

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

# canoe focus

12-02

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**Norway**

**Seventy One Degrees North**

**Peru**

**Paddling into the Unknown**

**Plus**

**Competition**

**News & Access**

**Paddler's Gear**

**ICE 2003 & More!**



**9 PAGES OF JOBS**

BY ENTHUSIASTS FOR ENTHUSIASTS - THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BCJ





**Canoe Focus**  
The official magazine  
of the British Canoe Union  
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**[www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)**  
ISBN 0953-010X

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#### Annual Subscription Rate

**UK inland:** £18.00

**Overseas:** £23.50

Supplied free to BCU members -

**Adults:** £26.00 basic

£31.50 comprehensive

**Under 18's:** £13.00 basic

£16 comprehensive

**Family:** £12.00 basic

£15 comprehensive

#### Publishing Contractors

2b Graphic Design  
49 Greenfields, St. Ives,  
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#### Printed by

Warners, Bourne, Lincs

#### Colour Repro by

2b Graphic Design

#### Magazine Design

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#### Illustrations

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#### Typesetting and Page Make-up by

2b Graphic Design

## BCU DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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canoeing with  
the BCU

**More Activity**  
promoting more  
canoeing activity

**More Access**  
more access to  
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and finance

**More Coaching**  
improving the  
quality and  
quantity of  
coaching

**More Medals**  
winning more  
international,  
world and  
olympic medals

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#### YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE CANOE FOCUS HAPPEN.

The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers, so don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. **Technical Information:** Contributions are acceptable in typed (double spaced) or preferably as a Microsoft Word file, which can be emailed to [peter@canoefocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoefocus.co.uk), or mailed to 2b Graphic Design, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cams PE27 5HB. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and it's agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. Next Copy date is the **30th DECEMBER 2002**. Material arriving after this date cannot be included in the **FEBRUARY 2003** issue. Canoe Focus encourages contributions of any nature but reserves the right to edit and condense to fill the space available and unless otherwise stated the publishers assume no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Canoe Union, its committees or members. The printing of an advertisement in Canoe Focus does not necessarily mean that the British Canoe Union endorse the company, item or service advertised. All material in Canoe Focus is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without prior permission from the Editor is forbidden.



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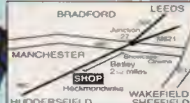
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# COMMENT

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive

## BCU Membership

**At the close of the BCU year on 31st October, I am pleased to report record numbers of BCU members. Individual membership in England has grown to an all-time high of 20,383. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland report growth over last year leaving BCU individual membership at just under 25,000 and the total BCU paddlers, including club members at 42,000.**

BCU Development Plan November 2002 to October 2005

**Building on the platform of our record membership numbers the BCU board has set the organisations strategic direction for the next three years:**

### The BCU's vision is to:

Enable our members, partner organisations and the wider paddling community the best available opportunity to achieve their potential in all aspects of paddlesport.

### Our mission is quite simply: Helping and inspiring people to go canoeing

Focusing on three strategic objectives:

- **Paddler Focus**  
Working in partnership to help people paddle and enjoy the sport and recreation of canoeing with the BCU
- **International Success**  
Working to support the long-term paddler development opportunities required for people to achieve high-level performance in paddlesport
- **Raising the profile of paddlesport**  
Working to inform and publicise to all people the full range of canoeing activity  
The BCU intends to deliver its strategic objectives by developing some of its existing strategies and adding five new strategies in the areas of communications, volunteers, education & training, membership & marketing, and modernisation.

### An ethical people's organisation working to continuously improve paddlesport

The BCU is primarily a people's organisation and seeks to provide a paddler- focused service through all levels and parts of the organisation. To achieve our aims and objectives the organisation has identified the seven core values to establish the framework by which it will operate. In essence the values reflect **how the BCU will achieve its mission.**

- Inspiring, encouraging and empowering all parts of the organisation to contribute fully to the long-term success of paddlesport.

- Developing the intellectual capital of the organisation through a commitment to a culture of life long learning and continuous improvement.
- Working with people and organisations to build positive relationships and partnerships at every level.
- Work within an open, accountable and ethical framework (moral, financial, environmental, legal) at every level of the organisation.
- Be a tolerant, fair organisation that is open and genuinely accessible to all.
- Committed to an integrated, business like organisation, seeking to develop sustainable programmes and opportunities.
- Embrace the need for improvement at every level in the organisation.

Further and continuous work is required to integrate these core values into all aspects of our existing ethical policies and in making and delivering new ones so that the BCU is:

**"Paddler focused, coach driven, volunteer delivered".**

Further details concerning the Development Plan will be published on the BCU web site and in further editions of *Canoe Focus*.

## River Thames

As from 1st January the BCU Membership package includes a license to paddle on the River Thames. The BCU has been trying to achieve this benefit for several years. See page 7 for details in this edition of *Canoe Focus*.

## International Canoe Exhibition "Canoe 2003"

Plans for the International Canoe Exhibition to be held alongside the Outdoors Show at the NEC in Birmingham from 14-16th March 2003 now include a Wave Box and a Have - a - go pool. Tickets for the UK's premier show for canoeing and the outdoors are available from the ticket hotline 0870 010 9086.

## New telephone system

In order to deal efficiently with our ever increasing number of telephone enquiries we have installed a new telephone system at the BCU Offices.

One of the most frequent concerns raised by our members is how many times they have to try before getting through on the old telephone system. We have therefore trebled the number of incoming lines, which should make it a lot easier for you to get through first time.

Our office manager would be interested to know if you are still experiencing problems getting through. Please email [lorna@bcu.org.uk](mailto:lorna@bcu.org.uk) with details.

## BCU elections

The BCU AGM on March 8th 2003 will consider nominations for the post of president and for elected members of the board. Nomination forms are available from Vera Whalley at the BCU office. Completed forms must be returned before 31st December 2002.

**And finally,  
Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New  
Year to all BCU  
members**

## New Carlisle Canoe Club website

Carlisle Canoe Club has a new website at [CarlisleCanoeClub.com](http://CarlisleCanoeClub.com). It has hundreds of paddling photos from Cumbria, Scotland, Norway and the Alps, including whitewater paddling on the Eden, Nith, Orchy, Greta, Tryweryn and Etive, and sea paddling in the Garvellachs, Shetlands, Mull, and Galloway. There are also dozens of newsletter articles and information what we do and how to join.

## Shaun Baker in 2003 Guinness Book of Records

It is nearly 16 years since Shaun set his first Guinness World Record for kayaking over waterfalls. For all this time Guinness have resisted publishing his records in the official book, saying that "They are just too extreme"! Well for 2003 they have had a change of heart, and two of his four current world records are now featured in the new book: Check out page 255 in the sports section. If you require further information, please contact: [shaun@waterfallkayaker.com](mailto:shaun@waterfallkayaker.com)

## Shaun Baker presented to Prince Philip

On Tuesday the 12th of November 2002, Shaun Baker was invited as a VIP to St. James's Palace in London. Vice Admiral Michael Gretton presented Shaun to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and the pair spoke at some length about Shaun's exploits kayaking over waterfalls. Along with other VIPs including Sven-Goran Eriksson, John Hurt and Ray Mears, Shaun had been invited this day to make a short speech and present Gold Awards on behalf of Prince Philip to young people involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

## Weekend tourism in the Outer Hebrides

Adventure Hebrides announce new weekend breaks Adventure Hebrides is pleased to announce a new and exciting development in the provision of outdoor adventure holidays in the Outer Hebrides for Spring 2003.

The package makes use of the new flight timetables starting this month. A spokesperson from Adventure Hebrides described the new package: "Clients will fly to Stornoway in Lewis on late Friday afternoon from the cities of Glasgow or Edinburgh. There is still time for an evening paddle to whet the appetite and soak up the lengthening daylight hours, before sitting down to dinner. Saturday will be a day paddling around the west coast islands or in one of the extensive sea lochs in Lewis or Harris before returning to sample good island hospitality. Clients will be accommodated in B&Bs or hotels during their stay, and make use of some of the islands fine restaurants. Sunday will provide an opportunity for another day's adventure finishing in time to catch the afternoon flight back home in time for work on Monday."

For more information [www.canoehbrides.com](http://www.canoehbrides.com) or telephone **Tim on +44 (0) 1851 820726**.

## Top freestyle coaching at Surf-Lines!

Are you dreaming of pulling off a big air blunt or nailing the third end of your cartwheel? Or perhaps you're looking to sharpen your river running and play boating skills – if so, don't miss out on this exciting opportunity in 2003.

Surf-Lines have teamed up with Lynsey Evans to offer a superb programme of coaching courses – including freestyle clinics, intermediate/advanced river skills and Alpine adventures.

Lynsey needs no introduction to the paddling world – currently no.2 in the UK and top ten in the world freestyle rankings. Based in Snowdonia, these courses will benefit from some of the UK's finest paddling locations. With course dates from March 2003, including a selection of Discover White Water weekends. **Contact the Surf-Lines team for further info – 01286 879001 or [info@surf-lines.co.uk](mailto:info@surf-lines.co.uk)**

## Gower descending

Ex-England and Hampshire cricketer David Gower and his three children were among over 1,500 visitors who took part in paddlesports at this year's Southampton Boatshow.

The Gower's enjoyed a couple of descents of the rapids water feature courtesy of Calshot Activities Centre.

The facility, one of the show's most popular attractions, offered opportunities for white water rafting as well as kayaking on flat and white water. The rapids also proved a massive attraction for spectators who were able to witness the thrills of canoeing at close quarters.



## A wonderful donation

Amy Greenhalgh who suffers from Downs Syndrome, is a member of Glanford and Scunthorpe Canoe Club. Due to her condition, Amy has to have another canoeist to steer for her (steph Lawton) and when they competed in the West Tanfield slalom last year, they had to borrow a two man boat. However because of the popularity of the boat it was not available on a regular basis. Kath Wright wrote to Brigg and Scunthorpe Lions asking for a donation towards a boat they could use all the time. They were delighted when they not only came up with the full amount for a two man boat but also supplied bouyancy aids and spraydecks. A heart warming story for this time of the year.



## Water vision!

Embargo: until 20th November 2002

River users will get a unique opportunity to influence the way the Environment Agency manages its waterways.

Agency navigation and recreation managers are developing a wide-ranging draft strategy - "A Vision for the Navigable Rivers of England and Wales" - that will be available for public scrutiny from Wednesday 20th November 2002.

David Lawrence, the Agency's Head of Navigation and Recreation, said: "The aim of the strategy is to promote the essential role navigation plays in the healthy development of the river environment. We want to show members of the public and organisations with an interest in inland waterways the value navigation can bring to their work."

The strategy will address a variety of complex but inter-related issues, including:

- How to involve the community and provide a better waterways service to people
- How navigation can play a pivotal role in developing partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors
- How navigation can trigger economic and cultural regeneration in both rural and urban areas

The strategy will also look at other important issues surrounding navigation, identifying the distinction between the Agency's statutory role and general duties. It will ensure the Agency provides the highest possible standards in navigation.

Topics covered will include access, facility provision, commercial water freight, green fuels, licensing and information and marketing. A review of the Agency's approach to safety, funding and how it integrates its work with other policies will be included.

Mr Lawrence said: "Having published the consultation draft we will encourage colleagues, partner organisations, river groups and individuals to comment over the coming months.

"The feedback will allow us to produce a more tightly focussed document, offering a measured and considered policy framework."

# More value for BCU membership



In addition to the many benefits of BCU membership the BCU are pleased to

## announce the addition of the Thames Licence

Members visibly displaying the "BCU membership plate" will be permitted to have one vessel registered for use on the River Thames as part of their yearly membership fee.

BCU members attention is drawn to the following three major points

- The Thames Conservancy Act, navigation and registration byelaws require registration of each vessel. Therefore members with more than one vessel and clubs owning vessels will be required to apply to the Agency for separate registration and licensing of each additional vessel.
- The navigation byelaws forbid the transfer of plates between vessels

- Each BCU member intending to use the River Thames must make themselves aware of the River Thames byelaws as produced by the Environment Agency and available from the Environment Agency offices or displayed on the notice boards at riverside locations.

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Open Sundays

UK Canoes of Lancaster are now open on Sundays from 11.30am to 5.00 pm for the duration of the season for Halton Rapids on the river Lune, also handy for a stop off on your way back from the Lakes. Call in for a chat, a cuppa and some great kit this winter. Info on local rivers also available. UK Canoes are also running the following courses this winter in the area.

- Introduction to White Water Day
- Improvers White Water Day
- Playboating

Dates for all the above:

Sunday 15th December

Sunday 19th January

**Please call 01524**

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For full information blaze a trail to [www.perception.co.uk](http://www.perception.co.uk) or phone for a leaflet

## Get tagged

Now when ever you buy a piece of Nookie equipment you'll get a swing tag which will entitle you to a 10% discount on Kayajacko Coaching. Yep in a partnership between the two companies we have come up with a way to offer even greater value. Look out for the tags attached to Nookie Equipment in all good Canoeing Stores.



## Extreme Sports Channel

Homegrown - Get high on your own supply



Here's your chance to let the world know just what you can do. Extreme Sports Channel is giving you the opportunity to star in its new series 'Extreme Homegrown'. Extreme Homegrown is a series made for the viewer, by the viewer. After all that talk about the latest trick you've just pulled off, it's now time to prove it. Don't worry if your first time, or you were born doing it, the more amusing and outrageous the clips the better.

Whether you are a budding director or just a point and shoot holidaymaker we want you to send in your clips and trips to air on our "viewers only" programme.

And its not just footage you can send in, Extreme Sports Channel is also interested in the music you make, the photos you take and generally anything to do with your favourite sports.

### Step One: Grab the Footage

Get out there and record the moment, nailing your most awesome trick, wiping out, or for the more ambitious make a video diary of your next outing.

### Step Two: Submit the Evidence

Send in your VHS, DV, mini DV, tapes, photos, or CD's. If you're a new media guru and have anything in an email format (jpegs, WAV files, Quicktime etc) then please send as an attachment to [info@extreme.com](mailto:info@extreme.com)

### Step Three: Become a Star

Invite your buddies around when Extreme Homegrown is scheduled on Extreme Sports Channel (keep your eyes peeled, details will appear on our online schedule), grab some beer, settle back, and revel in the glory.

Send your tapes, CD's etc to **Extreme Homegrown, Extreme Sports Channel, The Media Centre, 131-151 Gt Titchfield Street, London W1W 5BB**

## Saturday Night Xcite

River Dart Adventures in conjunction with Nookie Xtreme Sports Equipment and Playboating Magazine are pleased to bring you the Saturday Night Xleague.

**Venue:** The River Dart

**Location:** The Anvil

**Time:** Every Saturday @ 7pm

During the summer the guys and girls at River Dart Adventures have carried out lots of work on their facilities, this has really opened up the section of river in their grounds. This combined with some of the weir stabilisation work that was carried out has led to a dramatically improved play spot, 'The Anvil'. In order to take advantage of this and try to encourage both local and visiting talent alike the Xleague has been created. There are categories for men, ladies, boys and girls of the Non Sponsored variety as well as a one for any visiting Pros. It will feature weekly floodlit freestyle events which will not only contribute to a league event (which will have results updated weekly on the Xleague website), but will also provide the winner of each weeks event with a nice goody bag and a ticket into one of the most prestigious (and lucrative) events of this season. This will take place early next year and details will be out soon, but rest assured that the prizes involved for the eventual victors of the league and that event will be impressive to say the least! For more details visit [www.riverdart.co.uk](http://www.riverdart.co.uk) and go to the paddlezone or call **River Dart Adventures on 01364 652511.**



## Be all that you are - Gene17.com

Long time global adventurer and professional competitor Simon Westgarth has brought his fledgling kayak school and video production venture under the brand name Gene17.com.

Why Gene17, well allegedly on the human chromosome 17 within the human DNA, located here are the genes that influence each persons development and personality. Simon says that "the educationist approach Gene17 takes to teaching, means we can offer a progressive experience to learning along with the delivery on new school kayak techniques."

Current projects under development are two video productions, "Genotype" a beginner white water kayak video, and "Destination Nowhere", a location specific kayak action movie. Furthermore, Gene17 inform us that they already have their 2003 coaching trip programme online. These trips are to some of the premiere European paddling destinations, full details at [www.gene17.com](http://www.gene17.com)

### Genotype, a beginner white water teaching production

Filmed exclusively on the Soca River in Slovenia. Simon Westgarth with the help of Paul 'Cheesy' Robertson and Pirtro Linda, reveal all the best of new school kayaking technique for the beginner paddler. All the early key techniques are covered comprehensively and developed into whitewater skills and understanding.

Using Simon's professional education background as a school teacher, the production's delivery is aimed at capturing peoples' different learning styles. Bulletin text and flow charts are mixed in with mellow music and clear instructions to present techniques. Additional chapters include a review of paddlers gear, the classification of whitewater, group paddling and rescue skills.

All in all, the full resource for a beginner and those paddlers who wish to develop new school skills, and filmed in one of the best kayaking destinations in Europe.



[www.gene17kayaking.com](http://www.gene17kayaking.com)

## Why not buy online? it's easy but is it safe?

Buying your kit online. It's easy, it's fun, it's cheap, you spend less time going to the shops and more time out there paddling when you buy online. But is it safe where do your credit card details go?

If your browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer usually) displays the golden padlock symbol when you are 'checking out' then you are pretty sure no-one can intercept your details as the golden padlock is an indication of international security protocols.

Dean Maragh, owner of [www.the-watershed.co.uk](http://www.the-watershed.co.uk) who use the golden padlock system suggests that when buying online you:

- Pick a company you are sure about, perhaps email them, ring them or video conference with them
- look for and ask for recommendations from your fellow paddlers
- Check their terms and conditions and returns procedures, sizing changes between brands
- Look for the the phrase 'we use SSL' or the golden padlock on the checkout page
- Look for the Which? web trader logo and double check with Which? that the shop is listed and therefore been vetted.



The Daily Telegraph

# adventure

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# Revamp of Perception white water range



Full Tilt



Lucid



Method Air



Sonic

Perception have totally revamped their white water range for 2003. The revamp includes the introduction of new boats and new specifications including the introduction of the Proline 500 and Proline 700 series. These two series cover all aspects of white water kayaking and offer high quality outfitting to suit intended use and budget.

## New Proline 500 Series

Perception has taken three cutting edge freestyle kayaks and four great all river boats, added new Proline 500 Series specifications and shaved the retail price to £499.00 to create a new line of river boats for the white water paddler.

The Full Tilt, Spin and Lucid all proved themselves in competition in 2002, winning a hat full of events including the pre World Championships and Euro Cup. Perception Proline 500 specification makes this competition freestyle performance available to progressive intermediates and advanced paddlers looking for a "park and play" boat.

The Proline 500 outfitting includes Superlinear Polyethylene Shell, Colour Wash, Adjustable Xtra-Light Seat System, Adjustable Backrest, Adjustable Thigh Braces, Custom Foam Footrest, Security Bars.

