

THE OFFICIAL CANOEING MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

canoe

focus

04-03

No. 142

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Canada the Nipigon wilderness

Greenland revisited

Plus
Competition
News & Access
Paddler's Gear

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following contributors for their articles
and photographs:

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www.canoefocus.co.uk

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 or mailed to 2b Graphic Design, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and its 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 **28th APRIL 2003**. Material arriving after this date cannot be included in the **JUNE 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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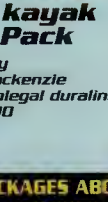
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COMMENT

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

Paddlesport popularity rises

Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University have discovered that up to two million people participate in canoeing in the United Kingdom every year. Previous figures had put UK participation at the much lower level of around 0.5 million participants in any one year. The new research, which is also supported by information from the recent RYA Omnibus survey, demonstrates the significant contribution the sport makes to the economy, particularly in rural areas, now estimated to be in excess of £700 million.

BCU AGM

The BCU AGM in March took the monumental step to reduce the BCU board to ten persons. This is to truly reflect the federal nature of the organisation.

From May 1st a BCU board of ten persons will comprise of five representatives from England, two each from Scotland and Wales and one from Northern Ireland. Underpinning the board will be four main Management Committees looking after coaching, competition and our commitments to the World Class Programme, together with a council looking after the affairs of the BCU's English division (Canoe England).

Our President Albert Woods was elected for a further two years, Albert joining in the spirit of the federalisation, was proposed by a member of the SCA and seconded by a member of the WCA. Scottish Canoe Association President – Brian Chapman was elected Chair of the BCU board.

NOW -

National Outdoor Week

A reminder that National Outdoor Week takes place from 3 – 11th May 2003. Coordinated by "Go Outdoors" (Outdoor Industries Association), National Outdoor Week gives an opportunity for BCU, centre and club events. It won't cost a penny! So if your event falls between 3 – 11 May and you want to be involved call Richard Ward at the BCU Office for more details on: 0115 982 1100 ext 219 or email: rward@bcu.org.uk

Canoeing secures Symonds Yat Rapids

The BCU helped by support from the Environment Agency have secured for future generations of canoeists the nationally significant Symonds Yat Rapids on the River Wye.

Four years ago an option to purchase was negotiated by the BCU and a fund raising appeal began. During March the Environment Agency made a contribution of £50,000 towards the purchase and the BCU donated a further £25,000 to enable the option to be exercised, thus securing this important canoeing venue for years to come.

For over sixty years, tens of thousands of paddlers have enjoyed using the 340 metres of rapids at Symonds Yat for competition training and recreation.

Access

As reported in an earlier edition of *Canoe Focus* it has been agreed to establish access demonstration projects.

The study will be for three years: to review access agreements, identify best practice and to build upon the Angling and Canoeing Liaison Group guide – Agreeing Access to Water for Canoeing. During the project it is hoped that there will be an attempt to put up to six agreements in place.

The BCU welcomes the study and is delighted that the Countryside Agency has offered the contract for the project to the same University of Brighton team, that put together the report concerning "Water Based Sport and Recreation; the facts", which supported the BCU's position concerning the inequitable access situation.

Olympic selection

The 2004 selection policy for both sprint racing and canoe slalom has been agreed and is available by post from the Performance Department or from the BCU web site www.bcu.org.uk.

Canoe slalom and the Olympic Games

The really good news is that it has been decided that canoe slalom will remain in the programme of the Olympic Games to at least the Beijing games. In return the ICF have promised the IOC that it will look to improve the global appeal of the discipline and the number of nations competing at the world championships.

And the bad news:

Well... a recent announcement on the ICF web site informs us that the new course in Athens will not be available for the planned test event scheduled for the end of the year. It is expected that the course will become available for use sometime in the first quarter of 2004.

International Canoe Exhibition

The combination of the International Canoe Exhibition and the Outdoor Show proved a huge success. It is believed that 46,000 visitors attended the shows, which further demonstrated the synergy between canoeing, hill walking and climbing.

The Right Honorable Alun Michael MP, Minister of State for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life opened the International Canoe Exhibition and spent nearly three hours looking at exhibits and holding discussions with BCU representatives and members of the canoe trade. Next year the show will further expand and it is anticipated that the NEC lake will be used to provide additional features, including a major canoe polo tournament and

possibly a mini marathon race. To be held the weekend before Easter, thoughts are already turning towards making the whole week a national canoeing week, commencing with the exhibition and ending with the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon on the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.



Fife Canoeing Activities' Group

Fife Canoeing Activities Group has recently been awarded a Lottery Grant of £4,431 from the "Awards For All" scheme. The majority of the award has been used for the purchase of polo boats and associated equipment. The remainder of the funds from the grant have been used to finance their qualified instructors to attend further training courses.

