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# canoe focus

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**Front cover picture:**  
Anna Hemmings and Helen Gilby on  
their way to gold in the Marathon  
World Championships.  
**Photo: Willie Wijdekop**

**Canoe Focus**  
The official magazine  
of the British Canoe Union  
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West Bridgford, Notts NG2 5AS  
Tel: (0115) 9821100  
Fax: (0115) 9821797  
**E-mail: [info@bcu.org.uk](mailto:info@bcu.org.uk)**  
**[www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)**  
ISBN 0953-010X

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**Annual Subscription Rate**

**UK inland:** £17.00

**Overseas:** £21.50

Supplied free to BCU members -

**adults:** £26.00 basic

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**under 18's:** £13.00 basic

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# COMMENT

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive

## Slalom world championships

**As I write this Comment news is coming in about the cancellation of the Slalom World Championships, which were due to take place in America. The reason of course is associated with the terrible terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon buildings. I know our slalom team is desperately disappointed at not being able to bring their season to a close by participating in the Worlds, their expectations being particularly high across all classes. However, their disappointment pails into insignificance when one considers the losses encountered to people from many nations affected by the situation in the USA. Although disappointing, the decision to cancel the championships is fully supported by our athletes and coaches who would have found competing very difficult at such a time.**

## Ninth Marathon Racing and first Junior Marathon Racing World Championships

This was certainly a truly memorable and successful event with 32 nations taking part. David Enoch, the Event Director, was rightly heralded for his magnificent achievement in pulling the event together, the ICF awarding both David and the BCU commemorative medals. On the paddling front a double gold medal for Anna Hemmings was just reward for an outstanding weekend's racing. To become world champion once in a weekend is a magnificent achievement but to do it twice is quite amazing, congratulations also to Helen Gilby who paddled to victory with Anna in the K2 event after being placed 5th in the singles category. Thanks also to our supporters, UK Sport, British Waterways and in particular Stockton Borough Council – see page 18 in this edition of Canoe Focus.

## Junior Sprint Worlds

An unfortunate clash of dates caused several juniors from different nations to have to choose between taking part in the Junior Sprint Racing World Championships in Brazil or the Junior Marathon Racing Championships in Stockton on Tees. A difficult choice for anybody but for Jenny Spencer it was particularly hard having won the European Marathon Championships in July. Jenny travelled to Brazil making two finals and achieving the bronze medal in the Junior Women's K1 1000m event.

## World Masters Games 2002

When Britain turns to winter how about a trip to the World Masters Games 2002. Over twenty sports will be represented in Melbourne, Australia during October and canoeing competition will be in sprint racing, marathon

racing and canoe polo. Organisers claim, "the World Masters Games are a slice of life. They are about people coming together to celebrate their love of the game and their passion for life" Further details from the BCU office.

## Devizes to Westminster 2002

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race is one of the largest events in the canoeing calendar, yet sadly the last two years have been very difficult for this classic. With the millennium race abandoned in 2000 and then this year's race cancelled due to foot and mouth the D/W's organisers are now making preparations for Easter 2002.

Despite the setbacks the organising team, ably led by Chair Tom Armitstead, remain enthusiastic and committed to re-establishing what to many is an Easter institution.

Further information is available on the web site [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk) and entry forms for Easter 2002 are available from the Competition Secretary, Boscombe Forge, Church Road, Bookham, Surrey, KT23 3JG.

## Peter Mitchell

The outstanding successes of the canoe polo team, the latest of which is highlighted above follow an enormous contribution from paddlers and supporters. Unfortunately, at this time the team does not enjoy funding from the World Class Programmes of UK Sport and Sport England and so rely entirely on voluntary management and coaching. Peter Mitchell has for several years been the section's team manager and his commitment and dedication has been outstanding. Sadly, Peter was taken ill on a recent trip to Belgium and is now recovering in hospital in Derby. Peter, from all of your friends in British canoeing, get well soon and we look forward to seeing you back on the circuit in the not too distant future.

## Polo European Championships

Congratulations to the canoe polo team who once again achieved outstanding success at the European Championships with the women's team winning the gold medal, the men the silver medal and the women's Under 21 team the bronze medal.

## Senior Sprint Racing World Championships

Well done to the Sprint Racing team who placed paddlers in five finals at the Sprint Racing World Championships in Poland. Building on from the success last year at the Sydney Olympics it was good to see so many of our sprint athletes approaching the medal zone.

## HRH The Princess Royal visits the World Marathon Racing Championships

Guest of honour at the Marathon Racing World Championships was Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal who as patron of the event attended the opening



ceremony. At a reception prior to the opening the Princess enjoyed being introduced to the Great Britain team, even sharing a few jokes with team members.



## Any questions?

A selection of quizzes and assessment questions which level-three coach Sandy Forrest uses for CCK star tests are freely available at <http://www.seabeagle.shetland.co.uk/stars.htm>. Sandy can provide Word97 copies if anyone is interested – please email him at [sandy@seabeagle.shetland.co.uk](mailto:sandy@seabeagle.shetland.co.uk)

## Double Dutch

Double Dutch UK are now the official importer for Epic Paddles of America. We can be contacted on 01256 703713 or e-mail [info@doubleddutchuk.com](mailto:info@doubleddutchuk.com)

# THE 8 COMMANDMENTS OF SURFING

WORDS BY SIMON HAMMOND ILLUSTRATIONS BY GRAHAM PEARCE

**1. DON'T PADDLE OUT THROUGH THE BREAK**

**2. DON'T ENDANGER OTHERS**

**3. DON'T HOG THE WAVES**

**4. DON'T DROP IN**

**5. MAINTAIN CONTROL**

**6. BE POLITE**

**7. KNOW YOUR LIMITS**

**8. SHARE THE SURF**

THE CREATORS OF THIS POSTER PERMIT FURTHER REPRODUCTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ANY OTHER REPRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

# Surf safety poster

Shoreline Outdoor Pursuits' Simon Hammond is currently working on a surf safety poster in the form of a comic strip on an A4 sheet.

Comments Simon: "As the SW paddlesport development officer and SW surf rep I have got involved in this due to the increasing danger which some paddlers are putting themselves and others under when they come to the coast for their summer surf trips.

"The poster is almost complete and our intention will be to make it available to as many visiting surfers and surf canoeists as possible, in order to provide them with some initial education. It will be free to copy and distribute."

**For copies contact:** Simon Hammond, Shoreline Outdoor Pursuits, 11a Crooklets Beach, Bude, Cornwall EX23 8NE, tel: 01288 354039.

## Phones Express Competition

The winners were...  
Wendy Robinson  
63 Clifton Place  
Shipley, West Yorks  
BD18 2AB

Pamela Crisp  
Glebe House,  
Station Road  
Reepham  
Norfolk NR10 4NB

We have written to the winners to convey the good news!

## Southampton Boat Show comp

The Wild One kayak competition winner was Kathryn Bromfield  
Lower Burraton  
Burraton  
Ivybridge PL21 9LA

Congratulations to all the winners

## The magnetic duo

Shaping up as one of the great epic voyages of canoeing history, Olly Sanders and Leo Hoare's planned 800 km paddle from Canada's Cornwallis Island to the Magnetic North Pole is involving the two Plas Y Brenin National Mountain Centre canoe instructors in an intensive preparation programme.

The duo spent three weeks this summer in Southeast Greenland, testing equipment, developing new techniques and devising a game plan for the attempt, which is planned for next August: "We have a small window of four weeks when it may be possible to paddle through the broken sea ice," says Olly, "We hope to link the series of islands and take food and other supplies for one month. We will have 24 hours of daylight at that time of year and plan to paddle in shifts to capitalise on this."

The Greenland expedition was planned to prepare the duo for the intensely cold conditions and for having to deal with such hazards and challenges as camping on glacial moraines, encounters with polar bears, living from a kayak and coping with communications equipment in extremely difficult conditions.

In preparation, Olly and Leo also recently undertook a gruelling crossing of the Irish Sea, from Holyhead to Dun Loaghaire, in a double kayak. This took a very exhausting 16 hrs 35 mins to complete and was designed to concentrate on all the aspects of big sea crossings that will be experienced on the way to the pole. Other training exercises are planned to the Outer Hebrides and Finland.

Information on the Magnetic North Pole expedition can be obtained from the expedition co-ordinator, **Lissie Smith, at Plas Y Brenin, Capel Curig, Conwy LL24 0ET, Wales, tel: 01690 720214.**

## BCU Regional agm dates

**Eastern Region's agm**, on Monday November 19 will be followed by a talk by Arthur Watts, titled 'Travels With Our Kayak to the North and South Pacific'.

Venue is The Club Room, University Athletics Ground, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge. Note: entrance will be via Grange Rd/Adams Rd only.

Maps of how to get there are available on request. Agenda items and apologies should be sent to the **minutes secretary, May Block, 27, Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NX, 01223 311715** or e-mail: [familyBlock@aol.com](mailto:familyBlock@aol.com)

**South West Region agm** will be held on Friday November 23, At Taunton Canoe Club, beginning at 7.30pm.

**Yorkshire agm** at the Queen's Hotel, Pontefract, is set to begin at 7.30pm on Thursday November 22.

**The NW Region agm** will take place on November 17 at 12:30 p,m at the Salford Quays Water Sports Centre.

**London and South East Region's agm** will be held from 5.00pm Saturday 1st December at the Thames Young Mariners where a coaching symposium will be taking place throughout the same day. Details are available from Paul Newman (see handbook for contact details) at [paulnewman@coachingpaddlesport.co.uk](mailto:paulnewman@coachingpaddlesport.co.uk)





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## abcchallenge

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circumnavigating the UK

next year and we thank

you for taking to the time

to visit our website.

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of the project at

[www.abcchallenge.org](http://www.abcchallenge.org)

## Perception on tour

If you have a question for Perception or wish to find out a little more about Perception kayaks you can pop along and see them at the following venues over the next few months.

**Paddlefest.** 6th and 7th October.

**BMIF Marine Trade Show (Trade Only).** 17th & 18th October

**Scottish Canoe Exhibition.** 20th and 21st October.

**Dee Tour.** 17th and 18th November.

Further dates TBA.

Team Perception will be on hand at the tours and festivals with a fleet of test kayaks for you to try and will be happy to offer technical assistance with any element of your paddling technique. For further details contact Perception Kayaks on 01825 765891 or by email [info@perception.co.uk](mailto:info@perception.co.uk).



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

## Progress for Devizes-Westminster

In his report to the Devizes to Westminster Organisation Ltd agm, held at the new Wokingham Watersports Centre, president Peter Begent emphasised the tremendous progress made by the team in building bridges between the authorities which run the canal and river and whose support is vital for the wellbeing of the annual Easter race. He spoke of the real sense of grief felt by all involved with the event over the decision to cancel this year's race as the country was gripped by the foot & mouth epidemic but drew strength from the support received from all quarters.

One of the major steps forward this year has been the successful negotiations with St Thomas's Hospital to provide a base for the Westminster team following the ongoing development below Westminster Bridge. The whole organisation was grateful to Gil Rooke for the time and effort spent on securing our future home and Tom hoped that St Thomas's would benefit through their role as joint charity beneficiaries with NCH for the 2002 event.

Director Tom Armitstead then introduced each of the team leaders, who made brief presentations on the work of their respective teams and answered questions from the members. Of particular interest was the state of the entries at the time the race was cancelled which stood around 60 crews. It is hoped that many of these will take up the challenge again in 2002. There were also questions regarding the state of the river this past Easter, which had been monitored by members of the team to test the new contingency plans.

The team elected for the coming year comprises: directors: Tom Armitstead, Paul Ralph, Colin Mackinlay; company secretary: Cherry Bapty; chair: Tom Armitstead; event coordinator: Paul Andrews; team leaders: Tony Roberts, communications; Tim Perks, safety; Tamsin Phipps; Julie Roberts, finance; Sally Peake, publicity.

It is hoped that the event's website at [www.drace.org.uk](http://www.drace.org.uk) will be more user-friendly and present a more modern image. It is intended that future leaflets and adverts for DW will follow a similar theme..

Before the meeting closed, Allan Bennett drew attention to a longstanding servant of DW who has retired from active involvement. David Keane paddled the race in the early 1950s and went on to design many different boats in his endeavours to improve the times of leading crews. he has been an active member of the organising committee ever since paddling the course and is always

seen at Easter making a photographic record of the event. It was proposed that David be elected an Honorary Vice President of the organisation in recognition of his work - we all hope he will accept this honour.

## Llangollen film festival

Pyranha are presenting slide shows and films at the Llangollen film festival on saturday 8th Dec 2001 to celebrate 25 years since the first British Everest canoe expedition.

**Whitewater warriors** on the upper Sutlej River Northern India. The fourth and least known of the sacred rivers that flow from Mt. Kailas. Starting as close to the Tibetan border as was physically and politically possible the team descended from 2800m paddling 170 kms before finishing at Rampur 800m.

**Slick Line ii.** Marvel at the crazy runs and lines run by the three paddlers: Scream, Nitro and Sperm whose names have had to be changed to protect them from legal action. Also fast and furious action from places as far apart as Norway and Madagascar.

**Mick Hopkinson.** One time Yorkshireman and now resident of New Zealand and USA Mick will present 40minutes of his adventures on New Zealand's West coast rivers. It would be a great surprise (and shame) if Mick has lost any of his dry Yorkshire sense of humour.

**Dudh Kosi 2000.** Gerry Moffat's film of their climbing Mera peak in the Solu Khumbu and then paddling down the Dudh Kosi in November and December 2000.

**Julie Keller.** Two time winner of the National Paddlers Film Festival in the U.S.A and flown in specially for this weekend will present her award winning slide show of her travels and paddles in Nepal.

**Dudh Kosi - Relentless river of Everest.** The original expedition film and despite being 25 years old now has lost none of its impact. Winner of over 25 international adventure film awards and a classic that inspired many paddlers to spread their wings. The surviving six paddlers will give a 20 minute (probably unrehearsed) slide show giving some of the back ground and a personal side to the expedition.

11.00 p.m. bar closes! Tickets £10 (limited to 400 for fire regulations) available on the door or in advance from :- **Llangollen Film Festival, Pyranha Mouldings, Preston Brook, Runcorn WA7 3DW**



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## Girls training camp

A training camp specifically for junior girls is being held over the November 24-25 weekend on the River Irwell (The Burrs), in Lancashire. The event will consist of two days with overnight accommodation at the on-site The Burrs Bunkhouse and will include a sprint race down the River Irwell on the Saturday and a classic race down the River Mersey on the Sunday for those who feel up to the challenge. The Burrs is an ideal location for beginners to take up the sport as it is technically interesting and has bank access along the whole course. The Irwell consists of numerous small rapids and grade-two chutes which are not difficult but are simply good fun to try to get right. There will be expert coaching available from the British team coaches and some of the GB national team paddlers will also be there to support the event. So if you are a junior girl interested in taking up canoeing or a member of a canoe club with girls who need encouraging to do a bit more, contact Mary-Jean Smith on tel: 01524 858 797.



## It's the big one!

Hurley Rodeo is the largest whitewater canoeing competition in the UK and in most years it's also the biggest event in Europe, if not the world. Sadly, this year's original date in March had to be cancelled due to foot and mouth.

Now, though, literally hundreds of the world's best whitewater canoeists will be descending on Hurley Weir in Berkshire, over the November 24-25 weekend, to battle for the number-one spot in the long-awaited re-scheduled event. This venue is renowned worldwide as one of the best whitewater playholes and surfwaves on any river.

The action will kick off on the water from around about 10 am each day, although competitors will have to arrive at least one hour earlier than this. Classes range from unsponsored juniors to hardened life-long whitewater professionals with just about everything in between – including two-man kayaks and 'squirt' boats... that don't even float!