The Method Air and Madness have created a reputation as versatile free ride boats which are equally at home on a gnarly expedition multi-day as they are on a local river trip. Clean edges, a fast planing hull and low volume ends combine to produce stability when the going gets rough yet retain looseness and precision when playing. The Proline 500 specification saves around 2kg against previous versions and includes Superlinear Polyethylene Shell, Colour Wash, Adjustable Xtra-Light Seat System, Adjustable Backrest, Adjustable Thigh Braces, Adjustable Bulkhead Footrest, Flotation Walls, Security Bars, Drain Plug.

The Sonic and Supersonic complete the Proline 500 Series. These river runners mix Perception's latest design performance and comfort volume to give a boat for all scenarios. The highly manoeuvrable and quick hull surfs and spins easily, working in combination with the chines and rails to give predictable and precise control to all abilities of paddler. The Proline 500 specification saves around 2kg against previous versions and includes Superlinear Polyethylene Shell, Colour Wash, Adjustable Xtra-Light Seat System, Adjustable Backrest, Adjustable Thigh Braces, Adjustable Bulkhead Footrest, Flotation Walls, Security Bars, Drain Plug.

## All New Method for Juniors



Method Junior

Perception's Method Junior offers playful versatility to small paddlers in a well outfitted kayak. It's a kayak in which young paddlers can have real fun and benefit from an advanced design specification that will unlock new features as their skills develop. Initially they will enjoy the relative stability and response of a flat bottom hull before they develop the necessary skills to take advantage of the performance characteristics of clean edges, a fast planing hull and low volume ends. The outfitting includes a robust Superlinear polyethylene shell, adjustable seat, thigh braces, adjustable pedal footrests, flotation walls, grab loops and drain plug.

The Method Junior will retail at £350.00

### Specifications:

**Type:** Junior free ride kayak; **User Guide:** Novice - Advanced;  
**Paddler Weight:** <65kg; **Length:** 221cm; **Width:** 63cm;  
**Volume:** 155 litres; **Cockpit:** 85 x 48cm

## Nomad coaching day

It was a cold and wet day at Mile End Mill Llangollen, as Nomad paddleworks held their first coaching day for the stars of the future. The weather however, did not stop the young enthusiasts who arrived bright and early and ready for action!

The day consisted of morning and afternoon coaching sessions hosted by current members of the Great Britain Senior Canoe Slalom team and a mid day motivation talk given by Paul Ratcliffe. The morning session set the tone for the day as the coaches saw some excellent potential to learn and develop existing technique.

The break for lunch gave the paddlers the opportunity to shelter from the rain and re-energise for the afternoon session. Paul Ratcliffe really inspired the paddlers and they were soon fired up and ready to put into practice the invaluable advice given by the coaching team during the morning session.

The coaches saw further improvement in the afternoon session and by the end of the day all agreed that Great Britain has some exciting potential in its young paddlers

Nomad paddle works would like to thank the coaches and members of the GB squad, Paul Ratcliffe, Neil Buckley, Anthony Brown, David Florence, Michelle Patrick, and Lara Tipper for their time knowledge and support. Most of all we would like to thank the young enthusiasts and their parents for participating and driving their young stars to Llangollen for the day. If that was not enough they also stood out in the pouring rain!

Nomad paddle works are looking forward, to running more coaching days in the near future so watch this space.

## Helen Reeves

Nomad paddleworks are pleased to announce that Helen Reeves has joined their slalom racing team. Helen has been through a rough time over the past couple of seasons, but this year she has bounced back brilliantly finishing 9th at her first ever senior world championships. Helen will be using her new super light ladies comp paddles designed and made by Nomad paddleworks and paddling her new Galasport ladies Midas.



Helen Reeves



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## Action on access - demonstration access schemes

At the end of October the BCU met with officials from the Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Countryside Agency to progress the demonstration access schemes proposed by the Minister for Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Alun Michael MP. The meeting served as an exchange of views and information for the Countryside Agency to consider the methodology to be adopted for the schemes.

A decision on how and where the Countryside Agency's proposes to conduct the schemes is awaited. It is anticipated that arrangements will not be in place before early in the New Year and action on the ground would commence in Spring 2003 at the earliest.

## River Tees

BCU Northern region has renewed the access agreements on the River Tees between Barnard Castle and Winston Bridge, for the period Nov 1st 2002 to March 31st 2003. The conditions are as published last season. For further details contact either your Local River Adviser: Ali Rowell on 01325 462108 or RAO Don Raspin on 01287 650668.

## River Don

With the demise of heavy industry and the regeneration of Sheffield, the River Don is no longer the murky industrial sewer it was, in fact it is experiencing a revival in terms of residential 'docklands' style, river facing developments with trendy bars and cafes opening up along its length replacing the spit and sawdust watering holes.

The river benefits and the Upper Don Trust established to make sure the river and its banks are developed and promoted for recreational purposes such as cycling, skateboarding, pram pushing, heritage preservation, real ale pubs and canoeing. These developments don't happen overnight and the trust was pleased to be present at the opening of the first section of the Upper Don Walk at the Riverside exchange after almost ten years after formation!

Anyone with ideas about developments of the River Don which will open it up for the occasional paddler should contact the local BCU facilities officer Dean Maragh on [dean@the-watershed.co.uk](mailto:dean@the-watershed.co.uk).

## Thet

If those people paddling the Thet in Norfolk launching at East Harling, continue to do so without going through the access officer, we will all lose the privilege of parking and launching there as it is a private river bank. The owners must be informed through the access officer Dick Foyster on 01953 606910

Milan, Italy,  
11th - 14th July

# Paddle-Ability European sprint racing championships

**Sprint racing for athletes with disabilities has been developing steadily over the last few years and a European Championships is becoming established. The largest teams come from Italy and Britain with competitors from Croatia, Iran and occasionally France and Israel.**

The 2001 European Sprint Championships in Milan included Paddle-Ability events alongside the Senior and Masters events for the first time. An encouraging development towards inclusive sport and the opportunity for athletes with disabilities to enjoy the atmosphere of a major sporting occasion. This years Paddle-Ability events were back in Milan as part of the World Cup 4 Regatta.

The championships are held in line with the Paddle-Ability concept developed within the BCU. Athletes compete to their ability, in time bands, rather than in the classes defined by their disability. This produces close racing, larger fields and allows athletes to progress as they develop their abilities. Standards

for the fastest time band (men's A) are approaching those for fully able athletes. Races were held over 500m and 1,000m in K1 and K2 with three time bands for men and one for women.

Last year the weather had been very hot and humid during the day with thunderstorms in the evening. This year the pattern was reversed and conditions were reminiscent of Nottingham but with warmer water!

In the men's A races there were very strong athletes from Croatia and Iran and Eivazi Nader, a member of the Iranian senior national team, had the edge over last years champion Djurkovic Krunoslav of Croatia. Emanule Farinazzo of Italy took bronze in both races, the British competitors fighting for positions just outside the medals. The closest racing came in the Men's B races with British competitors winning both events, Adam Savage in the 500m and Stuart Carter in the 1,000m. Britain dominated the Men's C events with the battle between Kevin Yost and Anthony Sloan going all the way to the line in both races - one win each was the result. Margaret Taylor won both women's K1 events and the K2 events with Alison Bull. Italy won both men's K2 events with British crews filling the remaining podium places.

Despite racing in some of the worst conditions of the regatta the Paddle-Ability championships were a great success and a step to building wider opportunities for disabled athletes. Thanks are due to the Italian hosts who made the event possible, the support team for taking care of the practicalities so well, and the Canoe Foundation & BCU for funding. ●

**Steve Whipp**

### The team was; Competitors:

William Brown, Alison Bull, Stuart Carter, James Oldham, Adam Savage, Anthony Sloan, Margaret Taylor, Kevin Yost, Jason Young, Steve Whipp.

### Staff:

Derek & Jeanette Brown, Joe Brown, Julie Gray, Viv Kendrick, Mike Twiggs.

Further information from the Paddle-Ability Co-ordinator, Viv Kendrick, 8 Yew Grove, Huddersfield, HD4 5XG 01484 460154 E-mail:

[viv.kendrick@wynrush.co.uk](mailto:viv.kendrick@wynrush.co.uk)



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F O C U S



# Paddling i

## Peru 2002, Exeter School

The road was definitely there on the map, the only problem being that the map was drawn in 1972 and we were in the Amazon jungle. Fortunately the locals said the road existed and our bus driver was eager to impress us with his off-road abilities so we set off in search of the Rio Quieros, an unpaddled river in the Peruvian rainforest. After re-digging sections of the road and pulling/pushing our bus through other sections we arrived on the banks of the river. All of us eager to bag our first first-descent we launched into the warm waters of the Quieros and paddled into the unknown...

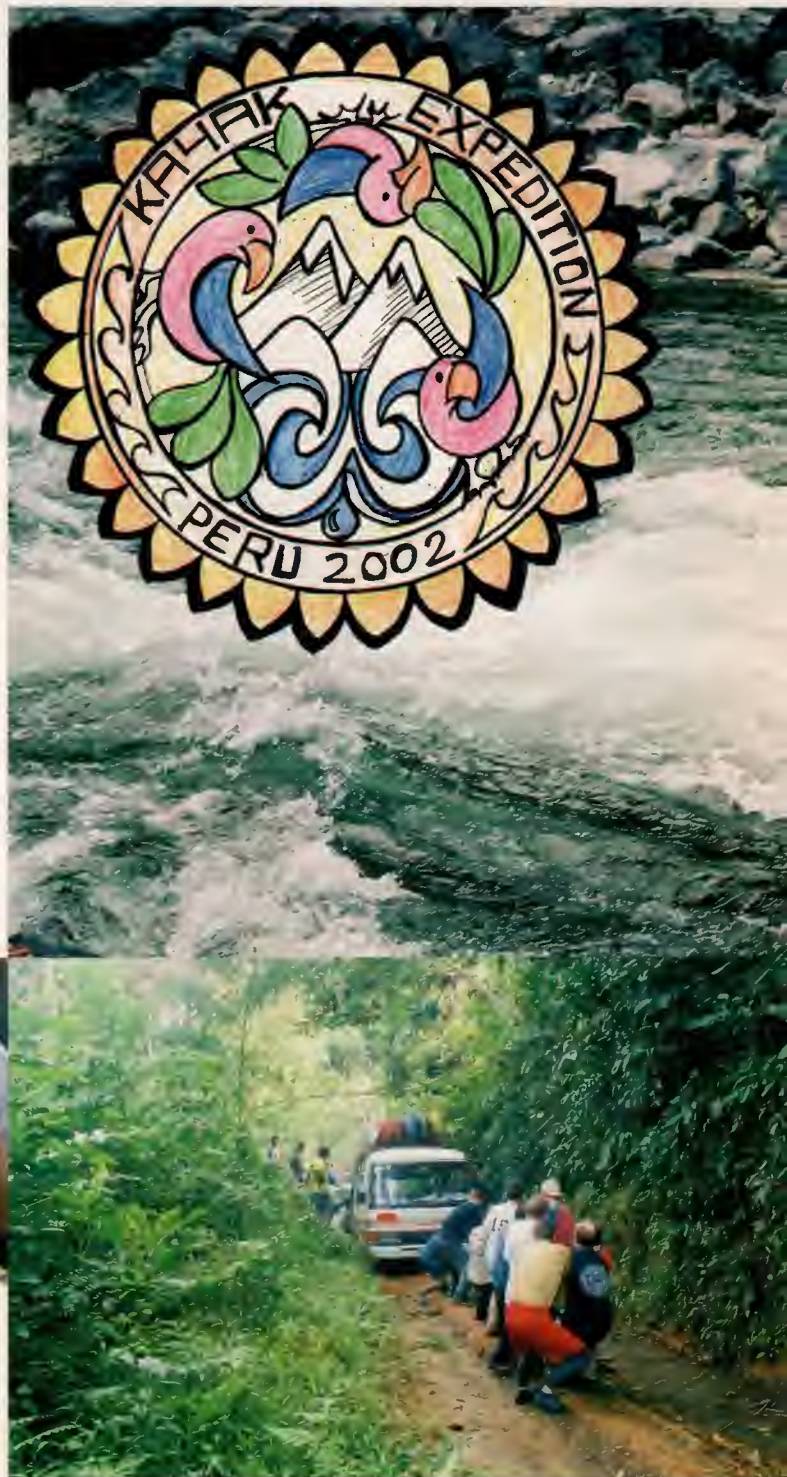
If we could have named the river (which unfortunately we couldn't as it already had a name) it would have been Rio Splat for the entire section we paddled, a steady grade 2/3, was full of perfect splat rocks as well as other great play features (Ed – "splatting" involves using the current to stand a kayak vertically on its back end against a rock). Not only was the river great fun but it emptied into the Quosnipata and then into the Alto Madre de Dios with its awesome play wave, but more about that later.

One doesn't often associate first descents (and heavy salsa nights) with a school trip but that is what we were, 12 sixth-form students from Exeter School with some tag along adults. We had teamed up with some guys from Amazonas Explorer for a month long kayaking trip in Peru.

### High in the Peruvian Andes

Our first port of call in Peru was the Rio Urubamba in the Sacred Valley, high in the Peruvian Andes. It was a fitting warm up for things to come and our first introduction to the South American siphon (Ed: where the river flows under a big rock and "disappears" taking unwary boats and paddlers with it!), a water feature few of us had experienced and which seemed to pop up with unnerving regularity throughout our trip. We only paddled the upper section of the river as the lower section receives all the sewage from Cuzco and hence was more of a safety hazard than the siphons! It is a shame the lower part of this river is so polluted as we managed to scout it as we trekked the Inca trail and were in awe of what we saw - continuous grade 4/5/6. Come to think of it, upon seeing it we were quite glad we couldn't (both meanings of the word) paddle it!

The Inca trail we took deviated from the classic path because it



# Into the unknown

## Canoe Club kayak expedition



witness every day.

On completion of the Inca trail we headed East to the Manu National Park and the Amazon basin. It was here that we did our first descent of the Rio Quieros but only after paddling two other jungle rivers. The first was the Quosnipata. This was similar to many rivers back in Blighty - narrow and technical - but with the added benefits of warm water and stunning scenery. 10km of almost continuous 3+/4 white water, requiring continual scouting as it poured into another boulder garden or over a blind horizon. After the intensity of the Quosnipata, the Rio Tono was a pleasant relief, being more of a big fun play river. The two aforementioned rivers converge to make the Alto Madre de Dios and at this confluence there is not only an amazing beach for lunch but an awesome play wave. The section of river below this is well thought out as you don't have to use your weary arms... simply drift through a stunning 'pongo' - a jungle canyon.

Not to miss out on the fun, some of us went on a jungle trek, the biggest animal seen being a leaf-cutter ant(!)... bathing in hot springs drinking rum and cokes soon made up for the disappointment!

Satisfied after our jungle exploits, we headed back to Cuzco for our sole 'rest day' of the trip. How going out until 4 in the morning is a rest beats me but a single day in civilisation made us eager to get back on the rivers so off we went to conquer the mighty Apurimac.

### A truly magnificent river

Nestled at the bottom of a 3,000m deep gorge with the desert high above, the Apurimac is a truly magnificent river. It is usually rafted as a 4-day trip but we stretched this out to 5 days to encompass all the hours of playing we wanted to do. On the first day you enter the gorge and on the fifth day you exit it... the only way out is down river. This makes an impressive setting for a raft-supported trip, encompassing expedition paddling of big volume rapids with amazing play spots and sleeping out on sandy beaches under the stars of the southern hemisphere. The setting of world class paddling in such a beautiful and isolated area made for a

unique and memorable few days.

When we came up with the idea for the Peru expedition we not only wanted to experience the delights of South American rivers and heritage but we also wanted to give something back to the country. In the year before the expedition

we raised £3,700 for the Peru Children's Trust, a charity working with deprived children and families in Huancayo. The money we raised went towards one of their many projects so at the end of the trip we visited the trust to see exactly what they got up to.

As soon as we arrived in Huancayo we were put to work, the trust not wanting to miss out on the work that can be generated from 16 people fuelled from three weeks paddling. Our tasks varied from labouring on a

followed the Urubamba for a couple of days before heading up to the Sun Gate of Machu Picchu and down into the ruins of the lost city of the Incas. This suited us well as we managed to see a lot of the river as well as some impressive ruins - and there was hardly any walking uphill! Amazingly, after a week of glorious sunshine, the rain managed to arrive just as we reached the Sun Gate, but this did allow us to see a double rainbow over the ruins from the top of Huayna Picchu - not something you



building site and renovating peoples houses to entertaining 200 children in a weekend with games, crafts and drama. This experience was as unique and uniting as the paddling and we were all impressed by the depth of care that the charity provides. It gave us a good insight into the work that they perform and we felt privileged to have been able to help. In the future we hope to raise more money for the trust.

I was sure there must have been something wrong with my camera. The views had been much more stunning and it was definitely a wave wheel, not a controlled capsize as the photo suggested. I should have realised that pictures could never do justice to the experiences we had in Peru, that a camera will never be able to capture those moments that make expeditions unique. Still, it was definitely a wave wheel...

PERU 2002 had the official approval of the British Canoe Union (BCU) and the Young Explorer's Trust (YET)

### Charly Gibson

### Pete's Edited Highlights!

- This was the first ever youth kayak expedition to the Peruvian Andes... and was two years in the planning!
- Our expedition base - Cusco – at 11000 feet – a magical city – ancient Inca capital. With the help of much coca tea – the team acclimatised quickly to the altitude!
- Amazonas Explorer – adventure company extraordinaire - supplied our expedition guides and were responsible for the logistics of the kayaking phase of the expedition – surpassing all expectations – totally professional in everything they did – our safety and our good health very clearly their over-riding priority right from the start.
- An unforgettable three-day trek via a “back-door” trail to Macchu Picchu – lost city of the Incas – didn't see anyone for two days!
- Awesome scenery! What an amazing experience! Stopped in our tracks by a Parrot Snake – it's venom can kill you in 10 minutes!
- The cooks and porters looked after us well – waking us up with cups of coca tea brought to our tents – real expedition hardship!
- Half the team climbed Huayna Picchu, in the pouring rain – completing the 1.5 hour near-vertical ascent in 25 minutes! – to be rewarded with a unique view of the lost city through a rainbow!
- Then by bus to the Manu National Park. Set up camp at Tres Cruces at 4,000m... unforgettable sunrise over the Amazon cloud forest – absolutely stunning!