For any more information on the above, or any aspect of Fife Canoeing Activities Group, contact the Secretary, Douglas Paton, on 01592 744436

Awards for All Stourbridge Arm Canoe Club



Paddlers at Stourbridge Arm Canoe Club have been dabbling their toes in the waters of canoe polo. In 2000 and 2001 they were runners-up in a local summer league. Now they hope to make a big splash in the sport where Britain's men's team are the current world champions.

The Stourbridge canoeists had a grant of £4,132 from the Awards for All lottery funds in October and on Saturday night at Brierley Hill Leisure Centre they handed a large cheque over to Tim Houghton of West Midlands Canoe Centre in exchange for a complete set of boats and equipment for the sport of canoe polo. Interested paddlers should **contact Club Secretary Stephen Masters on 01384 293122** or by email at sacc@masterspiece.com.

Picture shows Nigel Gibbs handing the cheque for the new kit to Tim Houghton, surrounded by keen paddlers from the club who were looking forward to getting in the water with it. **Stephen Masters**

Lakeland Canoe Polo Club

Having come third in Canoe Polo National Open Division 4 for the last three years, Lakeland Canoe Polo Club decided it was time to do something about making themselves more competitive. They had a small group of players to draw from and no new blood coming into the club. The club decided to put in a bid for a lottery grant from the Awards For All scheme. The intention was to get some competitive boats, paddles and kit for the A team, then to start a B team using the current kit, entering a league in the North East, to encourage new players to get involved.

Last summer, we were delighted to hear that we had been awarded £4,857 to buy a set of boats, paddles, buoyancy aids, spraydecks and helmets. They sprint and turn much faster than the plastic boats and all the team members are excited about improving their standard and going for promotion.

Details of canoeing and other canoe clubs in the area can be obtained from www.cumbriacanoeists.org.uk

Tim Mather, Lakeland Canoe Club Polo Rep



Photo by Robin Everingham

New Expedition specification Sierra



For real comfort and secure storage in a compact touring kayak take a look at Perception's new Expedition Sierra

The Sierra is a compact, stable and nimble recreational

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New brochure



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100 miles for SID



My partner Paul and I are keen paddlers and have decided to do a 100 mile open canoe trip on the River Shannon (ROI) in June 2003 in aid of 'The Foundation for the Study of Infant

Death' and in memory of our nephew Joshua Patrick who died aged one month in December 2002. FSID (registered charity 262191) is the leading cot death charity and provides research, support and advice in order to reduce the risk of cot death. You can find out more about the charity and cot death by visiting their website at www.sids.org.uk/fsid/ or by calling them on 020 7222 8001.

The trip is going to be completed in seven days in a home made canoe and we are going to be carrying all of our camping equipment (although the lack of campsites along the route is worrying!) We are also meeting the costs of the trip ourselves so all of the money raised will be donated to the Foundation.

Any support from individuals or companies in the form of money, equipment or advice will be gratefully received (cheques payable to 'The Joshua Fund'), any equipment we receive that we don't need will be raffled with all proceeds going to 'FSID'. Please look out for us in future issues of *Canoe Focus* for further reports.

Please send donations to: Elizabeth Clamp, 40 Worcester Close, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1SP.

Getting canoe clubs online

www.easy-web-hosting.co.uk is a dedicated web hosting and service provider in the UK. We have recently agreed with www.jambo-all.co.uk (the canoeing and kayaking portal) a special hosting arrangement for hosting canoe clubs and societies. We are able to give all canoe clubs an online presence with an easy to remember website address.

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Westgarth.tv launch

Global Adventurer, Simon Westgarth has launched his fledgling production company, On the "westgarth.tv" website all the news, movies and music tracks will be available to download. Features will include both High and Low-Fi trailers of previous productions and MP3 files of some of the featured music in recent videos. Tracks include a host of unsigned bands, such as Los Burritos, Gruba and Anja.

News for 2003 features upcoming projects, "Neva Foreva", six short stories about whitewater adventures including the making of a new boat, an Arctic first decent >

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and a story of a river under threat. "Genenod", a learning styles approach to Playboating, filmed exclusively in Uganda and Norway, featuring some of Europe's best paddlers and instructors. And finally "Whitewater Norway", a DVD guide and map for paddling in Norway. All due out in the Autumn of 2003. **For more information visit** www.westgarth.tv **or email** westgarthtv@gene17.com

Hebridean kayaking now more accessible

Those of us paddlers who can only get out on the water at the weekends take note - three recent developments have made the Outer Hebrides suddenly more accessible Sunday

air travel, organised weekend tours, and now high quality kayak hire.