Once again this year, the event is sponsored by SAS. Not only is this company the world's largest independent computer software operation, but they also own one of the river banks at Hurley and kindly provide car parking for the event, along with some huge prizes (like kayaks and cash), as well as sponsoring the Saturday night party! Once again, the event is organised through Playboater Ltd.

Although this event is, as usual, one of the UK national championship competitions, novices and complete newcomers are welcome. And for those who book early enough, there is even a free coaching session with nine-times national champion and four-times world



record holder Shaun Baker!

With Brian, the lock keeper, helping us to tune the wave to be just about perfect for the weekend, this is an event not to be missed. Before and after competition time there will be plenty of free time in which to practice for your heat. As with last year, camping on the island is free and is available from Friday evening.

An entry form will be available during September from most major canoe retailers or from Hurley Weir Events Desk, PO Box 1904, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 8BL, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope. It will also be circulated by e-mail, at [www.shaun@shaun-baker.com](mailto:www.shaun@shaun-baker.com), though entries must be made by post as they will require a signature.

**NB:** Please remember, due to Environment Agency regulations and the changeable water levels, things can change, so give Shaun Baker a call 48 hours before the event, tel/fax: +44 (0)1628 777702; mobile +44 (0)7778 488 355 or check out for final confirmation.

[www.shaun@shaun-baker.com](http://www.shaun@shaun-baker.com)

## Yak back Exe

Canoe equipment specialist company Yak has signed up as title sponsor for the 31st Exe Descent, due to take place on November 18.

Probably the country's toughest long-distance canoeing race, the Exe Descent pulls around 500 competitors each year, including British, European and world-class paddlers, as well as many less distinguished but just as determined club paddlers.

A true test of stamina, skill and courage, the race starts from Tiverton and finishes in the centre of Exeter – a total run of 19 miles, which includes several sets of rapids and major weirs such as Tiverton Town, Bickleigh, Thorverton, Four Pynes, Cowley Steps, Blackaller and Head Weir.

While some paddlers will take almost four hours to complete the course, the time to beat is 1 hr 42 mins.

The entry fee for this year's race is £15, which includes a donation to Save The Children. For further details and an entry form, send an SAE to **The Race Organiser, 71 Butts Road, Exeter, Devon.**

## Aussie challenge

Preparations are well under way for the 33rd Australian Red Cross-Herald Sun Murray Marathon, the world's longest annual canoe marathon, which is due to be held from December 27-31.

The event takes place on the mighty Murray River, in Northern Victoria, and is open to paddlers of all ages, nationalities and abilities.

Entry fees are kept to a minimum as participants also compete off-water to raise funds for the Australian Red Cross before setting off on the adventure of a lifetime. The five-day event takes in 404 km (251 miles) of the river and runs from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill.

The event regularly hosts more than 1,000 competitors and 5,000 support crew on the river and has participants from all over the world gathering on December 26 for registration and scrutineering.

A variety of classes are available for all kayak or canoe paddlers, with rowers also admitted. This year's event will see oldest competitor, Ted Jackson, running the gauntlet for the 22nd time, at the age of 80.

More than 300 trained Red Cross volunteers will provide full support to the paddlers in addition to 24-hour first aid, free campsites and showering facilities and therapeutic massages.

Entry forms and additional information are available now from the **Australian Red Cross, Victoria on 0061 3 9685 9839** or e-mail: [events@vic.redcross.org.au](mailto:events@vic.redcross.org.au) or via the website at

[www.murraymarathon.org](http://www.murraymarathon.org)



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Volume: 260 litres

Paddler's Weight: 80-200lbs

### Hurricane School

Length: 310cm

Width: 65 cm

Volume: 220 litres

Paddler's Weight: 80-180lbs

### Tornado School

Length: 347cm

Width: 62 cm

Volume: 340 litres

Paddler's Weight: 110-290lbs

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## It's all about speed

The new SRC Cups 2002 annual competition seeks to encourage clubs to take part in and/or organise simple local sprint events.

Points will be awarded to clubs who run events and to clubs that attend.

Starting in 2002 the regional winners will be the club with the most points at the end of the season.

This will be a chance for all-comers to take part in the oldest Olympic paddlesport discipline at a conveniently local venue.

Easy to organise, with no special kit required and minimal administration, the flexible programmes feature races distances to suit, from 50 metres to 1,000 metres, and can be run as stand-alone regattas or as part of a bigger event.

For competitors, they are fun to do and offer an annual cash prize and prestigious trophy for the best club in the region. It's never been so easy to race!

To register an interest or request more info contact

**Peter Bland on**  
tel: 01386 861317;  
fax: 01386 861297  
or e-mail:  
src-cups@bcu.org.uk.

## All boats, all skills on the Ouse

On Saturday November 3, Herts Canoe Club is running the first Great Ouse race of the new millennium at Bedford (last year's was cancelled due to flooding).

It will be a handicap race over 6.25 miles, for all types of boats and all skill levels. If you think you can beat Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club – who took all the major trophies in 1999! – come along.

For further information tel: **Chris Wilson on 01727 851773 or email**  
chriswil42@supanet.com

## It's showtime

Launched with full government backing, the new Ordnance Survey sponsored The Outdoors Show, which takes place from March 15-17 at the NEC Birmingham, aims to encourage participation in such outdoor pursuits as canoeing, walking, climbing and mountain biking and will be the first exhibition of its kind in the UK to unite retailers, manufacturers and tourist boards with outdoors enthusiasts.

Says Ordnance Survey chief executive Vanessa Lawrence: "The Outdoors Show will be a showcase for the best of Britain and will provide a real and timely boost for the industry. Everyone can benefit from getting outdoors. The Outdoors Show will give visitors the inspiration to go out and do even more."

Adds Nicola Meadley, of event organisers Brand Events: "Spread over three days, the show will be highly orientated towards interactive experiences, demonstrations, challenges and inspiration. It's more than an exhibition, it's an adventure!"

For further information, contact **Brand Events, First Floor, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 9TA, tel: 020 7471 1080.**

## Surfin' safari!

Andy Spink is really keen to get more paddlers into kayak surfing to promote this amazing sport and educate them into the ways of the wave so the sport can move on from the goat boat image.

Says Andy: "Over the last four years I have been organising and running gathers and training courses, not for profit but for the hell of it as it is excellent fun and I love coaching it."

Andy has one more event coming up this year, with full details available at [www.surfkayaking.co.uk](http://www.surfkayaking.co.uk)

Set for November 3-6/8, the fourth Tiree surf kayaking gathering will feature play and four-star training.

It's is now a regular gathering and not to be missed, based in warm and Comfy accommodation. Says Andy: "Surf is always present, so come and play or be coached and have a giggle!" For more information contact **Andy Spink, surf kayak coach, Hebridean Pursuits Ltd on tel: 01631 710317, 07721778821.**

## Classic on the Avon

Organised by Mercia Canoe Club, the Avon Descent, scheduled for Sunday November 11, is a classic marathon descent race, starting from Stratford on Avon and finishing 10 miles downstream, at Bidford on Avon, after six weir shoots or portages.

There will be classes for K1, K2, WWR, C2 touring and racing and GP touring. Handicaps are applied to the classes. The start will be at 12:15 pm, with late entries up to 11:30 am. This is an excellent warm-up for the Exe Descent or simply a good trip for those looking for an enjoyable paddle.

For further details, contact **Nigel Wooltorton, Mercia Canoe Club, c/o 11 Brayford Avenue, Coventry CV3 5BS, tel: 02476 418796 or e-mail: [nigel.wool@cwcom.net](mailto:nigel.wool@cwcom.net).**

## Welsh waves

Mid Wales White Water Tour on October 6, as advertised in the BCU yearbook, is to be held, subject to release, on the River Vyrnwy or Clywedog. E-mail or (phone on Thursday 4). The organiser this year is **Roger Smith of Malvern on tel: 01684 581552, or e-mail [rsds@malcol.org](mailto:rsds@malcol.org).**

## ACCESS

# New deal on the Dart

After several months of negotiation with the River Dart's riparian and land owners the BCU's access officers believe that we are now very close to signing a revised, formal canoeing agreement which is significantly better than the existing one.

If confirmed, the changes will mean: a 50% longer season for Dartmeet, with December being added to the existing season of January and February; more permits for Dartmeet, with 40 people per day instead of 24, and more permits for the Loop, with a new daily limit of 225 instead of 200.

In addition, major changes have been negotiated for access and egress at the Holne Bridge end of the loop. The main details are: the access/egress point at Holne Bridge is no longer in use. Instead paddlers can egress at Waterworks Bridge inside the River Dart Country Park and park free in their car park.

The owners of the park will make free changing facilities available. Showers will be available free to

paddlers, but paid for from the Dart Access Fund.

An optional free shuttle will be available to take paddlers and their kit to Newbridge at weekends.

Any spare tickets for Dartmeet for Tuesdays-to-Thursdays inclusive will be available to callers on a first come, first served basis.

Other facilities will be available at cost, including a bar, hot food, accommodation, camping, use of their pool and more.

The RDCP is investigating the possibility of changing the design of Holne Weir to create a play spot there and we have offered to pay for a BCU specialist to visit to further this project. There is also a prospect of a webcam at this point so potential users can see the water level before travelling.

The riparian owners on this river are prepared to negotiate only with BCU representatives and they are now very supportive of both our organisation and the sport of canoeing.

We hope that all Dart users will welcome these positive changes and ensure that the good reputation that the BCU has developed over the years is maintained so that further progress can be made in future.

**Adam Box, BCU regional access officer; Icarus & Fiona Edmonds, local access officers**



# Wild-Water helmets save the crew of Kota Mama III

The Kota Mama III expedition, whose aim is to sail along 3000 km of South American rivers in a reed boat, has suffered a major mishap on the Ribeirao cataract, but all the crew are safe thanks to Wild-Water helmets and the expedition's careful safety planning.

The huge reed trimaran, Kota Mama III, which had already made history by overcoming the infamous Esperanza cataract, came to grief on the final chute of the 3km long Ribeirao rapids, plunging twelve of the fifteen crew members into the turbulent waters of the Rio Madera. Expedition leader, John Blashford-Snell in a personal message to Wild-Water from Nova Esperanza in Bolivia, said "Your canoe helmets saved many of the crew of Kota Mama III from serious injury during the mishap on the Ribeirao rapids".

Kota Mama III, built by traditional reed boat builders on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia, is seven metres long and weighs 12 tonnes. Her journey from Bolivia across the South American continent included a 300mile stretch of dangerous waters that is impassable to normal vessels. After carefully plotting the route through the rapids, Kota Mama III headed for the intended spot, but the portside outrigger hull hit a 15foot-deep hole in the river. When the boat failed to overtake the wave, it turned and the hull was hurled vertically upwards tossing the crew into the turbulent waters.

This could have been a catastrophic end to the expedition, but the leaders had planned well and, months before, had contacted Wild-Water who willingly agreed to sponsor the expedition and provide their canoe helmets for all the crew. No-one suffered serious injury and all were rescued within half an hour by the inflatable support vessel.

Kota Mama III, unmanned, meanwhile continued her journey and was located next morning, floating upright 21km downriver. To everyone's surprise the damage was only slight, and the boat builders from Lake Titicaca, who were flown in with a bundle of reeds, were soon able to repair her so that the expedition could continue its journey.

The British-led expedition, under the auspices of the Scientific Exploration Society, aims to solve the mystery of how traces of cocaine and nicotine, native to South America, ended up in Egyptian mummies. It is testing the theory that the traditional reed boats of the type still built in Bolivia on Lake Titicaca were used for trading along the South American river system and across the world around 1200BC. Thor Heyerdahl's Ra II expedition in 1970 successfully sailed from Africa to Barbados in a similar reed boat and the Kota Mama expedition is building on that achievement.

The ancient people of South America did not have the high-tech protection of Wild-Water helmets, but they did have remarkable reed boats. Colonel John Blashford-Snell believes that Kota Mama III has shown that there is a real chance that these people could have navigated the challenging waters with such craft ".... their performance is quite extraordinary and most impressive. They seem to be almost unsinkable."

Diamond Wild-Water, Northolt Drive, Bolton. BL3 6RE.

Tel: 01024 528225 Fax: 01204 361549

Photographs of Kota Mama III and her crew wearing their Wild-Water helmets From the website:

[www.kotamaa.com](http://www.kotamaa.com)

## WILD web

As stories go it was quite good. It concerned a paddler down Manchester way who lives in this flat. He's a keen paddler. He has a canoe. But there's a problem. He can't get the canoe up the stairs to his flat, so he lowers it out of the window to a work colleague on a rope every time he wants to

go paddling. Where it is stored in between times is unknown, though presumably the space behind the sofa is inadequate.

To his plight there is, of course, a solution, and Jumbo the star of an article in the last issue of *Canoe Focus* points us in the right direction. For a few years now the idea of inflatable canoes has been growing in popularity. They are easy to store, easy to transport, and relatively light with a 4m open

canoe folding down to a 1m x 30cm x 30cm parcel.

Unfortunately when we think inflatable we think balloon, but modern inflatable canoes and kayaks are far from the banana boats that we might imagine. Kayak designs have moved on a pace, and designs such as the Kearns inflatable kayak boast the handling capabilities of any respectable hard hull. See [www.stearnsinc.com](http://www.stearnsinc.com). This canoe is available at a number of on-line canoe retailers in the UK.

Inflatable canoes and kayaks tend to follow two design types. Examples of the first can be found at a UK site here <http://sparc.airtime.co.uk/eurocraft/>. These are boats made by manufacturers with dinghy experience, and consequently their designs tend to look a little like narrow dinghies rather than canoes. The Jumbo range at <http://www.zodiac.fr/Eng/jumbo/intro/presentation.htm> follow this mould, though two of their latest designs seem to be breaking away from this.

At the moment it is America that is proving the source of the best ideas in the field. Key manufacturers include Aire at [www.aire.com](http://www.aire.com), Innova at [www.innovakayak.com](http://www.innovakayak.com), Soar at [www.soar1.com](http://www.soar1.com), and Sea Eagle at [www.seaeagle.com](http://www.seaeagle.com). All of these manufacturers are following the second design type, which is two 10 to 12 tubes that meet at a point with either an inflatable or foam flat floor between. Reviews of the designs are good, and one of the reviewers at <http://www.paddling.net/Reviews> compares his inflatable favourably with his Pyrahna 220 Innazone. All of the reviewers agree that their inflatables are easy to paddle, handle well in white water, can carry large loads, and are generally easy to transport and store. Care for an inflatable is a bigger issue, and boats should be dried and cleaned before being folded and stored.

A good all-round inflatable site with plenty of links is <http://www.inflatablekayaking.com> where we are introduced to the term rubber duckie for an inflatable canoe.

For those of us with two kids, a large frame tent, and an overloaded roof box the inflatable is a great invention. With inherent buoyancy, and an open cockpit design they are suitable for children. With the innovative designs of kayaks such as the Stearns inflatable we are set to see more of these canoes on our rivers.







Feature  
CANADA

# Three men

## Michael Brown, Fred Doodey and Jim Padfield of the Association of Christian Canoeists pit their skills against the abundant rapids of the Canadian wilderness

Once heard, the Siren's voice of the wilderness is compelling and, inspired by descriptions of the River Missinaibi, we returned for a longer trip with more white water, a more remote setting, more moose, more bears but fewer portages.

This fur trade route starts from Lake Superior, travels upstream along the Michipicoten River, past three hydroelectric power dams to the Atlantic watershed. Then, from Missinaibi Lake, the river, undeveloped, flows north easterly until it joins the Mattagami, becoming the Moose River, which flows into St James Bay. It was a transportation corridor well used by the early French voyageurs and significant in the development of the Hudson Bay Company.