### Three days in the jungle ...

- Day 1 – descent of the Rio Quosnipata – 10km of continuous grade 3/4 whitewater – through dense rain forest - awesome!
- Day 2 – the Rio Tono – a class three paddle but a class six drive to get to the put in – with the bus up to its axles in mud and crossing rivers two feet deep! Huan – our bus driver – will go down as a legend in the canoe club history book! We were some of the first kayakers ever to paddle these rivers.
- Day 3 - half the team completed a first descent of the jungle river – the Rio Quieros – a notable “first” for the canoe club ... while the other half relaxed in hot springs, deep in the jungle!
- Impromptu football matches wherever we went - against cooks, porters and the locals – nurturing Anglo-Peruvian relations!
- Legendary paddling from the team of 14 students - climaxing in a five-day raft-supported descent of the Rio Apurimac - source of the Amazon – a 3,000m deep granite gorge and one of the world's top-five whitewater rivers – a fantastic kayaking achievement. Rapids - very aptly named - included Purgatory, Gates of Hell, Toothache! Magical nights spent sleeping on sandy beaches under the stars of the southern hemisphere – the canyon walls towering impressively above us! A memorable Mexican night – tortillas, salsa, guacamole and tequila slammers around the campfire! Our guides, Clark and Piero, were brilliant – enthusiastic and well-informed. We learned all sorts – like, if you surround a scorpion with a ring of fire it commits suicide by repeatedly stabbing itself in the back! Condors soared effortlessly a mile high above the river. Flocks of parrots squawked raucously overhead.
- Five memorable days spent working alongside the Peru Children's Trust in Huancayo – 500,000 population - at 11,000 feet, high in the Andes. Many refugees from the civil war with the Sendero Luminoso guerrillas in the 80s fled to the shanty towns in Huancayo. The team ran two Activity Days – involving four groups of 50 children – ages 7-20 – all children from the families supported by the Trust. Very tiring but incredibly rewarding! We set up a “rocket factory” on the roof – over 200 launches more than 100 feet up into the rarified Huancayo atmosphere! The parachute games were a great success too. Stefanie and Simon (Heads of drama and music at Exeter School!) would have been well impressed by our David and Goliath mime and action choruses. “Wide, wide as the ocean” – rapidly emerged as the cult theme song for the expedition! We worked for one of the days at the new training centre - helping with the building





## info

The Extreme team were... John Anderson, Matt Brewer, Fabien Flight, Rob Grieg-Gran, Jonny Harper, Ben Mansell, Damien Mansell, Paul Maries, Jamie Mortimer, Paddy Orrell, Dan Staveley, Harry Stevens, Charly Gibson, Tim Scott, Pete Scott, Dr Rob Anderson and Spike Green.

The team would like to thank all those who helped to make the expedition possible ... especially **Nookie** and **AS Watersports** for their generous support for the expedition. A big thank you too, to **Geologistics**, who did an amazing job of air freighting all the kayaks to Peru – and back!

project – sorting and relocating a huge pile of used bricks! Saw first-hand how the £3,700 we had raised was being put to good use. Probably the best day in Huancayo was spent working in small teams doing painting and construction projects in individual homes in the shanty towns... one group did a “hayloft conversion” – giving 14-year old Edwin a bedroom of his own – after 14 years of sharing a dark, mud-walled room with his crippled mother, the chickens and half a dozen sheep!

- ▶ There were some memorable nights out in Cusco and Huancayo - Pete gets introduced to the “clubbing” scene!
- ▶ Lots of people back home praying for the expedition. Very real sense of God having “pitched his tent” over us all!
- ▶ Our Amazonas guides were amazed at how healthy we had all been!

- ▶ The team worked together well – with enormous initiative and good humour – it was like being away with an extended family! ●

**Pete Scott – Expedition Leader - August 2002**

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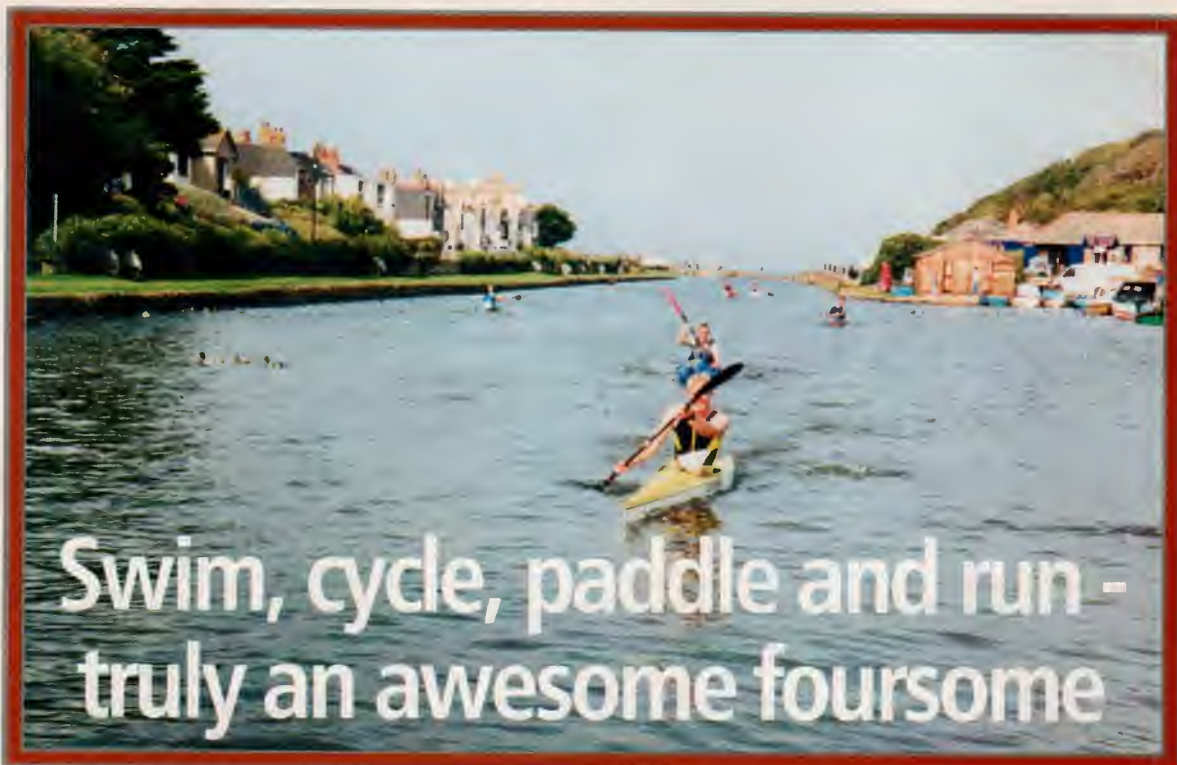
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Photo: Duncan Esdales

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## Results

Keith Longney  
Damian Littlewood  
Simon Dark  
Guy Rolston

## Info

Many thanks go to TNT Explosive Sports club for organising the race, and all the sponsors including Shoreline Outdoor Pursuits, "Don't Push It" Cycles and the Bude Canoe club. Huge thanks also to all the volunteer marshals, without whom the race would not be possible.

Fancy having a go yourself? All you need is a good level of base fitness and the motivation and determination to keep going. Any roadworthy bike, and flat water fit kayak is acceptable (and the race organisers will even help with that).

Next year's event will be held on September 20th, for more information or application details please contact **TNT Explosive Sports, 11a Crooklets Beach, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 8NE Tel: 01288 354039** Email: [Shoreline@Bude.co.uk](mailto:Shoreline@Bude.co.uk)

## Saturday 28th September dawned bright and cheerful for "The North Tamar" Explosive Sports club's Quadathlon 2002.

Running for its fourth consecutive year the Awesome Foursome set in the coastal resort of Bude, Cornwall was selected to be the British Championship, and climax of the Quadathlon racing series.

The event is no soft touch, designed to test the competitors to their very limits in each of the four gruelling disciplines.

As the sea washed the high tide line on Summerleaze beach, the competitors entered the bay to swim two laps of a 400m course. Soon the competitors spread out, the relay team swimmers going all out with the individual athletes not far away but aware of the three events to follow. With 800m swam, the competitors left the water to race to the transition area on the Wharf by the Bude canal. Ripping wetsuits off and donning footwear, helmets and bicycles, the athletes set off on the Coastal

road to Wainhouse Corner. Anyone familiar with this piece of coastline will shudder at this prospect, a road taking in some beautiful scenery with three huge hills thrown in, the most severe of which, "Millock" hosting a long stretch of one in three climbing. For all but the very best determined cyclists, parts of this leg required a steady walk to combat some of the steep sections before the main road whisked them back to Bude in quick time. By this stage the field was well separated with small groups of competitors having their own battles. Competing myself, I was just pleased to still be alive and quietly looking forward to my favourite leg, the Paddle.

Two and a half lengths of the lower section of the Bude canal, equates to about 10km, and this was next on the cards. Equipment for this leg demonstrated a range of kayaking ability. Apart from flat water racing kayaks, other boats included general-purpose plastics, racing skis, sea kayaks and wild water racers. The race organisers were able

to lend out a number of boats to suit paddlers from novice to the elite kayakers.

The nature of the race meant that, by this stage the field was well spread out, and thus there was always someone to catch, and hopefully overtake. These small targets allowed me a fast paddle and meant that in my stable K1, I was able to pull myself through the field of competitors.

10kms, one capsize and a numb bum later, I had dispatched the kayak leg and was ready to take on another

10kms of multi terrain running. The route, took us down the canal towpath, across the fields to Widemouth, before returning along the coastal path to Bude and a dramatic finish, along the canal, across the lock gates and back up to the Wharf, where we received a finishing medal and a sense of jubilation, enhanced by



the huge crowd of spectators who had been drawn in throughout the race. The finish came and went, for me a personal best time (by 20 mins) of 3 hours 27 mins, some 50 minutes behind the event winner.

It was clearly visible from all those who took part in the race, particularly the first timers, the sense of personal satisfaction and gratification, accompanied in many cases by some aching muscles that follows a physical and mental challenge such as this.

Everyone received a finishing medal and TNT T-Shirt, and after a brief prize giving to recognise performances in age group categories, the competitors dispersed, some to their houses just a short walk away, but many to travel considerable distances back to their homes' around the UK.

Congratulations to all the competitors, you're all winners. Thanks for turning up, and we hope to see you next year. ●

**Tim Taylor**

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The manager  
Andrew Hawker

# Horror stories and

**And there was me thinking that I was doing the team a favour when I offered to cook them the local national delicacy. After all when in Scotland! We had assembled in Thurso, on the very northern shores of Scotland, 800 miles and two days drive from Bude for the bi-annual Home International Surf Kayak Championships.**

We had arrived early - a cunning plan devised by our ruthless manager Andrew Hawker - in order to get in some much needed practice before the event started in earnest. Anyone who surfed this season will tell you that it wasn't a classic year for swell, well at least not in Cornwall, and with a competition likely to be run on a world class reef break some fast acclimatisation was in order.

For the travelling surfer the North Shore is a dream, its a long way to go, but it's a dream. Facing out into the deep and turbulent North Atlantic this is a coastline that is battered with swell. With a mix of sheltered bays, exposed headlands and the finest rocky reefs in the World, it's hard to beat. Of course there's the weather and the surf conditions to take into account, hey, but then nothings perfect!

In fact as far as trips go it was as close to perfect as you could get. I suppose if you wanted to be unkind and ultra-critical you'd admit that the actual surf got a bit small towards the end but at least it started big! The boss, Andrew, must have known this and had booked us into Thurso's only caravan site the week before the contest began. And as a gentle introduction off we went to Brims Nest!

Now picture a flat and rocky headland sloping into the

Junior paddler Alan 'Eggy' Alway cruising at Betty Hills



ocean, the landscape of a Dracula movie and a tidal race flowing past at the speed of your average express train. Then add a six foot swell sucking the reef dry as the wave tries to eat you alive and you'll be getting close. This is where the word 'intimidation' came from. Of course Andrew is unaffected by simple nerves whilst the rest of us mere mortals were just plain scared. But like all good horror movies no matter how scared you get you just can't help getting drawn into trouble. And so in just 20 minutes we were all in the water, scaring ourselves to death and being exhilarated in about equal measure.

## **Confront the very beast you've come to slay**

Wow! What a start! How could Andrew, or anything for that matter, scare us now? Well the haggis scared a few but for real nerves and trepidation you need to confront the very beast you've come to slay. Thurso East! If you surf you've

Right: Pete Mugford surfing his blue and yellow Mega Trident.



# haggis?



with luck daylight at the end. What a feeling, what a buzz... what a sore neck and aching back and broken paddles and damaged boat. But what delight and what a buzz!

With preparation like that how could we loose? And the fact is we didn't. With straight wins in seven heats out of 16 the English team came out on top. Scotland had been in charge on day one with the likes of Tracy Sherrington, current world champion, husband Iain and Martine Law all winning their heats but England came back strong on day two with wins from Gary Adcock, Pete Blenkinsop, Simon Hammond, James Hawker, Dave Jaggs and Mark Williams. Other winners included Iain Power and Dennis Dowling (Southern Ireland), Dessie McGlinchy (Northern Ireland) and Tim Rowe and Ailsa McDougal (Jersey).

The results were great but the experience was better and that's probably how it should be.

There needs to be some special thanks to Talk-to-Me phones for sponsoring our team strip, to Lendal paddles for getting me a replacement set in just 24 hours, to Andrew Hawker our manager and tactical wizard and to Pete Blenkinsop our captain. We made many friends and are looking forward being re-united with them at next year's worlds to be held in Ireland.

If you're interested in having a go then get in touch, I'll be running a surf competition at Widemouth Bay in April using a handicap system to even the field or click onto the Surf Committee website [www.the-watershed.co.uk/bcusurf](http://www.the-watershed.co.uk/bcusurf)

**Report by Simon Hammond. England team paddler and surf coach. Sponsored by Gul International, Mega Surf Kayaks, Lendal Paddles and Gecko Headgear. ●**

heard about it. World class, ultra fast, massive, endless tubes and so shallow you can see the very barnacles that lie in wait to cut you to pieces!

It's a break and a wave of legendary status and rightfully so. I listened as Gary Adcock, our top English master, recounted the tale of a particularly bad accident, to John Mould the event organiser and in so doing described the size of the wave as like a swimming pool coming in on its end! And I can believe it.

We approached as Thurso virgins. With the naivety of any first timer and the false confidence of being in a group we surfed Thurso East without restraint, and almost got away with it! Tube after tube after tube. First getting too high and being flung over with the lip, then too low and being chopped in half by a guillotine of water. Then hitting the spot, setting your trim and holding on as your boat travels at warp factor five and surviving. Surviving for one...two...three seconds inside the barrel and

## The final results were:

- 1st England
- 2nd Scotland
- 3rd Jersey
- 4th Southern Ireland
- 5th Northern Ireland



Left: The English team were, from left to right: Mark Williams, Pete Mugford, Tom Iggledon, Darren Bason, Dave Jaggs, Pete Blenkinsop (Capt), Simon Cass, Gary Adcock, Alan 'Eggy' Alway, Andrew Hawker (Manager), Simon Hammond, James Hawker, Rhiannon Woodman

# Sella Descent 2002

15th August 2002



The chaotic race start. Photos all courtesy of Kitty Reid

**El 66 descenso internacional del Sella 2002 proved to be the manic, beer fuelled, terrifying and incredibly exciting festival we were anticipating. And more.**

For me, it all started at the Wey Kayak Club Christmas dinner in 2001. Sitting quietly around a table, eating my slightly cool roast turkey and wearing the obligatory cheesy hat, I overheard the nearby men discussing the Sella Descent. We sent out a team a few years earlier, and I had then been fascinated by the stories that they had come back with. I had to go. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for.

The 2002 team comprised primarily of Wey and Worcester Kayak Club members, though in the past more clubs have been involved. In the end, a team of 21 people did the Descent, with many more coming to support us. Clare Gillbe and I decided to go as a K2 crew, with Kitty Reid agreeing to accompany us and to swap into the boat in later races.

The Sella Descent is the kickoff of the Spanish marathon series. It is the start and centrepiece of the Fiesta de Piraguismo, or the Festival of Canoeing. On the night before the race, a party goes on all night in Arriondas, the start of the race. A regional holiday, proud Asturians wear their regional costumes, drape flags over everything, drink a lot of the local cider (which must be poured from above the head; the more spilled the better), and sing anthems. They turn out in their thousands hours before the start at 12 noon, mostly drunk, all out for a good day. Helicopters swoop overhead, a train hoots noisily as it follows, and decorated cars, floats, and motorbikes speed down the temporarily one-way road to watch the competitors. The locals wish Clare and I luck, and promise to buy us drinks after the race.

It is not only the electric atmosphere that distinguishes the race from our British ones. The race itself is 20km, a fairly normal marathon distance, but there are 18 rapids along the

way. Mostly these are minor, and cause no great concern. Several others make first-timers like Clare and myself take a second look. My experience of whitewater is limited, but what I have done has been in nice plastic boat that you can bang safely against rocks, and I was nice and cozy in a helmet, lifejacket and buoyancy aid. But we are too hard to wear such foolish items. Oh yes.

## The "graveyard"

The practice run of the race was...interesting. After a few false starts, and an interesting few beach portages, we gain skills and confidence. Then we come up against the "graveyard". Worryingly, carcasses of K1s and K2s can be seen on the banks. Clare and I decide to take the safe option and do not attempt to dodge the rocks. Sadly we run out of water and try to shoot it again straight through the middle. We hit a rock dead on, fall out, and are swept over the rock, seats (my sit pin was not particularly well fixed in), paddles, foam and water bottles disappearing. Clare saves these; I grab the boat. Later, back on land, comparing some pretty impressive bruises and catching our breaths, we laugh about the crazy Spaniards who seem to think we can race down this mad water.

Race day dawns overcast and cool. Clare and I begin our pre-race preparation. I drink Lepin, she scorns it. The boat is fibre-glassed together again. My ludicrous foot pumps are in order.

The road up to the start was already busy at 9am, and we were forced to park a mile away. Kitty disappeared off with some other members of the support team. Clare and I were left to our own devices and were immediately harassed by drunken Spanish men.

At 11am we walked our boat up and sat on the start line, with the other 1,300 boats. There were probably 2,000 competitors strung along the beach. Everywhere I looked I saw crowds of people. The river was full of drunken people. The air smelled of cider. There was a great deal of singing and chanting;

I sat down and tried to ignore it all. I was very excited.

Shortly before the race some people dressed in yellow and blue ragged t-shirts carrying tridents marched into the river and totally bemused Clare and I. We later learned that they were clearing the river, but as most were drunk themselves they were not totally successful.

Sella is a mass Le-Mans style start. Your paddles are held in a paddle rack, your boat 20m away, the nose on the water line. A speaker begins to whip the crowd into a frenzy, they sing some more, and I was about to explode. Finally they sang the regional anthem, and then, we were off. People were everywhere, all seemingly running in different directions. We were in the water, in the boat, someone's paddle is in my armpit, chuck it away, we're paddling, grab his boat, push him out the way, hold his cockpit, out of my way, oh no you don't. I hear a snap. Clare takes another stroke, her paddle has been snapped off an inch from the shaft, we're going to have to retire, we haven't even started yet, get your paddle off my stomach, oh s\*\*\*.

But we plug on, and somehow – we've navigated the first rapid. We're clear of the worst. (The violence continues – with a start number of 350, we were in the thick of it all the way down.)

**Ten paddlers bearing down on us**

Somehow we make it. We fall in once, and I scream "downstream of the boat! Get downstream of the boat!" as I look up to see ten paddlers bearing down on us. I have no desire to be speared. We portage the 'Graveyard' as it is comprehensively blocked with swimmers. We make it. We go all the way to the long finish, within 45 minutes of the first boat to cross the line. With a time of 1:52, we are 11th (or 269th). We couldn't believe it.