Now its possible to jump on a plane in England and be up to the Hebridean capital Stornoway within three hours; connection times from the main Scottish cities are under one hour. Taking advantage of the new weekend opportunities, established outdoor company Adventure Hebrides has scheduled weekend tours for this coming spring and summer. The trips, which are based in bunkhouses and hostels, are led by five-star paddlers whose local knowledge and experience will maximise the time you've got there. Their weekend tours are in May and August, as well as their weeklong mother-ship expedition which includes visiting St Kilda in early June. Details www.adventurehebrides.com

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Sponsors needed

I am looking for contacts in the kayak industry, who may be interested in sponsoring me on the 'Great Hudson River Paddle'. Information has just gone live on www.hrwa.org/ghrp

Paddle dates 3-12 July. Prior to May 2000 I was an active paddler; however, I was involved in an RTA leaving me with substantial injuries to my left leg and knee. After several lengthy operations I was left virtually unable to walk. Considerable physio and several more operations left me not much better. However a couple of months ago I was fitted with a new leg/knee brace and I am now able to walk and more importantly train. As I can only walk with the brace I am considered disabled, something to do with the fact that unaided I cannot walk more than a few paces. My dream now is to re-enter the world of sport with a real splash...the 'Great Hudson River Paddle'.

Duncan Barker-Magowan
13 Dovecote, Ripplingale
Nr Bourne, Lincolnshire
PE10 0SY

Newfoundland Challenge



begin in May 2003.

The launch will be held at Hartwells of Hereford and the guest list includes Lord Jellicoe (founder member of the SBS - Special Boat troop of the SAS) and famous yachtsman Tony Bullimore and will be officiated by the Major of Hereford. The BBC will also be filming the Launch as a prelude to a video diary documentary of Peter's Newfoundland Challenge. BBC Hereford and Worcester Radio will also be covering his challenge in a series of programmes.

The challenge will take three months to complete and Peter will be quite literally be navigating amongst the icebergs and whales! Peter will set up camp each night and, weather permitting, hopes to keep to his schedule – one thing is for sure, he will succeed – failure is just not an option for Peter.

With the required financial backing, Peter's ultimate ambition is to join the land masses of the world – and to complete this epic and world record breaking achievement the task would involve a six month kayak across the Pacific Ocean!

Newfoundland 2003 is yet another challenge, yet another story. Peter is indeed an inspiration, and we can only look forward to his account of yet another exciting and stimulating challenge, by a man who has proven, that when the desire to achieve comes from within – success is only a challenge away.

For more information about Peter's Newfoundland Challenge please visit www.spiritofthesea.co.uk

Peter Bray who holds the world record for crossing the Atlantic single-handedly and unsupported in a kayak is about to launch his next Challenge, which is to circumnavigate Newfoundland. The challenge will

Tim Pickering selected for G4 Challenge



After a series of exhausting challenges testing both physical and mental stamina, Tim Pickering from the Isle of Lewis has been selected to represent the UK in the Land Rover G4 Challenge which began in New York on March 30th.

As a keen sportsman, and an outdoors adventure sports instructor by trade, 39 year-old Tim is well prepared for the challenge. His job sees him teaching kayaking, climbing, sailing and power-boating, which will prove valuable during the G4 Challenge.

In true adventure's style, Tim confesses that there isn't a sport that he wouldn't try once! Living in the Outer Hebrides is an ideal location for Tim to partake in the sports that he particularly enjoys; he has a small yacht, which he sails out of Stornoway and the region provides him with many challenging climbs.

It was his love of canoeing that first alerted Tim to the G4 Challenge "I saw an article about the G4 Challenge in *Canoe Focus* magazine and decided to apply."

While Tim's work dictates a certain level of fitness, he supplements this with running and mountain biking. To prepare for the challenge, Tim has been working with Tony Wade, who trained the Commonwealth runner, Kirsty Wade.

Tim is married to Anna Murray, a piper, singer and television presenter, and they have a four-year-old daughter, Koren.

Rasdex go global!

Over the last few years Rasdex Ltd have had more and more interest in their high performance kayaking kit from Australia and New Zealand, especially the 360 degree range which has just been released. With the strong pound and long distance delivery the cost of selling to these markets has always been prohibitive. However, New Zealand remains one of the premier white water destinations in the world and paddlers there are very keen to get their hands on the standard of equipment that we in Europe have come to take for granted.

So the top man at Rasdex Ltd, Rob Soothill, has agreed to undertake the arduous task of setting up Rasdex NZ Ltd. Rob told us "I get all the bad jobs, but I can't really think of a nicer place to design our 2004 range, can you?" Rob and his wife Eli will be leaving for NZ in July, and once they have the new manufacturing base set up will split their time between the UK and NZ.

Production will continue at the original Nottingham factory, and the retail shop on the same site has now closed so that staff can concentrate on producing orders for shops, dealers and other customers on this side of the globe. In Rob's absence, Chris Leesmith (of Nomad Paddleworks) will be looking after sales, promotion and the general day to day running of the company.

