounts for the exceptional value for money, with three options available: full accommodation and all meals, from Saturday through to Sunday lunch, at £80 per person; camping in the grounds of Plas Menai, with all meals included along with access to showers, drying rooms and other facilities, at £55, and camping or day visitor on a self-catering basis but including an evening meal on the Saturday, at £40.

Expected to attract around 100 participants, the symposium will include workshops covering moving water technique, canoe sailing, canoeing on the sea, open water rescues, playboating, white water doubles and poling. On the Sunday there will be an opportunity to paddle the Tryweryn to Bala.

Venue for the event is the Plas Menai National Watersports Centre, right on the shores of the Menai Straits

just outside Caernarvon. For information and booking, contact **Ray Goodwin Coaching, Penyfelin Bach, Cynwyd, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 OLN** or e-mail: Ray@RayGoodwinCoaching.co.uk.

London's exciting canoe polo biggie

Entries are now open for the 3rd London International polo tournament, to be hosted by Meridian Canoe Club on September 1-2 at Danson Park, Welling, which is just off the main A2 London-Dover trunk road, in SE London.

For details, contact **London International, 38a Milestone Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 6DN** or e-mail: London-international@hotmail.com.

Welsh sea water fest

Cwym Pennant will be holding its third annual sea kayaking festival over the September 7-9 weekend, providing a fun event for like-minded paddlers whatever their age or level of experience.

The event is practical, with coaching sessions and day-trips planned and led by experienced BCU/WCA coaches on both days.

As in previous years, there will be demo fleets of sea kayaks from P&H, Knoydart, Nigel Dennis and Kirton.

The evening programme will include lectures on Cwm Pennant's summer excursion to Newfoundland and on the first all-female circumnavigation of Wales, which took place last summer.

Cwm Pennant Mountain Centre is offering a range of food and accommodation packages plus a non-residential option for those who live locally.

Previous events have been over-subscribed, so book now to avoid disappointment. Contact **Cwm Pennant Mountain Centre on 01756 530582** or e-mail: cpennent@hillingdon.gov.uk.

ACCESS

Fishing for access

Agreement has been reached in a dispute between anglers and canoeists over access on the lower Tyne, between Bywell and Prudhoe.

The owners of the north bank are happy to be party to the voluntary access agreement which has now been negotiated between the BCU and the Tyne Fisheries Riparian Owners and Occupiers Association.

As a result of a recent meeting hosted by the Environment Agency, it has been agreed that this section remain within the general access agreement but that there be no paddling at weekends and that, wherever possible, paddlers stick to the north side of the river.

Canoeists should note that the existing agreement already states that group numbers should be kept small and that the agreement is for passage downstream and not for playing on waves close to where angling is taking place.

The fishing club is keen to point out that both coarse fishing and game fishing are carried out on this section and, therefore, it is fished all year round. It is the only major section of the Tyne catchment where coarse fishing takes place.

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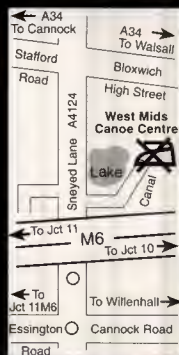
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web site <http://www.arrowmcc.demon.co.uk>

email wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk

**6th/ 7th
October
2001**

Paddlefest 2001

The Paddlesport event of the year To be taken with liberal amounts of

burdock



Yes – It's Paddlefest time again and yes we know you know the sketch, however don't underestimate what Paddlefest has to offer paddlers and coaches of all persuasions. Bringing together as many paddlers, with as wide a range of interests as possible. Fun, multi-discipline event, with elements of competition, coaching sessions and clinics, have a go/try a boat sessions, presentations, lectures and doing your own thing, and of course a paddlefest party, Paddlefest 2001 offers....

'Paddlefest' Peak White Water Challenge – The Final Reckoning

The Peak Challenge reaches its seasonal peak and presents the 2001 series final. That said we shouldn't forget that Peak Challenge is about fun, mass participation and lots of paddling. Champion paddler or champion swimmer there's no excuse, get stuck in and give it a go. Prizes not dependant on winning - it's the taking part not the winning that's important.

Head to Head Downriver – Freestyle / Rodeo / Extreme Slalom

Overall points will be calculated and equipment prizes awarded in mens, ladies, Canadian and junior categories.

The £20 entry fee will include a cool event memento such as a shirt, sweat or baseball cap, unlimited water access over the weekend and entry to the Paddlefest party. Not bad value!!! Pre entry via booking form attached or on the day. Full event details will be sent on entry.

"Coaches take note" – 'Paddlefest' Coaching Symposium

Personal development opportunities for coaches of all levels!

Keep yourself at the cutting edge of paddlesport coaching. Naturally evolving into part of the BCU's coach update and coach development programme attendance at the Paddlefest coach update symposium will not only assist coaches in improving performance and keeping up to date, it will also provide coaches with an opportunity to complete their revalidation commitments.

Check out the programme details opposite and join us on one or both days. The programme varies with Saturday providing a forum style day to which you can turn up or daylong workshops that will provide endorsements to your coaching / assessor status. Advised to book in advance.

Sunday's programme is based on workshop days and advance booking is advised.

The programme is aimed at all coaches at all levels so don't feel that its not for you

'Paddlefest' 'Better Boating' Programme

The Paddlefest 'Better Boating' programme is aimed at boaters of all levels and disciplines. Supported by manufactures and top coaches the programme provides numerous informal opportunities to improve performance or try out different boats or another aspect of paddlesport....

River runner or park and play paddler, there will be opportunities for every one. Freestyle / open canoe / open canoe sailing / slalom / sprint / rodeo and surf and sea to mention just a few.

While there is no fixed programme for the clinics at this time, we challenge ourselves to make it up on the day to best suit those attending.

Structured workshop opportunities include:

- Open canoe master class –1 day,

- Open canoe sailing – 1 day
 - Basic river safety for paddlers – 1 day
 - BCU white water safety workshop – 2 days
- Booking for these workshops should be prior to the weekend.

'Paddlefest' young paddlers programme

The 'Paddlefest' 2001 programme again includes the national bell boat championships on the Saturday along with a range of other supporting activities aimed to introduce youngsters to the sport as well as providing opportunities to improve skills and experience new and different solo or team boat paddlesport experiences. Opportunities exist for young paddlers to join one or more of the sessions advertised and progress and experience new and very different aspects of paddling.

Bell boats, lightning K1's, slalom, wavehoppers, freestyle, even Hawaiian outriggers: we've got em – you can try em!

'Paddlefest' – 'Get in Touch' / 'Stay in Touch' Programme

Saturday evenings Paddlesport 'Question time' will provide the now traditional opportunity to 'get in touch / stay in touch' with both current and development initiatives.

Members of BCU Council and Executive will provide an insight into current developments within the BCU.

'Paddlefest' Demo / Retail

Try out that new boat you've been thinking about or buy that promised piece of new equipment.

'Paddlefest' Admin

Peak White Water Challenge – entry for the event is £20 for the whole schedule, including a limited edition T-Shirt and the 'paddlefest' party.

The coaching symposium and all other events – The symposium fee, which covers entry to all other aspects of the weekend, except the competition is £20 per person (£12 per day). Inclusive in these costs are entry to any and all aspects of the coaching programme and clinics / the personal performance clinics / the young paddler programme and of course the party.

Accommodation and food not included in price

Am & pm clinic selection for Saturday's coach update symposium will be made on the day

Should you wish to attend either a one-day or two-day workshop you would be best advised to book beforehand as places will be limited.

Pre-registration will also ease admin on the day and make life easier and admittance to the sessions pain free.

Family entry to the coaching symposium and associated programme is available to holders of BCU family membership at £35 (advance booking required).

The spirit of 'Paddlefest' lies within its multi-paddlesport appeal. Visitors should attend in that spirit. Access to the slalom course is not as per casual weekends – programme requirements restrict access and the course at times during the weekend (see programme for guidance). Please return the enclosed booking form as soon as possible to assure yourself of your place in the event and sessions of your choice. We look forward to seeing you there!

Better value than Tesco's – 'Paddlefest' 2001 provides two full days of paddlesport activity, including the Paddlesfest party with Burdock – all at last year's prices.

Paddfest 2001 Provisional Programme Of Events

Coach Update Symposium

Saturday 6th October

Opening Address: 09.30

Paddlesafe -

Duty of Care Clinics:

10am - 12.30pm

Manual Handling
Child Protection
Dynamic Risk Assessment
Coaching and the Law
Coaching Young Paddlers
Safety and Good Practice

Coaching Excellence Clinics

10am - 12.30pm

Forward Paddling
Developing Coaching Tools
Coaching Disabled Paddlers
Analysing Performance
Body Centred Coaching
The Coaching Process
Use Of Video In Coaching
Transferable Skills 1 -
Discipline to Discipline
Transferable Skills 2 -
Competition to Recreation

Grand Finale

Competition as Recreation
Team Challenge

Sunday 7th October

Opening Address: 09.30

One Day Workshops

09.30 - 4.00

Pre-registration is essential on these full-day workshops

Level 2 Coach Update
Level 3 Coach Update
Offered subject to demand

Intro to Competition Coaching

Racing
Slalom
Polo
Offered subject to demand

Timings to be confirmed

Pre-registration is essential on these full-day workshops

Grand Finale

Competition as Recreation
Team Challenge

One-Day Workshops: 09.30 - 5.30 - Pre-registration essential on full-day workshops
Aquatic First Aid Course - Offered subject to demand

Two-Day Workshops: Disability Endorsement
Timings to be confirmed. Pre-registration is essential on these full-day workshops

Young Paddlers

National Bell Boat Regatta

Teams of 8 paddlers racing in three categories
U12's / U15's / U18's
VIP Race

Supporting activities:

Lightning K1 Coaching
Junior come and try it
Diamond Slalom
Ergo Performance
Plus
Hawian Outrigger Racing

'Better Boating' Programme

Top Boats - Top Tips

River Running, Leadership, Safety, Freestyle, Surf or Race - Kayak or Canoe.

Turn up to the 'better boating' programme with or without your own boat and improve your skills in the company of top coaches and top paddlers. No set programme - we challenge ourselves to make it up on the day to best suit those that turn up.

10.00 - 1.00
2.00 - 5.00

Specific Workshops -

However, if you do want some structure..

Open Canoe Master Class

1 day workshop

Open Canoe Sailing

1 day workshop

Basic Safety for River Paddlers

1 day workshop

BCU White Water Safety Course
2 day Programme

Competition

Peak Challenge - The Final Reckoning

This seasons final of the now familiar Peak Challenge event
Casual Access to Slalom Course available around Peak Challenge Schedule

Sunday: Scratch Bell Boat and Hawaiian Outrigger Challenge

Saturday Evening 7.00pm BCU Question Time

8.00pm - Paddlesport Review Focus Group

7.30 - East Midlands Regional Bonfire BBQ

8.30 Onwards - Paddfest Party and Live band

8.00pm - General Lecture

Paddfest 2001 6 - 7th October 2001 Booking Form

Please tick as appropriate

- I wish to attend the Coaching Symposium and associated programme only and enclose the £20 fee (£12 per day)
- We wish to take advantage of the family price, available on the Coaching Symposium entry only, to families holding BCU family membership. £35
- If booking one day only please indicate which day Sat Sun
- I wish to attend the Peak Challenge Competition Programme only and enclose the £20 fee.
- I wish to attend both the Competition and the Coaching and associated programme and enclose the £30 fee.

For further details on:

Visit the BCU website or contact the BCU Coaching Office on 0115 9821100

Pre-Registration (essential for all identified one and two-day workshops to avoid disappointment)

Sat 06 Sun 07 Please reserve me a place on the following two-day workshop (see Programme)

Please reserve me a place on the following day-long workshop (see programme)

Sat am	
Sat pm	
Sun am	
Sun pm	

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Tel No _____

Date of Birth _____ Signed _____

Membership No _____

Please make cheques payable to the British Canoe Union and return with booking form to Paddfest 2001, BCU, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS



We're in the medals!

David Enoch reports from round one of the Marathon World Cup, in Spain

Continuing our Olympic high, British paddlers are logging Cup yet more honours and came back from round one of the marathon racing World Cup with three well-deserved bronze medals.

The British team for this challenge in Spain was selected following assessment races at Wey in April and Worcester in May.

With many of the top juniors opting to be available for the sprint regatta in Bochum, Germany rather than the Marathon World Cup, the way was open for several young and inexperienced juniors to get a taste of top level international competition. It was good to see our 14 and 15 year olds competing respectably on the international circuit and bodes well for the future.

Temperatures reached 37°C at Zamora on the Thursday so all the paddlers were thankful for a cooler, breezier weekend, with racing scheduled for 10 am and 4 pm.