The entire British team had a good run. At times it certainly seemed that luck had more to do with it than skill, and all had problems. Paul Dimmock and Adrian Henson pulled out an excellent performance and were placed 42nd. Another notable performance was that of Adrian Croucher, who was 50th at 1:23, 11th in his class, a start number of 207 being nothing to the experienced paddler. Rupert Elkington-Cole and Gary Shaw were the 3rd GB boat, being 60th with 1:24. Roy Fieldus was the 2nd K1 paddler, coming 22nd in his class with a time of 1:27.

Of course the end of the race does not mean the end of the party. The town of Ribadesella, where the race finished, becomes in effect an enormous open-air club, with huge amps blaring out Spanish music on every street corner, stands selling San Miguel and local cider lining the roads, a fun fair, and, of course, dancing until dawn.

The following day our 'campsite', or random bit of grass under a railway bridge at the short finish, quickly emptied. We headed back into Ribadesella for the K4 race, a short exhibition race in the harbour. Once again we were competing against some top class paddlers. Sadly our professionalism left a little to be desired, when I was forced to jump out of the back of the K4 and swim to fix the rudder just after the start of the race. No, we didn't win. But it was another good race.



With the team trophy. GB was 3rd national team. From left: Kitty Reid, Beth Davies, Clare Gillbe

The men's K4 fared much better.

The racing continued on during that and the next weeks. We only managed to do one more, and most of the GB team went back to England after that K4. The Sella descent is the big one to crack, where you buy a boat expecting to wreck it (we didn't, proving that women drivers are, once and for all, far superior) and take two pairs of paddles. You have to do it. It's an incredible experience. It's a good holiday for a student on a budget. See you in 2004. The 2002 trip would not have been possible without the help of a few certain players. Paul Dimmock was an excellent team

leader, putting in our entries, collecting subvention money, organising bibs, ferry crossings, briefing us and generally organising us as unruly children. Of course none of it would



have been possible without the co-operation of the BCU, who allowed us to race as a national team, and especially to Alan Laws who organised this and our entries. Thanks also must go to Ewan Cox for his translation abilities. Finally I would like to thank our sizable support crew, without whom it would not have been possible to race. ●

**Bethan Davies**

Left: Beth & Clare just after the race, with Clare's broken paddle. Our K2 can be seen on the ground, next to our tents.

**Full Results**

Name	Boat	Time	Position: overall / class
Paul Dimmock, Adrian Henson,	0062	1:21:59	42nd / 33rd
Adrian Croucher	0207	1:23:20	50th / 11th
Rupert Elkington-Cole, Gary Shaw	0056	1:24:54	60th / 42nd
Roy Fieldus	0209	1:27:18	77th / 22nd
Hugh Beardall, Jonathon Redshaw	0089	1:29:30	89th / 52nd
Ewan Cox	0262	1:30:46	107th / 29th
John Parker	0174	1:36:11	149th / 44th
Paul Baker	0223	1:42:52	189th / 59th
Chris Hole	0219	1:48:26	235th / 73rd
Kate Soar, David Pedlar	1080	1:49:13	247th / 10th
Andrew Watt, Paul Torrance	0256	1:50:45	256th / 81st
A. Kemp, Raoul Stoccmi	0048	1:51:00	259th / 82nd
Alex Wilson	0186	1:51:51	263rd / 81st
Bethan Davies, Clare Gillbe	0350	1:52:33	269th / 11th

## Thanks

An event such as the Hasler final cannot function safely without the services of the rescue and first aid services. The rescue boat had a quiet day on the lake. Thanks to: The Dorney Lake Trust, St John Ambulance, the rescue boat, WKC management team, all paddlers, spectators and, as they say at other awards, all others too numerous to mention who helped this event to happen and be such a pleasant and successful day.

## T-shirts

WKC still has a selection of event t-shirts (long or short sleeved in a variety of sizes) for sale. If anyone wishes to purchase one they should contact Peter Fennemore at [fennemorep@bv.com](mailto:fennemorep@bv.com). Prices are short sleeve: £9, and long sleeve: £11. Cheques made payable to Wey Kayak Club.

# Hasler final 2002: Eton



Division 5/6 K2 start



Ivan Lawler (ELB) shows world class technique



Elbridge CC, winners of the Hasler Trophy 2002



Jenny and Allen Spencer, winners Division 3/4 K2

**Organisation of an event such as the Hasler finals 2002 starts many months prior to any boat getting on the water. The core of Wey Kayak Club's management team has experience in organising and running a variety of major events including the Marathon World Championships 2001 and the Marathon World Cup 2000, both at Stockton-on-Tees. We hope that this pedigree was evident throughout the Hasler final.**

The location of Eton College's new regatta course at Dorney Lake proved ideal for the event. With its close proximity to the Thames, the junior courses could be run on the lake and, with a (longish) portage to the river, caters well for the higher divisions. Indeed the only complaint heard throughout the day was regarding the rough gravel path that formed part of the portage route. On the lake, by popular demand, two fun (lightning) races were included in the programme and, with 34 competitors were amongst the biggest fields of the day. Congratulations to Dean Terry (MAI) and Aaron Jordan (MAI)

for winning fun race 1 and fun race 2 respectively.

At the other end of the scale K1, Division 1 had nine starters but only two were in contention for first place. Ivan Lawler and Steve Baker, both from Elbridge Canoe Club, contested the race right up to the wire with Steve finally proving the quickest in the final sprint beating Ivan by just one second. Youngsters out there that are trying to come to terms with portaging could do worse than watch Ivan at the pontoon. His neat trick of flipping the kayak with the outside of his foot onto his shoulder without interrupting his run is a lesson to everyone on the very best in the world in marathon racing.

In K1, Division 2 the junior trio of Tom Daniels (RDG), Ben Brown (ELM) and Mike Goodall (ELM) took the first three places in that order. This was their last race prior to heading off to Zamora, Spain for the Marathon Junior World Championships.

Notwithstanding the individual races, the Hasler final is primarily an inter-club competition, the star prize being the Hasler Trophy. This trophy, featuring an army and civilian paddler, is in commemoration of a commando raid using canoes during World War II. The raid was led by Major H G Hasler DSO OBE who subsequently founded the Single Handed Transatlantic race (1960) and invented the first effective self-steering gear for yachts.

This year the trophy was won by Elbridge Canoe Club with a substantial score of 231 points. Wokingham Canoe Club (226 points) and Wey Kayak Club (198 points) came second and third. A full set of results detailing individual and team performance is available on the WKC web site.

Unfortunately a number of disqualifications marred the day for some competitors. These were mainly due paddlers not taking the correct course around buoys. This totally ruined what otherwise could have been extremely good performances and by this kind of action team results can stand or fall. The message is to attend the briefing and if you don't understand the course, ask. ■

**Report by Peter Fennemore**



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River Dart  
19th/20th  
October 2002

# Nookie Extreme Fest



Right: Matt Hammer

**Nookie Extreme sports equipment ran a casual event at the River Dart Country Park. Several events were planned, including coaching with the top Nookie paddlers, a big air ramp contest on the newly built ramp and a freestyle event.**

Below: James Ramp



Saturday morning arrived and a casual start involved everyone meeting in the bar, and plans were made. Due to a lack of water on the Dart, the newly constructed hole meant that we would have to wait until Sunday for the freestyle, but we still held the big air contest. Each paddler had three runs, and was scored out of ten by Muppet. Matt Tidy managed a nice score of 13 from one trick by using his boat as a surfboard and standing on the seat, and Bill Mattos and James Weir got a combined score for one trick of 13 by a joint decent of the ramp in James' OC1.

Hammers seemed to be the trick most people were throwing, although a few donkey flip attempts were seen, and well as Scott Simmonds back flip. Flat landings hurt, so there was a general consensus to take it easy. Liz Bell won the ladies and Matt Tidy won the men's, with James Weir second. Few injuries were sustained, so generally a great event. The event was very good for the spectators as well as it managed to pull in a good crowd.

Due to the lack of water and the bitter coldness, most people retired to the pub at 3.30 in the afternoon. This was the start of a long evening, by the end of it few people could still walk, and some went back to the bunkhouse for some more alcoholic substances. I am sure different stories of drunken people's activities will be circulated, but some are definitely not for publication.

The next morning was a groggy start, with most paddlers being severely hung over or still drunk, and there was no sign of Bill Mattos. There had been rain in the night, but still not enough to hold the freestyle contest. A group of paddlers met in the bar again and were deciding where to go. Surf was an option, but Muppet was unconvinced about the quality of it, and Flowerpots also had an idea, but in the end the Thames Weir paddlers won, and a small convoy of vans and cars travelled up to the famous Hurley weir. We had reports of it on three, but it had dropped to two. Still it was a great paddling session. An email was circulated, originating from Muppet telling us that Liz Bell and James Weir had won the competition, as he ended up stuck in a business meeting and couldn't make it to Hurley. I am sure the fact that he was still very drunk still would have made the meeting one to remember.

Nookie plan to hold another extreme event, the details are being finalised at the moment. This one was great, so make sure you are there for the next one!

Thanks to Nookie Extreme Sports Equipment for organising the event, and also the River Dart Country Park for putting up with us kayakers! ●

**Story: Darren Kirk. Photos Helen Metcalfe**

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# International Canoe Exhibition 2003



**CANOE  
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14-16 MARCH  
NEC BIRMINGHAM



**The Outdoors Show**  
NEC Birmingham  
14-16 March 2003  
ADVENTURES  
START HERE



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## BCU Member ticket offer

**As you should already know, the dates for the ICE are 14-16th March 2002 – and the exciting news is that it has moved to the Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show.**

As well as the ICE, some of the great features around the show will include an international climbing competition, a celebration of Everest, Go biking with CTC, an Adventure Travel Show and Adventure Sports Show – so many more things to see and do around this great new show!

The Berghaus Super Theatre will feature the likes of Chris Bonington, and Shaun Baker will be showing clips of his recent epic adventures around the world. There is also a comprehensive series of talks celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of

Mount Everest.

Just some of the speakers confirmed for the Paddlesport workshop include Plas-y-Brenin's Franco Ferrero and Loel Collins who will be talking about whitewater safety and rescue. Simon Osborne will be the details of his trip round the UK – Canoeing for Cancer and Jack Russell will be giving motivational talks not just about paddling, but also general outdoor activities.

Young paddlers can get information and advice from the young

people's area (run by the BCU) and any budding athlete's can have all their queries answered about all aspects of performance – with the BCU's performance team. This includes how to improve skills and get involved in competitions.

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Get two tickets for the price of one by calling 0870 010 9086 quoting "BCU Member offer" and get two tickets for £8!\*

**\*That's just £4 each and includes the ICE, The Outdoors Show, the BMC's Festival of Climbing, Adventure Travel Show and Adventure Sports Show! This offer is for pre-paid tickets only, normal price is £10 on the door.**



## Photo competition

Canoe Focus in association with Nookie, offers readers the opportunity to win a Nookie £50 discount voucher. All you have to do is send us your most interesting photograph (prints or transparencies please), the content of which must relate to any element of canoe/kayak sport. If we consider it to be 'the best of the bunch,' your picture will be published as the winner and the prize voucher will wing its way to you. Here's the October winner. Can you improve on this? Good Luck.

Photo by Alistair Brown of Sydney, Australia of Pete Mugford. Location: Energiser Wave, Montreal, Canada

**Competition closes 10-01-2003**  
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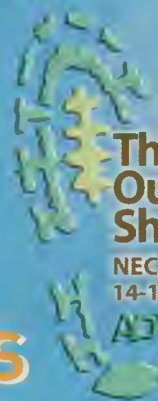
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...News Update...over 2 1/2 times bigger in 2003...News Update...



# Milos: the

You know the scenario. You have a week off and want to do something, go somewhere to make the most of it. Wales has been done and it's going to be bank holiday hell. Scotland is calling, but let's save that for the autumn. The Scilly Isles are a possibility, but you find out that they are completely booked and you won't be allowed to even reserve a place on the ferry if you can't prove that you have pre-booked your accommodation. Mmm...back to the maps...world atlas.....where shall we go?

Vague recollections of an advert somewhere for Greece. The Cyclades. I wonder? Fly to Athens and then get the ferry across or maybe even the sea cat? Check out the website. Isn't modern technology great? Sea arches, caves, towering cliffs.

So that was it. A message was sent and enquiries made. Flights booked, boats confirmed, equipment hired and money exchanged. Oh and the night before, we even managed to write down the guides name and address of the accommodation!

### Manchester-Zurich-Athens-Milos

We flew on a 16 seater aircraft from Athens to Milos. Left behind modern civilisation, hustle and bustle, rush and push and stepped out onto the



Mediterranean blue.



...somewhere  
near Leffico  
Rocky landing,  
Arkardia islet

# island of colours



Meandering through a rock garden, near Tsigrado.



The main tower at Kleftico



Lunch stop at the fishing village of Klima

dirt track runway. An old Astra van reversed up to the plane with its back door open for the luggage and what didn't fit inside, was stacked on top. The heat was amazing, dry and dusty winds blew gently across the land.

To most people, Milos is known as the place where the statue of Venus was discovered. But it is an island of beautiful beaches, volcanic rocks and clear waters. A sea kayaker's dream. It has 5,500 inhabitants scattered over seven small towns. Its total area is 151sq.km. There are more than 70 beaches, each one with its own characteristics. "The months of April and May are ideal to smell its keen perfumes and to ride around to see its exceptional wild landscapes." Said the island web-site. They are also ideal kayaking months, as the weather is warm and sunny but not too hot, the winds are generally from the north and the island is at most natural, few tourists but just 'busy enough to be open' according to our guide Rod Feldtman.

Rod was to be our guide for the week. He met us at the airport and drove us to his village, Triovasolos, where we stayed above his father-in-law's ouzo/breakfast bar. You have to get your priorities right. Our room was lovely, large, sparkling clean, with an en-suite shower to rinse away the salt water and a balcony to relax on, watching the world go by. After introductions and a brief discussion on experiences, swopping a few stories (he had 'done' England when he was 20 and had since been back to paddle around Anglesey), arrangements were made to meet up after breakfast the following day.

As we were wiping the crumbs off our chins (only one chin each I hasten to add) Rod turned up outside the bar with a trailer full of boats (pick the one that suits), paddles, buoyancy aids, spraydecks, snorkelling gear (just in case) and a substantial lunch for everyone.

Our first trip was from Konstantinos along the coastline, via some amazing caves, some so dark we needed torches. (Supplied by our guide). Some of the conversations went like this.

**Rod:** Right. Now we are still, turn off the torches.

**Me & Si:** OK

**Rod:** Just let your eyes get used to the dark for a while.

**Me & Si:** OK

**Rod:** Can you see anything yet?

**Me:** No

**Simon:** Sort of

**Rod:** Right let's wait a bit more. I can see the outline of the boats. Can you?

**Me:** No

**Simon:** Oh yeah

**Rod:** Alright then

let's wait a bit more for your eyes to get used to the dark. Its really good.

.....

.....

**Rod:** What can you see now?

**Simon:** I can see the outline of the boats and the paddles, a faint light in the distance and where the cave walls are.

**Me:** Nothing

**Rod:** Karen, You have taken your sunglasses off, haven't you?

**Me:** YEEEEESS

Aaaah. yes the great Aussie humour! After we had explored the caves of Papafranga, lunched on a deserted beach in the sunshine, we headed for the Island Glaronissia, Seagull Island, with its spectacular columnar jointing originated during the thermal cooling of the lava bodies. We circumnavigated the island, paddled under its amazing arch and had a snack on the rocks before heading back. Just brilliant.

The following day we launched from the stunning bay of Firopotamos and paddled East past Mitikas via some unusual cave systems, to the white rocks of Sarakiniko. This area has been described as a 'moonscape'; the white rocks and beaches contrasting sharply with the vivid blue skies. The sunshine reflecting on the glistening rocks was amazing and sunglasses a definite must!



Natural arch,  
Glaronissia islet



The town on Kimolos



A cave near  
Mandrakia

So far the paddling had been easy due to the light winds, very small tides and weak currents, so we had been able to enjoy the unusual rock formations and breathtaking scenery. By the afternoon the southerly wind had swung round 90 degrees and was now blowing hard from the west. Rod and Simon were both very strong, powerful paddlers and I needed to work hard to keep up. Len Hartley's voice came over echoing in my head, the buzz words of his recent Forward Paddling Workshop...pre-rotation-power

phase-drive-trunk rotation - feet cycling and power, power, power. Cheers Len!

Over the next few days we explored more caves, the sulphur mine on the east of the island, paddled under towering sea cliffs and lunched on beautiful beaches. We had completed some open crossings and circumnavigated the islands of Megali Akradia and Mikri Akradia. We had tried snorkelling and even swam out to a natural sauna cave! (location: top secret!)

By far the most memorable paddle was the one to Kleftico. The coastline on the way to Kleftico is interesting enough whether you are a geologist or a kayaker. We had crept along the coast all the way, exploring all the nooks and crannies, well out of sight of these natural wonders. We had devoured ice cold watermelon in a shady cove but there is nothing that can quite prepare you for the sight of the sea arches, staggering in their sheer hugeness. Rod kept them hidden from sight until the last moment when they loomed upon you, making you feel very small in your sea kayak.

In conclusion; a fantastic week of exploration and adventure with plenty more scope for further paddles next year. Maybe even the neighbouring islands of Kimolos and Polyaeos. Who knows? 🟡

**Karen Davies**





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Above: Richard and Keeley

**It is often said one of the most stressful things you can do is to decide where you want to go on holiday. In April 2002 it was time to choose our holiday, my girlfriend wanted to go somewhere hot and sit on a beach and I wanted to go sea kayaking. An advert in the back of *Canoe Focus* had the answer, sea kayaking in Greece, cheap tavernas, clear blue water and deserted beaches, everybody happy. Frantic searching on the internet resulted in a Easy Jet flight to Athens and a two hour ferry journey to the Island of Milos.**

At the port of Adamas we were met by our Aussie and Greek speaking guide Rod. We agreed over the internet that we would hire two expedition kayaks and be self supporting for five days. Rod would take us to our entry point and meet us on the last day. Our first night was spent at Rod's guest house, inspecting two American Wilderness sea kayaks, complete with rudders. In the evening we walked around the village of Plaka. It wasn't long before we found welcoming restaurants full of Greek tourists and experienced excellent local cuisine, with an evening meal costing £6.00 with wine, we certainly had found unspoilt Greece.

#### **Force eight in the north**

In the morning Rod gave us the weather forecast, force eight in the north, force four in the south of the Island. My girlfriend, Keeley, gave me a look of horror as I had told her it would be clear blue skies, flat water and light winds in the afternoon (I did have to sell her the idea in the first place!). What we did not take into account was the effects of the Meltemi, a strong wind that blows with ease in July or August. The plan was to paddle around the whole island; 70 miles, now our plans were confined to the south of the island.