Tel: 0115 9813323 Email: info@rasdex.co.uk

BCU secures Symonds Yat Rapids for future generations



The British Canoe Union (BCU) helped by a grant from the Environment Agency have secured for future generations of canoeists the nationally significant Symonds Yat rapids on River Wye.

For over 60 years, tens of thousands of paddlers have enjoyed using the 340 metres of rapids at Symonds Yat for competition, training and recreation. The site is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty and remains especially popular with many young canoeists who cut their

'teeth' in the challenging natural white water conditions that make Symonds Yat so special.

Four years ago an option to purchase was negotiated by the BCU and a fund raising appeal began. This week the Environment Agency made a grant of £50,000 towards the purchase and the BCU donated a further £25,000 to enable the option to be exercised, thus securing this important canoeing venue for years to come.

"I am delighted that we have been able to secure this important national site for the sport and would like to thank the Environment Agency for their support and recognising this sites long term value and importance to canoeing" said BCU Chief Executive Paul Owen "Also our thanks to all the hundreds of canoeists from throughout the United Kingdom who have contributed to the appeal and who's fundraising efforts have enabled us to reach our target"

David Lawrence, the Environment Agency's head of Recreation and Navigation, said: "Symonds Yat is heavily used already by a wide variety of canoeists of all ages. The Agency's investment reflects its commitment to increase provisions for young people, boost local businesses like restaurants and campsites, and take advantage of partnership working opportunities.

Now that the purchase phase is completed the next stage of the project can begin this will include undertaking further environmentally friendly work to stabilise the Island and to provide better bank side access

NOW! is the chance to try something new

May Day celebrations will this year be a breath of fresh air for thousands of Brits setting out to enjoy some of the most diverse countryside in the world.

But it won't be Africa, Alaska or the Caribbean they'll all be heading for. Instead the weekend will mark the beginning of National Outdoor Week (NOW!), a celebration of the British countryside and an opportunity to try a new outdoor activity or pursuit.

Hundreds of events from walking to canoeing and from cycling and mountaineering will be running from May 3-11 when everyone will have the chance to try an activity they may never have done before.

The aim of the initiative is to raise awareness of just how much the British countryside has to offer. More than ten national organisations, representing over two million people, have already signed up to NOW! 2003.

Anyone planning outdoor events from May 3-11 can take advantage of national publicity on the NOW! To find out what you can do during NOW! visit www.outdoorweek.org.uk and to get involved or promote your event as part of NOW! call **Andrew Maxted or Stephen Inskip on 020 8842 1111**, or email info@outdoorweek.org.uk

Eleanor goes for gold

Eleanor Rutter - one of the UK's rising stars in the challenging sport of kayaking - is looking forward to a busy competitive season during 2003 thanks to support from Ripon based Econ Engineering.

Eleanor, who has lived in Ripon for the past eight years and attends Ripon Grammar School, enjoyed a successful 2002. She came third in the pre-world championships in Austria and fourth in the European championships,

She has only been paddling for some two years and practices regularly at both the Teesside White Water Course and the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. Her next big challenge is to try and win a place in the senior Great Britain team for the World Championships next May.

"2003 is set to be a very busy year," said Eleanor. "I am very grateful to Econ for their generous support and will be trying my best to win a medal at the World Championships."



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Mark Davies

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cumbriaaccess@aol.com

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Land Reform (Scotland) Bill passed – access for all

It's been a long time coming but the Scottish Canoe Association welcomed yesterday the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill by the Scottish Parliament. The Bill has enshrined in statute a right of access to land and water in Scotland for recreational enjoyment. The Bill should receive Royal Assent in March when it will become known as the Land Reform (Scotland) Act, and the full range of powers and duties in the Act will be introduced finally in 2004.

What will it do?

The right of access gives statutory rights and protection to recreational users of the countryside in Scotland, and gives local authorities new powers and duties to manage access in positive ways, including the establishment of core path networks which can include waterway routes as well.

For paddlers, this is fantastic news because it gives extra bite to the long standing common law right of access to water in Scotland. We can feel more confident that paddling is a perfectly legitimate activity and sits equally alongside other water activities, and feel more able to stand our ground when challenged unreasonably by landowners. We should also hope that with the help of local authorities, there will be the removal of the "no canoeing" signs that fetter some of our rivers and lochs, and a greater possibility of resolving some of our long standing access issues.

Key Amendments

Significantly the issue of educational and commercial access has been satisfactorily resolved, and although the wording of the Bill is rather obtuse (it could do with a plain English rewrite!) it is clear that educational activities, guiding and instruction – whether private, charity, trust funded or public sector - will all fall firmly within the right of access. This was backed up by reassurances from the Minister, Ross Finnie on this point. Also unequivocally chucked out was the power for local authorities to prevent access during the "hours of darkness", the so-called curfew clause. The Bill allows for a right of access to structures such as launching sites, canalised embankments and weirs, amongst other land based structures. It was also made clear that land set out for recreational use (which is exempt from the right of access) does not include fishing beats, grouse moors etc. and is intended only to apply to sport fields, cricket pitches etc. It is worth re-iterating that the right of access does not apply to motorised access – there is not a right to drive a car onto private land or tracks, or to use a jet ski on Loch Tay.