The course was a multi-lap affair, with three laps for the juniors and four for the seniors. The portage and finish area and the medal ceremonies were jam-packed with

spectators – common enough in Spain where canoe racing is a major sport, but always a bit of a shock for those used to rather more sparse British spectator crowds.

The Spanish are currently the strongest marathon nation and on their home ground there was never any doubt as to who was going to win the most medals. They took 1-2-3 in the senior men K2, won the senior women K2, senior women K1, junior men K2, junior women K2 and junior men C1. Their arch rivals, Portugal, took the junior men K1 and junior women K1 titles, with the Czechs and the French winning the C1 and C2 races respectively.

Probably the most open race was the senior men K1. Gary Mawer of Ireland outsprinted Dan Aulert of Australia and Conor Holmes to take the gold, with Kongsgaard of Denmark just beating Richard Golder for 4th place.

Britain came home with three senior bronze medals: Helen Gilby in womens K1, Conor Holmes in mens K1 and Kelly McGee & Nicky Taylor in womens K2 – and had another five boats in the top five.

Photos © David Enoch

ZAMORA WORLD CUP RESULTS

Junior Men K1

1st	David Fernandes	POR	1:51:07
2nd	Alberto Cosano	ESP	1:51:40
3rd	Nuno Silva	POR	1:51:53
5th	Stephen Pearson	GBR	1:54:50
6th	Alan Bayliss	GBR	2:00:57
7th	Tom Daniels	GBR	2:00:58

Junior Women K1

1st	Joana Souse	POR	2:04:06
2nd	Tania Kaperotxiqi	ESP	2:05:47
3rd	Lucia Vizcaino	ESP	2:07:14
4th	Rosalind Bates	GBR	2:08:04
7th	Elizabeth Stevens	GBR	2:11:41

Junior Men K2

1st	Gregorio Salvadores, Sergio Crespo	ESP	1:43:07
2nd	Mauricio Vieira, Ricardo Vieira	POR	1:43:51
3rd	Ricardo Campos, Rui Lomba	POR	1:44:33
6th	Lewis Firman, Michael Collins	GBR	1:51:13

Junior Women K2

1st	Marta Martin, Lucia Vizcaino	ESP	1:56:28
2nd	Tania Kaperotxiqi, Itzair Zorrozua	ESP	1:57:31
3rd	Karolina Slamova, Alena Rohackova	CZE	1:58:57
5th	Harriet Farish, Hayleigh Mason	GBR	2:01:56
6th	Jodie Barrell, Jenny Newbury	GBR	2:05:22
7th	Tara Nutt, Frankie Negus	GBR	2:05:38

Senior Men K1

1st	Gary Mawer	IRL	2:26:04
2nd	Daniel Aulert	AUS	2:26:06
3rd	Conor Holmes	GBR	2:26:20
5th	Richard Golder	GBR	2:26:28
10th	James Block	GBR	2:28:29

Senior Women K1

1st	Mara Santos	ESP	2:43:19
2nd	Elisabetta Introini	ITA	2:43:20
3rd	Helen Gilby	GBR	2:43:26
8th	Elizabeth Holmes	GBR	2:55:34
10th	Joanne Bates	GBR	3:05:11

Senior Men K2

1st	Jorge Gonzalez, Santiago Arroyo	ESP	2:13:53
2nd	Julio Gomez, Rafael Torrientes	ESP	2:13:55
3rd	Carlos Luclmo, Andres Luclmo	ESP	2:13:58
5th	Paul Slater, Stephen Harris	GBR	2:14:13
8th	Nathan Johnson, Tim Sowry	GBR	2:17:21
14th	Simon Dark, David Coulson	GBR	2:21:10

Senior Women K2

1st	Maria del Villar Miranda, Naiara Rodriguez	ESP	2:31:15
2nd	Magdalena Sendal, Barbara Przybylska	POL	2:31:41
3rd	Kelly McGee, Nicola Taylor	GBR	2:40:15



Richard Golder - an outstanding 5th place at Zamora in his first senior World Cup.



Helen Gilby (right), third at Zamora behind Santos of Spain and Introini of Italy



Paul Slater & Steve Harris were the best British K2 in Zamora, 20 seconds down on the winners.



Nicky Taylor & Kelly McGee won at Wey and Worcester and then took the bronze medal in Spain.



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Rich sprint harvest for GB

New sprint competition

To help develop sprint racing nationally, the Sprint Racing Committee is to propose at the agm part 1, in September, an idea to encourage all racing clubs to hold simple local sprint meetings.

The proposed new competition will be called the Sprint Racing Committee Cup and will feature a £100 prize for regional winners who will then go forward for the grand prize of the cup and £500.

More details will be sent to all clubs well before the agm.



Britain's women's K4 Lucy Hardy, Anna Hemmings, Andrea Dallaway and Abi Cattle

The spectacular regatta course fed from the waters of the River Seine at Mantes La Jolie, near Paris, was the venue for the third World Cup Regatta of the 2001 racing season.

Held over the weekend of June 16-17, this was an important regatta for the GB sprint racing team in the build up to July's European Championships, in Milan, and the world championships in Poznan in August.

22 Nations entered the regatta and our team of 18 athletes contested 16 of the 27 events.

Tim Brabants, the Olympic bronze medallist from Sydney went silver this time in the K1 1000m event, his final time of 3.32 being only a second down on the winner Babak of France.

In the Women's K1 1000m, Trish Davey won bronze. The new pairing of Richard Darby-Dowman and Peter Almasi also won bronze, in the men's K2 1000m; Abi Cattle and Andrea Dallaway won silver in the Women's event over the same distance.

At the Seville World Cup round in May, the GB Men's K4 1000m recorded a GB best time of 2.56 and in France they went four seconds faster to win silver in 2.52. The crew of Ross Sabberton, Paul Darby-Dowman, Ian Wynne and Tim Brabants are improving with every outing and the prospects for this year's major championships and looking forward to Athens in 2004 are exciting.

Our gold medal winning performance of the regatta came from the GB women's K4 500m of Lucy Hardy, Anna Hemmings, Andrea Dallaway and Abi Cattle. This crew have been brought together this season and this promising result is hopefully the start of a concerted effort to qualify a women's K4 for the next Olympic Games.

Anna Hemmings was another silver medalist, with a fine performance in the women's K1 200m. In the women's K2 200m and K2 500m, Becky and Rachel Train won us yet more silver medals and look determined to improve their boat speed for the major championships which went ahead this season.

Our final and 10th medal of this very successful regatta

for the GB team, was silver earned in the Men's K4 200m. Our outstanding crew of Sabberton, Darby-Dowman, Wynne and Peter Almasi were less than one tenth of a second behind the winners.

Congratulations go to all our medal winners at this regatta and to the other athletes who also put in some good performances. Although the number of competing nations at this regatta was less than anticipated, the times recorded by our athletes underline the quality of their performances and the promise of a successful future.

Photographs by John Anderson



On the podium, men's K4 combination Tim Brabants, Ross Sabberton, Paul Darby-Dowman and Ian Wynne



Up for their medals: Richard Darby-Dowman and Peter Almasi



Trish Davey, on form in women's K1



Men's K4 selection Ross Sabberton, Paul Darby-Dowman, Ian Wynne and Tim Brabants

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Up for the cup!

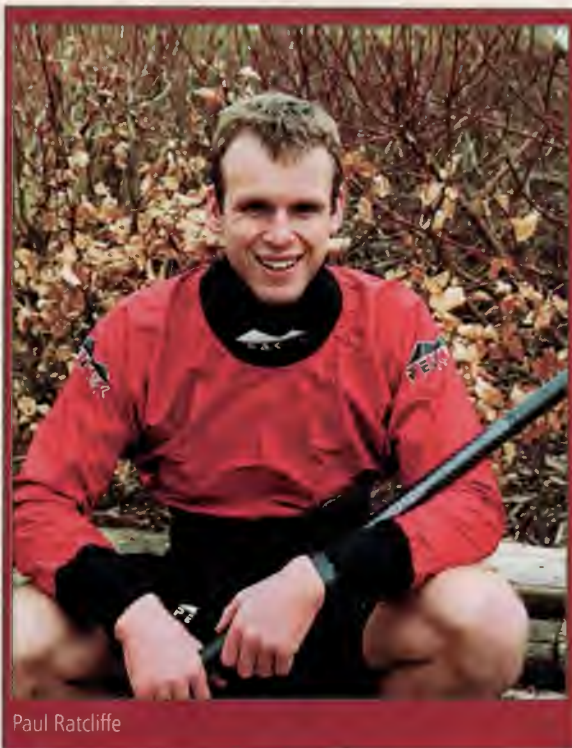
New for this year

If your club is too small to make up even a mixed team, get together with another small club and make up a joint team. A special trophy has been donated. The rules for the event can be found in the Slalom Yearbook. **The event organiser is Jim Croft, tel: 01582 651615.**

National Interclub Championships

The 2001 national interclub championships take place September 8-9. You are invited to come along and enjoy a great weekend at Cardington. There will be free camping for competitors, a licensed bar and free disco on Saturday evening, and, oh, of course, the races!

This year's Slalom World Cup season started at Goumois, in Switzerland, on 26-27, with the first three races running over three successive weekends.



Paul Ratcliffe

Round 1: Goumois, Switzerland, May 26-27

The qualification and final race course was relatively straightforward, on easy water. There was a strong qualifying performance from seven of the GB boats which qualified for the final.

Top British qualifier, as expected, was Paul Ratcliffe with a third. Paul Ratcliffe, Stuart McIntosh and the Smith and Bowman pairing all repaid the selectors' confidence, qualifying in the top seven boats in their respective classes.

In the final, dominated by the Slovaks, French and Czechs, Tim Morrison was the highest placed of the Brits, in seventh place.



Round 2: Merano, Italy, June 2-3

Again a relatively straightforward course, but set on moderate water.

A similar GB team raced at Merano. Anthony Brown (12), Stu McIntosh (3) and Smith and Bowman (8) all qualified for the final. Anthony Brown finished ninth, Stu 13th and Smith and Bowman 11th. Again, the results were dominated by Slovaks and French.

Round 3: Tacen, Slovenia, June 9-10

None of the GB paddlers qualified for the final in Tacen! For many of the team it was their first year of World Cup races.

Even more importantly, the Tacen qualifiers, and particularly the final, were on unpredictable water.

Top GB paddlers in qualification were Neil Buckley (33), Helen Barnes (22) and Andrew Hamilton (30). Helmut Oblinger from Austria is performing well with a second qualification win in three races. Michal Martikan, (SVK) won the C1 final.

The final two World Cup races are at the end of July and the beginning of August. For the latest results and information on Canoe Slalom visit our website on

www.canoeslalom.co.uk

World Championships

We wish the GB team good luck for the 2001 world championships, which take place on the Ocoee, in sunny Georgia, USA on September 20-23.

The Ocoee was the race site of the '96 Atlanta Olympics. Having won silver at the Sydney Olympics last year, Paul Ratcliffe is confident that he can improve on his bronze medals at previous world championships.

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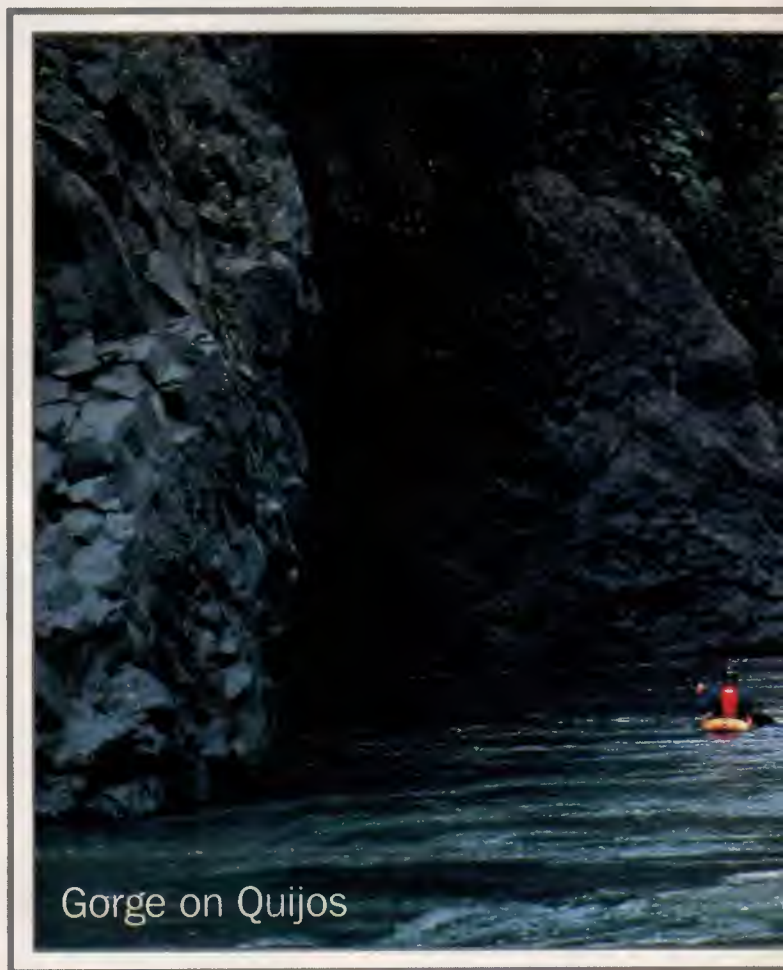
We left Quito in the early hours on our way towards Baeza, one of the main destinations for our boating mission in Ecuador. After crossing the Papallacta Pass (4064 metres) we found ourselves descending over the Eastern Cordillera, in the Ecuadorian Andes, with ever worsening roads.