There are very few places where we were able to buy food on the island apart from the main towns and villages in the north. We had to be self sufficient for five days including drinking water. Our first adventure was sourcing fuel for the Trangia cooker, next time we will

# Sun, sea ka



Above: To the rescue of a trapped turtle

learn the Greek for metholated spirit. The stuff we brought sent three foot flames shooting from the cooker. After loading our boats on the beach of Paleohori and squeezing in 20 litres of water each we were ready to push off.

Day one saw us paddling around the south east of the island to explore some old mine workings. We found crystal blue waters and were amazed by colours in the rocky cliffs but as soon as we pointed the kayaks northwards we were blown back. Lunch was a real hardship; we found shade in a cave on a wild and deserted beach. We sunbathed and snorkelled for an hour or two (try this in Scotland without a dry suit). We headed back along the south coast to our first wild campsite a white sandy beach. After cooking dinner by flame thrower mode we made a campfire to the accompaniment of a full moon and clear skies, girlfriend now happy.

Rod told us that the best part of the island was kleftiko, especially for exploring sea caves. We worked out it would take the best part of one and a half days to reach this remote part of the island. Our second day paddling was spent exploring rock pools and crossing several large bays. We found ourselves pitching the tent to the only flat rock we could find in the middle of a bay, much to the amusement of the locals.

# yaks and girlfriends

After the initial shock of the heat in the middle part of the day, we started to form a routine of paddling for an hour or two in the morning, sunbathing and snorkelling through the afternoon then paddling again into the early evening.

## A magical place

On our journey down the coast we saw remote beaches, towering cliffs, flying fish and the odd spear fisherman for company. Shade was often found by exploring numerous sea caves and hidden passages. Our third day was spent exploring kleftiko, our exertions were rewarded as this part of the coast line was certainly a magical place. Sea caves led into secret bays and a competition soon developed into who could squeeze their sea kayak into the tightest spot. Our attempts to head north again were hampered by strong winds and me being told in no uncertain terms by Keeley that she was not going to paddle straight into that! Our next adventure came in the form of rescuing a turtle that was tangled in a buoy. Reaching into the dark depths of my memory I was thinking do turtles actually bite? A

Left and below: Paddling off the island of island was kleftiko

knife was found and jokes about turtle soup went down like a lead balloon. The turtle was soon hauled onto my spray deck and carefully cut free; our good deed for the day was done.

## The comedy act

We now had to make our way back along the coast and find another campsite. As we turned the corner to Gerontas bay we were stunned to see hundreds of parasols and push chairs lining our secluded beach. Freak waves battered our boats onto the beach and our kayaks were swamped. We soon became the comedy act for the whole beach. Hordes of people came and stared at our strange craft as we attempted to dry our kit whilst swatting huge, monstrous wasps. After sun set people scrambled up the cliffs and went home, leaving us with the beach to ourselves.

Our fourth day was to be our last full day of sea kayaking. We spent a good hour battling across windy bays and finally pulled into to a beach bar for much needed fresh rations. Our final beach campsite came with free hot showers. We found that the stones on the beach were heated by volcanic springs, we inserted the spare water bottles into the stones and in the morning we had lovely hot water to wash the sea salt out of our hair.

The fifth day was spent exploring unspoilt villages and ancient ruins in the north of the island, made easy by a cheap and comprehensive bus service. Our last adventure on Milos was the overnight ferry to Athens which was a bun fight Greek style, involving foot passengers, lorries and over enthusiastic policemen. We raced to the top of the ferry to sleep on the longest benches we could find and woke up at 6.30am in a busy and chaotic Athens.

Having explored Milos by foot and sea kayak we both felt that we have experienced true Greece. Milos is very much an unspoiled Island and is the place that Greeks choose to go on holiday. Our holiday had many advantages; it felt like you were on a small expedition exploring places that otherwise would have been inaccessible by foot or large boats also there were no midges! This was our first sea kayak expedition aboard we were both surprised by the element of adventure and exploration involved but also the easy of organising such a trip. We certainly left loads more to be explored and for more advanced paddlers there are longer and more committing trips to be attempted. ●

**Richard Hathaway**

## info

Both the featured trips were organised by Rod Feldtmann at Sea Kayak Milos  
For further information contact Rod or Petrinela Feldtmann  
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# International Canoe Worlds and New York Challenge Cup

**American sailor Steve Clark is the new IC World Champion. Held every three years, the championship took place at Bristol YC, Rhode Island, USA.**

The seven race series sailed on Olympic courses took place in winds ranging between Force two and four and saw very close competition with much place changing and the final result in doubt until the final race. The 50 entries included visitors from Canada, Germany, Australia, Sweden and a seventeen strong team from Great Britain.

British sailors have won the last three World Championships, so hopes were high. Although the medium wind conditions should have favoured the British team (averaging 75-85kg), it was the heavier Americans (85-100kg) and Swedish teams that dominated, taking the top five places between them, with the top British sailor, Mark Goodchild (current National Champion) finishing sixth.

The American teams had spent many hours in the run-up to the regatta refining rigs to develop sufficient power to have the edge. Swede, Anders Peterson, who finished second, had clearly benefited from living in San Francisco for the last three years. Race 1 sailed in a force three sea breeze gave an indication of things to come. Won by Steve Clark (USA) from Anders Peterson (Sweden), with top Brit John Ellis third in his new boat. Race 2 immediately followed and in an increasing breeze was won by Chris Converse (USA) followed by Clark and Ola Barthelson (Sweden). The second day saw a similar breeze, but this time off the land. Mark Goodchild (GBR) picked his way through the shifts to take the gun followed by Phil Robin (GBR) who just kept ahead of Clark. The second race of the day in similar conditions was eventually won by Peterson, followed by Erich Chase (USA) and Bill Beaver (USA). At 8th, Clark recorded his worst result

of the week.

Only one race was scheduled for day 3 and again saw a force three shifty gradient breeze off the land. After being buried at the start, Clark fought his way through to take the gun followed by Peterson and Graham Herbert (Canada). Goodchild's hopes for the championship were severely worsened after capsizing at the first mark and having to retire after his sail was split in two by another boat – a fully extended sliding seat makes an effective cutting implement when traveling at IC speeds!

The final 2 races sailed on day 4 were held in a solid force four gradient breeze. Clark took the first race followed by compatriot Chase and Goodchild, with Paterson's challenge starting to slip with a 5th place. And so to the last race. Paterson had to finish eight places ahead of Clark to take the championship. Paterson took the bit between his teeth and took the lead which he maintained to the finish, but he was powerless to control Clarke, who climbed through the fleet to finish 2nd and with it the championship. For Clarke this is the second time he has been world champion, the last time being in 1984 when the championship took place in Sweden. The highly technical IC, with its sliding seat providing enormous leverage is less punishing to knees and backs than trapeze and hiking boats, so over 40s can continue to enjoy the exhilarating ride on a competitive basis.

The final day saw the match race for the historic New York Challenge Cup dating from 1886 and therefore probably the oldest international sailing trophy after the Americas Cup. Britain won the trophy in 1993 from the USA and has successfully defended it in four challenges since. The challenging three boat American team had high hopes after their success in the World championships. Held in a force one in close proximity to the shore for spectators, the first race in the best of three series saw much place changes between the two teams, but by the finish John Ellis took the winning gun for Britain. The lighter conditions were clearly to the British liking, as in the second race, Ellis slipped the cover of Erich Chase early in the race and never looked back, with Britain's Phil Robin and Mark Goodchild taking second and third and thus retained the Cup, allowing the British team to retain some pride from their visit to Rhode Island.

For the first time at a worlds, racing was also organised on a separate windward-leeward course for asymmetric canoes with eight competitors from Britain joining recent convert from Texas, David Gilliland. The seven race series saw plenty of thrills and spills and demonstrated to other competitors that the monster 22 sq m spinnakers are controllable even at the top end of a force four. Paul Patrick comfortably won the series with a race to spare, but did not have it all his own way with Welshman Steve Bowen winning two races and boatbuilder Rob Michael never out of the top three. ●

**Phil Robin**

**Photos: Oscar Chess**

John Ellis at speed (7th overall) and winning British boat in the New York Challenge Cup race



## Results

**IC:** 1st Steve Clarke (USA171), 2nd Anders Paterson (SWE105), 3rd Erich Chase (USA 210), 4th Ola Barthelson (SWE106), 5th Bill Beaver (USA219), 6th Mark Goodchild (GBR265), 7th John Ellis (GBR292), 8th John Kells (USA201), 9th Chris Converse (USA206), 10th Phil Robin (GBR254).

**AC:** 1st Paul Patrick (GBR289), 2nd Rob Michael (GBR284), 3rd Steve Bowen (GBR290), 4th Phil Allen (GBR260).

**New York Challenge Cup:** Great Britain (John Ellis, Mark Goodchild, Phil Robin)

Steve Clark, USA,  
2002 IC World Champion





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# Along the Thames...with a kayak and your 'man' (...and a 'surprise' ending)

Since then, even though we had travelled a lot, we never had the opportunity to 'paddle' again. Until this spring, when we both decided to buy a kayak and all the equipment needed to go with it. We bought a two-seat yellow kayak, and we named it with a bottle of champagne, with the Spanish word: 'Poquito' (which means: a little bit). We weren't sure where to start 'paddling'. The weather in England

usually doesn't help to make plans, but the river Thames seemed the best place to start, so we decided to go kayaking along the Thames for three days.

I have been living in England for the last 12 years and it wasn't till this Easter weekend that I have discovered how beautiful the Thames and its surroundings are. I have always admired the English countryside, and even though sometimes it appears very organised, I must admit that the good thing about this is how well kept it is.

When Danny and I, decided to go along the Thames, neither of us thought it was going to be so enjoyable and peaceful: like a honeymoon!

Because it was our first time kayaking, Easter time and one cannot be sure of the weather, we reserved a couple of riverside hotels. For the first and last night, we agreed we wanted something special, different, so we chose a county house hotel overlooking the River Thames in Marlow-on-Thames, the Danesfield House: at least we knew we will be arriving to a warm, gorgeous room!

For the second night, we also reserved a hotel, the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, near Wallingford. We didn't have any idea where we will be the third night. Our plan was to start kayaking from near Oxford, from Sandford Lock (near Iffley), all the way along the river until we got back to the hotel in Marlow. We had three days, 80 kilometres of river to paddle, lovely weather forecast and lots of enthusiasm. We arrived to the Danesfield House Hotel on Thursday evening, just in time for a swim and dinner: ('would that be our last hot meal for the next three days?').

The following day, we arrange with the hotel for a car to take us near the Sandford Lock. At 9 am, a driver called Ian, picked us up from the hotel and drove us to our first lock. By the time we arrived, secure all the food and clothes in the kayak, wear all the waterproof gear and actually put the kayak in the water, it was already 11.30am.: the weather couldn't be better: I couldn't think of a better way of spending three days: sunshine, peace, my man and a bottle of Rioja! What else!

We didn't paddle much; the current was on our favour, so basically we just let the river drive us along and we just enjoyed the peace and tranquillity. We only stopped half an hour for a picnic and we arrived at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel at 5.40pm, not so bad for a first day: 25.2 kilometres! We were cold and tired. It was very nice to arrive to a warm room and to be able to have a hot bath.



**Two years ago, Danny, my boyfriend and I, went to Halifax in Canada. It was there where we both start kayaking. With an Italian friend, we paddled along a beautiful river. It was an unforgettable lovely experience and my first time in a kayak.**

The Thames is more than a leisure destination, it is an important wildlife habitat too, and during this trip, we could see a great number of swans, all kind of birds and ducks.

The other feature that I personally found unforgettable are the locks. Every lock is different; some have a range of facilities for boaters and other visitors; others are more modest. All are manned by resident lock keepers who

take great pride in their locks, many have been on the river for years and they are very friendly.

Our second day was more difficult and tiring because the wind was against us, so we did have to paddle a little bit more adventurous and we didn't have a clue where we would be sleeping.

We left at 10am from the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, and we arrive at seven in the evening at the Holiday Inn Hotel, next to the Caversham Bridge in Reading, this time we did 29.67 kilometres along the river, another record for our book!

We did stop for a nice lunch, for almost an hour, in a beautiful boathouse, called The Beetle and Wedge in Moulsoford-on-Thames, where they prepare delicious grilled fish. It is amazing to go on a kayak and be able to stop for lunch by the river, as if we were driving a car. Our last day kayaking, started at 10am from Caversham Bridge and finished at four thirty in the afternoon, when we arrived back to the Danesfield House Hotel. This time we did 25.3 kilometres, but we did have the wind and the current with us, so it was more relaxing and enjoyable than the day before. We also stopped for lunch on the way, by one of the river pubs in Henley-on-Thames, called the Angel, a lovely pub.

Being our last day, we did open and drink our bottle of Spanish Rioja in the kayak (we even carried a proper glass). When we finished the wine, we wrote a secret message that we put inside, with the promise of a dinner in London.

Apparently that Easter Sunday, there was a kayaking race happening, which we weren't aware of. When we were arriving to the Marsh Lock (near Henley), people were actually cheering us on, they thought we were part of the race and they were all waiting for the last kayak to appear: it wasn't us, but it was quite nice to be cheered.

The whole experience was absolutely unforgettable and personally I would recommend it to anyone. You don't need experience, or lots of money to have a weekend out of the ordinary, you do need to be a little bit adventurous, enthusiastic, and don't mind to get a bit wet at times.

Four days after we got back to London, I received a phone call: they had found the bottle and my message, with my phone number!, Allistair, from Maidenhead who also happened to be kayaking found it, and hopefully next weekend we will meet up in London: isn't life amazing! ●

**Ruth Bermudez and Danny Gillard**







Feature  
NORWAY

# Seventy on

**With a coastline of nearly 3,000 miles and a population of around four and a half million, Norway has many choices for sea kayakers seeking remote and isolated places. Paddling around the most northern point of Europe in the Arctic Circle and back south was our particular choice. Nordkapp, 71 degrees, 10 minutes, 20 seconds north is a high rugged coastal plateau on the Island of Magerya. It was named North Cape by the English explorer Richard Channellor on his search for the North East passage in 1553.**

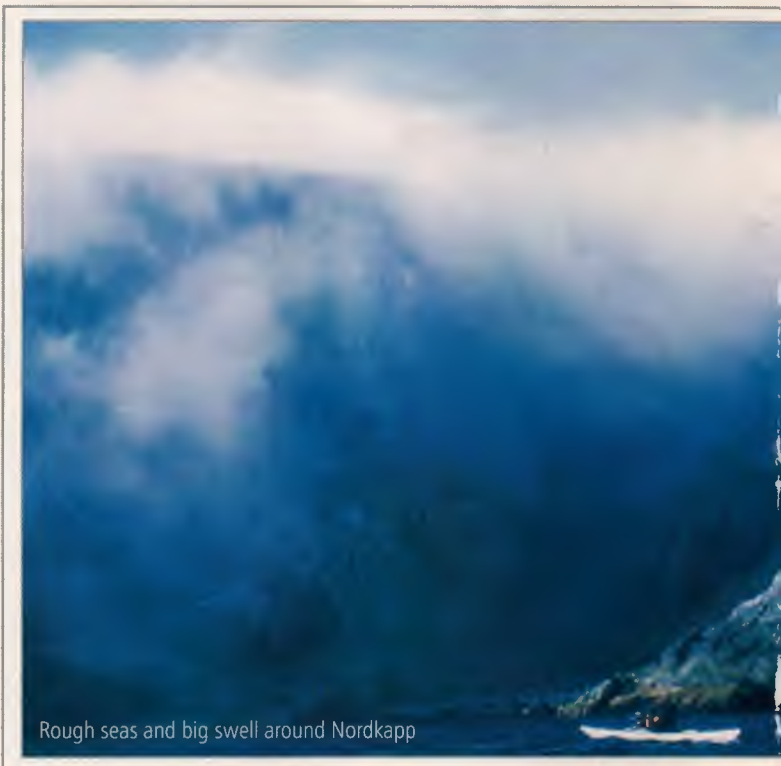
We reached Honninggsvig with our boats via a long journey from the Shetland Isles. Upon arriving in Bergen we paddled around the harbour to find the Hurtigrute coastal ferry. The coastal ferry took a further five days to reach Honninggsvig. It is a fantastic journey, famous all over the world. This is reflected in its price and the clientele it carries. To keep the cost down we slept on the deck and ate our own food. Two grubby Kayakers stood out a little.

We were however glad to be wheeling our boats off in Honninggsvig. The sun never sets from May to late July this far north, so you can paddle at any time. We had experienced this in Greenland, but still found it good to get into a routine. The day was grey and it was raining as we left, straight into a north easterly force four to five. The boats, Quests, kindly lent to us by P&H were fully laden with three and half weeks worth of food and kit, but they were still fast and stable in the rough seas. After three hours of battling into wind we decided to pull into a small bay at Kjeluik. Most Norwegians speak excellent English and a brief meeting with a family living in a small boat secured us a little room in the back of a fishing shack. The room was sparse but clean and we were able to have a good sleep after all the travelling.

The weather had changed again when we left the next day. Still blowing a four but from the north. We had very little access to weather information apart from a barometer and our eyes. We learnt that the weather changes very quickly up here. One minute hot and windless, then suddenly the wind and swell picks up. For example, we were paddling across Vest Fjorden to Nordkap and within minutes we were surrounded by fog with about ten metres visibility around us. Luckily we were close together and had both taken a quick bearing on the headland. The sea state picked up, and for the next hour we were paddling into mist. Suddenly the bottom of the 300 metre cliffs came into view and as we rounded Nordkapp the mist started to lift and we were rewarded with a fantastic view of the famous vertical cliffs.

The landscape when it revealed itself was barren. The summer here is short. Arctic and alpine flowers predominate and trees are low lying and non-existent. The geology of the land is fairly new, only 1.8 billion years old. Glacial actions have given the stunning fjord and mountain scenery of the coast and the Jurassic shale has provided the Norwegians with their supplies of oil, which make up 16 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Saving the real furthest north point for the following day we pulled our



Rough seas and big swell around Nordkapp

kayaks up onto a beach ready for camping and had our first go at fishing with a small hand line and jig. We soon realised why fishing makes up such a large part of the economy. After pulling out three haddock we realised that fish would supplement our diet, which was great as far as we were concerned.

Kniuskjaerodden is a minute or so further north than Nordkapp and is a five hour trek to get to by foot, so it is not nearly as popular as the visitors centre at Nordkapp where they milk the tourists for all they are worth.

The weather improved as we started the journey southwards. We could see some of the fishing boats returning from the rich north fishing grounds. The good fishing areas are due to the warm gulf stream. This keeps the seas ice free, moderates the climate and brings in the fish which feed on the rich plankton.

We were now starting on the first of a series of open crossings that characterise the paddling this far north. Fifteen to 25 kilometre crossings are the norm. As we neared the island of Storsloppen we started seeing puffins in the water. The numbers increased the nearer we got and eventually we had thousands of birds circling around us in the most amazing display I have ever seen. Eventually we had to drag ourselves away, crossing to the island of Masya. We reached this and found some old abandoned houses, which we used for the night. The sun had been on us all day and the temperature had got up to twenty-one degrees so we both felt tired and dehydrated when we arrived.