Thanks to lots of people

The benefits of small organisations working together to pursue a common cause were apparent, and credited by Pauline MacNeill MSP, Convenor of the Justice 2 Committee. MSP's found the recreational and environmental lobby well organised and well informed, and in this the SCA found itself working closely alongside the Ramblers, the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Scottish Environmental LINK and others. Likewise the Scottish Canoe Association found the MSP's and committee members very approachable and open to discussion. On several occasions the intricacies of access to water were discussed over lunch in the Parliamentary canteen! All this and the eventual willingness of the Executive to modify and adapt the Bill to reflect the conclusions of consultation and debate, means that we really have got a quality piece of legislation. Not least big thanks have to go to all paddlers who wrote or raised concerns with the Bill within their constituency or direct to the Executive. When we look back to the original Bill of 2001, which contained 'horrors' such as landowners right to suspend access rights, or the exclusion of commercial concerns, then I think we have to

recognise that it was ultimately the force of public opinion that resulted in their removal.

Fran Pothecary, SCA Access Officer

Ceredigion - make your views heard!

On the 21st of February 2003, the three month consultation period on the draft maps of Registered common land and open country in Ceredigion will commence. The event will be launched at the County Hall, Penmorfa, Aberaeron by Professor Dodgshon, member of the Countryside Council for Wales, at 10.00am. The event will visit seven other locations in Ceredigion (11-6pm each day) during the three month consultation.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 will in time give new access to a potential 300,000 hectares of countryside in Wales. The Countryside Council for Wales is responsible for producing maps showing land where the new rights of access will apply.

To date the CCW has published draft maps for five areas. In early 2003, CCW will also be consulting in the Central and Western Brecon Beacons region, North East Wales, Northern Snowdonia and Western South Wales Valleys. These five consultation periods will close between May and June 2003.

The first consultation in Wales, which began almost a year ago for the Berwyn, Llantysilio and Ruabon mountains, is already in its next phase with the recent publication of the next stage known as the provisional maps. A further four Provisional maps will also be issued in the first six months of 2003.

Phil Stone, CCW's Recreation and Access Officer for the Ceredigion area, said, "The consultation stage allows the people of Ceredigion to have their say about the draft maps of open country and registered common land. These are important as they show land where the public will have a new right of access in the future."

For more details contact our enquiry line on 0845 130 6229 or the Aberystwyth office on 01970 821100 or e-mail us on openaccess_w@ccw.gov.uk. Further details are also available on our website: www.ccw.gov.uk

River Wye - Huntsham Bridge

As all paddlers who have used this access point will know it is very sensitive with very little space for parking.

Be aware that the road has now been fenced. Whilst this will cause difficulties it will not be an easy issue to resolve and it could well take time. Until it is sorted out please do not do anything that will aggravate the situation or put canoeists in a poor light. Interfering with the fence or parking vehicles or trailers on the road or verge are likely to cause complaints and perhaps involvement with the police. Any irresponsible behaviour will only make sorting out the problem more difficult.

John Westlake (LAO for the River Wye in England)

Norfolk River Yare access

Following discussions with the new owners of Keswick Mill on the River Yare a temporary route allowing access for canoeists around the mill has been agreed. The route is well signed and follows the original course of the River Yare.

LAO Chris Wright worked with Matt Davies of the Norwich Fringe Project in discussing and setting up the route. The N.F.P. intend to develop a canoe trail along the 9 miles from Bawburgh to Whitlingham in the near future, taking paddlers around the southern boundary of Norwich past the University of East Anglia and Keswick is one of several mills which will need to be negotiated along the trail.



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In love with Paddling the Nipigon

Monique and I arrive as planned with enough gear and food to paddle the Nipigon Wilderness for at least five weeks. In our previous telephone conversations, we agreed that each person would bring 10 days of food. It was readily apparent both of us had brought extra, just in case. After paying for parking fees, we began the task of packing the kayaks. In an hour, we were all ship-shape and ready to launch.

The day was overcast and light rain threatened. As our heavily laden boats lumbered north, we looked back to see potential storm clouds moving in behind us. No sooner had we landed at the mouth of Little Lake River, southwest winds increased causing breaking waves. The next day while winds were still blowing and whitecaps were visible, we decided to do some exploring.