The weather was closing in and it looked as though the heavens were going to open up! We finally arrived in Baeza, an old mission town in the heart of the Oriente. We found a place to stay and settled down to a night's worth of river planning and chilling from the journey over the Andes.

Baeza comprises two distinct sections, the old town consisting of around 15 buildings and the slightly bigger new town, which was developed after landslides claimed a few houses in the old town. Of particular note, there appear to be as many basketball courts in Baeza as there are houses, though this seems to have a lot to do with the town mayor and his love for the sport.

We awoke to a somewhat misty morning and after peeling ourselves from out of the blankets we walked on down to Gina's for another breakfast – with only one restaurant in town we did not really have much to choose from!

Our mission for today was to run two sections on the river Quijos – Borja and El Chaco. Vincente – our driver for the duration of our stay in Baeza – soon arrived, loaded the boats and we were on our way.



Gorge on Quijos

As we were driving out of the valley we were granted fantastic views of Volcan Antisana. We had not seen too many 5,000-metre snowy peaks as we were certainly not in Ecuador's climbing season. It certainly made me feel like I was back at home in the Austrian Tyrol, with Baeza's climate and now the views of the magnificent mountains finally appearing.

Vincente waived us a goodbye as we set off. With a couple of drops out of the way, we came to our first major rapid. It was a read-and-run grade-four with three large rocks forming a formidable barrier.

With this rapid we had to go far left and just before the last rock a cut move to river right was in order to avoid one of the rocks that had a vicious undercut. We all nailed the rapid and as we continued downstream a great pour-over was found where "ends" just kept being thrown.

It took us just over 30 minutes to tear ourselves away and continue on our journey. Some great surf waves followed and we were amazed how many great water features there were on this section.

We finished the Borja sections and carried on downstream

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immediately into the El Chaco section. For a couple of kilometres, the El Chaco section was similar to Borja – then we came across the major rapid of the day. We eddied out on river left and scouted the aptly named 'A Panel of Experts'.

With the line impregnated in our minds we dropped in, middle right, boof off the lip, a metre river left of the big rock, taking a rooster's tail in between two holes, a slight left angle and through the next river-wide hole, finally moving the boat to river right to surf off the pillow wave, thus avoiding the rock at the rapids end.

It was not far until we entered the canyon. The sides steepened suddenly and we had a really strange feeling of the river closing in on us. Vegetation hung down from high above and we really did get an intense feeling of solitude, something we could only appreciate from being on the river.

With every rapid we ran the signature, the river left changing the canyon's wild and exotic features was amazing. The river seemed so pristine, you could even see the bed when the rapids finished. We could just not stop playing on this section of the Quijos. There were so

info

QUITO

Hotel: Crossroads.

This is the kayaking hostel in Quito but certainly not the cheapest. Jeff, the owner, is a kayaker but a bit strange, though he is American!

Food: Numerous places to eat: Magic Bean for good coffees and breakfast. Thai restaurant is good and so is Sutra's.

Internet: Too numerous to mention but around \$1 per hour.

Taxi: To the bus station with boats \$2. To the airport around \$3.

MACAS

Accommodation: La Orquidea Hotel.

Food: Chinese restaurant.

Taxi: The owner of the La Orquidea can take you to the river.

Internet: Just behind the cinema. Very fast, like Quito.

DO NOT: Stay in the Penon del Oriente Hotel.

BAEZA

Accommodation: Hostal San Rafael in Baeza Nueva.

Food: Gina's restaurant, in Baeza Colonial. Also there is a good bakery up from the hostel.

Taxi: Vincente (tel:320123) is a reliable taxi driver and he knows all the put-ins and get-outs. He also helps you with Spanish. Do not drink too much of his firewater!

Internet: There is none in Baeza.

DO NOT: Stay in the Meson del Baeza. They tried to rip us off and a kayak was stolen, which we later recovered.

TENA

Accommodation: Hostal Araza

Food: Kamakazi for breakfast.

Taxi: Osvaldo (tel:887500) is the best taxi driver by far in Tena. There are many to choose from, however Osvaldo has got the best reputation, is honest, knows all the put-ins and take-outs. He also has a price list that Gynner (the owner of Rios Ecuador) has made so the drives are all set.

Internet: Pirana is owned by a local boater but it is extremely slow.

INFO: Gynner at Rios Ecuador or if he is not there, Bernard or Alex.

CANOA

Accommodation: Bamboo. This is run by Joost, a Dutch guy who speaks English.

Food: Brasa del Mar. Awesome seafood and will cook meat to order, also extremely cheap!

Taxi: No need.

Internet: None in Canoa.

INFO: We found that Canoa was much quieter than Montanita and the surf was just as good. We really did get a feeling of being alone. In fact there was just two of us to surf waves along a 21 km coastline!

many rocks just begging to be splatted and wheeled and great surf waves with places to throw wheels as we kayaked down.

As we came to the take-out our faces said it all, it has been a great day. We carried the kayaks out, met up with Vincente and headed off back to Baeza.

We had been in Baeza now for just over a week, running some great sections of pristine jungle rivers. However, the call of the ocean was becoming clearer. None of us had been surfing on the ocean before and with Ecuador having reportedly some great breaks we were on our way!



Our hotel

this feel of a far away land only known to people with sun-bleached hair and baggy shorts. To say everything was relaxed in Montanita was a serious understatement. The infamous Spanish saying for tomorrow, Mañana, was well in force! Each cabana, hotel, restaurant and bar was knocking out tunes from Bob Marley, Pink Floyd and the Red Hot Chilli Peppers. John was certainly in his element! We had missed the day's surf, so we had to settle down to the

nodding tunes of Mr Marley and adopt a position in the hammocks admiring the amazing sunset over the Pacific ocean.

After acquainting ourselves with Montanita, the next day seemed to be flowing in the same hazy state. However, around one o'clock, a hive of activity started erupting and it meant only one thing... surfs up!

With gear in tow we were finally paddling out to catch the waves. What a great introduction to surfing: no wetsuits, dry tops etc. Just a paddle, spraydeck and a super slicey, spinnny boat! For two hours we were wave wheeling out and then just ripping it up back in.

The local surfers were great, real friendly and amazed with what could be done in a kayak. In fact one of the surf shop owners wanted to buy one so he could use it when the surfers could not catch the waves!

A great 10 days was spent in Montanita. Surfing has got to be one of the best ways to recharge the batteries ready for the next mission in Ecuador.

Thanks

Taking various buses en-route we arrived in Montanita just 24 hours later. With all the

drivers and bus boys eager to help we never had any problems taking our boats around on public transport. If only things were that easy in Europe! Montanita is the top surfing area in Ecuador and as we walked down through the village we had

Special thanks to:
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 David Olson of Smith
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North west BCU weekend great success

Soaring temperatures, an excellent water release caused by a low tide and competition for paddlers of all abilities added up to a great success at the North West BCU weekend hosted by Clitheroe Canoe Club on the Teesside White Water Course in May.

Competition was fierce but fun on the first day in all events with the following results (see box on right).

Day two saw a repeat of the great weather, with coaching taking place on the course as well as on the flat water before the start of the white water section.

The coaching events were well attended, with star tests taking place alongside coaching workshops and everyone having a great time.

Thanks go to all who attended, organised, and helped out over the two days and to Len Smith from Kanu Sport, who was an excellent host.



David Brown
Chairman – Clitheroe Canoe Club



Freestyle Worlds results

OC1		Mens K1	
1 Eli Helbert	USA	1 Eric Jackson	USA
2 Pere Guerrero	ESP	2 Eric Southwick	USA
3 James Weir	UK	3 Bryan Kirk	USA
C1		Mens Squirt	
1 Barry Kennon	USA	1 Andy Bedingfield	USA
2 Robin Bell	AUS	2 Brenden Mark	CA
3 Luke Hopki	USA	3 Tom Mckee	USA
Junior Men K1		Womens Squirt	
1 Jesse Murphy	USA	1 Brook Winger	USA
2 Dustin Urban	USA	2 Lisa Beckstead	CA
3 Calef Letorney	USA	3 Motoko Ishida	JPN
Women K1			
1 Erica Mitchel	USA		
2 Debs Pinneger	UK		
3 Anna Levesque	CA		

DOWNRIVER RACE

Men: Andy Noblett, Clitheroe.
Ladies: Alison Tapley, Clitheroe.

U-16: Alex Jones, Ribblesdale.
U-13: Tom Turner, Clitheroe.

FLAT WATER SLALOM

Men: Adam Gair; **Ladies:** Jackie Newman, Garstang.

U-16: Alex Jones, Ribblesdale.
U-13: Hannah Peel, Ribblesdale.

POLO DRIBBLE AND SHOOT

Men: Rick Stewart, Warrington.
Ladies: Claire O'Hara, Leeds.

U-16: Joanne Peel, Ribblesdale.
U-13: Hannah Peel, Ribblesdale.

FREESTYLE

Men: Patrick Hobson, Hexham.

Ladies: Helen Trimby; **U16:** Dan Brayfield, Garstang.

U13: no entries.

Opens race: Steve Johnson/Alison Tapley, Clitheroe.

OVERALL WINNERS

Men: Patrick Hobson, Hexham.

Ladies: Jackie Newman, Garstang and Alison Tapley, Clitheroe.

U-16: Alex Jones, Ribblesdale.
U-13: Tom Turner, Clitheroe.

Duos: Andy Noblett/Paul Towler, Clitheroe.

Surf's off!

It started promisingly but the Cornish Open surf event had to be abandoned when the waves went flat after the heats.

The sun was out and there were two to three feet of nice glassy surf to begin with. The competitors arrived at



Gary Adcock: surf master

top water, so it was not far to walk. The roof racks were stripped and it was into battle. There were a good number of entries into each class, so the paperwork had to be sorted out but it was not long before the high performance event kicked off in good style.

Everybody was paddling very well, making the heats very hard and competitive. As the heats progressed, the surf was dropping – so every paddler was

trying every move in the book to get the most out of the waves, at the same time getting that other all important thing in place – a bit of a tan.

By the time the ladies heat had finished it all sadly had to stop due to no waves. So it was off to the local hostelry, The Bucket of Blood, for some damn fine food and a small amount of beer. The results will have to wait for another time but who cares?: everyone had fun.

On Sunday morning everyone met back at the beach, and not a ripple to be seen. It was very flat, like somebody had taken an iron to a millpond, so thanks to Chris Bray, everyone did a bit of a rally to Praa Sands.

It was a little windy but there was a good three to four feet surf and nice shoulders, so out went the lemmings. There were some good waves, and everyone performed for the cameras from Carlton Television, hoping to get their face on the goggle box.

Once again, towards the end of the day the surf became poor, but everyone struggled through. The sun was out, and all agreed that it had been a good day out surfing and sunning. Thanks to Pete and Jenny Blenkinsop and all their team for running a great competition.

RESULTS

Ladies:
1. Jessica McCabe;
2. Bethan Thomas.

Juniors:
1. Jessica McCabe;
2. Chris Millbank;
3. Alan Always.

Masters:
1. Gary Adcock;
2. Chris Bray;
3. Dennis Hey;
4. Phil Carpenter;
5. Bryce Barr.

High performance:
1. Pete Blenkinsop;
2. Darren Bason;
3. Pete Mugford;
4. Richard Berry.

International open:
1. Richard Berry;
2. Pete Blenkinsop;
3. Darren Bason;
4. Chris Bray;
5. Bethan Thomas.

Powerful words

Top coach Franco Ferrero has moved into publishing too. He explains why to Roger St. Pierre

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Franco Ferrero has not switched from activist to bookworm. Rather, by a change of emphasis from the spoken to the written word, the popular North Wales-based coach is hoping to spread the word of his beloved pastime to an ever wider audience.

In short, Franco has swapped his role as canoeing's driving force at the Plas y Brenin Welsh National Mountain Centre, based in picturesque Capel Curig, Snowdonia, for a full-time role as an author and as the man behind a fast-expanding publishing business dedicated to producing an expanding range of books on how better to enjoy your paddling sport.