The guidebook by Hap Wilson, *'Journey to the Northern Sky'*, provides helpful descriptions of the river, with diagrams of the rapids, some local history and, importantly, the habits of the biting insects. He stresses that portages should be taken whenever in doubt and that the Voyageurs welcomed a portage as a respite from paddling and an opportunity to converse with their companions.

Although the outfitters' literature said: "Arrive with only your clothes personal effects, sleeping bag... and a sense of adventure, we will supply the rest", we were thorough in our kit and personal fitness preparation and very much aware of our commitment, in the knowledge that in the last 15 years there had been 24 deaths on the river.

### Three badly damaged and abandoned canoes

By way of illustration we saw three badly damaged and abandoned canoes during the trip. We noted how quickly the river – after miles and miles of pleasant relaxation – in a very short time becomes a foaming torrent; a place of destruction, though not without the usual warning signs apparent to observant paddlers. A clue to the causes of the destroyed canoes may be linked to a quote by Hap Wilson,

"Inexperience coupled with peer pressure are nasty canoe partners".

The guidebook opens with a graphic account of how four canoeists in two canoes approached the infamous Thunderhouse Falls and did not recognise the need to exit and portage nearly a mile above the falls believing they could get out just above the falls. The current became too strong and fast to cope with, they attempted to turn in the current, capsized and held onto their canoes as they had been taught. One pair near the shore managed to get out. The other pair did not make it.

Thunderhouse Rock is a place of great religious significance to the Indians and the author notes that most accidents happen near



such sites. We did consider doing the lower section of the river to include Thunderhouse Falls as the outfitter advised us that this would include seven days of ho-hum on the river. For the complete route one needs four weeks and with eight days available we opted for the upstream section from Peterbell to Mattice, a distance of 169 km, 38 runnable rapids, 23 portages for novice paddlers and seven portages for intermediates.

Of particular interest to older readers and paddlers who enjoy adventures is the fact that Fred had just celebrated his 50th birthday, Michael would be celebrating his 50th a month later, in June, and Jim, the youngest, was 49 and a half. It is miraculous that Fred was paddling as he recently had surgery to relieve severe nerve compression in his neck.

Fred was quite concerned about the bears: "They are the top of the food chain," he reminded us, though he later admitted to have been watching several scary films of bear encounters. It's chastening to remember that on another trip four paddlers were killed when trampled by moose.

Between flight connections at Toronto, we stayed overnight at Niagara Falls, enjoyed some spectacular virtual reality whitewater paddling and flew on to Timmins to meet Missinaibi Headwaters



# in three boats

Outfitters, who drove us to Foleyet to embark on the train for Peterbell.

## A spectacular ride

We could not afford to be late for the train, as the service only runs three times a week, making the journey from Toronto to the West Coast. Late in the evening the train, hauled by three engines, pulled up and we enjoyed a spectacular ride from the astrodome.

At around 11:30 pm the conductor took us to the guard's van and helped us unload at Peterbell, the site of a former logging camp, now uninhabited, where the railway crosses the river.

As we watched the train disappear and the darkness set in we concentrated on setting up camp.

During the night there were many sounds to be heard and before long our sleep was interrupted by the ground shaking as a cargo train ran just overhead. The rumbling and noise seemed to carry on for an eternity as the trains are extremely long. Many more passed by during that night!

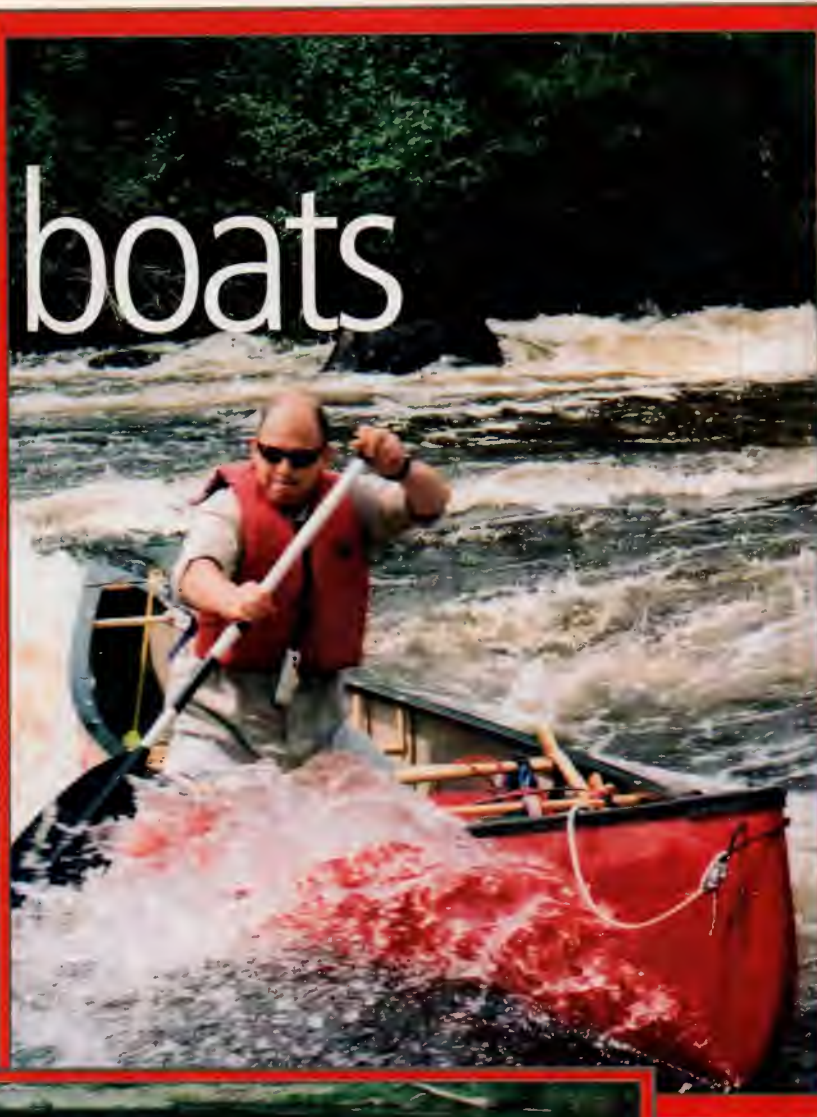
Our first morning of the trip, a Sunday, dawned with overcast skies and, adopting the practices of the Voyageurs, we asked God for a safe passage.

We were on the water by eight, ready to explore part of the extensive, beautiful and unspoiled Canadian Wilderness, and keen to try out our new Nashwaak paddles, purchased the previous day in Toronto!

The water was mirror-like, with no wind, and we began to take in the unceasing scene of sky, water and trees. At mid-morning we stopped to inspect the first falls, Swamp Rapids grade 2. Fred cooked a full English breakfast on a wood fire, the skies cleared, the sun shone and our spirits rose.

It was a beautiful setting and we decided to run the rapids with canoes, all Prospectors, fully laden. Deadwood Rapids followed and further on we carefully inspected Allan Falls as the guidebook recommended a portage.

At another water level it would be a different proposition. Our main concern was the probability of swamping and of a pin against a rock,



with loss or damage to gear.

Michael went first while Fred and Jim provided bank support with throw lines. A shallow ledge had to be negotiated before positioning for the main falls – a narrow drop, with big standing waves. We finished the day at Wavy Rapids, one of the best play locations on the river; a fine series of standing waves with good eddies each side.

A sultry evening, brought

out the mosquitoes which very quickly discovered any exposed skin and dispelled the theories of food supplements discouraging insect bites. Fred demonstrated his culinary skills in converting standard outfitters' fare into gourmet style meals. By the campfire, under a tarp, we enjoyed BBQ steak.

We wrote up our diaries, studied the river guide and made an outline plan for the rest of the trip. We were confident about covering the distances and hoped for good conditions with few portages.

The rain, heavy at times did not bother us, though there was one lightning strike which hit rather too close for comfort.

Next day we approached Greenhill Rapids with anticipation. These offer the advanced paddler the finest set of rapids to be found on the river – a good grade three.

The top section has lines of standing waves in parallel with occasional stoppers, followed by a rock garden on which paddlers have been caught,



lost their gear and in the words of Hap Wilson their cocky humour.

The alternative is a portage of 1,400 metres. Fred descended first and took a route down the right side, with shallow water and rocks to dodge or scrape over. Michael decided to take a green line down through the middle. Two thirds of the way down an eddy caught the back end, causing the canoe to turn into a stopper on the right. The canoe was gripped and the only way out was to paddle forward with support strokes moving through the stopper.



Falls, which were definitely a portage. With the breeze and absence of bugs it was a much more pleasant site.

As we had not travelled as far as had hoped, we left by eight the following morning and made Thunder Falls by late morning. These were not as awesome as Thunder House Falls but still big enough to swallow up telegraph pole sized logs tossed in by Jim.

We paddled 22 miles to another beautiful campsite on an island, again with a pleasant cooling breeze.

The daily routine had now been established and another five days were to come. Paddling became second nature and we were able to appreciate more the beauty of the surroundings, which began to overwhelm our over-stimulated senses. And from deep within we developed a stronger sense of wellbeing that was less troubled by distractions.

Many authors have tried to explain the joys of canoeing and living in the wilderness, with all its deprivations, and some touch on an aspect we experienced but one has to participate to understand the attraction.

We had the choice of following the Voyageurs' route, with a portage to Brunswick Lake, or continuing along the river. The Outfitter advised us that the portage would be very muddy, hard going and, since it was 1,500 metres long, we took his advice.

On Wednesday we planned another long paddle of 20 miles and anticipated an easy trip under sun shine on the fast-moving current but we had the wind, force three, against us.

**Filled up with water and sank**

The canoe started to flip over as the current caught the upstream gunwale. Instinctively, Michael leaned out hard on to the downstream side to counterbalance. Nonetheless the canoe filled up with water and sank. Jim meanwhile was quickly paddling down to render assistance and broke his paddle. The canoe with buoyancy bags and tied-in food barrel bobbed up and was released from the stopper.

With support strokes, Michael got nearer the shore, to jump out and obtain assistance. Fred commented that most would have ended up swimming. The water was not cold, though a change into fibrepile clothing was appreciated.

An extended lunch stop with a fire enabled us to dry out. Thankful for not losing any gear, we continued through the evocatively named St Peter's rapids, which were bouncy and short.

We camped on a spectacular site, with an aerial view of Split Rock

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It was a constant physical effort to make reasonable progress and we were forever attempting to ascertain the wind and current variations caused by river bends and tree density so we could choose the best bank of the river to travel along in order to conserve energy.

Two of us decided to double up, paddling together and towing the other canoe. The third member was unhappy, remarking that it would be too slow and we paddled our separate ways for the morning.

At an early lunch stop Jim noticed some fresh-looking bear tracks. But that was the nearest we ever got to seeing one of these ever elusive animals.

At Pond Falls we stopped and enjoyed another scenic campsite, with spectacular rapids alongside. Jim slept in the open air on a rock platform, a few feet away from the water's edge, and enjoyed the sound of the rapids, music to his ears.

The following morning there was frost on the canoes. Having made excellent progress so far, we took a much more leisurely pace. After lining canoes at Devil Cap Falls to avoid the portage we finished paddling for the day at lunchtime.

Camping on an island, this time treeless, we rigged up tarps to get relief from the hot sunshine. Michael took a swim to cool off and a leech bit Fred.

Overnight the weather changed and on Friday we had a five-mile paddle in dull damp conditions to set up camp at Big Beaver Rapids. It



started to rain at around 4:00 pm and continued till around midday on Saturday when we set up our last camp, at Glass Rapids, a pretty site which is well used by the locals. Much of the evening was spent under a tarp by a log fire eating, chatting and reading our bibles.

On the last morning we set off for Mattice, an 11 mile trip which proved to be the toughest of the

journey due to the cold and wind. After a mile, Jim had to stop and protect his hands from the cold. Not having gloves, he wore his thermal socks on his fingers!

We took the remaining rapids with some trepidation and care as we had on most of our warm clothing and didn't want it to get soaked, so we were relieved to reach our destination. A Buffalo top was insufficient on its own to keep one warm enough.

Jim found a public shower with hot water, which he lost no time in getting into to thaw his feet. Fred and Michael found a café and despite a local power cut had some hot drinks. Our driver found us and took us back to a hotel where we overnighted before catching our flight home the next morning.

Though we were disappointed not to see any moose, their footprints were often observed. The outfitter confirmed we had endured terrible weather but we had sufficient protective gear, just, and the flies were too cold to come out and bother us.

It had been a great trip and we knew it would not be long before we again started hearing the Sirens voice of the wilderness... ●



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# A spectacular Double

## Double gold medals at Marathon World Championships

The event was centred on the University of Durham Stockton Campus, adjacent to the River Tees, which was a hive of activity long before the main competition began. The site was completely transformed in a matter of days to include starting pontoons, athlete's areas, trade and entertainment stalls, and a grandstand.

The weather was really good (much kinder than the World Cup held there the previous year) and helped to attract a large number of spectators from around the country and also from the local Stockton area. There were so many spectators on the foot bridge that at times it was difficult to walk across it.

The very full programme of events provided canoeing from dawn to dusk and included local youth competitions, 5 km and 10 km Paddling Challenges, National Lightning regatta and a local community Bellboat challenge. This enabled people to participate in competition, assist with the event and spectate - a very full few days in anyone's diary.

The competition began on the Thursday with two days of Masters racing. This attracted competitors from all over the world as well as a very large GB contingent. With nearly 200 paddlers, the "Masters" saw some of the most competitive racing of the championships with British success for Melvin Swallow (45-49 age group) and Peter Lawler (55-59 age group). Sadly there were not enough women competitors to run the doubles competition on the Friday but one lady managed to compete in both events. Jean Boatman from Reading, aged 70, came 3rd in the singles event and then paddled with a male partner in the 55plus category the next day.

### Patron of the event

Guest of honour at the formal opening of the Championships on the Friday evening was HRH The Princess Royal, patron of the event. This was held at the

**The largest number of nations ever - 32 of them, flocked to Stockton-on-Tees at the end of August for the BCU's staging of the ninth Marathon World Championships and the first ever junior marathon worlds. Countries attending included Japan, Singapore and Kazakhstan who had never been to such a competition before. It was a double honour for the BCU to be the only federation to organise the marathon worlds for a second time (we held the first ones at Nottingham back in 1988) and to host the first Junior World Championships.**

nearby British Waterways White Water Course. After the opening speeches and parade of national flags the large number of spectators were treated to a dance and musical tableau by local artists and schoolchildren which depicted the history of the River Tees, a display from slalom and rodeo canoeists and some impressive fireworks which set the mood for the dramas to come.

### Junior singles

World Championship racing started on the Saturday morning with the junior singles. First away were the junior men with commentator Richard Ward willing Neil Fleming of Ireland to win. Neil was runner up at the European Championships in Hungary but had said he would cut off his ponytail if he won at the worlds. After a three boat battle right to the line, Neil did win but was last seen leaving for the Junior Sprint Worlds in Brazil with his ponytail still intact. Simon Fennemore was only two minutes down on the winner in 6th place with Steve Pearson 12th. In the Junior Women's race Zara Dale and Ros Bates finished together in 8th and 9th places less than 3 minutes down on the winner

Anna Hemmings and Helen Gilby -  
Champions of the world



and in the C1 race, James Train in 7th place improved to be 3 minutes closer to the Hungarian World and European champion than he had been in Hungary.

The afternoon was the turn of the senior singles with the first start being the Men's K1. GB hopes rested with Conor Holmes and James Block. The start was really explosive with 38 boats pushing for position and as the water subsided a swimmer was seen but he was soon back in his boat and chasing the "pack".