Most of the eastern side of the Lake is still recovering from a forest fire, which took place in 1999. We soon discovered, after walking a short distance up the river that burned areas breed succulent and bountiful blueberry laden bushes. Entering the channel between Mungo Park Point Island and the mainland, the lake calmed as we were protected from the wind. As we meandered with the hot sun low in the sky, the dynamic landscape of Livingstone Point Provincial Nature Reserve came into view 15 kilometres distant. "Wow! Look at that rugged relief. Sure looks foreboding," I exclaimed.

Livingstone Point is quite a prominent peninsula that juts out into Lake Nipigon. Under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN - The World Conservation Union), it is designated as a Strict Nature Reserve/Scientific Reserve.

Continuing along the broken and rocky shoreline the burned area transformed into the lush green of the boreal forest. We had reached the northern limit of the fire. According to information I had acquired there was supposed to be a campsite somewhere in Vint's Bay. As the sun continued to set, we finally found the campsite just inside the mouth of the North Wind Lake River. We set up the tents as darkness descended, ate quickly and listened to a Saw Whet Owl hooting as we fell asleep.

"Shall we paddle up the river?" Monique asked the next morning. As we meandered, it was refreshing to have the smells of forest nearby. Rounding one bend, we surprised a skunk swimming. "Good thing he's in the water," Monique laughed, "I don't think they can spray while swimming." As we exited the mouth of the river, waves were again starting to build. Rounding the point into Stone Bay, the sky had become completely overcast. Was another storm descending? In the landscape's lee again, we paddled right to back of the bay and found a small low rocky island that became our lunch spot. Lounging and an afternoon nap were in order.

After waking, we peered out from the protection of the bay. Lake Nipigon looked quite unsettled. We decided to venture forth. We found a potential landing spot in amongst logs and other woody debris just as the winds reached 50 kilometres. As we were discussing our landing, a large wave broadsided me. With a quick high brace, I caught the wave and for a

Looking toward Outer Bam
Island (North End)



moment, I was on my side. I watched Monique and saw her eyes go quite large. Was it fear or amazement? One at a time, we both surfed to the beach just as winds reached 60 kilometres an hour. Grabbing our boats, we pulled them up as far as we could on the narrow beach. A little gap in the trees provided a make shift refuge from the wind and rain and became our home for the night.

On the water early, we inched our way along Livingstone Point Provincial Reserve. The day was dark, overcast and winds started to build once more from the southwest. A few waves were breaking; dangling their treacherous "We'll have to get around the Point!" I said with apprehension in my voice. "I'm committed," Monique said with confidence. We looked at each other, drawing collective strength and proceeded with determination. Waves reflected, bounced and foamed. We braced, paddled and bobbed. As we neared the end of the point winds and waves became ugly. Relying on sheer guts and our paddling skills, we surfed around the Livingstone Point into the safety of its lee. We both breathed in relief just as the rains descended from the heavens.

There was no wind; no waves. Cliffs that towered above us were blanketed in a wispy and slow moving fog. We lingered at a rocky outcrop that plunged in the water close to Cap Cove. From previous experience, we realised that First Nations revered these places as they are considered energy zones, connections to mother earth and the spirit world. True to expectations, as we investigated the outcrop, faint pictographs appeared telling an ancient story. Delighted to find these red ochre etchings from

th a lake: wilderness (Part 1)



Rocky Knoll in Front
of Mount Royal



Eagle Nest
(West Bay)

Touching
Thundercliff
Mountain's
Textured



There's No
Wind (East
Side of
Shakespeare



long ago, we paused and reflected on what life must have been like in this wild and diverse landscape.

We headed across the Bay to Crocket Point and found a rather unique protected campsite on a low sloping granitic shoreline, covered in places with Lichen and Caribou moss. Just as we set up the tarp and tent, it began to pour again. As we sipped hot soup to warm up, the mist and fog suddenly dissipated. As we counted the kilometres paddled for the day, we were surprised that we had travelled almost 30 kilometres without a lunch break.

Back on the water, we continued along Gravel Point. Paddling west, winds seemed to funnel along the shoreline slowing our advance. Leaving Gravel Point heading to Hitchcock Island and the South Peninsula, winds dulled and the sky shone in spectacular blue. Taking a break on Hitchcock for a late lunch, we found coarser examples of Nipigon's black sand. Paddling into the sun, we eventually arrived at the south tip of the South Peninsula. With the McIvor Islands providing some protection from the southwest, we found a small beach just as the sun dipped below the horizon.

By the time we were on the water again, winds had picked-up and were now blowing from the south. There were a few tense moments as we rounded the South Peninsula heading north. Breaking waves were aggressively hitting the south side of the island. "There's supposed to be a campsite on this island somewhere, Monique exclaimed. As we neared the island's west side, a small protected-north facing bay became evident. Landing, it became apparent that this site had been used before.