Born into an Italian family in Jersey some 45 years ago, Franco started out as a sea kayaker. A founder member of Jersey Canoe Club, he was one of a trio who carried out the first canoe circumnavigation of Ireland, back in 1978, completing the adventure in 58 days.

Moving to North Wales to work within the sport, Franco developed an interest in white water canoeing: "I'm best known as a coach, of course, but I have always been a very active white water kayaker myself," he says.

He is not turning his back on coaching altogether: "I am still working with people on a one-to-one basis but I decided to leave the centre to give myself more time for running the book business.

"We already have five books out, covering whitewater safety and rescue; sea kayak navigating and seamanship for canoeists – the first two of which I wrote – and a book on Scottish white water canoeing (see page

46) which we have published for the Scottish Canoe Association. We design, edit and publish," says Franco.

"Canoeing is a broad church. There's a lot more to it than competition and we are out to encourage the pastime in all its aspects for everyone from the casual leisure paddler to the racing and competition community.

"I've always been heavily involved in training the trainers and hopefully our books will help coaches do their jobs. There's a need to introduce people to all aspects so they find the branch of the sport which suits them best. For some it will be a whole weekend of happy paddling while for others it will be the short, sharp adrenalin rush of two snappy two minute runs. There really is something for everyone.

"Our big strength is the club structure – as long as they remain welcoming to all-comers.

"We need to teach youngsters the skills which will heighten their enjoyment, whichever side of canoeing they want to go into."

Franco would like to see a greater emphasis on those skills where competition is concerned: "Canoeing is skills' dependent and that's the key to making it popular.

"It was a mistake when they changed the slalom rules, making it increasingly about being the fittest rather than the most skilful. It the skills aspect which lets the older competitors in with a chance of doing well, and we need to win them back."

Franco is a firm believer that canoeing's future is bright:



"Once we've won people we need to keep them, making it easy for them to change disciplines. White water touring, for instance, is becoming ever more popular and sea kayaking offers an excitingly different environment which many find suits them best."

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Paddlesport's men on your case

Howard Blackman



A lot of people have asked what sort of paddling our PDO's have done – and do! So, following on from the last edition – here are the Midlands team!

Howard is the paddlesport development officer for East Midlands and coaching development officer for the Midlands. As you might guess, he is a very busy man! He is based at Nottingham, but you are much more likely to bump into him at an event or on the river.

Here's what he has to say for himself: "I began paddling kayak in 1977 with the scouts, at the age of 12. At school I continued paddling and had a go at slalom, mainly because my PE teacher, Mike Thompson, was a division-one paddler. Under Mike's training, I progressed through the divisions to and reached division-one by the time I was 15. I also dabbled in marathon and wild water racing. Eventually, my commitment was noted and I was invited to train with the GB youth slalom squad in 1981. This was an excellent start for the rest of my paddling career as it provided a wide base to develop skills from."

Highlights from Howard's paddling history include: DW race 1984/85/86; 1989 Div 5-9 K2 national marathon champion (with his brother Neil); 1991 Paddled WWR World Cup Sanna – (almost beat his brother Neil!); 1994 National C2 Champions; 1995 Bronze medal at WWR world championships

Adds Howard: "In 1997 I moved into coaching and development, which I thoroughly enjoy. I am having fun sprinting at present – I managed to win K2 in the Exe descent in 1999 and started to do my bit for the youth programme by becoming a dad! My focus now is to get more young people paddling regularly.

Phil Hadley

Phil is PDO for West Midlands – his focus is the Birmingham area – and is well known in and around the region.

"I first learnt to paddle with the scouts, at the age of about nine, then did a little paddling with the school, mainly in Wales and Scotland," he recalls.

"I became interested in paddling again whilst at the University of Wolverhampton and have been involved with the university ever since, studying BSc sports studies and teaching outdoor education and watersports.

"My main paddling interest is in coaching and I have been working as a professional coach for the past six years at various centres. I have always seen myself as a recreational paddler and never entered competitions, except the Liffey descent which I did for a laugh.

"I had always thought competitions were just for elite paddlers. But recently, I have had an insight into the competition world and have realised that anyone can have a go, no-one will laugh at you, and it's loads of fun.

"I entered an open slalom recently and will be trying out as many of the other disciplines as soon as possible. Coming from a 'centre' type background I have picked up other skills and qualifications, such as dinghy sailing senior instructor, windsurfing instructor. SPA (climbing and abseiling), powerboat and jet bike instructor.

"If I was forced into putting a slice of personal philosophy on record it would be 'don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today, because if you enjoy it today you can do it again tomorrow!'"



EVENTS... EVENTS... EVENTS...



There's been lots going on so far this summer, with a wide range of youth events being run in and around the regions – regional paddlefests, lightning regattas, bellboat races, and diamond slalom challenges – with some happenings which are linked to national events.

We'll bring you a full round-up of events in the next edition – but there are still events to come. Check them out with your local paddlesport development officer,

There are two big events which you should certainly try not to miss:

Stockton Lightning Regatta

Sunday September 2

This is being run as part of the marathon world championship programme – so you get to race – and see the top Marathon paddlers in the world (and, yes, they do sign autographs!). You can say you've paddled at a world championships!!! Youth races start at 1.40pm and 4.45pm.

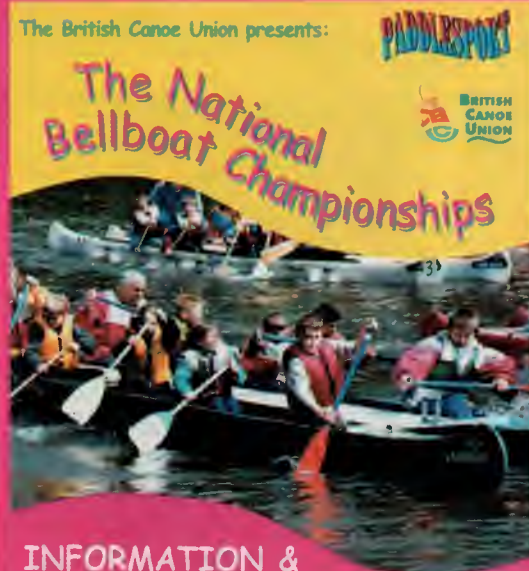
For full details of the event contact Mandy Delaney, tel: 0115982 1100 or e-mail youth@bcu.org.uk.



National Bellboat Championships

National Watersports Centre, Nottingham
Saturday October 6

This looks like being the biggest and best bellboat event so far. Come and challenge the top teams from last year for the national championship trophy!



INFORMATION & ENTRY PACK

6th October 2001

A British Canoe Union Production
John Duddridge House, Adolphus Lane,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AG
Telephone: 0115 982 1100
Fax: 0115 982 1797
Email: info@bcu.org.uk

National Water Sports Centre,
Holme Pierrepont,
Nottingham.

If you are on your own – or haven't got enough people to make a team – give us a call and we'll try and put a scratch squad together. Plus, there's lots of other things to do, including a lightning regatta, diamond slalom challenge, Come and Try it and Paddling Ergo Challenge. Full details are on the web site – www.bcu.org.uk or contact Mandy Delaney for an entry form. Tel: 0115 982 1100, or e-mail youth@bcu.org.uk. We'll see you there!



F O C U S



Avon Id

Since Avon is derived from the Celtic word Afon, which translates simply as 'river', the phrase 'River Avon' means 'River River' – which explains why there are so many waterways with this title. Adrian Barclay, his partner and Jumbo the canoe discover the best known of them.

It was a complex journey. Julia and I jumped on a tram at the start of our summer holiday on the river Avon. We had two large dry bags with two weeks' worth of kit, including helmets and buoyancy aids, plus our 25 kg inflatable open canoe, called "Jumbo" (as seen in Paddles earlier this year). When we reached Victoria Train Station, we were given a lift across the station concourse on a carriage designed for giving lifts to the elderly and disabled. We then sped across London in a black cab, to Marylebone station where we caught a fast train to Warwick.

The proprietor of the bed and breakfast establishment, where we would stay for the next few days, then collected us from Warwick Station. During the next three days we visited Warwick Castle, which was very impressive; we did a six mile walk around the local area, and one evening we went to Leamington Spa and walked back along the River Avon. Our paddling trip on the river started from Warwick. We headed upstream to the first weir outside Leamington Spa.

We then returned to Warwick, where we had to portage due to Warwick Castle not giving us access to their land, for the portage around the weir just outside the Castle. Using the mobile phone, we hailed a taxi to take us to the next access spot. At this point the lug which held one of the split paddles together was lost in the undergrowth.

After half an hour of searching without any success we decided to use an old stick and some tape to hold the paddle together. This worked reasonably well for the rest of the holiday.

Eventually we got on the water and a large white male swan led us downstream, through the shallows of the reed beds, to the first weir of the trip, which we portaged.

The local access officer had given us permission to paddle this section of the river. We continued to paddle on downstream and soon reached Alveston Mill Weir. Julia quickly jumped out and confidently suggested that we shoot this weir. On her advice, Jumbo went over his first weir, which he survived and we all enjoyed ourselves. Finally, at 6pm, we arrived at Stratford, where we stayed for four days in bed and



Peaceful waters before Warwick Castle

breakfast accommodation, which was situated next to a butterfly house. Jumbo had a nice spot in the lounge because he is quite small, when deflated and placed in his dry bag! Whilst at Stratford we were real tourists, visiting all the William Shakespeare haunts, going to the theatre, shopping and undertaking quite a bit of walking in the local area. On the Friday, we hired a canoe, and paddled downstream to the weir, and back upstream to the picnic site, where we saw a large Crane standing in the reeds. After an hour we finally returned to the canoe hire place. This trip was necessary because we couldn't do this stretch of river on Sunday when we moved on from Stratford, because there was a regatta taking place.

On Sunday, in order to avoid the regatta, we carried Jumbo downstream on the trolley we had brought with us and after inflating Jumbo we continued our journey down the Avon, which was now navigation. We shot Brake weir, but when we reached Ludington Weir it was clear that we had to portage, due to all the boulders at the top of it. Two fisherman were sitting at the top of the weirs and this meant we had a rather long portage

to take us around the lock.

At the Four Alls Pub we stopped for lunch and a pint of Coke, because it was a very hot day. After lunch we shot Pilgrim and Wellford Weir, but at Barton Lock we portaged the weir and then continued downstream to Bidford Bridge, where we egressed at about 4pm. Julia then went a mile up the high street, which involved crossing a very narrow road bridge which was controlled with traffic lights.

The journey to the hotel was a long one because Jumbo is so heavy, even on his trolley. That evening we went to the local pub, overlooking the bridge, for our Sunday roast.

The next day, the hotel owner gave Jumbo and I a lift to the bridge, whilst Julia went shopping for some provisions for our packed lunch. It was another hot day, so we made sure we had plenty of cold drinks. We also smothered ourselves with sun tan lotion, but this didn't stop Julia's knees from getting badly burnt.

From Bidford Bridge we canoed down to Martcliff Weir. Julia

yll



decided not to join me as I shot this one, which was very low, and Jumbo nearly grounded. We continued downstream, passing the River Arrow and headed towards Harvington Weir. After a thorough inspection we decided to shoot Harvington Weir, halfway down the weir. Jumbo grounded at the front and our stern swung round into the stopper, which nearly tossed me into the water.

I used a low brace to prevent us from capsizing, but Julia was totally dry and blissfully unaware of the fact that I was soaked.

We finally paddled backwards off the weir and out of the stopper. Julia then proceeded to paddle but her blade broke loose from its shaft and she was literally "up the creek without a paddle".

We quickly retrieved the blade and I paddled Jumbo to the nearest bank. After emptying Jumbo and finding another stick to mend the split paddle, we jumped back in and proceeded on our journey.

Again we had our lunch at a pub, The Fish and Anchor, which was situated close to a ford, which we had to portage. After lunch we negotiated the rapids and the fisherman, just below the ford with a variety of J strokes and draw strokes, which was quite impressive. At Evesham Weir we portaged and continued downstream to Evesham Bridge where we egressed for the day, just outside the Parkview Hotel, our haven for the next two nights. The next day we just relaxed and enjoyed the pleasant little riverside town of Evesham.

We left Evesham on the Wednesday and travelled on to Pershore.

The weather had now changed; it was a little dull, with occasional rain and some wind. However, this didn't stop a family of ducks paddling upstream to say hello to us.

Chadbury Weir was the first challenge of the day, which we successfully shot. We then canoed past Fladbury Canoe Club, which is a famous Canoe Marathon Club. At Fladbury Weir the lockmaster agreed to take a photo as all three of us – Julia, Jumbo and I – successfully shot the weir. We portaged at the lock in order to retrieve the camera.

As we continued to paddle downstream, Julia called out: "Listen there's a Cuckoo" but we never saw it, even though we did hear it several times.