Approaching the Castlegate Quay portage towards the end of the first lap both British paddlers were in strong positions in the main group. However James managed to get entangled getting out at the portage and took a swim and then Conor repeated this disaster getting back in at the



# for Anna and Helen



**Anna Hemmings -  
double gold medal winner**

end of the portage. James struggled on managing a brave 27th place. At the front of the race the current World and European champion, Manuel Busto of Spain, proved too strong for the opposition outstripping last year's bronze medalist Michael Leverett of Australia and the ex world K2 champion, Attila Jambor of Hungary.

### Women's K1

In the Women's K1 race both Anna Hemmings and Helen Gilby were in the front group of five right from the start

along with the current world champion Santos of Spain, the European champion Introini of Italy and the world bronze medalist Meek of Australia. On the last portage at Castlegate Quay, Anna made her break getting back on the water and away with a few seconds lead over her rivals.

The noise from the crowd began a long time before Anna was near the finish line and the volume increased dramatically as she crossed it in first place to reclaim the title she won in 1999 and give the British supporters something to shout about. A convincing win nearly 10



**Helen Gilby -  
5th in K1 and gold in K2**

### Senior results

#### Men K1

- 1 Manuel Busto ESP 2:27:05
- 2 Michael Leverett AUS 2:27:07
- 3 Attila Jambor HUN 2:27:16
- 27 James Block GBR 2:40:32

#### Women K1

- 1 Anna Hemmings GBR 2:47:10
- 2 Elizabetta Introini ITA 2:47:19
- 3=Mara Santos ESP 2:47:20.6
- 3=Chantal Meek AUS 2:47:20.6
- 5 Helen Gilby GBR 2:48:12

#### C1

- 1 Pavel Bednar CZE 2:51:18
- 2 Pal Petervari HUN 2:51:32
- 3 Pedro Areal ESP 2:51:46

#### Men K2

- 1 Eirik Larsen, Nils Fjeldheim NOR 2:15:48
- 2 Martin Kolanda, Branislav Sramek CZE 2:15:50
- 3 Jorge Alonso, Santiago Guerrero ESP 2:16:34
- 10 Steve Baker, Ian Tordoff GBR 2:21:04

#### Women K2

- 1 Anna Hemmings, Helen Gilby GBR 2:32:03
- 2 Renata Csay, Kornelia Szonda HUN 2:32:07
- 3 Barbara Prezybyslaka, Magdalena Sendal POL 2:34:32
- 8 Abi Cattle, Andrea Dalloway GBR 2:39:34

#### C2

- 1 Attila Gyore, Edvin Csabai HUN 2:35:39
- 2 Istvan Koncz, Aron Gajarski HUN 2:38:01
- 3 Lionel Dubois, Pascal Sylvoz FRA 2:41:17
- 8 Colin Cartwright, John Badalek GBR 3:11:38



seconds clear of Introini. The finish line judges were unable to separate Santos and Meek after nearly three hours racing and awarded a rare double bronze medal with Helen Gilby having an excellent race to finish 5th ahead of the K2 World champion Andrea Pitz.

### Doubles day

Sunday was doubles day. Hungary took 1st and 2nd in the Junior men's K2 with only the South Africans giving them a real run for their money. The frightening thing is that they were four different paddlers from those who took 1st and 2nd places in the European championships in July. Michael Goodall & John Sawers did very well in their first international to come 10th with Ed Cox & Alan Bayliss finishing 13th.

The British junior women were plagued by rudder problems. Tara Nutt & Frankie Negus damaged theirs on the Preston Park portage and despite frantic repairs by British supporters had to eventually pull out. Harriet Farish & Hayleigh Mason were in 7th place at Castlegate Quay when they damaged theirs and lost a lot of time while a replacement was found and fitted. They carried on in last place to score valuable team points.

In the afternoon the Men's K2 title was taken by Larsen & Fjeldheim of Norway who only a week before had won the K2 1000m world sprint title. They were pushed all the way to the line by the Czechs with the current world champions Alonso & Guerrero of Spain having to settle for bronze and the Hungarian European champions run out of the medals. Steve Baker & Ian Tordoff finished 10th with Paul Slater & Joel Wilson a further minute back in 13th.

### Try for the double

At the end of the first days racing the talk had been of whether Anna and Helen would race together the next day and if they did, could they win a medal. When it was known that they were going to try for the double the atmosphere tightened with anticipation and excitement.

The start was clean with both British boats getting good positions and clear water. Abi Cattle and Andrea Dallaway used local knowledge of the river to their advantage and managed to outwit the South African pair who made a mistake under one of the bridges, finding themselves stranded on a rock once a wave has dissipated.

For a while the leading pack was large but by the time they reached Preston Park for the first time Anna & Helen and the Hungarians Csay & Szonda were over a minute clear. Kornelia Szonda is an old adversary of Anna. She has won medals at every major competition since 1997 but never a world title - it was Anna who beat her into 2nd place twice in 1999 in the Europeans and Worlds.

These two boats continued to pull away from the field locked in their own private battle - both tactical and physical - particularly at the portages. Each time the boats

### Goodall and Sawers - best of the GB junior K2s



## Lightnings strike at Stockton



More than 60 young paddlers raced over part of the marathon world championship course during the title racing weekend. Whilst the international paddlers were battling for gold medal honors our young paddlers competed in Bell boat, Lightning and K1 races. For the first three days paddlers from the local community competed in 200 metre and 5 km races and it is hoped this experience will inspire them to continue racing as part of a programme to develop a racing club at Stockton.

On the final day, a National Lightning event - consisting of a mini marathon, 200 metre sprint races and a relay - produced some close competition, helped by a particularly good turn out of paddlers from Pennine and Chester Canoe Clubs.

Thanks go to Steve Train and Howard Blackman as race organisers, particular thanks to Stockton Borough Council for their support and assistance, thanks also to Tees Whitewater Centre, Pyranha, Canoe Kayak magazine and local coaches Dave, Mike and Caralyn.

#### Results:

##### Under 13 Boys

1st Toby Jolly  
2nd Alex Hall  
3rd James Gelling

##### Under 13 Girls

1st Emma Larwood

##### Under 11 Boys

1st George Fuller  
2nd Andy Dawson  
3rd Sam Ollerenshaw

##### Under 11 Girls

1st Jenny Swallow  
2nd Halina Dawson  
3rd Courtney Conroy







Pedro Areal of Spain took the bronze C1 medal



K2 world champions - Larsen and Fjeldheim of Norway



Masters races were among the most competitive



Manuel Busto of Spain - the only paddler to retain his title

went past the cheers from the crowd for Anna and Helen were unbelievable.

At the last portage at Castlegate Quay Anna and Helen were unable to make a decisive break but still got back on the water in a commanding position with the Hungarian pair on the left hand side nearest the river back. This gave the British pair the advantage on the bottom and final turn and with 600m to go the huge crowd waited to see who was going to do what and when. As the boats neared the finish line commentator Richard Ward worked himself into a frenzy, the British were waving Union Jacks and the noise from the crowd became deafening. In the last few metres Anna & Helen pulled away from the Hungarians to win to thunderous applause.

**A fitting climax**

To win a world championship is outstanding but to achieve it twice in one weekend has never been done before where both members of the K2 had competed the day before. A feat we had all thought impossible but had hoped for. Truly a fitting climax to these World Championships.

The medal and closing ceremony was enhanced by all the National Anthems being superbly played by The King's Division Waterloo Band resplendent in their scarlet and gold uniforms. The cheers for the competitors who had won the medals were almost surpassed by the applause for David Enoch who was awarded an ICF Medal for his magnificent achievement in organising and running such a superb world championships.

To run a successful event like this required the help of many, many volunteers. It was lovely to see how people worked as a team to produce a really enjoyable weekend. There were over 70 BCU volunteers from around the country supplemented by well over 100 local volunteers from the Stockton area ably recruited by the enthusiastic and efficient Gerry Rodgers. The BCU Lifeguards skillfully provided all the competitors with safety support and were

called into action for a few.

The whole event was only made possible by many sponsors and contributors but in particular UK Sport who awarded £80K from Lottery funds as well as providing much valuable advice and other support.

British Waterways not only made a substantial financial contribution but were invaluable in their unstinting help on the river laying buoys, loaning and positioning portage pontoons, operating the start pontoon, co-ordinating other river users, clearing debris and doing everything that was asked of them.

Ultimately though this has been a joint exercise with Stockton Borough Council. Without their major financial contribution and unswerving support over the last three years the championships would just not have been possible. These World Championships have put Stockton firmly on the map for flat water racing and the BCU now looks forward to a continuing partnership with the Borough Council in ensuring that racing on Teesside continues to thrive. ●

**Pictures by Barney Wainwright and John Anderson**

**Junior results**

**Junior Men K1**

1	Neil Flemming	IRL
	1:34:31	
2	Balazs Botond	HUN
	1:34:32	
3	Shaun Rubenstein	RSA
	1:34:34	
6	Simon Fennemore	GBR
	1:36:34	
12	Steve Pearson	GBR
	1:39:03	

**Junior Women K1**

1	Stefanie Urban	GER
	1:47:57	
2	Skye Taylor	AUS
	1:47:59	
3	Berenike Faldum	HUN
	1:48:20	
8	Zara Dale	GBR
	1:50:51	
9	Ros bates	GBR
	1:50:52	

**Junior C1**

1	Balazs Kosdi	HUN
	1:50:16	
2	Peter Kosdi	HUN
	1:50:18	
3	Alexander Korpalo	RUS
	1:52:49	
7	James Train	GBR
	1:59:23	

**Junior Men K2**

1	Gergely Szigeti	HUN
	1:29:29	
2	Balazs Barina, Alpar Limp	HUN
	1:29:31.0	
3	Clinton Pretorius, Brett Bartho	RSA
	1:29:31.8	
10	John Sawers, Michael Goodall	GBR
	1:35:02	
14	Ed Cox, Alan Bayliss	GBR
	1:38:10	

**Junior Women K2**

1	Dianna Jarczok, Monika Pajak	POL
	1:41:33	
2	Nikolette Bartha, Diana Bartha	HUN
	1:42:02	
3	Skye Taylor, Ella Carrie	AUS
	1:42:03	
12	Harriet Farish, Hayleigh Mason	GBR
	1:56:06	



Men's K2 start



# Top-class service

**More than 30 competitors turned out to compete for the title of 2001 Inter-service Freestyle Champion at the first Inter-service Paddlefest, held over the August 10-12 weekend..**

The event was held on the popular River Tryweryn venue, at Bala, in North Wales – a dam-fed river that hosts numerous international canoeing competitions. Even the weather turned out to be typically Welsh, raining throughout the event!

The Paddlefest started early on the Saturday morning with a 'Paddles up' (remember the TV programme?) style fun slalom. Paddlers had to demonstrate their skills against the

clock by weaving in and out through slalom poles, going under limbo gates, passing paddles through hoops and even hitting a suspended ball with their kayak.

Next came a head-to-head downriver race where four paddlers had to race each other to the finish. This race turned out to be absolute carnage, as nicely mannered caring canoeists on the start line were transformed into supercharged speed demons intent on winning at all costs. The first two in each heat went through to the next round until the top four emerged for

the final battle. Overall, the top three placings were Wg Cdr Dave Leech in first place, followed by Cpl Chris Jones, and Sqn Ldr Robin Clark.

In the evening, competitors were invited to attend the RAF Canoe Association's agm, followed by some light refreshments in local ale houses, with much more talk about canoeing.

On the Sunday, competitors were awake to the



Cpl Chris Jones, the Paddlefest Champion in action.



The NAAFI Paddlefest Trophy – The Inter-service trophy awarded to the service gaining the most points. In this case the RAF. Photo shows Commander Pete Jellyman handing the trophy over to Cpl Chris Weissenborn, the RAF Freestyle secretary. Back row from L – R Cpl Andy Wilson, Cpl Chris Jones, SAC Matt Speke. Front Row L – R Fg Off Joan Cawthray and Major Hepworth.







Cpl Chris Jones of RAF Cottesmore, followed by SAC Matt Speke of RAF Cosford, and third went to Cpl Andy Wilson of RAF Cosford. The ladies title went to Fg Off Joan Cawthray of RAF Waddington. The winner in the C1 category, paddling with a single bladed paddle, was Major Paul Hepworth of the army.

Left: Flt Lt Mike Alabaster performing a 'Pop-out' move

Commander Jellyman, the naval representative from NAAFI, awarded the trophies and prizes. The RAF Canoe Association would like to thank NAAFI for sponsoring the event. Thanks also go to Ras Dex of Nottingham for bringing their trade stand and to Pyranha for lending some of their demo boats.

continued rain bashing on their tents, as they tried to work up the enthusiasm to leave nice warm sleeping bags and take to the water.

Cpl Chris Jones, a very experienced paddler, gave a quick talk on how to gain the most points in freestyle, expertly demonstrated with his miniature foam model of a kayaker. Competitors took to the water for two one-minute sessions where they demonstrated hole surfing, pop-outs, cartwheels and the like, with scores awarded to each paddler depending on how much they impressed the judges with their ability and style.

The overall champion by an impressive margin was

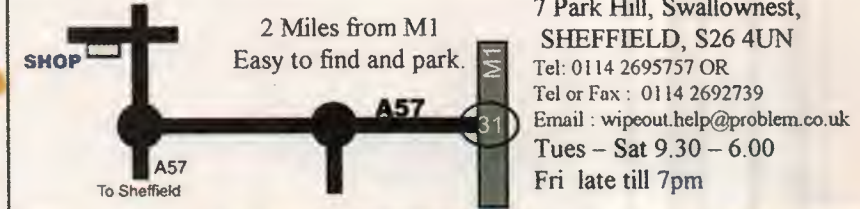
By the end of the championships, the sun almost shone, but the wet weather hadn't dampened spirits, and everyone had a great time. Any service people out there who are interested in this exiting sport can contact the freestyle secretary, Cpl Chris Weissenborn, at RAF Cottesmore on ext 7206. **Story and photos by Chris Weissenborn**

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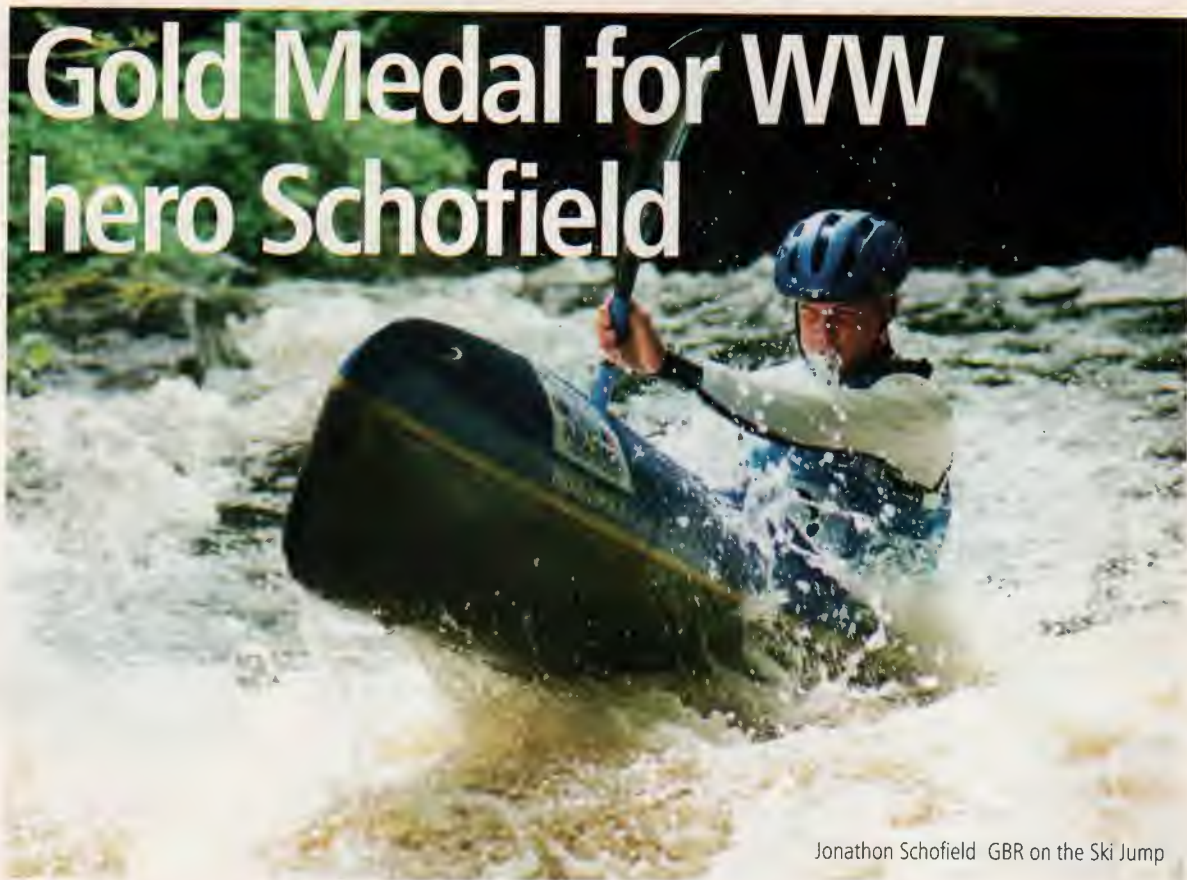
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**Jonathan Schofield won the junior men's kayak class at the wild water racing junior pre-world championships held on the River Tryweryn, Bala over the July 21-22 weekend.**

# Gold Medal for WW hero Schofield



Jonathon Schofield GBR on the Ski Jump

The Championships were the only competitive wild water racing event to be held in the UK this season due to the foot and mouth crisis and were only given the go-ahead five weeks beforehand and this resulted in some last minute pressure for competition director John Handyside.