Having covered nearly 45 kilometres in a single day we decided that 35 to 40 kilometres a day seemed a sensible mileage with full boats. This equated to



# e degrees north

Stemoya island



Paddling south from furthest north

seven or eight hours of paddling a day, which gave us time to explore.

The next few days brought more changes in the weather. The pressure dropped and we found ourselves battling a force five to six for three and a half hours to go ten kilometres north. We were therefore glad to reach the Island of Reinoya, by which time we were suitably tired, wet and cold. Here we found an old shack with a wood burning stove to sit out the

bad weather and dry ourselves out. The hut was basic and there was a message from some Spanish kayakers on the wall almost exactly ten years to the day.

The next day the weather had improved and we had another day of big crossings to take us towards Hammerfest. We stopped just outside on a small Island. It rained all night and after a soggy start we paddled into the town itself. The town like many in northern Norway was completely destroyed by the German scorched earth policy at the end of World War II. The town was literally raised to the ground and its inhabitants spent many months hiding in caves. It says a lot for the Norwegian nation that they were able to rebuild and restore their economy at the end of the war in just three years.

We left Hammerfest the next day after washing ourselves and our gear. We were working of 1:200,000 admiralty charts and 1:400,000 road maps. The Norwegians do a very good 1:50,000 series, but this would have been very expensive as it involved a lot of maps. Our combination seemed to work well, although we did have to work out tidal streams and find suitable landing places on the go as neither of the maps provided enough detail. The tidal range is only about two metres in this area and while you get local tidal action the wind is the most important factor as it changes rapidly.

The next few days were spent paddling down the island of Stjernoia. Here we came across some fantastic camping areas in the small inlets on the west coast. The land however was still fairly desolate with only small communities and fishing shacks. Thanks to the age old law known as

Allemanstrettan or 'every mans right' wild camping and public access is guaranteed, so finding campsites is just a matter of locating a suitable site.

Fishing was still providing us with plenty of extra food. We were now catching cod as well. We filleted them and poached them, fantastic chunky lumps of fish, certainly the best I have ever tasted.

With the wind blowing from the south we had a quick journey out of the Sore Bergsfjorden and out past the Island of Loppa. We were now surrounded by jagged mountain glaciers as we paddled into the valley of Vagen. Here we got a new supply of water and the local fishermen told us about some local headlands that have big currents with a west wind.

The wind picked up overnight and another paddle of 28 kilometres turned into a long day, battling against wind and tide to reach Skjervoya, a substantial town. We paddled into a fantastic local campsite with showers and spent our first proper rest day for a few weeks. Leo however, went missing when I left for a shower and came back with a story of a French Legionnaires uniform (which he now possessed), a convicted murderer who had just been released after 26 years, a fishing contest and a marathon vodka session.

It was with sore heads that we left Skjervoya before any more came of our meeting with the local hero Issaac Issacson. The weather had died down which was good as we had more opening crossings to do. We passed the point of Lyngslva the locals had warned us about. On the point were the remains of a fishing boat broken in two, a battered solemn reminder of how rough the conditions can get. The weather was now glorious and we encountered foxes, otters and reindeer. The locals were obviously not used to seeing kayakers in the north and were always interested and friendly.

We had a couple of early starts to make out connections in Tromso but finally we were paddling down towards Tromsoya Island and Tromso itself into this busy port and back to the coastal ferry and then onto Newcastle. We had covered about 500km and had gone from the desolate northern tip of Europe seeing the change in the landscape and the flora and fauna. It seemed fitting to finish in Tromso the starting point for early explorers such as Nansen and Amundsen going north to start their incredible adventures. ●

**Olly Sanders**

# Top clubs for young paddlers

**Does your club work with young people?  
Would you like help developing your club?  
Would you like your club to be publicly recognised  
for the work you do?**

## Then read on...

The BCU has always been proud of the work and effort of our clubs and centres – they play a fundamental role in introducing new people to our sport and nurturing their development. A scheme to recognise these efforts and a system to support them is then a natural progression.

The Top Club scheme is not new – what is new is that it is now available to all BCU clubs and centres throughout England and it is also now linked to the Sport England Clubmark scheme.

Together these schemes provide a kite mark to recognise clubs across sports, agencies working in sport, local authorities, schools and for parents.

## So what is a Top Club?

The Top Club accreditation scheme is based on the principle that clubs demonstrate:

- A commitment to young people
- Provision of safe, quality activity and coaching programmes

For clubs that have achieved the standards it gives public recognition – for clubs that wish to improve what they do it is like a blueprint - or model to help and guide what areas to work on.

## There are two types of Top Club:

**Top Community Club (TCC)**– the aims of a which are to provide young people with a good introduction to paddlesport and consolidation of technique; to give them the opportunity to participate on a regular basis, and to give access to progressive quality coaching programmes where they can experience at least two disciplines of paddlesport.

**Top Performance Club (TPC)**– the aims of a TPC is to develop and prepare paddlers for high level performance such as national and international competition or events. These clubs should operate an “open squad” system allowing young people to access quality coaching and competition/events.

## Clubmark and Top Club

The BCU have worked with Sport England to ensure that our Top Club Scheme aligns to the Clubmark criteria but

also meets the specific needs of our clubs and paddlesport. We have agreed a set of criteria that meet the principles described above and also the Clubmark principles of “safe, effective, child-friendly”. This has resulted in some changes to the original Top Club criteria but the benefits are that a club can gain accreditation for both schemes at the same time. The criteria for clubs to work through are grouped into four headings – Activity Programme, Coaching, Duty of Care and Ethics and Club Management.

## What are the benefits of being a Top Club?

The most important reason that clubs state for being a Top Club is always - **public recognition**. This in itself brings many benefits - there are also benefits from clubs working towards accreditation - working to develop their club - this includes:

- Additional support from our PDO's or local sport development officers
- Support to attend workshops and coaching courses
- Resources to support the process
- Become a member of the Sport England Volunteer Investment Programme which gives access to materials and specialist support to help your work with volunteers

In addition each club that gains accreditation will:

- Be more attractive to new members - thus ensuring the future of the club
- Be promoted in your local community and on a national data base
- Further support from PDO's to continue to develop your club
- Support to develop coaches and volunteers
- Priority for funding applications

## What do I do to get accredited?

To enter the Top Club programme you should contact your Paddlesport Development Officer (PDO) or the Young People's Programme at BCU Head Office for further details and advice - email [youth@bcu.org.uk](mailto:youth@bcu.org.uk) or tel 0115 982 6265.



## Final show down 2002

The numbers of young people participating in Lightning events has been growing throughout this season – and it's great to see so many now attending the events. Thanks go to everyone who has helped throughout the season, particularly coaches, parents, race officials, regatta committee, sprint & marathon committees, and Pyranha. Special thanks to Howard Blackman as race organiser. If you have any comments with respect to the Lightning Development then please forward them to the BCU Young People's Programme at head office email [howard@bcu.org.uk](mailto:howard@bcu.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you all next year and welcoming new clubs and paddlers to the events.

## Lightning Sprint Cup

69 young paddlers attended the finals for the Lightning Sprint Cup run at the Inter Clubs Regatta at the National Watersports Centre in September - the largest entry to date for a Lightning event not just for paddlers but clubs as well. This was to be an exciting final - Leighton Buzzard seemed in an unassailable position to win the overall club trophy but plenty of clubs were there to challenge and fight it out for the places. Amongst the clubs it is great to see those new to racing such as Shropshire and Macclesfield alongside established racing clubs such as Chelmsford, Royal and Fladbury. For Shropshire it was their first National Lightning event and for some of their paddlers it was the furthest they had ever paddled in one go! In the end Leighton Buzzard won the club trophy together with a new Lightning kindly donated by Pyranha. Admittedly the serious racing there was the usual "fun relay" and on this occasion to cope with the numbers it was run in bellboats. As always this created the most noise with shouting, shrieks and cheers from paddlers and supporters - and of course a whole load of fun. In addition to the Lightning races, a bellboat race was run at the end of the day as part of the canoe development programme.

## Jubilee Lightning Challenge

The final event of the season was ran at the Hasler Finals at Dorney Lake, Eton, where 36 young paddlers completed the 3,000m course. It was a great opportunity for the young paddlers to experience this wonderful facility and then watch our top paddlers in action following their own racing. Gold medal winner from the 2001 Marathon World Championships, Helen Gilby, presented the prizes to the winners who whilst appreciating their trophies seem to have their eyes on the big Hasler trophies for the future! Congratulations to all paddlers (it certainly was a long way for some of you!), the winners listed on the right and Clubs and coaches for their efforts. Thanks to Wey Kayak Club for incorporating the race into their schedule, all the helpers on the day, and extra Lightnings supplied by Marsport, TYM and Royal CC.



### PADDEPOWER

The great new BCU scheme for young people – learning to paddle and keeping them paddling.

Paddlepower consists of two parts:

**Paddlepower 1** – includes

- 7 progressive awards
- 7 certificates
- colourful log book (equivalent to 1 star level)

**Paddlepower 2**

- 5 Challenge awards and certificates
- colourful log book

For more details about the scheme contact:  
BCU Young Peoples Programme  
Tele 0115 982 6265  
email [paddlesport@bcu.org.uk](mailto:paddlesport@bcu.org.uk)



## Well done Mark



Mark Clive is nine years old and he canoes for Gailey Canoe Club, West Midlands.

This year he has won the titles of National Lightning Marathon Cup champion (Under 11's), National Sprint Cup 200m champion (under 11's), National Sprint Cup 1000m champion (under 11's), and he got the silver medal for his two mile race at the 'Hasler Final' held at Eton on Sunday.

## Pyranha Lightning Sprint Cup

– overall winners of the series as follows:

### Overall Club Winners

1st Leighton Buzzard 87 pts; 2nd Addlestone 48 pts; 3rd Chester 45 pts

### Under 11 boys - 200mts

1st Mark Clive, Gailey  
2nd Oliver Gibson, Royal  
3rd Andy Dawson, Chester

### Under 13 Boys – 200mts

1st Mitchell West, Addlestone  
2nd Kristian Reeve, Addlestone  
3rd Daniel Hussey, Leighton Buzzard  
Full results are on the BCU web site

### Under 11 girls – 200mts

1st Jenny Swallow, Chester  
2nd Laura Hussey, Leighton Buzzard  
3rd Lauren Yule, Pennine

### Under 13 girls – 200mts

1st Mahri Robertson, Anker  
2nd Olivia Churchill, Addlestone  
3rd Emma Hooton, Anker

## Jubilee Lightning Challenge

### Under 13 boys

1st Aaron Jordan, Maidstone  
2nd M Gwynn, Westel  
3rd Guy Harris, Royal

### Under 11 Boys

1st Dean Terry, Maidstone  
2nd Mark Clive, Gailey  
3rd William Harris, Royal

### Jubilee Club Rankings

1st Royal 59 points; 2nd Leighton Buzzard 29 points; 3rd Maidstone 20 points

### Under 13 Girls

1st Mahri Robertson, Anker  
2nd E Dennis, Pangbourne  
3rd Catherine Guy, Leighton Buzzard

### Under 11 Girls

1st S Holmes, Worcester  
2nd Rosie Farrington, Royal  
3rd Daniel Osbourne, Leighton Buzzard



# LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

## Please send your letters to

Canoe Focus,  
49 Greenfields, St Ives,  
Cambs PE27 5HB  
or email them to  
[peter@canoefocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoefocus.co.uk)

## More great service

A Yak Sak that I bought about two years ago had suddenly started to leak on one of the bottom tape seams.

I rang Yak and they advised me to try and glue it. That failed and so I sent it to Yak to be repaired. They did not repair it, they just sent me a new bag free of charge. Great service Yak.

**Mick Rose,  
Whitstable.**

## Where's polo

My name is Andrew Linton. I am 15 years old and I play for a canoe polo youth team called Bere Forest. My dad has subscribed to your magazine for many years now and I enjoy reading it...but very rarely does it feature much canoe polo. I would appreciate it if perhaps you could include an article on the sport. Thanks a lot,

**Andrew Linton**

*Ed. Calling all canoe polo enthusiasts. Please send your articles to the address above.*

## No reference to ICs

I have just returned to sailing International 10 square metre canoes after a long absence from the sport and as a result have re-joined the BCU as they are the governing body that embraces IC sailing.

I am disappointed that there are no reference to ICs or their activities in the October edition of *Canoe Focus* and would like some editorial comment on that point.

I would also be interested to learn both how many females participate in IC sailing and how many juniors participate.

It is disappointing to discover after all these years that the sport still seems to be an exclusive male preserve.

**David France**

*Articles are submitted to Canoe Focus by BCU members. We would be more than happy to run a feature on canoe sailing when we receive them such as page 36. Ed.*

## Paddler's gear

It is with a feeling of great distress that after ten years of membership of the BCU I finally feel that I am forced to write to you! Until now my views have been adequately covered by other contributors and I have happily revelled in my lazy chair and never needed to "stick my oar in" but no longer can I sit back and let the world pass me by!

The reason for my sudden spurt of energy is the issue of equipment reviews. In most magazines kit reviews are done by an un-biased editor or the staff on the magazine. I have always believed this has given a fairly balanced outlook for readers to go and try out the kit for themselves and decide if it is, or is not, what they need.

*Canoe Focus* on the other hand seems to be quite happy to allow traders to plug their wares as the best in the market, because they sell them. Whilst I'm sure that the paddling fraternity is a fairly honest bunch and wouldn't use this to their benefit I have always felt a little uneasy about it.

So finally I'm prompted into writing to you with an idea!

Why not hold a journalistic competition with three age brackets (under 10, 10 - 18 & 18+) and the winners of said competition can win the chance to become the BCU *Canoe Focus* kit reviewer for the year. I'm sure that there are stacks of paddlers who struggle to buy their gear of all ages and what better tester could there be? They would also get the chance to paddle the latest boats, in the latest gear and see their name in print.

If you feel this is a bit much then how about at least putting in a rating system so that keen gear freaks can ascertain what the paddlers out there think about the items under review? Or you could even have an open forum on the web where people could write up about new kit that they have been impressed with or otherwise.

So come on *Canoe Focus*, the mag has improved massively over the last 10 years so why not jump right up to date for the 21st century?

**Yours lazily, Fishy**

*Paddler's Gear is a mix of reviews and press releases to highlight new products coming on to the canoeing scene. In some cases the products are independently reviewed and their name inserted at the end of the text. We will endeavour from the next issue to bring in a rating system and make it clear where an article is a press release. There is no link between the publishing of press releases and advertisers within the magazine. I like your idea on the competition, however, the logistics of transporting people from around the country to and from Nottingham could cause too many headaches, especially where youngsters are concerned. Ed.*

## Names and addresses withheld to protect the guilty!

I thought that our sport was keen to increase its membership by providing a great facility to young and old alike, and particularly to females. It seems that a lot of time and money is being spent on new schemes and recruitment and advertising, yet when new blood is found little appears to be done to keep up their interest and motivation. (A particular disappointment if their interest lies in passing on their enthusiasm to others in the form of coaching)

I refer, in particular, to the lack of courses on offer to aspirant coaches wanting to progress up the ladder for the benefit of others. Having gone through the yearbook with a fine-toothed comb since gaining the required coaching experience, and contacting the course providers it appears that their courses are not running any longer. Despite living close to the BCU headquarters, little is available. Telephone conversations began in September and the response is that nothing will run until next year - I will have gone on a more readily available course for pink tarantula spotters by then!

I have been to the BCU East Midlands Web site and contacted providers through there, to be told that they will ring back the next day, and still I hear nothing. I then ring daily leaving more answer phone messages. Still no response.

I then get a copy of CODE magazine and ring a provider (from Nottingham) and leave daily messages on their answer phone, as the message says "there is no-one to take your call as we are on the water running courses". I finally get through (they never rang me back - becoming all too familiar now) and again nothing is running until next year.

What is going on?

If I am prepared to travel to the south coast or to west Wales I can be on a course next week - a little extreme for a five-hour course!

As L2 is a flat-water qualification, and Notts/Lincs has plenty of venues available why are there no courses?

I would understand had it just been me wanting a course, as people need courses at different times, but as well as me there is my friend - a very able and enthusiastic lady paddler - you know, the sort you are desperate for!

Come on BCU/course providers... sort it out now!

**Disappointed of Lincoln (Alastair Westle)**

## Rolling

It was interesting to read about the Greenland kayak championships, in the October *Canoe Focus*, with competitors entering from the USA and Europe.

It was in 1931, not all that long ago, that Gino Watkins became the first European (in the sense of non Icelander or Lap) to master the Greenland kayak and learn to roll and even to hunt from it. The details are in the book *Watkins Last Expedition* by Spencer Chapman who was also with him on the 1933 expedition. It would seem that all half dozen members of this expedition learnt to kayak and roll successfully.

Today we take the ability to roll very much for granted and learn it quite early on in our canoeing. Imagine what white water canoeing would be like without being able to roll. Yet it has all happened within a lifetime. So it was good to read about the four Britons who competed in Greenland following in the steps of those other Britons of 70 years ago. Thank you very much Jilly O'Brien for your interesting account.

**Yours sincerely, Michael Rhodes.**

## The other side of the story

As an active kayaker living near Burnham-on-Sea and Hinkley Point nuclear power station, I was interested to read the article about Dr Chris Busby's study into (alleged) possible links between cancers in Burnham and discharges from Hinkley Point. Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) are right to voice their concerns about water quality and health related matters. It is vital for independent organisations to act as public watchdogs and continue to challenge the practices of government and corporate bodies, where appropriate, even if some of their fears are eventually shown to be groundless.

Despite my support for SAS, I have to say that I found the article just a tad one-sided. I have worked in the nuclear industry for nearly 30 years and have spent most of that time at Hinkley Point power station. Over the period I have become used to most of the pieces in the media, which relate to the operation and safety of nuclear installations, failing to tell the whole story and as a result appearing biased and misleading. I have as much interest as any member of the public in finding solutions to health problems and, of course, I remain very sympathetic towards the plight of cancer sufferers and their families. But, just ponder these points:-

1. Nuclear power station operations and discharges are very strictly regulated by 'independent' government bodies.
2. The article does not mention the types of cancer covered by the study at Burnham. For many years, the existence of Leukaemia clusters around nuclear installations has been well publicised and investigated but similar clusters have also been found around many other types of non-nuclear industrial installation. The reason now suggested for these clusters is the larger than average movement of new people into and out of the areas. The Leukaemia may result from viruses carried by the 'migrants'.
3. The fact that two thirds of those diagnosed with cancer had hobbies involving the sea or beach might not be particularly unusual. It may be the case that two thirds of the general population of any coastal town has similar sea and beach related hobbies.

The media band-wagon loves to hammer the nuclear industry but rarely publishes the other side of the story - can you do better?

**Name and address supplied**

## Cancer is a scary word

I was alarmed to read in last month's magazine, your article entitled "Surfers fear over radioactive beaches". I can see the fear that an article like this or research like this could provoke

and I only hope that you've the sense to avoid the sensationalisation of the issue by the organisation Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) and instead reach for some facts.