At Wyre Piddle we had our lunch in the grounds of the Blue Anchor pub. The third and final weir of the day was Wyre Mill, opposite the caravan site, which we also shot successfully. We portaged outside the Star Inn, Pershore, where we would stay for the final three nights of our holiday. The pub was opposite Pershore weir, which was quite dangerous, and we never attempted to shoot it.

The next day we travelled down to Eckington Railway Bridge, just outside Pershore, but it was a very wet and windy

day. We portaged Jumbo around Pershore Weir at the start of the trip and then we paddled to Narford Lock, where Julia decided to portage and take a picture of me shooting the weir. The current was very strong and it took me down the weir quite quickly. I went through the stopper. It was great fun, but then I hit a large wave, which forced my bow up into the air, and Jumbo did an "ender", which was quite a thrill.

Julia took a great picture of me going down the weir, but she didn't catch the ender on film, which was a great shame and saddened Jumbo. Julia got back in and we paddled down to Eckington Railway Bridge and then returned to Eckington Road Bridge where we portaged for the last time. This was the end of the canoeing for this holiday, so we used the mobile phone to hail a taxi, which took us back to The Star Inn in Pershore.

In the last two weeks we had canoed 54 delightful miles along the river Avon, which was great fun. The hotels were very accommodating of Jumbo and every night he had decent accommodation, either in the lounge, an out building or on one occasion in our bedroom.

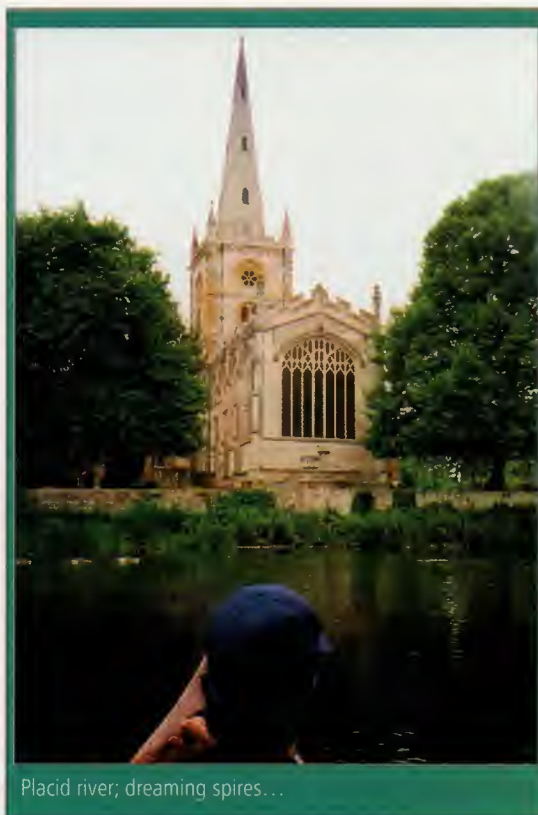
The train journey was not too bad and all those weeks of planning, paid off. The taxi drivers were very helpful and they made the long portages very easy; this is where the mobile phone came into its own.

Planning the trip was made simpler because we wrote to the local access officer and used the guidebook, '100 Paddles in England' by Colin Kempson written for and published by the BCU.

We must thank all these people for making our millennium summer holiday such a success. Julia and I both enjoyed ourselves and Jumbo proved himself to be a very versatile and effective touring canoe, which was well suited to transporting on the train, it was just like backpacking. We heard many memorable quotes during our holiday, but here are three of the best. A man at Victoria Station looked at our bags and said, "All you need now is a canoe", I replied, "That's it!" pointing at Jumbo in his dry bag. The man just looked shocked and stunned.

When Julia arrived at the hotels alone the hotelier would say, "Sorry Madame, we have no vacant single rooms available." Julia would reply, "No Sir, I have booked a double room, but my old man is at the river with Jumbo, our boat!" Julia always had to open our large bags so that I could climb in to get the luggage from the bottom of the bag.

Finally, the last day of our holiday was spent in Worcester to do some sightseeing. As we crossed the River Severn we started planning our next holiday, possibly down this great waterway – the longest in Great Britain – from Shrewsbury to Worcester.



Placid river; dreaming spires...

Email: letters@canoefocus.co.uk

Or send to

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

LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

Open discussion

Overheard on the lake at the Eastern Region weekend at HYMB, a kayak coach to his young lady pupil as I passed them in my Old Town Cascade during a shower: "That's what I can't stand about those things – one shower and they fill up with water. I must admit they are great load-carriers though".

What pleasures that lady will miss out on if she takes him at his word and never looks at an open canoe again.

Chris Wright
L2 kayak and canoe
Norwich

What a great day!

Cold, windy conditions greeted the competitors at the Holme Pierpoint sprint regatta start line, with officials shivering from the nervous build up to the anticipated day's racing and the relatively intense cold – this after a magnificent three weeks of stable weather.

No complaints were heard and the racing went like clockwork – much appreciation to the organising committee for being so efficient. There are few regattas in the world outside world championships and Olympic Games that ever achieve the smoothness with which this regatta ran: congratulations to all concerned!

I cannot remember seeing such a high standard of competition in a national regatta in this country for a long time. The Olympians and world championship representatives made for intensity, quality and that special ingredient of not being sure of the racing outcomes.

The enthusiasm of the spectators, the efficiency of the organising committee and the ability of the athletes all added up to creating a great spectacle for all in a world class performance.

Congratulations to the BCU and all involved.

Reg Hatch
Coaching Coordinator UKSI

Their after your blood – and cash

On behalf of the Around Britain Canoe Challenge Team 2002 & the National Blood Service we are proud to be able to direct BCU members to our website and thank everyone for their interest. Our www.abcchallenge.org website has been professionally built and serves as a vehicle of interest for those who wish to take a look.

The project has not yet found a main sponsor but offers major exposure potential, being likely to be the subject of a television documentary next year and we hope this continued media attention will attract the commercial interest that is very much needed to continue with the project. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for industry to reap some fine rewards by sponsoring the challenge and recognising the important work of the NBS and its donors.

Finally, we would particularly like to thank the individual canoeists and sea kayak clubs who have offered to join Dave Abrutat & myself at stages on this wonderful journey. We would welcome and still require more support from the canoe industry and associated agencies which in turn will promote the sport of canoeing in this country, Sport UK and their business interests.

Nigel Rogoff

Credit where it's due

I was very upset to recently receive the BCU paddlesport review questionnaire and find that there was no mention of canoe lifeguarding or scope for entering my canoe lifeguarding experience or awards.

Once again, it would appear that the BCU do not recognise the contribution that the BCU lifeguards make, yet there are many paddlers who are very grateful that our volunteers (all unpaid) regularly train for and gain the necessary awards to allow other canoeists and beach users to enjoy a trouble-free day.

Our lifeguards provide safety cover for many of the major events in the canoeing calendar, including the Dee Tours, the Devizes to Westminster canoe race, the marathon championships in Stockton and the national student rodeo championships at Nottingham.

Canoe lifeguards regularly patrol beaches throughout the summer months, as at Weymouth, where a busy day regularly has 20,000 beach users. Many of our canoe lifeguards gain further professional awards, at their own expense; swiftwater rescue technician awards, RLSS and SLSA professional lifeguarding and coaching awards and training in de-fib and oxygen therapy

Experienced volunteers run training for others, developing rookie programmes for young children to join and learn about water safety; developing community programmes so that ordinary members of the public have access to basic first aid training; offering free water safety lectures to schools, youth groups, scout organisations and so on, all in their own time.

Over the years I have been involved in canoe lifeguarding, I know of many occasions where lives have been saved; parents who are thankful that they still have their children because correct CPR technique was applied; many, many canoeists who have been rescued after capsizing in moving water and, thousands of beach users who have been given good safety advice, preventing serious situations from occurring.

Finally, over the years, a lot of people have trained for, and competed at, our own highly competitive canoe lifeguard championships (yes, lifeguarding is a sport).

All of this has been achieved through the generous personal contribution made by our volunteers. Thank you to the BCU for not recognising any of it... once again.

Graham Beckram
Neston, Cheshire

Still on L-plates

Thanks for featuring my surfing article and shoreline piece in the last edition of *Canoe Focus*.

The only problem is that a small mistake crept in that is causing me much embarrassment.

In the Shoreline piece they should have described me as an aspirant level 5 surf coach, which means I am a trainee level 5 coach. Instead I was credited as being a full level 5 coach.

As it's a small world for coaches of this standard and I'm hoping to be assessed later this year, I really don't want people thinking that I'm getting too big for my boots or that I'm making false claims for my expertise!

Simon Hammond
Shoreline Outdoor Pursuits, Bude, Cornwall

Obituary: Jack Henderson



To many paddlers, Jack Henderson is known principally as author of the classic book 'Kayak To Cape Wrath' but his input to sport in general and canoeing in particular ran to much more. Paddling was not Jack's first love: that was swimming, at which he became Post Office backstroke champion. He took up canoeing in 1934 for relaxation away from the

pressures of competitive swimming and soon became an addict, often to be seen wheeling his canoe trolley through the streets of his native Glasgow en-route to the train station and his latest adventure.

Jack did most of his paddling with the Scottish Hosteller's Canoe Club on Scotland's west coast and was once mistaken as a wartime German infiltrator!

Thankfully, one of his fellow canoeists was a Glasgow policeman who was recognised just as the local Home Guard contingent was about to open fire on a shoot first, ask questions later basis.

Returning from a tour in 1947, Jack took part in the Scottish Canoe Association regatta on Loch Lomond and won the Scottish open championships, beating a five-times England champion in the process. Persuaded to take up sprint canoeing he applied all his usual enthusiasm and dedication, becoming British national champion and representing his country in the 1948 Olympic Games event at Henley on Thames and in the world championships.

Jack later became SCA sprint racing coach and advised the builders of the Queensferry touring kayak on improvements to enable gear to be stowed more easily.

Even Jack's move from the Post Office to the civil service had canoeing connections. The government of the day wished to invest money into sport and decided they needed a civil servant with sporting expertise to supervise the exercise. Who better for the job than Jack, an ex-Olympic athlete.

Jack's involvement in this project extended to the formation of the Sport Councils while, within canoeing, he represented the SCA on the council of the BCU.

Among the friends and relations who attended Jack's funeral at Cardross Crematorium were a number of canoeists, some of who had enjoyed paddling with him.

Duncan R Winning OBE
Honorary president Scottish Canoe Association



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Largest canoe feature ever at a show

Southampton Boat Show
September
15th - 23rd

The main attraction of this year's Southampton Boat Show is to be a waterfall Cascade down which canoeing and inflatable kayaks will plunge. Freestylers will play below and slalomists will undertake time trials through gates on the rough water of the bottom pool.

Come and try it sessions on the Cascade will be available every day for experienced paddlers with beginner sessions available on adjacent water also every day.



The BCU along with the Association of Canoe Trades (ACT) and National Boat Shows Ltd have all co-operated together to ensure that this year's show will be a major promotion of canoeing. An information stand alongside the Cascade will be staffed to answer any questions and act as a contact point for paddlers visiting the show.

The BCU Access and Facilities Dept in the shape of Chris Hawkesworth and George Parr are helping design the Cascade. The plot is to have a pumped, three cubic meters per second waterfall, dropping into the bottom pool in such a way that freestylers can exhibit their gymnastic skills without hitting the bottom or sides and at the same time produce a wave train across the pool. Side decks and grandstand will hold several hundred spectators at a time. A large plasma screen will receive TV pictures of the participants for showing to a wider audience. Considerable interest from the Press is expected on Press Day.

A discount of £2.00 per adult ticket bought in advance has been negotiated for members wanting to attend.

Phone Hot Line - 0115 912 9111 and quote BCU.

The doors are open everyday at 10.00am and close 7.00pm other than the last Sunday of the show, when the doors close at 6.00pm.

See you there.

For further details contact Ginnie Hannah on 0115 982 1100 or Chris. Hawkesworth on 07802-352815

Win a Wild One Kayak!

To celebrate the Southampton Boat Show's 33rd staging and the show's spectacular White Water Rapid centrepiece, British Canoe Union members have the chance of winning a superb Wild One Kayak.

The prize will go to the first correct answer pulled from the hat on September 1, 2001.

No correspondence entered into. One entry only per person (entry on photocopy of this page accepted). Judges decision final. Employees of the BCU, *Canoe Focus* or the Southampton Boat Show and their family members may not enter.