John, supported by Martin Streeter and Andy Goodsell and

an army of volunteers, did a wonderful job and the event ran like a quality Swiss watch. Richard Lee (WCA Chief Exec) and the staff at the Tryweryn are also to be congratulated for their efforts in making the event such a success. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

On the water, Jonathan Schofield won by three seconds and in doing so became the first British

junior to win individual gold at this level. He took five seconds out of the next best paddler on the rougher top section of the race course and held on to this lead until the flatter section towards the end, only dropping two seconds on this section.

Jonathan is still only 16 and can race as a junior for two more years. We wish him well with his training and preparations for next year's event.

Other good results from GB athletes completed a successful weekend for the home team.

Grant Anderson finished seventh in the junior men's kayak class, with Jamie Oughton and Eddie Dean finishing 10th and 11th respectively. Anneka Brewster finished a promising 6th in the junior women's kayak event.

Well done to all the GB Team athletes who competed at this event. Home advantage was not really possible as the river had been closed for several months due to the F&M crisis.

Bearing this in mind, it was encouraging to see so many talented GB athletes competing against top overseas paddlers and the scene is set for an exciting junior worlds in July 2002; don't miss it! ●

**Photos by John Anderson**

Ryan Ainsworth GBR 13th in K1a



Grant Anderson GBR 7th in K1



The GB Junior Team with Coach Kevin Bowerbank and Team Manager Jes Oughton





# Sprint Racing World Championships



The Polish Canoe Federation, supported by local and national sponsorship, had made extensive improvements to the regatta facilities at the Malta Lake at Poznan and the setting was near to perfect for Poland's hosting of the sprint racing world championships. 54 nations took part in the event and the Great Britain team of 21 athletes raced in 16 of the possible 27 events.



Anna Hemmings in K1

Our team made five of the A finals, which is a positive step forward and puts us in a good position in year one of the Olympic cycle.

After a difficult year combining his medical studies with his training, Tim Brabants raced well to finish seventh in the men's K1 1,000 m final. Anna Hemmings also finished seventh, in the women's K1 500 m, to record our highest ever position at the women's Olympic distance.

Richard-Darby Dowman and Peter Almasi only came together as a crew a few months before the championships and to reach the final was a remarkable achievement. They finished ninth in the K2 1,000 m.

Trish Davey raced well to finish seventh in the women's K1 1,000 m which, although not an Olympic event, was keenly contested by the top nations. The women's K4 200 m squad of Lucy Hardy, Trish Davey, Abi Cattle and Andrea Dallaway finished eighth in the final. Several other GB crews reached the B finals and finished just outside the top

10 positions. Well done to all the athletes who competed at the championships.

The majority of our athletes have their sights set on the Olympic games in Athens in three years time and the performances in Poland are an excellent base on which to build towards Olympic qualification in 2003 and the Olympic games in 2004. ●

**Photos by John Anderson**

Men's K1 500M final – exciting finish with Vereckl of Hungary taking Gold



Women's K4 Lucy Hardy, Trish Davey, Abi Cattle and Andrea Dallaway



Men's K4 500M Keith Moule, Mally Johnson, Matt Fulger and Joel Wilson







# Paddlers

We had just seen John off in Quito and were wondering what next to do when the Upano came onto the agenda. We were sharing a room with Daniel Dixon (Greystoke from Whit Deshner's *'Travels with a Kayak'* fame).

He told us of an epic waiting to happen... there had been some problems with American tourists trying to buy shrunken heads off a tribe of Indians in the jungle and apparently the other tribe was not too impressed as the heads were from their ancestors!

Daniel was on a river with some friends and a local Shuar Indian guide just the other side of the Upano, when a tribe of Indians accosted them and if it were not for their Shuar guide they would have been shot!

The second piece of information Daniel gave us was that somewhere in the gorge, at around 13 on the gauge is a river-wide hole that must be run on river right or a sneak line can be taken river left. If you see it too late, the consequences are terminal.

The last piece of information I got was from the previous summer, off Skinny (he and I worked together in Austria for two seasons). He apparently got told not to go in eddy right in the gorge by a local guide as there was an eight-metre anaconda thereabouts that was renowned for eating villagers!

With all this information in mind we set off from Quito on our way to Macas, via Puyo. The weather in Puyo was humid and sticky, somewhat different from being in Quito (the second highest capital in the world at 2,800m in height). We changed buses and started a seven-hour journey for Macas. Our driver wasn't hanging about though: the first section, which was supposed to take three hours, took just one.

We knew the bus could not drive over the bridge due to the damage caused by flooding over the previous few years. The old bridge had been washed away and what now stands are two smaller bridges but only wide enough for a pick-up truck, not a bus!

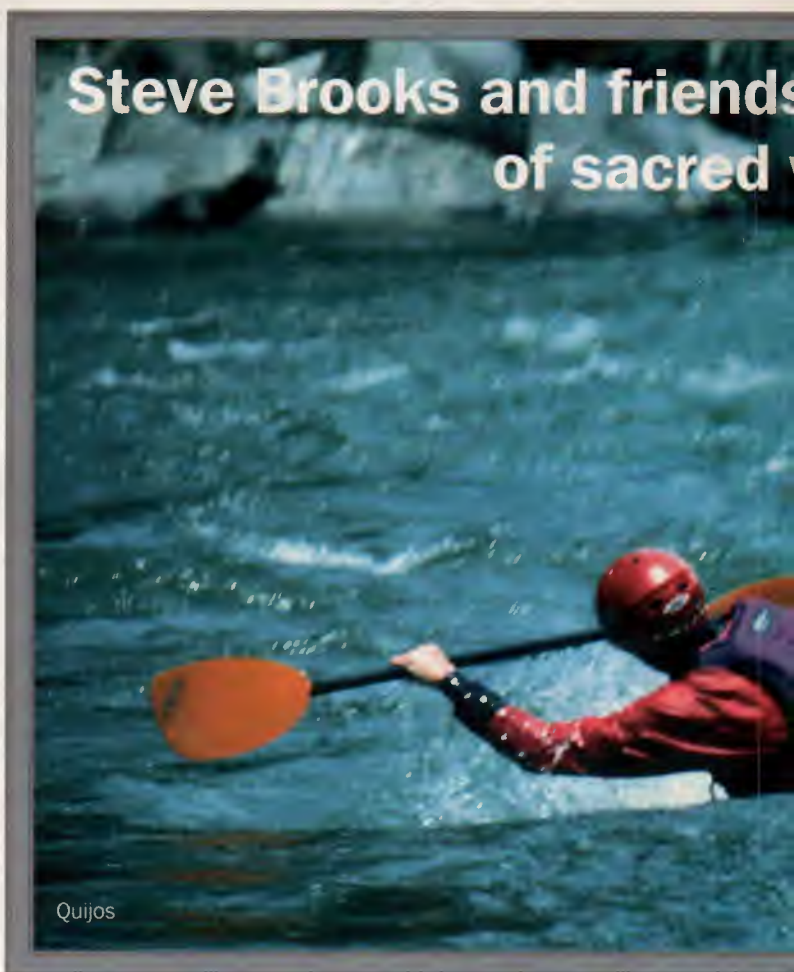
The bus boy was gesturing for us to carry our kayaks and equipment over the two bridges – something I was certainly not keen on, especially at 1am. Luckily a passenger came our way and explained everything, the boats and gear got placed in the back of this pick-up truck and I leapt onto the bumper and held on for dear life.

Colin Macrae however (well the Ecuadorian equivalent thereof) was trying his utmost to throw me into the Pastaza river over which we were crossing. We transferred the gear to yet another bus and finally ended up in Macas, not at 7.30 am as expected but at a somewhat earlier 3 am. We found a hotel for the rest of the night and then the next morning purchased all our food and stores ready for the off.

The start of the river was very shallow, with numerous channels to take and judging the correct one was not that obvious. If you took a wrong channel then you would either do 500 metres extra or have to get out of your boat to get past the gravel.

We paddled past numerous large beaches with a lot of driftwood but only started looking for a camp after 3 pm when we found a great beach – high enough in case the river were to rise, so we would not have to move. There was plenty of wood for a fire to cook on, saving fuel. The spot was reasonably protected and, most importantly, bore no animal prints.

We made our bivi and settled down to drinking tea and making



dinner. Then the heavens opened up and the rain came. In fact, it just did not stop all night, so we got under our mossie nets, in our bivi bags and settled down for a rather wet night. Fortunately I had decided on arrival to put the rest of my gear into my kayak, fit my spraydeck over it and tie up the tube, making sure nothing would get in.

At 5.45 am we were up making tea and breakfast. Ben had put a marker stick into the eddy the previous night and that was now disappearing fast as the waters rose. We packed up and started our second day. By now the marker stick indicated that the river had risen just over a metre.

It was now a chocolate brown colour and its character had also changed. Gone were all the channels and the river was growing bigger by the minute. The sandy beaches had disappeared and now the banks were the jungle. As we paddled down, Kingfishers were flying out in front of us and there were numerous great waves to play on and wave wheel. The boils on the river were becoming much bigger, with holes the size of trucks appearing at each drop.

The river was certainly becoming more challenging and great fun too.



# 'heaven



## s explore Ecuador's river waterfalls



Gorge on Quijos



At midday we came to a bridge in Sucua where on river right a gauge gave us a level of 14. We now knew that in the gorge tomorrow there were going to be a few holes with nasty consequences. We kayaked past native Indians fishing by the river bank with their nets. Each time we gave them a friendly smile and a big wave, and thankfully they returned the gesture, the relief on our faces must have been unbelievable.

As we rounded one corner, a fallen tree was floating in the eddy and a local Indian beckoned us to come over. Curiosity got the best of me and I paddled over to say hello. Ben decided to keep his distance until he saw me shaking the man's hand.

We had come across a local Shuar Indian who was helping build a shelter for Yacu Amu, a Quito based rafting firm. After some broken Spanish conversations and drawings we worked out our position and decided to stay the night with Bosco and his family. The offer of a thatched roof and the local Indian home brew was just too tempting. We carried our boats up to his house, met his wife (apparently, she was his seventh!) and the rest of his family.

We drank the customary Yuca, a concoction made from a root



vegetable and other ingredients that we were too frightened to ask about. It tasted similar to porridge with vodka mixed in but with all the rumours we had heard we did not want to offend by not drinking it.

We were bombarded with fruits from the jungle and Bosco gave us an insight into the Shuar culture. After an hour, Bosco said that a few of his family were "not well", so out came my box of tricks (otherwise known as my medical kit) and I proceeded to treat a range of ailments, from swollen knees to severe wound infections. After treating the last person I walked up to Ben who was smiling away and the conversation went a little something like this:

Ben: "Well you will love this next one."

S: "What is it?"

B: "There is this pregnant woman..."

S: "No way dude, delivering a baby is where I draw the line!"

Luckily for me, the little one was just kicking. After surgery was finished we settled down to dinner and had a chat with Bosco about wildlife.

Steve: "Bosco I have heard there are Anacondas in this river?"

Bosco: "Yes."

S: "Apparently the biggest is eight metres in length?"

Bosco: "No, the biggest is around 10 metres."

Mine and Ben's faces were looking a little anxious by now."

Steve: "But no problems in our kayaks right?"

Bosco: "Oh, big problems, we have fish bigger than your kayaks!"

Now we were both looking seriously worried. Not only were the snakes bigger but also Skinny had underestimated, something that really concerned me!

That morning we packed our gear and carried our boats down to



the river. Bosco and his family waved goodbye, after first asking for either Ben or myself to perform an eskimo roll. We both politely declined, saying: "it's too cold this early in the morning" – knowing full well that the real reason was the Anacondas, whose acquaintance we were loathe to make.

This was the day when we would enter the gorge and get to see many magnificent waterfalls, which are the inspiration behind the name of this waterway – the Upano: 'The river of sacred waterfalls'.

Bosco had told us it is was only an hour in kayaks to the last bridge at Patuca before we entered the gorge. We were just hoping that he was wrong so that we would have time to get the 10 metre Anaconda theory out of our heads.

An hour later we arrived at the Patuca bridge, so that was it, Bosco was right. The gauge on river left made us realise the river was big, for it had not stopped raining since we arrived on our first night's beach.

The level was at 24, we were now wondering if the hole was there, had been washed out or was just huge! A kilometre into the gorge came a fantastic waterfall on river left. It cascaded into a pool from high up in the jungle and then just ran straight into the Upano. The water was so crystal clear and warm. We stopped and spent a while swimming in the pool, admiring the waterfall and getting a great head massage.

We continued down, noticing the river getting more compressed and gazing at the jungle vegetation hanging down from the cliffs far above us. The river was becoming more powerful and was giving us the big water feel of Nepal. As we descended further into the gorge we seemed to be struck by yet another waterfall; at every corner there seemed to be waterfalls cascading hundreds of metres into the river. The gradient steepened and we were running waves the size of houses.

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The holes were serious, in fact terminal, with huge thundering pourovers leaving you no chance of escaping.

By now the river was very much 'read' and run. We got to one drop where a huge diagonal wave had formed, we both ran guts and as we approached we just tucked in, put our heads on our decks and just sliced through the meat of it, wicked!

We continued at an amazing pace, thanks to the sheer volume of water, yet still waterfalls cascaded into the river. After three hours of paddling, the water flattened a little and huge boils appeared, taking up most of the river.

We were making sure we stayed on top of these giant features: one slip and you were in for some freestyle winning mystery moves. As we neared the end of the gorge a rapid appeared with a thundering diagonal wave. I decided to run guts and got spanked.