There was an uncharacteristic and strongly disagreeable odour to the whole area. Tarps were flung in a state of disrepair. Beer bottles littered the ground. A few old freezers lay abandoned. An old makeshift mattress was covered in mould. I opened a rubber maid container just to see what was inside. It was full of water containing unwashed dishes, eating utensils, and rotten food all covered with a thick film of mould. "I don't want to stay here." Monique said sternly, "This place is disgusting."

I paddled quickly away to check for other sites. Returning, I reported that there wasn't anything in the first part of the bay just a rocky cliff. Monique's face went grey. "How about we venture out to that small island," I pointed. "It looks like we may be able to camp there." "OK" Monique said. Arriving at the island, it was apparent camping was not an option. "We can't stay here. There is no adequate place to get off the water." "What should we do," Monique seemed a little uneasy. "Well, let's head back and check that bay at the south end of the North Peninsula. I didn't explore the whole bay. Maybe, we might be able to find something. It's getting rougher and we're running out of options." Maybe we should have just stayed at that messy campsite.

Retracing our route waves carried us with greater vigour. As we paddled looking for a landing site, the sound of the wind changed. It sounded more like a freight train as it whipped and twisted through the gap into Ombabika Bay. The train was now rapidly moving across the water's surface toward our position. "Hold on," I screamed! The wind gust buffeted our kayaks with such a force that it almost ripped the paddles

out of our hands. Thinking aloud, I said very abruptly, "We need to get off the water now!" Monique looked at me as if to say, "Tell me something I don't know."

We paused and then paddled with even more determination, just as the rains battered us reducing visibility. As we neared the grassy location sand became noticeable. Monique let out a yelp as if she had won the lottery. Although small, this was going to be our home for the night. Landing, we quickly set up the tarp and erected the tent. The rain stopped and the wind lessened as we changed into warm and dry clothes. Emotionally drained, we hugged, comforted and congratulated each other on another successful day's venture. Suddenly another high velocity wind ripped from the water through the grasses and surrounding trees. "Hold onto the tents," I screamed. I yelled from the top of my lungs to the heavens. "Will someone please turn off the wind?"

Waking the next day, winds had shifted to the northwest. It was decidedly cooler. Back on the water, we paddled out of Ombabika Bay and headed northwest along the North peninsula. As we neared Duke Island, winds funnelled between the island and the mainland. Being squeezed between two land masses, winds grew in intensity. Our advance was pitifully slow and methodical. Stopping for lunch for a deserved rest, the warm sun appeared. Unpacking most of our gear, we decorated neighbouring trees using them as multipurpose drying racks. During a hot lunch, we discussed our route. "Since this is day seven, and with the incessant winds, I don't think we should head any further north," I said as I pointed to the map. "With northwest winds we are going to have to work pretty hard when we round North Bay Point and considering the variable nature of the winds on this Lake, we will be hard pressed to get back to our launching site on the Labour Day Weekend." "Should we make the crossing over to Logan Island and start heading across the Lake; island hopping in a south and westerly direction," Monique offered. "I think that is our best option. Logan Island's relief should provide some wind protection for the six-kilometre crossing. The closer we get to the island the calmer the water will become." "O.K!" Monique agreed, "Let's give it a try."

As we packed up, a little rain began to fall. Nearing North Bay Point, waves appeared to lessen slightly. We focused on Logan Island. "Look at that," I exclaimed, "there is another storm coming in from the North. We'll have to wait until it passes over." Within minutes, the rain and mist covered the island almost obscuring it from view. We paused for what seemed an eternity. As the storm drifted to the south, we began the crossing paddling into fading northwest winds. Halfway across, we realised that winds had shifted once more. Not only did we have waves moving toward us from the northwest but we also had waves moving from a northerly direction. This caused a slightly confused sea. "I don't like this," Monique complained. "In a few minutes, we will be in the lee of Logan; the disorder will cease," I replied. Sure enough, as we neared the northern part of the island the water calmed. Within an hour, we found a protected harbour with a wonderful sand beach.

Week 2: Wind, Waves, Pelicans and Eagles

That night, the skies cleared and provided an outstanding display of planets, stars and constellations. As we munched on popcorn, we discussed how Lake Nipigon was so far an impressive, scenic and demanding paddle.

On the water again, we headed to Vennor Island. Arriving, we started looking for a place to stay. "Doesn't seem to be much available," Monique

In the Lee of Livingstone Point



observed from the rocky and treed shoreline, "there is supposed to be beach on Billings Island, why don't we head there? It's only six kilometres."

"Excellent," I said. As we headed into the sun conditions improved with each paddle stroke. Eagles flew as pelicans bobbed on the water's surface. Looking north, we spied two conical-shaped hills juxtaposed.

Heading into a west-facing bay, we were delighted to find an impressive beach stretching for 2 kilometres. Landing, camp setup took place in cooling twilight of evening. Looking to the southwest at a high island mesa, I exclaimed, that must be the Outer Barn Island.