1. Southampton is on what famous stretch of water?

- a) The Clyde
b) The Solent
c) The Wash

2. In which country will you find Canolfan Trywern Wild Water Centre?

- a) Wales
b) France
c) New Zealand

3. Who is the world-record holding WW canoeist

- a) Shaun Baker
b) Sean Connery
c) Sean Yates



Name:

Address:

Town:

Post code:

Tel no:

All entries by September 1, 2001 and should be sent to:
Canoe Competition,
2b Graphic Design
8 The Waits
St Ives
Cambs PE27 5BY

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national calls each month and a further 50 free text messages – terrific value for all your social and security use when away from home

Winners will receive the R310 handset, an outdoor adventure kit, car charger, personal hands-free and car mount. Connection to Vodafone or BTCellnet digital service is included together with a full one year subscription to BCU worth £30.

Simply answer the following questions and send in your entry

- Q. Who in the latest smash movie *Tomb Raider* used the Ericsson R310.
- Q. What is the lowest cost discounted Vodafone monthly line rental
- Q. Can you bring your own mobile number to a new service with Phones Express?



Name:

Address:

Town:

Post code:

Tel no:

Competition closes 15-9-2001 please post to:
 2b Graphic Design
 8 The Waits
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 Cambs PE27 5BY

Two winners of the competition will receive the fantastic Ericsson R310 package (see advert on page 2) and one year's airtime on Textsaver 600 worth £167.88. The competition is open to everybody – so if you order a mobile package and then go on to win you will still receive the airtime worth £167.88. The Textsaver 600 tariff includes 600 minutes (that's 10 hours!!) of free off-peak

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Airbag (large), suitable for Mobile Adventure Melody or similar, little used, good condition, any offer considered. Tel: Rod Brown on 01622 861215 or e-mail: rodmarj.brown@btinternet.com. Maidstone.

Aquabat, £150. Tel: Robert on 020 7267 4881 (home), 020 7679 4971 (work) or email r.hazell@ucl.ac.uk. NW London.

Aylingskya Sprint K1, international sprint construction in carbonfibre/Nomex honeycomb, 8 kg with seat. Lowline model suitable for lightweight senior or junior paddler, immaculate condition, only used for sprint racing £850. Tel: Grant Anderson 01636 672260.

Canadian, plywood, 16 ft, vgc, £200; GRP mould for same canoe £60; two-seater Thames canoe and two double paddles, £60; Hiawatha wood-strip by Canoe Craft, vgc, £500. Tel: 01702 586415. Essex.

Child's GRP slalom canoe, Classic GRP Surf Shoe and GRP Rotobat, no reasonable offer refused. Tel: Dave Brook on 01614343559 or e-mail: david.brook5@btinternet.com.

Dagger Alpy kayak, green, full WW spec, very stable and forgiving – designed for big waters but happy on all rivers, vgc, £300 ono. Tel: Kevin or Linda on 01592 202502. Fife area.

Dagger Atom C1 Playboat and river running boat, superb condition, fully kitted out with straps, seat and bow and stern caps, £ 450 - a bargain; also available Dagger new deck. Tel: Mike Beechey on 01455 445723 or e-mail MikeBeech@aol.com. Can deliver to Holme Pierpoint.

Dagger Vengeance, black/green with end-caps, good condition – 18 months old. Can deliver to Tryweryn/Llangollen. Tel: Adrian Powell on 01922 494449. West Midlands.

Dagger Blast, purple with black bands, excellent condition – stored indoors, £100 bargain. Tel: 0208 647 6211 or e-mail: karenrob@globalnet.co.uk. Surrey.

Dagger Dynamo, purple, excellent condition with new back rest. Can bring it to slaloms and other white water venues. Tel: 01227 373036 or e-mail Lucy_Gettins@hotmail.com.

Dagger Dynamo, one year old and only used about 15 times, vgc almost as new. E-mail: jecca_b@hotmail.com.

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

Dagger Prophet, open canoe, complete with fittings and airbags £700; MI 370 slalom kayak – 10 for sale, at £100 each; four Europa kayaks at £100 each; four Fulchion kayaks at £100 each. Tel: Kevin on 0118 948 1425.

Dagger Reflection 15, blue with vinyl trim, mint condition, £800; Dagger Legend 15, red with wooden trim, mint condition, £1,000. Both as new. Tel: Simon on 01934 518505 or e-mail: hairy_boater@compuserve.com.

Dagger Reflection 15, blue, vinyl trim, brand new and still wrapped RRP £999 for sale at £800; Dagger Legend 15, red, ash trim, also brand new and still wrapped, RRP £1,250, for sale at £1,000. Tel: 01934 518505 or 077194 05032.

Dagger RPM, multi-coloured, well used but good condition, with Bomber Gear backstrap, buoyancy bags and spraydeck, £300; also Prijon Rockit, ideal creeking boat, good condition, with buoyancy bags and spraydeck, £200. Tel: Ian on 01725 552769 or e-mail lands.repper@btinternet.com. Dorset.

Eskimo Diablo Evolution, blue, 12 months old, excellent condition, airbags front and rear, £375. Tel: Diane on 01675 464008. Birmingham.

Eskimo Diablo, yellow, full WW spec, good condition £250 ono. Tel: Chris on 0115 9624372. Notts.

Eskimo Zwo £400ono Tel: James on 07703 767167 or e-mail: sayhi22001@yahoo.co.uk

Eskimo Zwo, blue with airbag and endcaps, garage stored, great on a wave, only £250 ono, available to try at the Nene white water course, can deliver to Holme Pierpoint or Hurley. Tel: 01604 750789

Gaybo Perception reflex kayak, kevlar, good condition, £70 ono, buyer to collect; carbon asymmetric paddles 212cm, right hand, good

condition, £60 ono; Neoprene spraydeck to fit above kayak £30 ono; dry bag, helmet and buoyancy aid also available.

Tel: 0121 706 9606. Birmingham area.

Eurokayak Sunbeam junior kayak, blue, airbags, backrest, footrests, vgc, Ainsworth paddle and spraydeck included, £120. Tel: Tom Veale on 0192427 1410 or mobile 0777 360 5701 or e-mail: Tom_Veale@hotmail.com.

Eurokayak Sunbeam junior kayak, complete with neoprene and nylon spraydecks, airbags, Azzali junior paddle and helmet, £200 ono. Tel: Grahame Coles on 01772 712577 or e-mail: coles@coles.worldonline.co.uk.

Nomad Extra, slalom kayak, light/dark blue, kevlar deck, kevlar/carbon hull, complete with Badger footrests (unfitted), excellent condition – rarely used, £195. Tel: Andrea on 01634 380437 anytime. Gillingham, Kent.

H2O Zone-Blue, vgc, £400. Tel: Simon on 0796 774 3555 or 0175 226 2520. Plymouth.

InaZone 230, good condition, £400 ono or swap for a Dagger Redline. Tel: Steve on 07989 473762 or e-mail: SteveEd@hotmail.com. Kendal.

InaZone 220, red/black, good condition, £340 ono; Wavesport X, reasonable condition, £300 ono. Tel: Rich or Jay on 01244 543609.

Jaguar Marathon K1 in good condition, good intermediate boat. £150 ono (no seat). Tel: Liz on 07971 830699. Beds.

Kirton Kayak K2 Mirage, over-stern rudder, foot rests, seat, good condition, £400; K1 Lancer, under-stern rudder, footrest, 'G' seat, £125. Tel: 01935 816753.

Madrigger Outrage, open canoe, fully outfitted, airbags, pedestal etc, excellent condition, £600 ono. Tel: Steve on 01903 501699 or e-mail: ferner4@cwcom.net.

Mega Cyclone, surf kayak, carbon and kevlar construction, £400. Tel: Simon on 0796 774 3555 or 0175 226 2520.

Microbat 240, blue, full WW spec, ideal boat for beginners/intermediates, vgc, £280 ono. Tel: Kevin or Linda on 01592 202502. Fife area.

Mobile Adventure Prelude, 3 m, full WW spec open canoe, complete with saddle, front and rear float bags and Mike Yee outfitting kit, excellent play/river runner only used four times, due to knee injury, offers around £700. Can be delivered within 100 miles of Leicester. Tel: Darren on 01455 840289 (eve) or 07990 596222 (day) or e-mail: Darren.kendell1@btinternet.com or daz_k2@hotmail.com.

Necky Bliss, lime/orange, excellent condition, less than 1 yr old, £425. Tel: David on 0151 645 5235/07702 817152.

Necky Gliss, orange fading to green, good condition, £380. Tel: Lisel on 01432 357343. Hereford area. Can deliver to Tryweryn.

Necky Jive, red/yellow, 12 months old, good condition, £350. Tel: 0151 645 4566 or e-mail: james@jatkinnson.fsnet.co.uk. North West.

Old Town 119K, solo open canoe, red, crosslink, lacing points for airbag attachments already fitted, excellent condition – two years old £380 ono. Tel: Robert on 01434 632039.

Old Town 146, good condition £400 ono. Tel: Dave Bateman on 0121 772 3739. Birmingham.

Old Town 158, including two buoyancy aids and two paddles, fully bagged out, excellent condition, £600; twin-axle galvanised steel 14ft flatbed trailer with rack, fitted with two storage baskets, suitable for four open boats, £1,500, converts in minutes; Pendle bike rack for tow bar, holds four bikes, £75; two Thule bike roof racks, £30 pair; also various dry bags and cags etc. Tel: 01855 821248. Fort William.

Open boat, 16ft fibreglass, little use, £150 ono; Mountain Bat, full WW spec, £175 ono; C1 racer, closed cockpit Gaybo International, £75;

Dancer XT, two years old, never used on anything above grade-one, £200 ono. Tel: Mark on 07771 652082 or e-mail: Mshim30@aol.com. Can deliver to Nottingham.

Perception Acadia touring kayak, almost new, £160 (cost was £325). Tel: EP Roberts on 01332 701938.

Perception single Kiwis (two) and two Perception Spectrum Expedition, plus rudders and all equipment, open to offers. Tel or fax: 020 8558 4853. London area.

Perception Kiwi 1 kayak, £75 ono. Tel: Craig Fern on 07719804 129, yellow, bought May 2000, only used 2/3 times (too far from water!). Tel: Craig Fern on 07719804 or e-mail: great_whites69@hotmail.com.

Perception Methodair, brand new – still in its

wrapping. Reason for Sale: to fund a member of the British Freestyle Team. Tel: Alistair on 07881 656544 or e-mail: adeavin@hotmail.com.

Perception Super Sport, red, good condition, £200 ono. Tel: 01286 870161 evenings or e-mail: chrisradford@lineone.net.

Perception Corsica S, purple, full WW Spec, Drain plug, full plate foot rest. Perfect beginners or river running boat, very little use, excellent condition £250. Tel: Steve on 07810 543 504.

Perception Kiwi singles (2) plus two Perception Spectrum Expeditions plus rudders and all equipment. Offers, tel/fax: Janis Gibbs on 0208 558 4853. London.

Perception Methode Air, in multi-blue, with Gorilla Rodeo x HPS paddle and yak, spray deck, all unused, £600 ono. Tel: Darren on 01246 224534. Chesterfield.

Perception Mirage Club, red, neoprene deck, used one season only £130. Tel: Mark Prentice on 01249 758889. Chippenham.

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

Perception Overflow, yellow, WW spec, neoprene spray deck and Answorth paddle RH200, brand new – unused £395 ono. Tel: Nick on 023 92291035. Portsmouth.

Perception Super Sport, blue/purple, WW spec, good condition. Tel: Alistair 07881 656544 or e-mail:adeavin@hotmail.com

Perception Whiplash, red, good condition – three years old, £190 ono. Tel: Robert on 01434 632039.

P&H Quattro slalom boat, full carbon/epoxy construction, with Neoprene spraydeck, excellent condition – never bent or folded. Tel: Mark Aplin on 01373 864918 or e-mail: mark.aplin@talk21.com. Wiltshire.

Prijon Fly, blue, and red/yellow Perception Whip-it, both in good condition, £200 each. Tel: Gary on 07801-924 884. London.

Prijon Kendos, one of two must go! One red, full plate footrest, backstrap, £250, the other a **Kendo Starlight**, red, full plate footrest, backstrap, £350. Tel: Mark or Kath 01373 864918 or e-mail: markandkath@talk21.com.

Pyranha Blade, red, full plate footrest, excellent condition, £350 ono. Tel: Jenny on 01978 861910 or e-mail: jenny@dwrg-gwyn.freeserve.co.uk.

Pyranha Blade, yellow/black, new 1999, excellent surfer, full WW spec, adjustable footrest, drainage plug, good condition – stored indoors, £300. Tel: Alison on 01634 716334. Kent.

Pyranha Creek 280, vgc, full WW spec, backrest, full plate footrest, airbags, always stored indoors, £230. Tel: John on 07884 181828 or e-mail: lucasj66@hotmail.com.

Pyranha Ina Zone 240, good condition – stored indoors, full WW spec, £400; also Gorilla Rodeo X paddles, £50. For more info tel: John on 07968 802 813.