The national average annual dose rate (radiation) in the UK, from background sources is about 2.2mSv. On average, in Devon it is 5mSv per year and in West Cornwall dose rates can be as high as 100mSv per year. (Source - The Environment Agency). Plenty of people still live and work in these areas. They regularly walk, cycle, paddle and do many other things in the area.

Cancer is a scary word and many people still do not understand how it works, or what it is. There are many factors that can cause cancer, like smoking, but you choose to take that risk. I do not believe that paddling or surfing in the sea carries any such risk, even if you are near a nuclear power station. The discharges from these are very strictly controlled and monitored by the government and they don't just chuck out what they want. Radioactive discharges from nuclear sites accounts for about 0.0004mSv per year of the average dose. To date no research has proved that living near a nuclear power station is any more dangerous than living anywhere else. But they have proved that flying transatlantic flights causes a high exposure to radiation, yet we still fly. There are several instances and cases of increased levels of cancer within communities. These have not been linked to one cause or factor, in fact there are many possible combinations of contributors (e.g. smoking, excess alcohol, poor diet, lack of exercise, family history etc.) There are over 200 different types of cancer and it is estimated that around 30% of all cancers are caused by smoking and another 30% by diet.

The writer of the article on such an important issue should get both sides of the story before printing. The comment "...the green, clean seas of our dreams could soon be replaced by neon green, mean seas, the stuff of nightmares" is really a fictional statement, slightly reminiscent of the Simpsons, where Homer operates the power station... I'm sorry but if you are still believing that you've been watching too much television.

I can understand why the SAS are calling for a study to examine the risks to water users, and I would fully support one, as long as it is really independent, then we might get some real facts. I'll wait and see.

If anyone has a genuine concern about radiation and the associated issues, then I suggest they do some reading. The web is a good place to start, try the Environment Agency pages ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)), the National Radiation Protection Board ([www.nrp.gov.uk](http://www.nrp.gov.uk)) or Cancer Research UK ([www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)) and get the facts straight.

**Heather Hale**

## Worcester and Wyre Forest Swanalong 2002

Thanks to the following who helped make the Swanalong run smoothly as always: Pam Morris at Wyre Forest canoe club for the use of facilities and launch site, Steve & Liz Dando, Olive & Joyce, Mike Vater & Martin Gloster, Julia Ballard, Jerry Nichols, Brian Cubberley, Brian Cox, Tim Munslow, Rob Welford, Rob Lee & Andrea Handy at Worcester canoe club and the lock keepers on the day at Lincom, Holt and Bevere for their patience and everyone that paddled on the day and raised money for various charities.

Steve Brown from Radio Hereford & Worcester and myself paddled for the Acorns Trust and raised approximately £300. See you again next year hopefully around the same date.

**Steve Hutchinson**

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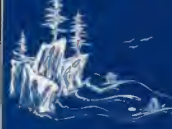
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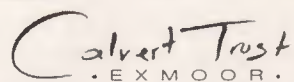
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[www.uistoutdoorcentre.co.uk](http://www.uistoutdoorcentre.co.uk)  
[www.seakayakouterhebrides.co.uk](http://www.seakayakouterhebrides.co.uk)

All Situations vacant ads will now appear on the Canoe Focus website with direct email links wherever provided  
[www.canoefocus.co.uk](http://www.canoefocus.co.uk)



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## Outdoor Education Youth Workers/ Instructors

£7.14 - £8.00 p.h. incl (Pay Award Pending)

Required between April - October 2003

Post 1 - Seasonal Full time - ref: US2632

Post 2 - Part time & Sessional - ref: US2633

The Youth Service requires outdoor activity Instructors to support the wide programme of outdoor education on offer to young people. We require seasonal full-time Instructors for varying periods between March and October and also part-time and sessional Workers for evenings and weekends.

Although located at Herts Young Mariners Base in the first instance, opportunities may arise to work at other locations in the county and on visits to Derbyshire, Snowdonia, etc. Minimum requirement is one national governing body qualification.

For further information, please contact the Head of Centre on Tel: (01992) 628403. For an application pack please ring 0845 6014834 between 8.00am - 6.00pm Mon - Fri or e-mail at [hertscc.ltv@manpower.co.uk](mailto:hertscc.ltv@manpower.co.uk) quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date: 07.01.03.

Interview date: 24 or 25.01.03.

[www.hertsdirect.org/jobs](http://www.hertsdirect.org/jobs)



Information available on tape, in  
Braille or large print on request.

## SCOTLAND Instructors required

From early Feb/March to end of October 2003. Possible full time posts also available. Residential schools to non residential adults. Activities include white water rafting grades 2 to 5, high ropes course, climbing and abseiling, gorge ascents/canyoning, archery, mountain biking, hillwalking, environmental work, orienteering and ducking.

Full training, assessments and NGB qualifications are offered to the right people. Food and accommodation included. Any candidate with SPA, GNAS, CYCLE LEADER OR KAYAKING/RAFTING QUALIFICATIONS will be considered first. GOOD RIVER SKILLS WILL BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS.

Call 01887 820298 for application forms and details.

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

Telephone: 01887 820298

E-mail:

[info@dunollyadventures.co.uk](mailto:info@dunollyadventures.co.uk)

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



## RESIDENTIAL/NON RESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

From Feb 2003

Candidates must hold a minimum of S.P.A and Level 2 Coach Kayak with additional NGB's. The successful candidate should preferably have experience of assisting on Development Training Courses.  
Long Seasonal Contract Feb-Oct.

The Adventure Centre and Parkwood Management Centre is currently one of the leading personal development Centres in the South West. It is an independent Outdoor Development Centre set in 10 acres of land. In close proximity to the Centre can be found rivers, climbing crags, sheltered quarry lakes, orienteering courses, high ropes course and Dartmoor National Park.

Job details available from: Tim Wiggans,  
Commercial Manager, The Adventure Centre, Kelly  
College, Tavistock Devon, PL19 0HY  
Tel : 01822 813130 Fax: 01822 610817  
E.mail [kenterprise@btinternet.com](mailto:kenterprise@btinternet.com)  
[www.theadventurecentre.co.uk](http://www.theadventurecentre.co.uk)

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Please Tel/fax/email/or write to us at:

Personnel	Tel: 00 353 95 42336/42208
Delphi Adventure Holidays	Fax: 00353 95 42303
Leenane	Email:
Co. Galway,	<a href="mailto:hr@delphiscape.com">hr@delphiscape.com</a>
Ireland	

## KAYAKING INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED...

...for our island-based Multi-Activity Adventure Centre in Argyllshire. Must be at least Level 2 Coach, with experience of instructing youngsters. Starting May, finishing September, we offer full board and accommodation, a good wage and excellent wild sea paddling around our islands, including the famous Corryvreckan Whirlpools.

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

## Grangewaters, Buckles Lane, South Ockendon, Essex

☎/fax 01708 855228/856422

e-mail: [grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk)

Activity Instructors April - September 2003

Very busy non-residential LEA Centre  
requires a team of highly motivated  
instructors/trainees. Min.1 NGB coaching  
award required for instructor posts.  
Possible contract extension at end of  
season.



## 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**

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## ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

APRIL-OCTOBER | FRANCE, AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND

Village Camps has excellent opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to instruct these activities to children at our international centres.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age with relevant experience and/or qualifications. A second language is desirable.

We will provide your accommodation, meals and accident/liability insurance.

Net weekly allowances equivalent to approximately £145 are paid.

To apply, visit our website or send enquiries to:

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Tel: 00 41 22 990 9405, Fax: 00 41 22 990 9494  
E-mail: [personnel@villagecamps.ch](mailto:personnel@villagecamps.ch)

[www.villagecamps.com/personnel](http://www.villagecamps.com/personnel)



Instructors required for dynamic outdoor centre on lake Windermere.

We want experienced and enthusiastic staff to work with school and youth groups on our outdoor education and personal development programmes.

Minimum one NGB assessment, one NGB training and one season's prior experience of working in the outdoors.

Outstanding training package offered.

For further details and application form contact:  
Staffing Manager  
Lakeside YMCA National Centre  
Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8BD Tel. 08707 273927



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## Mendip Outdoor Pursuits

We have vacancies for short and long term staff for 2003.

Applicants must have at least one National Governing Body Award from S.P.A., L.C.L.A.

Pay from £200 per week.

**Phone Jim Hayward on 01934 820518, 01934 823666**

## Heatree Activity Centre

Following a period of successful expansion at Dartmoor's premier residential outdoor pursuits & Christian conference centre, we are looking to fill the following positions, offering good salary with on-site accommodation. We provide multi-activity courses, primarily to residential school groups.

### Senior Instructors

Min 3 years prior experience as a multi-disciplinary adventure activity instructor. Applicants ideally should hold most of the following SPA – BCU L2/L3 Kayak – ML Summer.

### Trainee Instructors

Voluntary basis for 12-18 months with full-board & lodging and other direct expenses provided. Possibility of transferring to full-time salaried Instructor position on completion. We fund training, relevant awards & qualifications.

Apply with full CV and motivational covering letter to:  
Director, Heatree Activity Centre, Manaton, Devon TQ13 9XE  
Tel 01647 221307 Email [heatree@aol.com](mailto:heatree@aol.com)



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



## Llain Activity Centre

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Join a friendly, committed team in an expanding, high quality centre in coastal west Wales.

- ▶ Exciting opportunities with a varied client base.
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We are looking for:

- ▶ Highly motivated, dynamic and enthusiastic staff
- ▶ Multi- Activity Instructors and Trainees required for kayaking, sailing, climbing, walking, orienteering and archery.
- ▶ A current First Aid qualification is essential.
- ▶ Pay scales depend on experience and qualifications.

Download an application form at [www.llain.co.uk](http://www.llain.co.uk), e-mail [llain@btopenworld.com](mailto:llain@btopenworld.com) or write to Llain Activity Centre, Llanarth, Ceredigion, SA470PZ.



BCU Approved Centre





## LONGRIDGE S.B.C.

We are a multi-activity boating centre situated on the River Thames near Marlow and Hurley weirs. We are seeking staff for the 2003 season from April to September.

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

£200 per week plus food & accommodation

Applicants must be over 18 and be qualified to BCU Level Two Kayak Coach (other NGB qualifications an advantage)

For further information including application form contact Martin Plain at:

Longridge SBC, 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)

## SEALYHAM ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our Georgian Mansion House is located in a 100 acre woodland river valley with activities taking place within the grounds and in the nearby Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.



Activities include surfing, sailing, kayaking, climbing, coasteering & overnight bivouacs.

Applicants should hold qualifications from the BCU, RYA, GNAS, BMC & BSA, a clean driving license (PCV preferably) and be water confident.

Please send CV to Jenny Dawson, Sealyham Activity Centre, Wolfcastle, Haverfordwest, Pembro, SA62 5NF

## STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Upminster, Essex



Vacancies for 2003 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

## ICC Activity Centre Salcombe, Devon



Our residential Multi-activity Centre and Sailing School is based on an ex-mersey ferry in the stunning Salcombe Estuary.

We are currently recruiting for all departments, and are seeking Open Canoe Coaches with qualifications or experience in Dinghy Sailing, for the 2003 season.

For more details contact:

Recruitment, ICC, 28 Island Street,

Salcombe, Devon TQ8 8DP

Tel: 01548 531176

e-mail: [info@icc-salcombe.co.uk](mailto:info@icc-salcombe.co.uk)

Website: [www.icc-salcombe.co.uk](http://www.icc-salcombe.co.uk)

## THE OLD VICARAGE ADVENTURE CENTRE

### 2003 SEASONAL VACANCIES Instructors & Assistant Instructors

We are a leading Midlands Adventure provider with over 15 years experience offering day and residential courses for schools, corporate, individuals, and the like.

The family run Centre is recruiting to add to our permanent team of staff instructing a very large range of activities including canoeing, paintball, pony trekking, Mountain boarding, climbing & much more. All on our 30 acre site.

Email: [enquiries@ovac.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ovac.co.uk) Tel: 01746 718 436



### Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre Instructors required for 2003 season

Situated on the Hook Peninsula on the south coast of Ireland, Shielbaggan enjoys a perfect location for a wide range of outdoor pursuits.

Instructors required in: Kayaking, sailing, wind-surfing, rock-climbing, orienteering, archery and surfing.

Competitive rates of pay with time off to do your thing in the rest of Ireland.



Please forward a C.V. either by mail or e-mail to Colin Gibbon, Manager, Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre, Ramsgrange, New Ross, Co. Wexford.  
e-mail address: [shielbaggan@eircom.net](mailto:shielbaggan@eircom.net)



### Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre Senior Instructor Required

Ideally with good sailing and kayaking qualifications and holding a current D1 driving licence. You will be responsible for running activity programmes including sailing and kayaking proficiency courses. Managing and motivating staff and helping organise programmes.

Competitive salary and 12 month contract.



Please forward a C.V. either by mail or e-mail to Colin Gibbon, Manager, Shielbaggan Outdoor Education Centre, Ramsgrange, New Ross, Co. Wexford.  
e-mail address: [shielbaggan@eircom.net](mailto:shielbaggan@eircom.net)



## Snowdonia North Wales

Vacancies for instructors (minimum Summer ML, L2 Kayak Coach, SPA Assessments) and Trainee Instructors for March to October 2003.

Details of these posts are available on our website.

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

Or phone for details 01766 530682



Closing date for applications:  
22nd January 2003



Require instructors to complete our team for the 2003 season.  
First aid certificate and Residential centre experience essential, preferably with two NGB Awards.

Positions available from March  
For an application package send a CV and covering letter to:

Graeme Chapman  
Newlands Adventure Centre, Stair, Keswick,  
Cumbria CA12 5UF

e-mail [jobs@activity-centre.com](mailto:jobs@activity-centre.com)  
Website: [www.activity-centre.com](http://www.activity-centre.com)



## INSTRUCTORS

The Outward Bound Trust is seeking to recruit those outdoor men and women who have the potential to be the best.

As the world's leader in the provision of personal development courses in the outdoors we can offer you:

- a full time, permanent position
- work with a wide variety of clients
- the chance to broaden your existing qualifications base
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- a comprehensive training package
- a challenging and dynamic environment

In addition to our four residential centres in the UK, there are also exciting and diverse opportunities for course delivery on a national and international level.

Successful candidates need to be 21 years old and should have passed an assessment in one of the first three listed below and have completed training in at least two others from the whole list -

- Summer Mountain Leader Award
- Single Pitch Award
- British Canoe Union Level 2 Coach Award (kayak, canoe or both)
- RYA Dinghy Instructor or Coastal Skipper Award
- Cave Leader Award

In addition, the following are mandatory requirements -

- clean driving licence (preferably including a mini bus licence)
- valid First Aid Certificate

A competitive salary and employment package are offered. Interviews will be held on 10 & 11 December 2002.

Applications in writing with current CV to:

Kate Jones, The Outward Bound Trust, Watermillock, Penrith,  
Cumbria CA11 0JL, or email: [katejones@outwardbound-uk.org](mailto:katejones@outwardbound-uk.org)



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



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## Canoeing & Multi-Activity Instructors

We are looking for vibrant, energetic people for our centres in the UK, France and Spain. Whether you are experienced but unqualified, or qualified and looking to increase your leadership skills, we have the ideal opportunity for you.

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A current UK driving license is essential.

We offer single accommodation, competitive pay and the chance to develop your abilities and qualifications.

Please send your C.V. to:  
Mike Allison

Sutherland Lodge, Cropton, N.Yorks YO18 8ET  
[Stuart.morley@btopenworld.com](mailto:Stuart.morley@btopenworld.com)

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# SKERN LODGE

**Instructional Staff (Feb - Nov)**  
**£10,080 p.a. (pro rata)**

As a highly regarded provider of adventure activity and development training, the success of Skern Lodge lies within the quality and skilfulness of our employees. Due to business growth, we are currently looking to expand our existing team with similar like minded people. If you are enthusiastic, good humoured, committed, flexible and are looking to work for a centre offering excellent benefits and an opportunity to develop your existing skills and career outlook, please send a CV and covering letter to:  
**Glyn Brackenbury Skern Lodge, Appledore, Bideford, North Devon EX39 1NG**  
 staff@skernlodge.co.uk

## Leicestershire Education Department



**Leicestershire County Council**

**Beaumanor Hall Outdoor Education Centre**

We are looking for two part time instructors to work at this busy and expanding centre.

Candidates must hold NGB qualifications in at least two of the following; BCU Level 2, SPA, MLC (Summer) and G.N.A.S. and hold a full clean driving licence. Other NGBs would be an advantage.

The post will be 1200 hrs p.a. which will include some evening and weekend work, paid at Scale 3 (£13,122 - £14,040) pending job evaluation. It is anticipated that a large proportion of the 1200 hrs will be required during the April to October period and the post holder will often be required to work full time during this period.

For an application pack please contact: **Andrea Smith, Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leicestershire. LE12 8TX**  
 Tel: 01509 890119 Closing date: 31st January 2003

# THE VENTURE CENTRE

## Opportunities in the Isle of Man

**4 Instructors required February – September 2003**

Must hold governing body awards in one or more of the following.

Kayaking, Sailing, Climbing, Orienteering, Powerboat driving, Archery, Shooting, Hill walking.

Good rates of pay.

Live in positions available if required.

**Also required cook and catering/domestic staff.**

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Contact **Simon Read The Venture Centre, Maughold, Isle of Man, IM7 1AW**

Phone 01624 814240 Fax 01624 815615

[www.adventure-centre.co.uk](http://www.adventure-centre.co.uk)

email: [enquiries@adventure-centre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@adventure-centre.co.uk)



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## The Prince's Trust - Cymru

### Outdoor Development Unit Manager

**Salary £25,000 per annum**  
**Based in Pembroke Centre**

**Permanent Contract**

The Prince's Trust - Cymru helps young people and the communities in which they live to overcome social, economic and environmental disadvantages, so that they can contribute to a successful and sustainable Wales. We deliver training, set up young people in business, provide grants for sustainable community projects and tailor-made opportunities for individuals and groups. Our volunteers and staff run programmes in partnership with others in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Trust's Centre in Pembrokeshire has an all year round activity multi-activity calendar. We are currently looking to recruit an Outdoor Development Unit Manager to manage and develop our outdoor centre. This new post will attract a high quality manager with experience of running a busy outdoor centre and be able to demonstrate significant development success in previous posts.

You will be multi-qualified and have considerable experience of working with, and understanding the needs of, groups of young people. You will need drive, determination, inspiration and business acumen. You will also have excellent communication and organisational skills and be able to demonstrate sound judgement, flexibility and talent to work with people at all levels.

Ref: ODM/001/01/CF.

For an application pack, please either telephone 02920 437030 or email [walesjob@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:walesjob@princes-trust.org.uk) quoting the reference number above.

The closing date for submitting an application is 3 January 2003.

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Web: [www.nwbrown.co.uk/canoe](http://www.nwbrown.co.uk/canoe)



Since its launch, The Prince's Trust has supported more than 450,000 young people.