As I was nearing the crest, the wave broke and sent me falling backwards into the air, throwing me back onto the surface water and then, to cap it all, the wave just came thundering down on top of me. After rolling up and trying to work out where I was, Ben paddled over laughing his head saying how he saw me falling five-metres backwards. We decided to eddy out on the next available beach for me to regain my senses. What a mistake! I reached the beach and was just getting out of my boat, when Ben pulled up alongside me on the downstream side and started bouncing about in his kayak.

As I pulled Ben onto the beach he started describing how he saw something three to four metres long. We both looked at each other and then we realised what had happened...

As I had reached the beach an anaconda had mistaken my boat for a fish and was about to attack my stern when Ben came charging in

over the top of it. With at least 100 kg of weight crushing down, the creature was not too impressed and struggled to get out from beneath Ben's boat.

We sat down at the beach trying to review our last situation and working out a game plan for getting back onto the river. We ate our lunch and then decided

to hit the eddy with our paddles for a minute or so to try and scare the snake away.

We got into our boats, pushed off together – and I have to confess, I have never been so scared getting onto a river before. We were staying as close as possible until we got back into the current. The GB Canoe Polo team would have been in awe of our sprint start! Within the next few minutes we turned a corner and a small tributary entered on river left indicating our amazing river expedition was over. We got off, took our boats up

the bank and waited for a local bus to take us the six hours back to Macas.

While we were on the bus contemplating our fate and how our expedition had gone, we both decided that we would head on back down the Upano just to experience it one more time – but next time we would do it without eddying out to take photos! ●



Steve Brooks would like to thank the following for their help and support: Pete Astles, at Peak UK, [www.peakuk.com](http://www.peakuk.com) and David Olsen, [www.smithsport.com](http://www.smithsport.com)



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# Golden haul from pre-world slalom championships

## Results from final in seconds

### Men's Kayak

1	Tomas Kobes	
	CZE	200.32
2	Fedja Marusic	
	SLO	201.85
3	Pierpaolo Ferrazzi	
	ITA	203.40
4	Tim Morrison	
	GBR	203.86
9	Anthony Brown	
	GBR	208.21
11	CampbellWalsh	
	GBR	211.81
16	Paul Ratchife	
	GBR	253.99

### Ladies Kayak

1	Heather Corrie	
	GBR	229.11
2	Marie Rihoskova	
	CZE	231.85
3	Anne-Lisa Bardet	
	FRA	232.33
6	Helen Cardy	
	GBR	242.96
7	Kim Walsh	
	GBR	253.93

### Canadian Singles

1	Patrice Estanguet	
	FRA	207.07
2	Tony Estanguet	
	FRA	209.36
3	Emmanuel Brugvin	
	FRA	210.18
10	Daniel Goddard	
	GBR	228.03

### Canadian Doubles

1	Smith/Bowman	
	GBR	220.79
2	VolfiStepanek	
	CZE	222.86
3	Quemerai/LePenn	
	FRA	224.28



Heather Corrie

## The Great Britain team has returned from the Pre-World Canoe Slalom Championships in Bourg St Maurice, France, with three Gold Medals.

The epic river Isere, just down the slopes from the majestic Val D'Isere ski resort saw Heather Corrie in the ladies final and Nick Smith and Stuart Bowman in the Canadian doubles produce startling runs and their first ever championship golds.

Britain's No.1 and Olympic silver medallist Paul Ratcliffe failed to capture another title, incurring a 50 second penalty for 'incorrectly negotiating the course. This is not an absent loss of concentration' the Bourg course stretches paddlers to the limits of their strength and endurance. Paul

has become a master, with four years as World Cup champion, at cutting his route to the tightest margin, in a Schumacher kind of way. However, on this occasion the poles did not swing in his favour.

However, in the Men's K1 Team event Campbell Walsh and Anthony Brown took Gold.

Campbell Walsh



Anthony Brown



Nick Smith and Stuart Bowman





Dan Goddard



There is jubilation in the team and Paul has enough resilience to come back even stronger for next month's world championships on the River Ocoee in the USA. This was the Olympic venue for the Atlanta canoe slalom in which Ratcliffe made his Olympic debut.

Heather Corrie's gold is the culmination of an extraordinarily long challenge at the very top of the sport. She entered the top premier division in canoe slalom in 1986 and has been part of the British team ever since. This championship win is long overdue, and testimony to her unfaltering motivation.

Nick Smith and Stuart Bowman are a crew on their way up to new heights, to where GB Canadian doubles have never previously charted. Nick and Stuart started together only in 1997 and

took part in a nail biting race at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, missing a medal by less than half a second.

These pre worlds have also demonstrated the new depth to the Great Britain team with nine boats qualifying for the finals and Campbell Walsh and Smith and Bowman winning their respective qualification races. Tim Morrison secured his best ever international result, 0.4 seconds outside the medals. Anthony Brown and Kim Walsh made it their third top ten performance of the year. Helen Cardy made it to her first final. Daniel Goddard, our lefthanded junior Canadian singles paddler, is proving that he really is of World Class potential for the future.

**Story by John Gregory**  
**Photos by John Anderson**

Paul Ratcliffe



## Slalom world championships cancelled

As Canoe Focus closed for press, the International Canoeing Federation took the decision to cancel the 2001 canoe slalom world championships, which had been due to be held on Tennessee's Ocoee River.

This action was taken in the light of the tragic events in New York and Washington and because the safety of athletes, staff and spectators could not be guaranteed.

Comments the BCU's John Gregory: "The 33 Great Britain team members have been devastated by the events and join the entire international canoe movement in expressing their deepest sympathies to the families of the victims.

"Whilst the expectations for GB team paddlers this year had been very high, the cancellation of the event was the only fitting course of action.

"Team managers for the 12 nations who had arrived in Tennessee met to consider the dispersal arrangements to get everyone home safely."

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# They've got a mission

## GORDON WALLING – Paddlesport Development Officer, London

Gordon Walling began paddling kayak in 1974 at the age of 14, whilst on a School activity holiday.

"At school I was fortunate to be able to try other disciplines such as marathon, polo and surf, which gave

paddlesport development officer for Kent, Surrey and Sussex – the South East. One is symbiotically linked to the other.

"I've been paddling since the age of seven, following a holiday to the Isle of Wight, and have been directly involved with the development of different craft and their paddlesport uses ever since – from wood plank kayaks and canvas covered, to high-tech composites and blow/roto moulded boats," he says.

"I still paddle, racing K1/ K2, K1 white water river running boats, sea tourers, open canoe and hope to build a wood strip canoe with epoxy.

"My involvement with LSE region started as RCO and hon sec of L&SE Region, a huge area I could not cope with, so I got the RCO job split (to London and the outer counties). From this I decided that coach education had to be a priority for the sport to continue to develop, and more recently started an MSc in The Science of Coaching.

"Since the formation of the Kent Schools Canoeing Association and the work we did introducing young people to our sport early on – and its eventual demise – I have been convinced that without the coaches to introduce and nurture young paddlers we cannot attract more people safely and efficiently into our sport, and keep them in our clubs.

"From my days of training and competing in WWR and slalom in Leeds, competing with paddlers intent on the '79 world championships in Canada, K1/2 racing in marathons and regattas such as the Exe and Liffey, solo sea paddling around the north coast of Jamaica and exploring alpine rivers, I think I bring a little variety to the post and hope it spills over into enthusiasm for our coaches and young paddlers. I've spent 47 years paddling. Maybe we'll meet on the water, or have done already!"



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 London team

me a good skill foundation," he recalls, adding, "I entered my first slalom in the same year and worked my way up to Division One K1 in 1978, paddling with the GB youth squad along the way.

"At about this time I was inspired by Pete Keane (who was Martin Hedges' main rival) to take up Canadian paddling, and was selected for the GB team for Liptovsky in 1982. For the next two year's (83/84) I paddled C2 with Tony Ambridge, a former pupil of the same school, at Pre World's and Europa Cup events.

"I then took some time out playing football at county level, but I couldn't stay away and commenced paddling C2 in 1989 with my brother Terry and in 94/95 we were in the GB World Cup Team.

"We switched to WWR in 1997 and have been competing ever since – including the last two world championships and this year's Europeans in Italy.

"I've done my bit for the youth programme by becoming a dad and, with the continuing support of my wife Lisa. I aim to continue racing as long as possible.

"One of my aims in my PDO role is to get more young people involved in competition as competition is fun!"

## PAUL NEWMAN – Paddlesport and coaching development officer London & SE

Paul has the 'chicken and egg' job of coaching development officer for London and the South East, and





# Focus on youth

There have been some exciting events happening over the summer period – here are some reports from our roving PDO's.

## Derby outdoor youth games

The first Derbyshire Outdoor Games took place at Carsington Water, near Ashbourne, on June 9. Two paddlesport disciplines were represented: bellboating and slalom. The bellboat event was a head-to-head sprint event over a distance of 500 m. The slalom event was a diamond slalom.

Both events attracted young people from the length and breadth of Derbyshire, with a total of 500 young people in total attending the games.

The bellboating proved to be very popular, with crews battling it out through the heats to gain a place in the final, which was the highlight of the day. Whether crews won or lost, everyone was full of enthusiasm and encouragement for the next heat.

The diamond slalom challenge was a slightly more sedate event, with paddlers aiming to be as precise as possible around a course of four slalom gates. Paddlers were awarded blue and bronze awards for their achievements.

Many thanks to Burton Canoe Club, Matlock Canoe Club and South East Derbyshire College for supporting this event and of course the young people of Derbyshire for making the games an event to be proud of.

**Howard Blackman – PDO East Midlands**

competition on the Monday.

Clubs from the West Thames /London area were chivvied and encouraged to enter, with a result of 28 young racers from the Clubs of Addlestone, Canalside, Ealing, Hymac, Islington BC, Waveriders and Purley taking part.

Placed paddlers from Crystal Palace achieved first, second and seventh – all were promoted with regional clubs coming first and third in the team event.

For many participants it was their first ranking slalom on moving water!

A big thankyou for an excellent event must go to David Lomas and Black Swan Canoe Club and to the many helpers and coaches too numerous to mention.

**Gordon Walling – London PDO**



## Thames Youth Regatta Grand Prix

This is a series of five races held from April to August, with points accumulated at each event – the paddler with the most points at the end wins. The event format is a time trial to establish the seeding – so that paddlers are then placed in races where they are evenly matched – followed by races for 200 and 500 metres in K1, K2 and a 1,500/3,000 metre race to produce a hectic day of good racing and fun.

This year more than 100 paddlers took part, with ages ranging from 8 to 17, and despite being dogged by problems early in the season, due to red warnings on the Thames and F&M, a good series ensued.

Congratulations to the winners in each category and thanks to the Clubs and their volunteers who made it all happen.

### Final results for the 2001 series as follows:

- Lightning Girls**  
 1st Megan O'Caloghan, Royal  
 2nd Emma Stacey, Elmbridge  
 3rd Laura Stacey, Royal
- Lightning Boys**  
 1st Guy Harris, Royal  
 2nd Jon Simms, Richmond  
 3rd Michael Hammerton, Royal
- U12 Girls**  
 1st Jessica Walker, Royal
- Boys**  
 Pat O'Callaghan, Elmbridge
- U14 Girls**  
 1st Louise Sawers, Elm
- Boys**  
 Chris Burt, Elmbridge
- U16 Girls**  
 1st Eleanor Broughton, Richmond
- Boys**  
 Tom Daniels, Reading
- U18 Girls**  
 1st Netty Kelly, Richmond
- Boys**  
 Ben Clarke, Elmbridge



## New event for Sheppey.

A new bellboat event this year was run for schools at Bartons Point, near Sheerness, following a request from Minster College for help with the development of a highly promising area of water for paddlesport.

Starting from scratch involved us making contact with the schools, borrowing boats (our thanks to Mayesbrook Lake, Barking) and arranging training days for the middle schools and their staff... then we were ready to go. However, one session of training during the week preceding the regatta was all that could be managed with the end of term close at hand, but the teams pronounced themselves ready for competition.

The event produced close and enthusiastic racing between the teams from Cheyney, St Georges and Danley Middle Schools, and a final race between the overall winners and the spectating parents.

Excellent weather, made for a great introduction to bellboating, and hopefully continuous use of this potentially important venue for young paddlers on Sheppey. Thanks to Minster College Physical Education staff who kindly assisted as officials and helms.

**Paul Newman – PDO Kent**

## Top results at Loddon slalom

The winners of this year's LSE regional youth slalom, held at Crystal Palace earlier in the year, won not only medals – they were also offered entry, coaching and support at the popular River Loddon Slalom near Reading.

Fortunately, F&M did not prevent an excellent event from being run and more than 100 paddlers taking part – with organised coaching available on the Sunday and the



## Fun for the kids

Grimsbey & Cleethorpes Canoe Club (GCCC) recently hosted a taster paddling event at Alexandra Docks for 22 Ukrainian children aged between 9 and 14. The children were visiting the area on invitation of the Keelby Methodist Church.

In glorious summer sunshine, the canoe club took out two groups of 11, introducing them to basic paddling and manoeuvring skills in kayaks and open Canadian boats. Both the children and the members of the GCCC enjoyed the event very much and hardly anybody stayed dry. [www.gccc.org.uk](http://www.gccc.org.uk)



# Fun, fun, fun

For several summers, Oakwood High Special School, Salford, has organised summer literacy courses for its new year-seven pupils. One of the criteria for running a summer school is that it should be fun. "We have achieved this by building in expressive arts and canoeing activities," says North West regional disability co-ordinator Michael Appleyard,



The canoeing activities take place at Salford Water Sports Centre, the Worsley Canal and the River Dee and introduce some



30 to 40 young people with learning and physical difficulties to canoeing, either in kayaks or open boats, depending on ability. This is done on flatwater as a taster with the more advanced pupils moving on to moving water.

This approach is allowing Oakwood High Youth Club to pick up on this group and develop their interest in such aspects of the sport as open canoeing, sea kayaking and, shortly, canoe sprints – activities which are often linked to the Duke of Edinburgh award. Most importantly, it provides the fun element for the pupils and encourages them to carry on attending the literacy school.

# School was never like this!

Peru 2002 will be the Exeter School Canoe Club's third major kayak expedition. The first was in 1995, to the Coruh River in the remote north east corner of Turkey ...and then there was the memorable four-week expedition to Nepal over Easter 1999. The school believes this latest adventure will be the first ever schoolboy/youth kayak expedition to Peru.

Taking part will be a group of 13 students who are currently studying for GCSE and AS/AL in years 11-13 at Exeter School. They have worked their way up through the 1,2, 3 & 4 Star awards and now make up a strong team of enthusiastic and skilful whitewater paddlers. The planned expedition, scheduled for July/August 2002, will have two main phases.

First off, it will combine kayaking some of the best Andean rivers with a chance to trek part of the famous Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The expedition base will be in Cusco, ancient capital of the Inca civilisation, set high in the Andes at 3,200m.

The first river to be tackled will be the Rio Urubamba which flows right through the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This will give a chance to warm-up and acclimatise to paddling at altitude – kayaking the Chuquichuana (class 3) and Huaran Canyon (class 3-4) sections of the river.

Swapping kayaks for walking boots, the team will then trek to Machu Picchu, the incredible, and mystical site of the Lost City of the Incas.

Crossing the Andes, they will then head into the Amazon basin to the Manu National Park, and kayak the jungle rivers Rio Quosnipata and Rio Tono (class 3-4) which have so far been paddled by less than 20 people!

The final goal, and ultimate challenge, will be a four-day wilderness raft-supported trip down the 3,000 metre deep granite canyon of the Rio Apurimac (class 3-5). The mighty Apurimac is one of the world's top ten white water rivers,

and the true source of the Amazon – which makes it part of the longest river in the world!