Pyranha Magic Bat, blue, plate foot rest, air bags etc, excellent beginners/intermediate boat used mainly on flat/level 1 water so only superficial scratches. Tel: Freddie Exall on 01422 843882 or e-mail: 00000216@huddnewcoll.ac.uk.

Pyranha ProZone 235, red/orange, spare seat, fittings and foam included, nine months old, excellent condition – only used at Holme Pierpoint £450. Tel: 0115 878 9431. Nottingham.

Pyranha Ina Zome 240, orange/red, 18 months old, good condition, £350. Tel: Andrew on 02476 373524 (eve) or e-mail: andrewheaward@lineone.co.uk. Located in Midlands – can deliver to Nottingham or Neane.

Pyranha Master with paddle, airbags, spraydeck and skeg, £150; offers on a 17 ft plywood Sea Rover kayak with outrigger, also a roofrack. Tel: Lionel on: 01522 879931 or e-mail: l.moore@nlincs-coll.ac.uk. Lincoln area.

Prozone 230, orange & black, about one year old £420 ono. Can be seen at the Nene WW Centre. Tel: Chris on 07801 456688 e-mail: chris77@btinternet.

Pyranha Creek 280, red, WW spec, good condition – stored inside £170. Tel: Paul on 01332 574 999 or e-mail: Paul@eastwoodbll.fsnet.co.uk. Nottingham.

Pyranha Mountain 300, WW spec, airbags, with spraydeck, helmet and buoyancy aid, used very little – vgc, £285. Tel: Craig on 0191 3830308.

Pyranha Prospector open canoe, wood, web seats, green, 18 months old, £500. (RRP £900). Tel: Andy Bond on 01332 383698.

Pyranha Traveller 15 Canadian, used three times, £575. Tel: Mark on 0800 5426785 or e-mail: mark@brookbankcanoes.co.uk.

Riot 007, black, 10 months old, vgc, need quick sale, £275 ono. E-mail: Wkdwolf@gowild.co.uk.

Riot Disco, yellow, one-season old, fitted power

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Riot Slice, inc rodeo seat, good condition – one year old £375. Tel: 01903 267282.

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Roof bars for VW Golf Mk3, little used – still boxed, cost £70, will accept £30 ono. Tel: James on 01798 831181. Sussex.

Slalom K1 Nomad Mystery, £150 ono. Tel: 01509 556769.

Thule 451 roof bars set plus 174 mounting kit, for old style BMW 3-Series coupé or the bars can be used with mounting kits for other cars, available from Thule, with locks, £20 the lot. Tel: Roger Wisdom on 020 7229 2617 or 07711 730 891. London.

Wave Sport Fore-Play, 2001 model, black/red, fitting kit and air bags, Playboat spraydeck, immaculate – hardly used £495 ono. Tel: Nick on 023 92291035. Portsmouth.

WW buoyancy aid, instructor style, looks new, cost £110, will accept £55 ono. E-mail: Wkdwolf@gowild.co.uk.

Wave Sport Stubby, multi-coloured, full WW spec, airbags, Neoprene spraydeck, stored indoors – one owner, vgc, £350. Tel: Colin on 01623 743840 or mobile 0775 273 2979.

We-no-nah open slalom canoe, rare boat imported in 1980s by Mobile Adventure, squiggle blue finish, £200 ono. Tel: 01794 341655. Hampshire.

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8 to 10 kayaks suitable for beginners' lessons (e.g. Dancers, Whip-its or similar) and load trailer for minimum 8 kayaks. Tel: Matt on 01926 889928.

Canadian Canoe for family use, Old Town, Mad River or similar. Tel: David Reeve on 01483 282063. Surrey.

Discovery K2 for Paddle Ability team. Tel: Viv Kendrick on 01484 460154 (eve) or 01484 226235 (wk) or e-mail: viv.kendrick@wynruss.co.uk.

Kirton Cleaner X, marathon weight. Tel: John Parker on 01299 824344.

Perception Method Air for purchase with spraydeck, test paddle preferred. Tel: Rob Cook on 01635 200 534 or 07753 843 567 or e-mail: rob.cook@sidonet.co.uk. Newbury, Berkshire.

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Sea kayak wanted by tall and heavy paddler, based in Cumbria but can travel. Anything considered. Tel: 015396 20118.

Secondhand all-rounder wanted, RPM, Redline, Whip-it, Whip-lash or similar, up to around £200 live in St Albans and have a polo boat but want an all rounder for fun at the week-ends etc. I can afford up to around £200. Tel: Lyndsey Russell, Planning Assistant TNE, on 0208 214 4984; mobile: 07957 439925; fax: 0208 214 5113, or e-mail: lyndsey.russell@onezone.co.uk

LOST

Werner Sidekick paddles, black carbonfibre, 194cm, 60° feather, lost at Croyd beach carpark on April 16. Tel: John Parton on 01782 595234.

FOUND:

Waterproof camera found on the River Eke, near Anchorinn, after probably the SW Region Canoe Camp, Oct. 2000, photos developed. Tel: Dave Ford on 01275-858334, or e-mail D.Ford@btinternet.com.

STOLEN

Dagger Redline, blue, stolen in Bristol area on May 9. Contact with any info please. Tel: Lee Coles on 01249 705070 or e-mail: lcoles@orielsystems.com.

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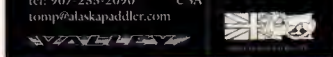
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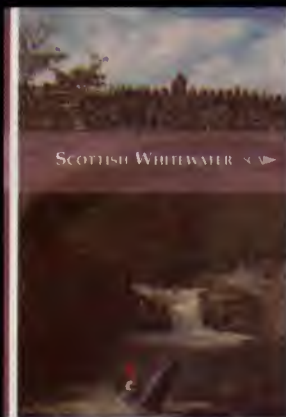
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Your key to Scottish WW runs



Scottish Canoeing Association.
2001 'Scottish Whitewater'.
Gwynedd.
Pesda Press.

This innovative book is a comprehensive guide to the rivers of Scotland, and comes highly recommended. Unusually, but commendably, proceeds from sales are to be donated to The Access Trust, with the aim of protecting and enhancing access to Scottish inland and coastal waters.

The first chapter deals with access and responsible behaviour for paddlers, and highlights the SCA website, through which river advisers can be contacted for up-to-date information on given stretches of water.

There is no overall writer of the book but, instead, each river is credited to one or more paddlers who have been given the opportunity to research the run, and then reflect their knowledge and expertise.

With 190 of "the best whitewater rivers in Scotland", organised into four geographical areas, further sub-divided by locality, each section has an excellent thumb-index giving name, grade, length, OS sheet, level gauge, and 'full-facer' and 'footprint' icons, designed to shed further light on the nature of the river and the walk in/out.

The dagger is a further icon, indicating that the river might have had only one or two descents, or is subject to periodic change. However, the caveat to "go to a river with open eyes and an open mind, proceed with caution, take nothing for granted and make your own mind up" is salient advice for paddlers of all levels of experience.

The book is clearly written, accompanied by a range of impressive colour and black and white photographs, and offers clearly marked maps to help navigation to and from rivers.

In short, 'Scottish Whitewater' offers the paddler as much whitewater as they are likely to want, its strength being in its readability, friendly format, and the quality of information it contains.

I hesitate to say this but 'Scottish Whitewater' looks definitive. That's potentially a dangerous statement, but the work clearly sets the standard for future guide books to be measured against.

Getting the curves right

Do you design or build canoes and kayaks? Then listen up: New Wave Systems Inc. (www.newwavesys.com) has just released ProSurf 3, a major new version of its hull design and fairing programme.

After 15 years of development, ProSurf 3 has evolved into a general-purpose trimmed NURB surface modelling programme, offering unique features – such as using edit points that lie on the NURB curves and surfaces, dynamic curvature feedback for fairing, fine tune shaping commands, dynamic geometry constraints, editing and shelling of polysurfaces, plate development and expansion, hydrostatics, stability and resistance calculations and a database of airfoil shapes.

"Over the years, our boat and ship design programme has evolved into one that can handle any three-dimensional shape," says Stephen Hollister, president of the company, adding, "We wrote all of the code in ProSurf 3. It does not use any third party software or kernel and it contains unique capabilities that cannot easily be duplicated.

"We are also being very aggressive about

lowering the price of ProSurf 3 to \$795. No other surface modelling programme provides the same capabilities at anywhere near that price. We also have a new ProBasic 3 programme at \$395 and a new ProChine 3 programme at \$195."

The canoe shown in the picture is the result of fitting or skinning a surface through measurement points taken off of an existing boat. The canoe was measured by hand and the offsets typed into a spreadsheet programme. Then the offsets were read into our ProSurf programme. The station or section points were curvefit and a surface was fit through the sections plus the bow and stern profiles. This picture shows the results of that process. Note that this canoe has not yet been faired using the fine-tune move commands and the curvature analysis tools.

Newwave have been developing and selling their ProSurf programme for boat and ship design for over 15 years. Although we have been aggressive about lowering our prices, the new version of ProSurf involves a doubling in size and capability of the programme and great reduction in price, from \$1995 to just \$795. However, most canoe and kayak designers and builders would be perfectly satisfied by our \$395 ProBasic version.

Full descriptions, articles, help files, examples, and a demonstration version of ProSurf 3 are now available at www.newwavesys.com. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at shollist@newwavesys.com



Great introduction

The long lived Necky Jive Eight Ten has been re-priced for 2001 to make it an astute purchase for the beginner/intermediate paddler.

Measuring in at 2.7M and featuring a planing hull, generous volume distribution and very forgiving chines makes this a great introduction to river running and playing. Now available at a price of just £399 with full whitewater specifications. For more information, contact your dealer or telephone PeakUK: (44) 01629 581222



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Canoeecraft

An Illustrated Guide to Fine Woodstrip Construction

Ted Moores

Revised and Expanded
Second Edition

ISBN 1-55209-342-5;

Paperback £ 14.95;

Firefly Books imprint;

Publication: May 28, 2001.



Canoeecraft teaches more than how to build a canoe, it teaches about life. Much of what can be applied to building a canoe well can be applied to doing anything well.

In this new edition of *Canoeecraft*, the first in its 17-year history, you will find significant updates, improvements and expansions. New resins, tools, a changing audience and more than a few new things learned by the author, meant it was time for a complete revision. There is more advanced information for the second-time boat builder, a larger variety of and clearer plans, an additional series of builder's tips – tricks of the trade and a new chapter on making your own paddle, along with new techniques like building a stapleless boat.

We hope you will agree this new version of *Canoeecraft*, "the Bible of canoe building" has something for everyone, particularly those looking to build well-crafted wooden boats.

Whether your goal is to build a general-purpose recreational canoe, an efficient modern tripping canoe or a full-decked fast cruising canoe with walnut veneer, *Canoeecraft* can help you make it happen.

Bliss-stick kayaks

Bliss-stick kayaks are a well known brand in the southern hemisphere producing New Zealand's top playboats the Blitz and Blitz Special. The Special has already created a legacy dominating major New Zealand and Australian rodeos as well as placing 11th in the world championships paddled by designer Richard Sage.

Rasdex are now the UK distributors for Bliss-stick and will be distributing the Blitz, Special and the new Freestyler (for the bigger paddler). Demo boats are available at the Tryweryn, Mile End Mill and Nottingham. The boats are priced at £649.00 and whilst stocks last a free Bliss-stick T-shirt and baseball cap free with each boat. There will also be limited addition Bliss-stick bank jackets and decks.



Rasdex have put together a Bliss-team of paddlers who will be paddling all the events around the country and taking the demo fleet along. Contact Rasdex on 0115 981 3323

www.rasdex.co.uk

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Prijon Kodiak

"Good grief, this thing's long!" was my first reaction on getting into the Prijon Kodiak. "I can hardly see the end of it!"

And at 5.2m it is, unarguably, long but then that's okay, it's a sea kayak, it's supposed to be. I'd just been spending too much time in rodeo boats wondering where my legs had gone.

In fact, the length of the Kodiak is what makes it such a good boat. Combined with Prijon's trihedral hull design, it makes for a fast, stable sea or touring kayak. The hull tapers into a pronounced keel line at the front and rear, which gives it excellent tracking ability. Of course, this does involve sacrificing some manoeuvrability and I would definitely recommend the optional rudder outfit which is simple to fit and very effective.

The build quality is top notch, as you would expect from Prijon. Super strong blowmoulded plastic means that the boat is very rigid and doesn't flex or sag like some of its rivals. It also removes the need for a central foam pillar, so you get lots of leg room and an easy exit. The external rigging is also well thought out, with deck lines, tow lines and well-placed netting for maps, water bottles, sun cream etc.