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JOHN RAMWELL — PROJECT MANAGER

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## SEA COACH 3 - 5

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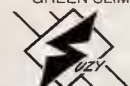
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66 Uphill way, Uphill Village  
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Fax: 0117 9235961  
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Gloucestershire

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# Add a Yak to your Christmas list



Here are one or two of the latest gift ideas from Yak to wet your appetite, they're great for your paddling buddies or family and won't break the bank balance. With the winter chill in the air, perhaps it's time

to protect those hands with a Yak paddle mitt. Available in two styles, 3mm neoprene with elastic cuff or fabric with fleece lining and touch and close fastening, they are an excellent solution to keeping hands warm whatever the journey. Fabric mitts cost £17.50, Neoprene £24.95

Safety maybe boring and sometimes overlooked, but why not take the initiative and get your friend a stylish Yak bullet bag. Designed to fit around the waist, it's an easy-to-deploy safety line for emergency or awkward situations. The Yak bullet bag is available with three different lengths of floating rope 15, 20 and 25m and range in price from £23.95 to £27.95

Finally, perhaps something for yourself. Fed up with getting scratches on your canoe or kayak every time you strap it to your roof rack, then why not add a pair of Yak roof bar pads to your wish

list. They are practical, durable, come as a pair and look stylish. And at £9.95, not a lot to ask for!

Prices: RRP inc VAT  
Canoe and kayak buoyancy bags from : £13.95 to £58.95

Paddle mitt: Fabric: universal adult size: £17.50  
Neoprene: universal adult size: £24.95  
Bullet bags: 15m - £23.95; 20m - £25.95, 25m - £27.95  
Roof bar pads: £9.95

For further information please contact: Yak, Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire. PO12 1AQ. Tel: +44 (0) 23 9252 8621 Fax: +44 (0) 23 9251 0905

Email: [info@yak-paddling.com](mailto:info@yak-paddling.com) [www.yak-paddling.com](http://www.yak-paddling.com)



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

## Secure lock alarm

You can safeguard your canoeing and watersport equipment with the latest security product available from the Hire Supply Company. The new portable lock alarm gives piece of mind due to its combined theft prevention system and 120 decibel siren!

It features a steel cable, which is coated in PVC to prevent scratching and comes in 2.4m and 4.65m lengths. The lock is manufactured from hardened steel, with a steel inner chassis and an attack resistant outer casing.

The battery alarm is suitable for both indoor and outdoor uses and functions in all weather conditions. It can be used either freestanding or anchored to a wall, post or any other immovable object. When not in use the cable wraps around the main body of the unit, for neat and tidy storage.

For further information on your nearest stockist contact the Hire Supply Company on 0845 309 0707 (local rate call) or visit your local hire shop.



## Elastoplast Sport

Latest figures show that six out of ten adults play sport, with over half of participants taking part seriously! With such a large proportion of serious and amateur sportsmen and women actively involved injuries are inevitable. Using its advanced plaster technology, Elastoplast has branched out into sports with - Elastoplast Sport - that supports and relieves joints in order to prevent and protect them from actively related injuries.

The new Elastoplast Sport range consists of two elastic adhesive bandages and a rigid strapping tape. They are aimed at athletes, professional and semi-professional sports people alike providing strong support for joints, tendons and ligaments during high-stress sports. The products are designed for injury management and prevention; if a player has a weak knee for example, they could use Elastoplast Sport Strapping to help prevent a worse injury occurring.

The rigid strapping tape, which is made from rayon and zinc-oxide (50mm x 10m £7.49), provides security during rigorous sports with strong adhesive and rigid construction which provides support for joints. It minimises excessive movement that can cause injuries such as sprains. The tape is suitable for taping fingers, hands and shoulders, is tearable for ease of application and porous enabling the skin to breathe. The tape should be applied with caution and not too tight in order to minimise pressure on blood circulation.

The elastic adhesive bandages are made of cotton and zinc-oxide and come in two sizes (50mm x 3m £4.79 and 75mm x 3m £6.29). They also limit excessive joint movement by providing secure support to joints, however they stretch allowing for some movement for better comfort. They also provide compression as part of the RICE treatment (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevate) which help injuries to recover more efficiently. Suitable for taping ankles, elbows, fingers and knees. They are also porous, enabling the skin to breathe.

Elastoplast Sport is available now in all good chemists and grocers.





# Nookie: touring buoyancy aid

I have recently been trying out the Nookie "Touring" Buoyancy Aid and find it comfortable and practical for both kayak and open canoe touring.

Coming in bright blue cordura with bright yellow pocket flaps, retroflective piping on the pocket flaps and retroflective tape on the pockets, this buoyancy aid is visible in poor and low light conditions for safety, but is quite attractive with its black nylon lining, black webbing straps and black adjustment buckles. It will certainly add colour to photos of anyone wearing it!

Designed with a traditional zipped front opening, the Touring buoyancy aid has deep cut armholes, elasticated on their lower edge for fit and comfort, elasticated shoulder straps with adjustable webbing straps for getting the perfect fit, an adjustable waist strap and a wide, fully-adjustable strap that encircles the buoyancy aid around the chest for size adjustment.

The 20mm wide waist belt is adjustable on both sides of the side release buckle and the tails are tidied away with webbing loops, while the 40mm wide "chest belt" passes under the front pocket where the webbing is stitched to the buoyancy aid through 2 side/back belt loops, under the

back pocket and through a front belt loop and adjusts only on one side, the tail being tidied away through the front belt loop. Cunning stitching at the end of the tail of the belt makes it almost impossible for the tail to accidentally come out of the belt loop and slacken the belt's fit.

The shoulder adjustment is achieved with 20mm wide webbing straps and ladderlock type buckles, the tails being

tidied with plastic "keepers" and the ends of the (quite long) straps having plastic tips to avoid fraying etc. The front belt loop supports a multi-purpose D-ring.

The pockets (one large back pocket designed primarily to hold a "rehydration system" water back, one right chest pocket and one lower left pocket) all have gusseted sides, one side being mesh for drainage, a Velcro fastened flap closure and, interestingly, the top of the pocket folds over as you close the flap to ensure the contents do not fall out. All the pockets have D rings sewn inside allowing gear to be clipped in for extra security as well as pull tabs for easy opening. In my view the pockets, especially the front pockets, could be larger as they have a comparatively small capacity seen next to other touring buoyancy aids. The lash tab on the left chest is well positioned for attaching radios, strobes, knives etc. Inside the back pocket is a Velcro-closed mesh pocket ideally sized for pen flares, folded survival bags etc.

Available in sizes S/M (50N), L/XL (55N) and XXL (65N), the Nookie Touring Buoyancy Aids use removable PVC foam and are all C.E. approved. The removable foam feature, though intended primarily for simplifying manufacturing processes, allows you to remove the buoyancy to simplify repairs, or even to stow some extra kit inside the buoyancy aid should you so desire.

In use I found the Nookie Touring Buoyancy Aid comfortable, well put together and, apart from not having a pocket big enough to hold my ciggie tin, well designed. Costing around £70, the Nookie Touring Buoyancy Aid is well priced and fits in well with the rest of the Nookie range of clothing and equipment.

For more information contact Nookie Kayaking Equipment, Ottery Business Park, Ottery, Tavistock, Devon, PL18 8NS. Tel 01822 618688.

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

**Tested by John Fenna**



## Pull on a pull-over

The revolutionary trolley that fits inside your kayak without the need to remove the wheels or be dismantled. The pull-over is a foldable, easy fitting and lightweight kayak trolley. It has been designed to stow away inside your kayak. The

pull-over's custom made chassis is securely fastened to your kayak by strong webbing attachments.

The pull-over requires no difficult assembly. It can simply be unfolded and fitted in seconds even with very cold, wet or small hands. The webbing system gives the pull-over a universal fit that can be used on virtually any kayak.

The pull-over can be folded up and stowed behind the seat of normal kayaks or popped into a 6" hatch. The pull-over has been

designed with the latest manual handling regulations in mind.

### The BCU recommend that: -

"All Canoeists need to raise their awareness of manual handling and that damage can occur to joints and muscles, particularly when they are moving or lifting people or any equipment that is related to the sport of Canoeing"

So, Let the Pullover take the strain!

For more information see

[www.pull-over.com](http://www.pull-over.com)



## London and South East region

Two disability awareness courses

1-2 Feb 2003:

Buckmore Park

22-23 March 2003:

Adur Centre

Contact **Chris West:**

phone: **0208 599 7083**

e-mail: [chris@goodmayes](mailto:chris@goodmayes.u.net)

[u.net](http://u.net)

## Albany Park Youth Club

Albany Park Youth Club now meet on Sundays from 2pm to 4-30pm and is open to all aged 12 to 19 years.

If you are interested in joining the all-British trip to the world famous Nahanni River in late July

2003 contact

Rob Egelstaff

[robert@egelstaff](mailto:robert@egelstaff.clara.co.uk)

[clara.co.uk](http://clara.co.uk)

or Jim Hargreaves

[hargreavesjs@yahoo.ca](mailto:hargreavesjs@yahoo.ca)

See you on the river.

## River Leven Open Dates

As in previous years numbers on the river will be limited so booking is advised up to a maximum of two weeks in advance, there is a nominal cost of £1 to paddle with a £5 refundable deposit/bib.

To book contact **Angela or Sten Sture on 01229 582257**

## River Leven Open Days

**December 2002**

Sunday 1

Sunday 8

**January 2003**

Sunday 19

**February 2003**

Sunday 2

Sunday 16

**March 2003**

Sunday 2

Sunday 30

## Axe Vale Canoe Club

River Axe canoe race

Sunday 23rd February 2003

This popular race is an excellent introduction to canoe racing and also provides a challenging race to the more experienced paddler.

All classes are open to paddlers with disabilities.

The race starts five miles south of Axminster at Whitford Bridge M/R 263953. The river Axe twists and winds its way through the Axe Valley for four miles before opening out onto the estuary, with a further one mile of racing to the finish at Axmouth Harbour (Axe Yacht Club Seaton)

The separate classes and age categories allow for fair competitive racing and there are medals for all classes. Free refreshments are available to all competitors.

### Race Details:

Booking in: 09.30 am – 10.30 am Whitford bridge

Briefing: 10.30 am

Race Start: 11.00 am

Finish Axe Yacht Club, Axmouth Harbour Seaton

Contact **Tash Khan-Davis for entry form: Tel: (evenings only) 01460 72553**

e-mail: [khandavis@btinternet.com](mailto:khandavis@btinternet.com)

## Tackle this

Ford Great Lakeland Challenge 2003  
Friday, May 16th, 2003



Man mountain Dean Richards - the England and Leicester Tigers rugby legend - has thrown down the gauntlet for canoe enthusiasts to take part in an annual charity challenge that

tests competitors' fitness and willpower to the limit.

Announcing the date of next year's Wooden Spoon Society Ford Great Lakeland Challenge, Dean challenged as many canoeists as possible to join in to make it the most successful to date - as the charity of British rugby union celebrates its 20th anniversary. Dean said the event provides more than 30 teams of four athletes with a genuine test of endurance.

He urged anyone interested in taking part to call the **Wooden Spoon Society's Challenge office on 01889 582889**, or email [challenge@eventsunlimited.co.uk](mailto:challenge@eventsunlimited.co.uk) for an application form.

This year another England and British Lions legend, Bill Beaumont, led a team that tackled the event. Bill, of Lytham, Lancashire, was driver in one of 20 teams that took on the longest lake, steepest pass and highest mountain in the Lake District.

More than £125,000 was raised as the teams of three competitors paddled their canoes the length of Lake Windermere (10.5 miles), cycled over Wrynose and Hard Knott Pass (25.5 miles) including gradients of 1:3, and scaled Scafell Pike (3208ft). Each team has to raise more than £3,500 for the charity. The event, now in its seventh year, has raised more than £500,000 for good causes across the country.

Each team is supplied with a vehicle by the Ford Motor Company. Other sponsors include Bioforce (massage support), Karrimor International (clothing), Science in Sport (energy drinks) and the YMCA (canoes and safety cover).

## 2003 French Alps rally cancelled

Following the BCU Health and Safety statement in the coaching magazine CODE applying that - in the event of an accident, a growing number of people then would want to apportion blame and some would seek recompense from those running events,

the running of an event, where over 250kms of white waters rivers could be used. The problem of the blame everyone else culture, if there isn't suitable safety - cover everywhere and cotton wool on all the rocks would apply! So for 2003, there will no longer be an informally organised French Alps Rally in Bhanpon at the end of May, but hopefully regulars and newcomers will still holiday there.

Having run accommodation and ferry packages for canoeing holiday since 1992, the latest culture of any risk equals no cover from insurance companies for personal holiday insurance, meant for 2002, it took six weeks to get a policy arranged to include up to grade five and several other "risk activities", like mountain biking. Group one club organisers of trips should take care to check policy exclusions as otherwise participants may be suing them for uninsured losses etc.

**Michael Bruce - rally organiser 1992-2002**

## SAS Thames Weir Rodeo

Hurley Weir- River Thames

1st & 2nd February 2003

The "SAS Thames Weir Rodeo" at Hurley Weir in Berkshire is the largest whitewater canoeing competition each year in the UK and often the biggest in Europe/the world.

Literally hundreds of the world's top whitewater canoeists and kayakers will descend on Hurley Weir to battle for the number one spot in one of the best whitewater playholes and surfwaves on any river.

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

As always, this event is open to both those looking for a place on the UK freestyle team (the results are used to select the UK team for the 2003 World Championships) and recreational freestyle boaters alike.

The water is more reliable at this time of year; on the minus side, it could be slightly colder than normal... But hopefully the £000s of prize money, spread over all the classes, will help take the edge off those temperatures!! The distribution of the cash will be based not only on final placings, but also on the highest scoring runs of the weekend... So you could have won a big cash prize in the first 45 seconds of the Saturday, but you just won't know it till the end of Sunday!

Although this is a UK team event, and also one of the "UK National Championship" competitions, novices and complete newcomers are more than welcome (in fact these guys usually out-number the regulars!)

Due to the ever-increasing entry numbers, this year we will be running the event in bib order. All classes except the "Main" will be held on the Saturday. The "Main" class is primarily for senior men's K1, although those who are not in this category, and who have already competed on the Saturday can put in a second entry for Sunday's Main event. Keep an eye on [www.hurleyweir.com](http://www.hurleyweir.com) for the forthcoming schedules.

This year again, camping on the island is free and is available from Friday evening (please note however that there is no provision for caravans). There will also be "bed & breakfast" available in pubs in the village.

An entry form and schedule will be posted on [www.hurleyweir.com](http://www.hurleyweir.com) at the start of January 2003. Competitors please note that although the entry form is available on-line, if you are not entering on the day of the event, entries must be posted to the Hurley Weir Events Desk (address on line) as a signature is required. Entry forms will also be available from your local canoe shop or you can send an SAE to: **Hurley Weir Events Desk, Unit 3, Manor Farm, Shurlock Row, Reading, RG10 0PY.**

**NB:** Please remember, that due to Environment Agency regulations and the changeable water levels, check [www.hurleyweir.com](http://www.hurleyweir.com) or give the organisers a call 48 hours before the event for final confirmation that the event is still running: **07778 488355**. Looking forward to seeing you there.



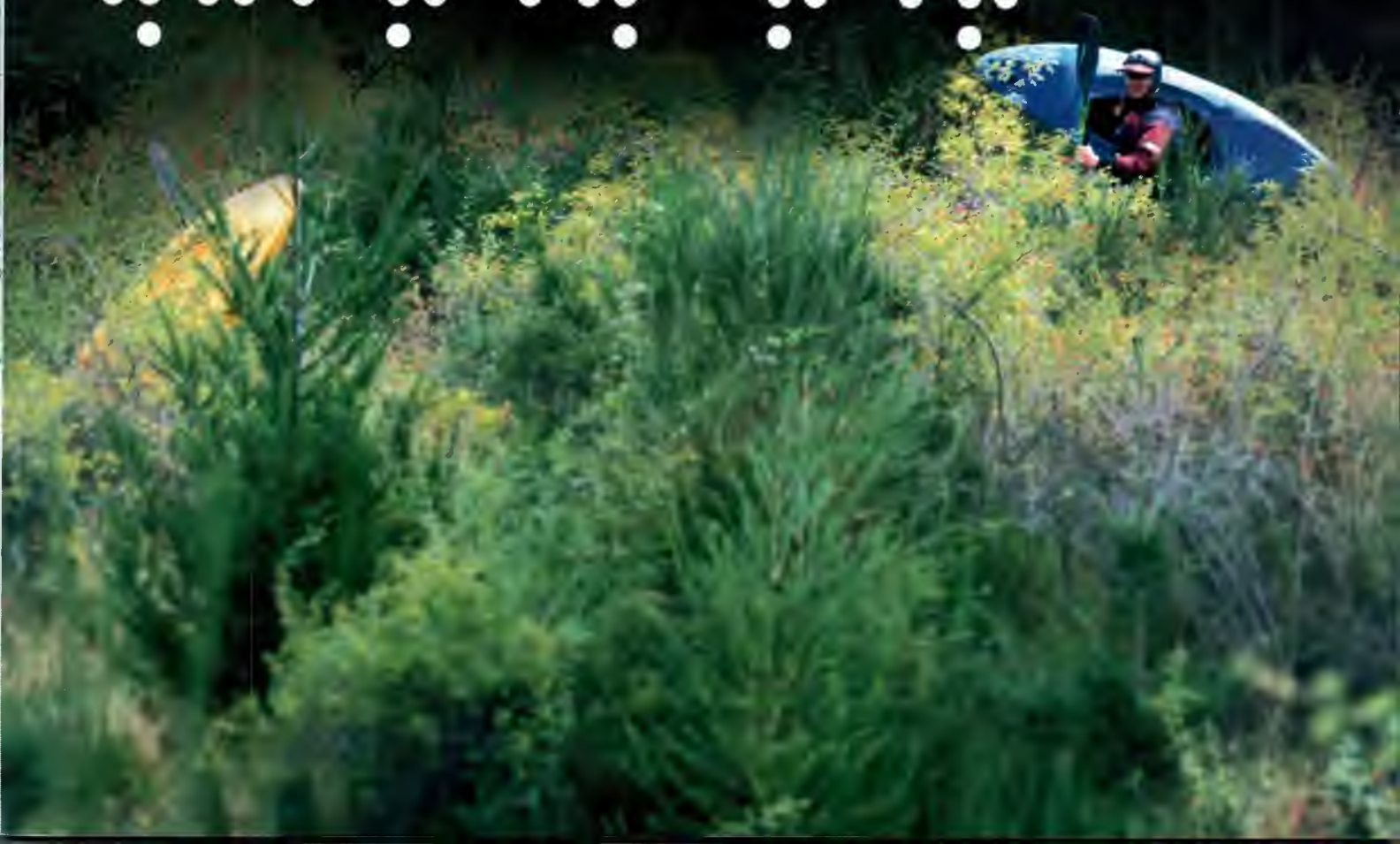
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