The Apurimac offers exhilarating rapids, awesome scenery, pristine sandy beaches for camping, spectacular sun-bleached rock formations and rare wildlife. Most of the rapids are class 3+ and 4; there are also some 4+ and 5 rapids, all of which can be portaged!

The second phase of the trip will be a community aid project, working with the Peru Children's Trust and based in Huancayo, in the Mantaro Valley – the largest and highest inhabited valley in the world at 11,300 feet – surrounded by mountains rising to 22,000 feet.

The expedition team is aiming to raise £2,000 towards the work of the Peru Children's Trust and has yet to decide, with the help of the Trust, how the money will be best made use of. It costs around £180 per year to sponsor a child through school.

Amazonas Explore will provide guides and support team on the kayaking and trekking phases of the expedition. They specialise in kayaking, trekking and rafting expeditions. The company is owner-operated by Paul Cripps of Great Britain and Stefan Zumsteg of Switzerland, both now living in Cusco. Between them they have more than 20 years, worth of experience leading expeditions throughout South America

Truly, the experience of a lifetime, this is going to be an amazing and unforgettable adventure. The Peruvian culture and history is uniquely different from our own. The scenery will be awesome. The team will come face to face with a scale of poverty and deprivation in the shanty towns that they have not met in real life before. Undoubtedly, they will be challenged to reflect on our own western lifestyle from a new and different perspective.

For more information tel: **expedition leader Pete Scott on 01392 250329** or e-mail: [pete@scotts.clara.net](mailto:pete@scotts.clara.net)



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# LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

## 'Wye Do It'

How excellent to read 'Wye Do It', a feature on more gentle canoeing which appeared in *Canoe Focus*. I am delighted to find that I am not alone in enjoying the River Wye. How about a series of articles on suitable places for middle-aged people and those with children to enjoy their paddling? Also, something on places to paddle where you can be close to wildlife would be appreciated. I'd also like to read about canals, like the delightful Droitwich Canal, where you will be the only boat on the water.

**Revd Paul Lack**  
Tenbury Wells,  
Worcs

*\* Over to you, readers! Canoe Focus relies on submissions from BCU members. If you've been on a great trip, gentle or challenging, how about writing an article for CF and sharing your experience with others?*

## What's in a name?

I'm probably too late to throw this comment into the pot, but while the BCU is working on a name change as part of splitting up into country organisations, can someone explain to me why is it still going to be called a 'Canoe Union'?

We've been out in the US for the last five months and it is quite striking how many members of the public understand the difference between a canoe and a kayak.

In the UK, however, most people you talk to have a mystified look when you try to explain that canoes and kayaks are two different things.

It's hardly surprising the public cannot make this differentiation when the national governing body persists in using the word canoe as a generic rather than specific term.

I'd suggest a title such as 'English Canoe and Kayak Union' would help to promote a better understanding.

The BCU is supposed to be fostering the sport to encourage more people to take it up. As a term the word kayak is, I'd suggest, much more appealing to the younger generation.

I think canoeing has unfortunately become a term most associated with people paddling open kayaks (!?) on flatwater, which is not an image likely to attract young people to the sport.

We need to start educating the public about this distinction - and naming the Union correctly is a first and basic step towards this.

**Marc Musgrove**

*\* But consider this, Marc: just as all cod are fish but not all fish are cod, so all kayaks are canoes but not all canoes are kayaks! Ed.*

## It's time for a two tier slalom system.

The continual reduction in slalom adherents has to be stopped to prevent the sport from disappearing altogether. Whilst it is necessary for our top athletes to compete under International Rules it must also be recognised that for many these rules are not attractive.

Anyone buying a canoe for the first time will soon want to do something with it. Not everyone is attracted to the current emphasis on turning turtle on a huge wave. Many would just like the opportunity to test their skill in manoeuvring the canoe around obstacles - the obvious lead up to white water touring. Slalom did this. We used to say to newcomers, "imagine the poles are rocks, you have to go between them either forwards or backwards but definitely not sideways".

Modern slalom, with its emphasis on sprinting down the course and ducking under the poles, holds no interest for many, and I suggest has created many less than competent paddlers. Let me give you an example.

Two or three years ago I was at the Div.2 event on the Serpent's Tail. (This used to be a prem. & Div. 1 event until the anglers forced a change of date). Two young paddlers arrived at the finish during free practice saying the course was far too hard for Div. 2 paddlers. I was concerned. The Exec. had just removed Div. 5 and redistributed the remainder. I apologised to the paddlers saying the club should have realised we could be having paddlers who were virtually last year's Div. 3 paddlers but now re-classified as Div. 2. "But we are Div. 1" shouted the youngsters.

At the same event I was judging with a young lady. She had come up with friends from London and had paddled down the course. I asked if she would be taking a Judges Run. "Oh no" she said "I'm only Div. 3, I can get all the gates but I'm just not fast enough!!"

There are many, like this young lady, who believe young aspirants would learn to paddle better if the courses were set up to ensure that a greater technique was necessary than simply sprinting down the course and ducking under the gates. The courses then become more interesting to those whose main aim is not international slalom but who use slalom as a means to improving their white water touring skills - not many of these will find it beneficial to learn how to "neck" a gate when they try to "neck" under the next rock.

It is time to recognise that for slalom to survive it must be attractive to more than just a few who aspire to international honours.

We need to set up a two tier system: a general level where slalom is made as attractive as possible to those who use slalom as a guide to how they are improving their skills in all directions or simply as a social occasion. This should be followed by a specialist level for the competent paddlers who wish to aim for International competition.

There is a system that could provide this. It is called the club series. This needs to be independent of international rules, but provide a useful grounding for those wishing to take slalom further. Already it allows all club members to attend the same event, overcoming travel and social complications that ranking slalom creates, but goes further. Whereas 2/3/4 events are merely bowing to the inevitable, the club series encourages better coaching within clubs, and encourages experienced paddlers, who now no longer wish to pursue the ranking system, with the opportunity to continue taking part in competition and by this means set a high standard for new paddlers to achieve.

It's time for a change.

**Roy Bradshaw**

**Club Series Co-ordinator.**

*Anyone wishing to discuss the Series further should contact me on Roy.Bradshaw@care4free.net*



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F O C U S

Feature  
RUSSIA

# Russian

Ask most people here to name Europe's highest mountain and they will cite Mont Blanc. Incorrect! The loftiest European peak is actually Mount Ebrus, deep inside Russia.

In fact, that vast country has many large and beautiful mountain ranges located within its borders.

The variety in length, volume, difficulty and remoteness of Russia's rivers is stunning, easily rivalling those of the better known kayaking centres in terms of diverse challenges. Yet it's largely unheard of and unvisited by the kayaking community.

The language barrier, image, visa hassles, internal distances and lack of information all contribute to the region's lack of foreign visitors. However, with the help of a few Russian acquaintances and a girlfriend who is fluent in the language, I went to discover for myself what Russian kayaking was all about.

Neil, Zoe, Olieg and I sat on bench seats around the small table. The movement of the train made the vodka swirl from side to side in the mugs in front of us.

"Here's to a good trip," said Olieg in his best English. We raised our mugs and downed (or in some cases attempted to down) the Moskovskaya vodka we had recently obtained from the buffet car. Zoe, Olieg and I then took a thin slither of Sala (lightly salted pigs fat) each and wolfed it down. Neil simply looked at the thick white slab in disgust, refusing to touch it.

This train journey was simple. From Moscow to Voroniezkh we had taken kayaks on the train in the open sleeping compartment for the overnight run. With a few extra rubbles given to the conductor it had been no problem. They were now heading south in a trailer being towed

## Sam Hollis and friends discover the raging rivers around Europe's highest mountain

by an ageing lime-green Lada (with spoiler), ably driven by Volodya and accompanied by (just to make matters easy) another Volodya, captain of Extrem White Water Club, and

one of our main sources of river information. We were to meet up the following morning in Krasnodar before all heading further south into the Caucasus and to the rivers.

"There has only been a little snow this year," said Olieg, adding, "So we hope there will be enough water to make the rivers good". My mind flashed back to the summer of '99 when I had been in the French Alps with ridiculously small amounts of water in virtually all the rivers. I really didn't want to go through that again.

The next day we were being driven into the mountains with all fear of drought abandoned. The last few months had seen heavy rain and the rivers were swollen almost to bank-full, and certainly well above their usual runnable levels. By three or four in the afternoon we arrived at camp. This was a clearing in the woods with a few tents dotted around and a fire burning away to one side, heating water for tea.

Despite the latitude being the same as in southern Spain and it being May, the sky was thick with dark grey clouds. The ground was very wet and water hung in the air making the day feel cold and unwelcoming. Despite the atmosphere, we wanted to set off straight away with a short trip on the river. It had been almost a week since we had arrived in Moscow, our time largely filled with travelling and waiting for Russian bureaucracy to run its slow winding course. We were dying to finally get in a boat. We soon persuaded the Russians that we genuinely would prefer to kayak rather than sit around drinking tea and relaxing. We loaded up the kayaks onto the rickety trailer and headed up the valley to the end of the bouncy unpaved road. We were finally on

our first (well, first for Neil and me) Russian river. It was the Byelaya (White River), home to the Russian white water championships and pumping down due to the high levels.

The Byelaya provided us with several days of entertaining kayaking in big playful water, reminiscent in size to the Oetz in Austria. Olieg and Volodya ran with us some of the time in their metal framed, inflatable white water catamaran. The run ended with a double drop 'Kishy' IV in normal levels but a good V with the amount of water going down it during our visit. We left this one for another day, for the next visit.

We spent a day travelling to the next river. The Lada was stopped by the police and charged for varying offences no less than six times before we found a riverside camping spot on the Bolshaya Laba, our next challenge. The Laba provided us with a large selection and variety of runs all (as with the Byelaya) pumping down at a fantastic rate.

The unusually high amounts of recent rain had

Photo by Sam Hollis





# odyssey



Photo by Neil Mancey

caused landslides, creating several new rapids and making the river an unknown quantity in many places. For our first river day we set off with six of us (Olieg in the boat) loaded into the three-door Lada that was also pulling a trailer. The only other vehicles we saw on the pot-holed dirt track were six-wheel drive "go anywheres" as they translated and so the Lada struggled up the pot-holed track. We stopped what seemed like every few minutes. The reason alternated between car problems (burst tyre, engine overheating, clutch and a big hole in the oil sump) and Volodya's insistence on inspecting almost every point on the river that was obviously just grade III/IV. This continued for the next hour or so until we got to the final inspection point. Volodya, Zoe and Olieg all got out to look. Neil and I sat in the back of the car fed up with inspecting obvious lines and trying to avoid the drizzle that had started falling, making the already chilly day feel even colder.

"I'm not doing it and neither is the catamaran," said Zoe on returning, "It's grade err, quite hard"

"No worries, you can drop us at the top and we'll meet at the next get in" I said without getting out of the car, reflecting Neil and my sentiments that we really wanted to get out of the Lada bloody soon and venture onto the river.

"Watch out for the first drop, 'Farewell Motherland', it's quite tricky and just after the start," said Zoe, passing on Volodya's message as we set off down the bouncy grade-three water. It wasn't long before, boats on shoulders, we were bypassing this first rapid. It was a steep drop into a large hole that would either let you through or munch you for ages. It was difficult to tell which, and neither of us wanted to be the blind probe.

We got back into continuous grade IV water and a few hundred metres further down we were on the bank again, looking at the river that from boat level was about to go ominously out of sight. We were at the entrance to a steep sheer-sided gorge known to white water users as 'fir tree gorge' and to locals as 'God help us!'. The bank-side inspection gave us little clue as to what was ahead.

Neil decided to try left, broke out and spun on the first wave, continuing from there on down backwards. I decided this was less than ideal and headed right, surfing across the first large wave. Past here the river got very hard and was pushing my skills to their limit. I had lost sight of Neil and was concentrating on getting myself down more than anything else.

About two thirds of the way down, a drop appeared, my speed gave me little time to prepare, and all I saw was what appeared to be a large messy white mush with no obvious way through. I went down and flipped. I hung upside-down, feeling my boat being buffeted on the raging torrent above. A quick respite was followed immediately by more heavy water and little chance of rolling. I continued holding my breath hoping to wash through this next set of stoppers soon.

The buffeting stopped and I rolled, gasped some air and fell back



Photo by Zoe Hanslip

in. I rolled again on instinct and stayed up. I noticed I was at the bottom of the gorge, heading into flat water. I caught a glimpse of Neil to my left. He was in his boat, wrestling with a tree on the bank. He disentangled himself and we drifted down to the next eddy to catch our breath and meet the rest of the team before continuing down the river.

"That was exciting," I said to Zoe, who was waiting in the eddy, before we both tripped into babbling nonsense, fuelled by adrenalin, excitement and the fact we had made it down in one piece. It was one to remember, but certainly not to repeat in a hurry.

The Laba proved to be a magnificent river and the rest of the run down with Zoe and the Russians was excellent continuous III/IV, with a few very large holes and plenty to keep you on your toes. We were also provided with more interest in the form of a continuous grade IV section just down from camp. Half way down was a portage where two landslides on adjacent banks had created a narrow slot and filled it with trees. The last drop was not run either as the double drop had a large tree running just under the water from top left to bottom right making the descent less than simple or safe.

After the Laba, Neil had to return home to work, while Zoe, Olieg, the Volodyas and I continued to the Bolshoy Zelenchuk. It was a fine river, but with a water level much lower than the others as the valley had received less rain and the sun even shone for several of our runs here.

The main run of note was a ten-kilometre section of grade III/IV, with plenty of interest along the way and some entertaining rapids. The upper Pshish (a local tributary) was a nice grade III, reminiscent of many rocky French rivers. This was possibly a first descent as it was too small for catamarans and few kayakers ever visited the river.

All too soon the trip came to an end and we were back on the train in an open carriage, kayaks precariously balanced in the luggage racks above our heads. The vodka swilled around in our mugs and we took a toast, to what had been a most successful trip. ●



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**Perception JIB**, ideal boat for smaller or lady paddler vgc. Can deliver to Tees Barrage etc. Tel: Chris or Helen on 07967 153492.

**Perception Supersport**, 12 months old, vgc, £240 ono. Tel: Mark on 024 76373484 or e-mail: [MrkBlower@aol.com](mailto:MrkBlower@aol.com). Neuneaton.

**Perception Supersport**, blue, full WW spec, good condition. £200 ono. Also Perception Whit-it C1, light green, excellent condition, never used on white water, fully fitted, £200 ono. Tel: Martin on 020 8651 3068 or e-mail: [martin\\_wicks@yahoo.com](mailto:martin_wicks@yahoo.com).

**Perception Whip-it**, brand new – purchased June. Injury forces sale, £340 (save £60 on rrp); neoprene deck, also new, £40. Tel: Pete Lacey on 01247 443630. Lyme Regis, Dorset.

**Perception Whiplash**, one year old, vgc, £280. Tel: Rob on 01298 79421. Derbyshire.

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**Pyranha Attack**, red, good condition, £300. Tel: 01546510236 and ask for James.

**Pyranha Attak**, excellent condition – hardly ever used, £300 ono. Tel: Helen on 07779 322160 or 01904 639768. Yorkshire.

**Pyranha InaZone 220**, yellow/black, good condition, stored inside, fully padded. £350. Tel: Adrian 07968 035666 or e-mail: [ascoleman@btinternet.com](mailto:ascoleman@btinternet.com).

**Pyranha InaZone 240**, WW spec, garage stored, good condition – used but not abused, £300 ono. Tel: 01904 704132 or e-mail: [ianpooleman@hotmail.com](mailto:ianpooleman@hotmail.com). York.

**Pyranha ProZone 230**, orange/black, one year old. Can be seen at Nene WW Centre. Tel: Chris on 07801 456688 or e-mail: [chris77@btinternet.com](mailto:chris77@btinternet.com).