Something I've often found with sea kayaks is that they have huge storage compartments but only tiny hatches to squeeze your gear in through. The problem is that putting a big hole in the deck compromises the strength of the structure. Luckily, this is where Prijon's blowmoulded plastic comes into its own again. It is stiff enough to allow decent sized gear hatches to access the enormous 173 litres of storage space. These hatches are well sealed with a neoprene hatch cover and a solid plastic cover over that. Your gear won't get wet, and the boat handles well when heavily loaded.

Peering into the cockpit, the outfitting is deceptively simple – some might say "minimalist". I paddled 4500km in a Prijon Yukon with similar outfitting and have come to appreciate the beauty of this simplicity. It works, it doesn't break, and it is very comfortable.

There isn't a lot to fault about the Kodiak, but I'll do my best. Firstly, at 28kg it's a little on the heavy side, but then that is the price you pay for indestructibility. Secondly, I'm not too keen on the carrying handles, which are typical toggle and webbing design. While there's nothing wrong with that, I prefer Prijon's sturdy plastic handles which allow you to lock the boat to things. Lastly, I noticed that there is no facility for carrying a split paddle on the deck, which could make things tricky out at sea.

Purists may find Prijon's Carbon-Kevlar 'Millenium' (weighing in at only 18kg!) more tempting, but if you're after a fast touring or sea kayak that does it all and will last for ever, then the Prijon Kodiak may be the boat for you.

Contact Avoncraft on 01707 330000

Review by Richard Boddington

www.avoncraft.co.uk



Kodiak Specs:

Length 518cm
Weight 26kg
Capacity 150 kg
Available in Granite, Yellow, Red

Width 59 cm
Cockpit 92 x 59cm
Stow capacity: Stern 50L, Bow 125L

Ocean Defences

PeakUK's 2001 range features two new jackets and one new vest for the ocean and touring market. The Ocean Calm and Ocean Storm Jackets provide protection for all weathers.

For summer days paddling in our unpredictable weather conditions, the Ocean Calm is made from light & breathable PeakUK DBS hex ripstop fabric, features an adjustable

hood with a drawcord and smallpeak, long chest zip for ventilation with chinguard, front pocket, adjustable drawcord waist and neoprene cone wrists to prevent water seepage.

The Ocean Storm is based on the same cut as the Calm but made from PeakUK's DBS 3 three-layer fabric. It features all the best protection, with double wrist seals, an opening inner neo neck, the same large hood with zip, drawcord peak and adjuster, a double neoprene waist, and front pocket. Both jackets have reflective stripes for easy recognition.

The new Sea Vest is made from a tough cordura and ripstop inner, with superflex foam flotation. Cut for performance, it has front and rear pockets, with a key clip in the front pocket and reflective striping both front and rear. The Sea Zip has also been updated for 2001 with the same reflective features and key clips in both front pockets. The full range is available now in stores around the world.

For more information, contact your dealer or tel: Tel (44) 01629 581222



www.peakuk.com

Style in hand

Part of Endless River's new range of stylish open canoe paddles, the Eagle, at £69, is a fine beavertail touring paddle made from one-piece American Walnut, with a comfortable full palm grip.

The high gloss varnish accentuates the dark good looks of this very attractive wood, but the top grip area is left unvarnished for superior



grip. The walnut wood gives a fairly firm feel with less flex in the shaft than you find in some paddles and a fine but hard edge to the 54 x 19 cm blade.

In use, the Eagle is a joy, with no appreciable blade flutter, yet recovering sharply through the water, giving good control in manoeuvring and a positive feel. The fairly wide blade grabs the water and allows rapid acceleration, but is not so wide nor the shaft so stiff as to make all-day touring use tiring.

The Hawk, at £49, is a square tipped touring paddle and has a cherry wood shaft with a cherry and walnut laminate blade and palm grip. The warm deep honey colour of the cherry looks very attractive next to the dark walnut and again the rich colours and grain are enhanced by a deep gloss varnish, except for the top grip, giving a good combination of protection to the wood and grip/control over the paddle.

The walnut sides of the 54 x 18 cm blade again give the paddle fine but hard edges, while the cherry shaft again has a firm feel but adds its colour and lighter weight to the paddle.

Priced at £45, the Owl is a beavertail touring paddle with an ash shaft and an ash/walnut laminate blade and grip. Once again, the woods are enhanced in appearance and protected by a deep gloss varnish, apart from the grip, and the paddle is very attractive with the contrast of white ash and deep brown walnut.

The 54 x 17 cm blade enjoys the same edge sharpness of the walnut as the Eagle and Hawk, while the ash shaft gives the firm feel and all-day paddling comfort that you want from a quality paddle.

The slightly narrower blade, plus the

beavertail shaping make this paddle lighter to pull through the water than the Eagle and quieter than the Hawk.

The £55 Vulture is a Sugar Island paddle designed for use in moving water and combines a cherry wood shaft with a cherry, poplar and walnut laminate square-tipped blade that has a resin edge (to save the wood from damage if you clip the odd rock) and a cherry/poplar laminate handle.

The blade edges are noticeably thicker than on the touring paddles, but this handsome 56 x 20 cm blade is efficient and pleasant to use, if somewhat 'noisier' than the touring paddles.

The blade and shaft have the same protective and attractive deep gloss varnish as the others in the range, yet this paddle is much paler in looks – not having so much walnut in its construction – and very handsome in its own right. The shafts on the three touring paddles are comparatively slim – excellent for those with smaller hands – while the Vulture has a thicker shaft for extra strength and giving a meatier grip.

All these paddles look well made and finished (though some of the paddle tips suffer from having blobs of excess varnish spoiling their lines), are very pleasant to use and have individual characteristics in looks, performance and feel.

Contact: Endless River, PO Box 699, Worcester, WR2 6ZL; tel: 01905 640003; e-mail www.endlessriver.co.uk.

John Fenna

www.endlessriver.co.uk

Get the sack

Pioneer's The Ultimate Trek is a smart and practical day sack that, despite its modest size – around 30 litre capacity – has a host of features that make it attractive to anyone involved in paddle sports.

As well as a well padded, quick-drying back and S-shaped shoulder straps, the day sack has drainage holes in the base of the main compartment and an internal 100% waterproof pocket almost the full size of the back panel.

This waterproof pocket measures some 30cm x 28cm and has a double seal plus a fold-down

Velcro flap, and also forms the front of an open-topped pocket against the back panel.

The removable 'organiser' that can clip onto either the D-rings at the top of the panel or the supplied shoulder strap, is very useful with its main zip topped, mesh-sided main pocket, its front, velcro-closed mesh pocket and the elastic loops on its back panel.

The day sack closes with a

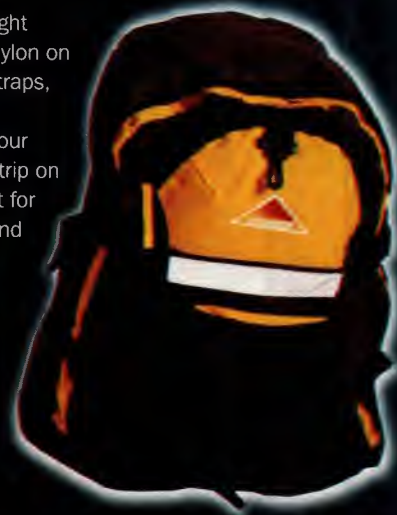
chunky zip with a storm flap that runs around the top two-thirds of the front panel. This panel boasts a small, shaped zip closed top pocket and an accessory clip. Below this top pocket is a floating pocket stitched at the bottom to the front of the day sack, yet held at the top by the top pair of side compression straps.

The front of this floating pocket is designed for bulky items such as helmets and also boasts more pockets – a zip closed one and an elastic-topped mesh-sided one – as well as an adjustable elastic web for holding other accessories.

Made from a fairly lightweight proofed nylon with texturised nylon on the front, base and shoulder straps, the Ultimate Trek comes in an attractive grey/black/yellow colour combination with a reflective strip on the top of the "floating" pocket for safety at night, and costs around £50.

Contact: Pioneer Outdoor Adventure Stinsford Road, Nuffield Industrial Estate, Poole, Dorset, BH17 0SW; tel: 01202 493 825.

John Fenna



Waterproof, windproof, breathable, super thermals from Reed Chill Cheater

Whether a beginner or a full-on fanatic, the cold can affect us all. Keep warm and move freely wherever you go in the latest kit from Reed Chill Cheater.

Their full range of ultra lightweight super thermals and separates utilise a unique and revolutionary stretchy polyurethane laminate fabric called Aquatherm. This fabric is less than 1 mm thick, and as such the Chill Cheater Short Sleeve Top weighs less than 250 g.

Chill Cheaters have proven to be ground breaking, particularly in their insulating properties relative to their weight. It's no lightweight however when it comes to performance. The matt black smooth skin outer surface dispels water instantly and dries within moments reducing wind chill, a key feature for any fast surface water activity. All seams are externally stitched and fully taped, giving a smooth and fully waterproof outer surface. The Aquatherm fabric has 300% greater abrasion resistance than neoprene. Next to the skin, the inner surface has a smooth, comfortable, polyester knit that is impregnated with an anti-bacterial agent ensuring both freshness and comfort.

Worn on their own, the super thermals are ideal for use in spring, summer and autumn. In colder weather they can be worn as a thermal booster layer under a Chill Cheater Dry Cag.

The full range of separates are designed to cover the whole body from head to toe, with seven sizes for each of the men's and women's styles and four sizes for kids.

Complimenting the waterproof Aquatherm styles are a complete range of fast wicking, high lycra content 'Transpire Fleece's'. Designed as a technical base layer, the inner combed surface of these garments, which sits next to the skin, is highly effective at drawing perspiration away from the body.

Prices start from £15 for separates and go up to £95 for the newest addition to the range, the Chill Cheater Long Sleeve Dry Cag.

Chill Cheaters are available by mail order or from quality stockists.

For a free brochure and price list and for stockist details call:

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www.chillcheater.com



Get ahead – get a hat



To a lot of people, the image of an open canoeist is that of an over-40, bearded and somewhat grizzled type wearing a wide-brimmed hat, cruising along on a remote river, at peace with the world.

Despite this being only one sector of the open canoe spectrum – young bloods thrashing white water being equally valid these days), I have to admit fitting this image to a 'T'.

The most important part of the image for me is the hat. Manufactured in Canada – home of open canoeing – the Tilley T3 is made from rain and mildew resistant 10 oz cotton duck with British brass fittings, a piece of closed cell foam in the crown, and a "wind cord" double chin-strap system.

These materials, combined with superb workmanship, allow the hat to be almost indestructible (one has famously been eaten three times by an elephant!), be comfortable in sun and rain, float (if you swim) stay on in a gale, look good and feel good, be a totally practical hat and really look the part for open canoe paddling.

Available in 10 sizes for the perfect fit and in five colour options, the Tilley T3 with its wide brim, almost indestructible construction and pure practicality, costs approx £42: not cheap, but worth the cost if you want the best and most stylish canoeing headwear.

Contact Tilley Endurables, 6 Tresprison Court, Heiston, Cornwall, TR13 0QD; tel 01326 574402; e-mail info@tilley-uk.demon.co.uk.

John Fenna

Sail Into The Sun With Nautica Eyewear

Nautica Eyewear has been making a real splash amongst the UK's yachting community with its extensive range of polarized sunglasses. The unique qualities of Nautica's lenses ensure that sailors will no longer have to suffer the sun's glare.

The Nautica brand, distributed exclusively in the UK by Marchon, boasts high performance lenses, which provide excellent clarity of vision with 100% polarization to reduce glare from sunlight and reflections. These properties, combined with 100% UV protection, make them ideal for the broad range of sun infiltration experienced when sailing.

Nautica's extensive range of polarized sunglasses, designed by the company's world famous designer, David Chu, mean that

canoeists need no longer worry that they will have the sun in their eyes as they spy out the river ahead. The subtle styling of the collection makes the Nautica Sunwear range appealing to both men and women alike. With such a wide choice of colours and styles; ranging from bold to traditional, the Nautica Sunwear range offers the perfect combination of functionality, technical genius and great looks – enabling you to stand out from the crowd at any paddling fest!

Flexon Frames

Sailors like Tony Bullimore, who wear prescription glasses, are also now turning their attention to Marchon's Flexon range. Flexon frames are flexible, strong and lightweight, providing excellent fit and comfort, which make

them ideal for active sports such as canoeing. Flexon frames are made of titanium metal alloy that can "remember" its original set shape – it



is eight times springier than spring steel, 25% lighter than conventional metals, corrosion resistant and fatigue resistant making it an ideal metal for producing frames. The reliability of Flexon frames mean that paddlers need no longer worry about packing an extra pair of glasses when taking to the rivers or seas for long trips. With Flexon one pair is all that you need!

For further information or to view samples please contact Gemma Oakes or Gemma Hart at Craigie Taylor International on Tel: 01483 209816/209853 or Email: goakes@craigietaylor.co.uk

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