**Pyranha ProZone 230**, yellow/blue, one month use only so vgc, £450. Tel: Melanie on 07779 015239.

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**Riot Glide**, unique mulberry colour, power seat, vgc, £380; Riot Disco, bright yellow, D3 seat, hip pads, vgc, £480. Tel: Duncan on 01226 752 903 or 07762 278 980 or e-mail: [ds@saundersfam.free-online.co.uk](mailto:ds@saundersfam.free-online.co.uk).

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**For further info in the above posts please send a CV to Mr Jeremy Game, The Lochgoilhead Centre, Shelter Park Lochgoilhead, Argyll PA24 8AA by the 1/12/01**

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Activity Centre

We need residential instructors to start in mid January 2002  
For details; tel: 01706 814554 or e-mail: [staff@robinwood.co.uk](mailto:staff@robinwood.co.uk)

Good staff conditions.  
Reasonable workload.

## Staff Required for 2002 and Beyond

### Instructors (NGB Qualified)

Must have a driving licence

### Cook

Must have a driving licence

### Bar Person

### ALL LIVE-IN POSITIONS

Please send your CV to Outdoor Adventure



Atlantic Court, Widemouth Bay, Nr Bude, Cornwall EX23 0DF

Tel: 01288 361312 Fax: 01288 361153

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

E-mail: [info@outdooradventure.co.uk](mailto:info@outdooradventure.co.uk)




## WATERSPORTS STAFF NEEDED IN KINGSTON UPON THAMES

SEASONAL / SESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR R.Y.A. AND B.C.U. INSTRUCTORS/SENIOR INSTRUCTORS

AT  
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Rates of Pay £5 - £7 per hour depending on qualification

For an application form contact  
Fiona Hutchison on 020 8547 6715 or email [fionah@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:fionah@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)








## Instructor / Careworker

Due to the demand for our resources, Corvedale Care are currently expanding their staff team. We are looking for enthusiastic highly motivated staff who will be required to work with young people who present challenging behaviour. All applicants will be police checked. Sessional work available possibly leading to full time positions.

Please contact Simon Rouse  
On 01694 724488



## SITUATIONS VACANT

## ERIC WRIGHT TRUST

## Water Park

near Coniston

## APPRENTICE TUTOR SCHEME

We are looking for another two 18-24 yr olds to join the Water Park team this October. Our apprenticeship is for one year. Full board, accommodation and a weekly wage are included. You will gain valuable experience working alongside our full time instructors and where appropriate will have opportunity to undertake a variety of NGB awards.

## For further details contact:

Water Park  
High Nibthwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8DQ  
Tel: 01229 885456  
Email: [adventure@water-park.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:adventure@water-park.freeserve.co.uk)



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Delphi Adventure Holidays Fax: 00353 95 42303  
Leenane Email: [hirdelphi@iol.ie](mailto:hirdelphi@iol.ie)  
Co. Galway  
Ireland



## Instructors Required

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

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

## Further details from:

Longridge S.B.C Quarry Wood Road, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1RE  
Tel: 01628 483252 E mail: [Jobs@longridge.org.uk](mailto:Jobs@longridge.org.uk)  
[www.longridge.org.uk](http://www.longridge.org.uk)

## ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL

Instructors required 2002 season. Great personality, highly motivated and looking for a career in the outdoors, then we need you, to train and work at our Multi-Activity Centre in Bude, Cornwall. Season starts March and ends October. Full training given prior to and during the season.

Phone for details, send C.V. or  
email me at: [tracy@adventure.uk.com](mailto:tracy@adventure.uk.com)

Tracy Joslyn, Personnel manager  
Adventure International, Belle Vue,  
Bude, Cornwall, EX23 8JP

Tel: 01288 355551  
[www.adventure.uk.com](http://www.adventure.uk.com)



ADVENTURE  
INTERNATIONAL

## SITUATIONS VACANT

CO. WICKLOW VOCATIONAL  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Require a Senior Instructor and  
Instructors for the 2002 season at our  
Outdoor Education Centre in  
Baltinglass Co. Wicklow.

Vacancies from March-October

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

Competitive salary plus accommodation provided. (No deductions)

Please send C.V. with photo to:

Centre Manager, Outdoor Education Centre, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow  
Tel. 00 353 508 81002/81747 Fax. 00 353 508 82128  
Email [info@baltinglassoec.com](mailto:info@baltinglassoec.com) web [www.baltinglassoec.com](http://www.baltinglassoec.com)



## STUBBERS

## ADVENTURE CENTRE

Upminster, Essex

## Vacancies for 2002 season

## Instructing and support staff

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

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

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

Stubbers Adventure Centre, Ockendon Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2TY

Or email: [admin@stubbers.co.uk](mailto:admin@stubbers.co.uk)

Charity No. 1080941

## Instructors Required

NST Adventure has opportunities for Qualified Instructors at  
our activity centres in the South of France for the 2002  
season.

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NST  
ADVENTURE



## THE GUIDE

## ASSOCIATION

Incorporated by Royal Charter

## ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR 2002

We are a youth organisation with 3 centres in the UK looking  
for enthusiastic instructors able to work with groups of all  
ages. Ideally you should hold at least one of the following:  
BCU Level 2 training, SPA Training or GNAS Leader Award.  
Training may be available to NGB qualifications.

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

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For an application pack, please call Jasmin in Personnel on  
020 7592 1836 (answerphone)  
or email [personnel@guides.org.uk](mailto:personnel@guides.org.uk)

Charity no. 306016



## NEWLANDS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Require instructors for the 2002 season. Canoe, Climb, Kayak, Mountain bike, Sail, Ghyll scramble, Mountain walk, Orienteer, Ropes course, Archery.

Applicants require a minimum of 2 NGB Qualifications, first aid certificate and Residential centre experience. Staff selection weekend early December. Positions available from March. Send a CV and covering letter for further details to:

Graeme Chapman  
Newlands Adventure Centre,  
Stair, Keswick, Cumbria.  
CA12 5UF  
e-mail jobs@activity-centre.com  
Website: www.activity-centre.com

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www.canoeocus.co.uk

## SCOTTISH CENTRES



### Outdoor Instructors

We are looking for multi-activity instructors to support our customer programmes for the 2002 season at 4 locations in Scotland. Starting February/March. Please enquire for further details to:

**Scottish Centres,  
Loaningdale House,  
Carwood Road,  
BIGGAR ML12 6LX**  
phone **01899 221115**  
email

personnel@scottish-centres.org.uk  
www.scottish-centres.org.uk

### Senior Activity Instructor

from January 2002  
Residential/activity centre  
situated on the edge of the  
Norfolk Broads. Must have BCU  
L3 Open Canoe, SPSA, and  
GNAS. Experience of working  
with adults, young people and  
special needs groups.

For further details please contact;  
The Horstead Centre,  
Rectory Road, Horstead, Norwich,  
Norfolk. NR12 7EP  
Tel: (01603) 737215  
E-mail: horstead.centre@zoo.co.uk  
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### South Wales

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www.nucleuswatersports.org.uk  
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## HERE WE GO AGAIN !!

# dart

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Dart Training Group,  
Holne Park, Ashburton,  
Devon. TQ13 7NP

e.mail paul@dart-training.co.uk

Check us out at www.dart-training.co.uk



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require raft guides with white water experience. Drivers  
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season. German is an advantage.

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Andrew Leaney

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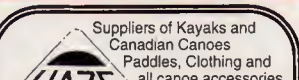
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details and quote on your boat  
Iain Hutchison (01594) 826273 (Glos)



# Off your trolley?

Endless River's canoe portage trolley is strong enough to carry today's canoes and is ideal for saving effort – even injury – when moving canoes on dry land.

The wide, load-bearing bars support the whole width of the canoe, to reduce hull flex, and are padded with sections of tough foam to give a degree of grip between canoe and trolley

and avoid scratching the hull.

The pneumatic tyres on the 30.5cm diameter wheels have a fairly chunky tread and work well on rough ground as well as on-road.

Easy to load and manoeuvre, the trolley folds flat for storage in the canoe or car boot. The wheels are removable, thanks to a simple quick-release feature.

For short trips on flat terrain, canoes can just rest on the trolley, but for longer/rougher trips, two tie-down straps are provided to secure the canoe to trolley and if mishaps occur, it is good to know the trolley (with wheels attached) will float!

Costing a not-too-expensive £69, the Endless River Canoe Trolley makes portages easy and as painless as possible.

Endless River Canoe Adventure, PO Box 699, Worcester, WR2 6ZL,  
Tel: 01905 640003.

**John Fenna**

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



## Keep afloat

Yak's Tejo is a short bodied buoyancy aid with a snug fit, thanks to two back, four side and two hinged front panels of soft buoyancy foam, side adjustment straps and a waist belt fitted below the foam. The deep cut armholes and soft smooth nylon offer freedom of movement and comfort, while the two shaped front pockets and rear pocket provide plenty of storage for those vital bits and pieces.

The front pockets have secure attachment points – D-ring or snap hook – and easy to use zips. The back pocket features a touch-and-close secured flap and a D-ring as well as a 'cargo leash' running over the left shoulder from behind the eight-way lash tab to allow easy access to the pocket contents. All the pockets have mesh sides and bases for quick drainage.

For night visibility the back pocket has retro-reflective tape on one corner and a retro-reflective Yaks' head graphic on the flap.

Well made, comfortable, practical and with good features, the Tejo comes in sizes S-XL in red/navy, costs around £71.95 and should have appeal for a broad range of paddlers.

Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 1AQ, Tel: 02392 528 621.



## Mad shorts

Take a look at these new shirts and shorts from Madyaker. Available as a limited edition only, with logos on the front and back of the shirts and just on the front for the shorts.

The shirts are available in 3 colours Blue, Beige, Cream.

The shorts colours are Blue, Grey, Beige.

Shirts £20.00

Shorts £15.00

For more details contact 01257 272575





# Know your place

With technology moving at such a rapid pace, Casio are already launching the second generation GPS watch – an essential piece of kit for any serious navigator, on water or land.

This upgrades the original model, with additional specifications, yet features a more compact miniaturised case design.

Casio originally launched the world's first 'Global Positioning System Watch' during summer 1999. This model allowed the user to find out their exact location in current

longitude and latitude positions by using an in-built GPS navigation feature that made it possible to tap into the wealth of information being transmitted by satellites orbiting the earth.

Whereas the first GPS watch tuned into eight satellites, this new model can produce a more accurate measurement position by using data from up to 12 satellites. It has also been designed to be more robust and durable and is water-resistant up to 50 metres.



Another feature to be added to this model is the ability to download and upload destination coordinates from a personal computer. This allows the user to map out a preferred route prior to the journey, or to download a route that has been successful, after it has been completed.

With an easy to read split window screen, for the time and navigational points, a

destination alarm that can be set to go off when way-points have been reached, a rechargeable battery and a track memory for 400 measurements, this second generation GPS watch takes navigation to a whole new level.

Already being tested and used by Cabair Helicopters and the International Rescue core, the Casio

second generation GPS watch retails at £349.99, the same price as the first generation. Casio on 020 8208 9513.

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

# Tooled up

Multi-tools are very useful items – until they go missing! That's somewhat less of a problem with the stylish Gerber 600, which comes in vibrant yellow or red colours.



[www.gerberblades.com](http://www.gerberblades.com)

There's just about every gadget you'll need for those riverside repairs: four screwdrivers, a standard drop-point blade, a serrated blade which is ideal for cutting webbing, hose or leather, a double-sided file, wire cutters, can opener, bottle opener, lanyard ring, wire crimpers, retractable pliers and wire cutters are all featured.

A unique patented safety feature locks each tool safely in position, with a push-button for easy release after use. Light and compact, the tool – with an rrp of £64.99 – dismantles for easy cleaning and comes with a leather pouch, which easily attaches to belt or pocket, and a lifetime guarantee.

Contact **Gerber Sales & Marketing, The Enterprise Centre, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3DQ. Tel: 01707 852247. Roger St. Pierre**

DON'T GO SHOPPING



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



# Yaketty yak

Yak's Cyclone Twin Canoe Cag is probably the highest spec cag I have tried out and would appear to offer everything anyone could want in a touring and expedition specified garment.

Starting at the top, you have a generous hood which moves well with your head and features both rear and side volume adjusters, a deep wired peak, a reflective panel for safety and a one-hand adjustable locking elasticated draw cord. The hood packs away into the outer collar, which itself is very high cut and fleece-lined for warmth. It also has a one-hand adjustable locking elasticated draw cord.

A flexible inner collar, with a touch-and-close tab closure, is located under the outer collar, and any water that finds its way past the outer collar's zip closure, touch and close fastened storm flap and inner baffle, or through the hood's tightened fit, will most likely stop here and drain away through an eyelet at the back of the neck.

The waist has both a neoprene inner, body-hugging seal and touch-and-close tab adjustable outer waist, between which is found the deck hook, while the sleeves terminate with latex seals and neoprene over-cuffs.

On the front of the cag there are generous fleece-lined, zip-closed hand warming pockets while piping on the yoke and sleeves is reflective - as are the Yak graphics.

Made from breathable, waterproof ripstop nylon, with fully taped seams, the Cyclone Twin offers a snug fit that still gives plenty of freedom of movement and should keep the wearer warm and dry in almost any conditions. Available in red/navy, sizes S-XL, the Cyclone Twin costs around £149.90, while the Cyclone (single waist closure) costs around £139.90.

Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 1AQ, Tel: 02392 252 8621.

**John Fenna**



[www.yak-paddling.com](http://www.yak-paddling.com)

## Protection + comfort

With a design that will appeal to open canoeists, Yak Paddling Salopettes offer a good level of comfort and protection and are made from PU proofed, breathable waterproof ripstop nylon, with reinforcing at knee and seat wear areas, and fully taped seams.

Cut for a snug, but not restrictive fit, the Paddling Salopettes come high up the chest and are shaped under the arms, have an elasticated back waist section, touch-and-close adjustable neoprene ankles, a touch-and-close front thigh pocket and adjustable elasticated braces.

The lack of any kind of fly opening means that (especially if you are wearing a canoe cag) a little forward pee-stop planning is required to avoid the excellent waterproof performance of the Paddling Salopettes going to waste.

Fairly basic, but well made and very practical, the Paddling Salopettes are available in navy, sizes S-XL and cost around £84.95.

Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 1AQ, Tel: 02392 252 8621.

**John Fenna.**

## Up the Zambezi

The highest rated of Yak's range of quality buoyancy aids is the 80n Zambezi, aimed at those involved in expeditions, rescues and instruction.

Made with a Cordura outer cover for strength and durability, a soft closed cell buoyancy foam (cut in fairly narrow panels for a comfortable fit), extra thick foam on the front panels - which may help in floating you face up - a comfortable nylon inner fabric and cut with deep armholes, the Zambezi gives a snug but secure fit, combined with freedom of movement.

Around the Zambezi is fitted an integral quick-release chest harness and cows tail for rescue work with a secure, no-shag, karabiner.

The upper back of the buoyancy aid has a large rear bellows pocket with a touch-and-close fastened flap, the right front a mesh pocket with a touch and close flap, an internal D-ring and an attached whistle, as well as a lower touch and close fastened pouch for the karabiner on the end of the cows tail. The left front features a zip-closed mesh-sided cargo pocket with inner D-ring, an eight-way lash tab

and an extractor leash which runs over the left shoulder to allow easy access to the back pocket contents.

Costing around £119.95 and available in red/black, sizes S-XL, the Zambezi should appeal to many paddlers as it is well designed, well featured, comfortable and practical for more extreme, as well as more relaxed, paddling.

Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 1AQ, Tel: 02392 252 8621.

**John Fenna**





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