Waking the next day, winds were already building from the southwest. Reading and exploring, we waited out the day. As the day transformed into evening, winds had not abated. Just as darkness descended, winds lightened. Just as we were getting ready to call it at day, Monique whispered at me from her tent. Craig, Craig, CRAIG! Standing, staring at the fire, I turned to find a Large Bull Moose standing in the water about 15 metres from our location. My headlamp reflected off the Moose's eyes with a deep red glow. Moving along the beach, I unknowingly stepped on a stick. As it snapped, the moose bolted through the water back down the beach and disappeared in the blackness. "Wow! That was pretty neat," Monique exclaimed.

Paddling at 7:30 am, winds were light. At 8:30 as we neared Geikie Island, the wrinkly nature of the water foretold of approaching high winds and waves. As we headed south, strong winds bred large breaking waves. As our bows crashed into the oncoming onslaught, we advanced at a snail's pace. After about half a kilometre Monique stopped, "Are we crazy to keep going? "It will be a hard slog," I offered, "We will be exposed the entire length of the Island." "I have a bad feeling about this one," Monique remarked, "I think we should turn back and head along the other side of this island." "Good," I said with supreme satisfaction.

The next morning, sun and warmth returned. Paddling in the channel between Bell and Kelvin Islands, we arrived at a commercial fishing camp tucked into a bay at Bell's south side. Stopping to check out the cabins, it was very apparent that no one had been here this season.

Arriving at Jackfish Island, we lingered and stretched on a small rocky shoal. Soon after, we entered a bay with a sand beach. Although still early in the day, we decided, to have lunch and set up camp. Lounging, napping and relaxing were the directives for the day. At 7:30 pm, I asked Monique, "Want to go for a night paddle around Jackfish Island." "Ooh! Can we?" came her response. Winds were non-existent as our paddles hit the water at 8:00 pm. Heading around the island's south most point, we pointed the kayaks north between the island and Redfish Point. Darkness was descending when we reached the island's north end in full view of the silhouetted Outer and Inner Barn Islands. We set up for paddling in the dark. Glow sticks were cracked and headlamps affixed. Paddling now in the black, we both felt serene as we inched our way along. Just rounding the north tip of the Island, heading south, a full moon abruptly bounced over the horizon, temporarily blinding us. We arrived back at 10:30 pm. A cup of hot chocolate to warm-up was ideal before we closed our eyes.

Undercliff Mountain is the most imposing rocky cliff on Nipigon's west shore. Paddling closer, we felt insignificant with its dominion over the lake. The high rocky precipices produced a dizzying experience as we paddled along touching its textured strength. Just then, a large fishing/tour boat arrived breaking our intimacy. We waved as the captain tooted his horn.

Hard rock of Undercliff now had transformed into soft overburden of pronounced glacial ridges and cobble beaches. Winds gently pushed us into West Bay. Landing on a sandy beach at the north end of the bay, we lunched, swam (actually dipped in the cold water) and lounged in the hot afternoon sun. ●

Continued in June's Canoe Focus

Night Paddle (Jackfish Island)



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Canoe Sailing on Ullswater with the OCSG



On arriving at the Ullswater Yacht Club on Friday afternoon I was told that everything was fine apart from the fact that, due to strict interpretation of the planning regulations, the club was obliged to forbid members staying overnight in camper vans. Oh dear! Those of a luxuriating disposition either lodged at a nearby site or reverted to canvas in traditional OCSG style. Truth to say, it was a pity that we were split in this way.

A brief potter about in a lively breeze, falling away to still air was a sheer delight and the view up the lake promised good things for Saturday. It being the first time I've sailed on Ullswater I was particularly impressed by the location, launching area and general atmosphere of the Yacht Club, too.

Saturday did not disappoint. As I crawled out of my tent the air scarcely moved, but out on the water we could see pronounced ripples.

John Shuttleworth and I were set on a day-long cruise, an idea shared, as it turned out, by most

info

The Open Canoe Sailing Group has over 90 members and annually organises 10 meets April – October at camping venues from Rutland to NW Scotland. More information on our website: www.ocsg.org.uk



other members. With Sue Brighthouse and Eddie Palmer we determined Aira Force as our primary goal, packed sandwiches, etc. and pushed off at about 11.30.

In a force 2 we leisurely tacked up the lake followed, we could see, by an increasing number of canoes. At the first bend in Ullswater, just past Howtown, we pulled into a tiny cove, tied up onto steel eyes bolted into the rock and had lunch with James Stern and partner, paddling their canvas canoe. By this time Eddie had disappeared far up the middle reach of the lake, whilst the rest of the fleet passed by.

We sailed up this reach in varying wind, mostly close-hauled with an occasional tack to keep us off the western shore, but always making steady progress. Surrounding fells were now pressing more closely and the sun shone brightly. Those ahead had disappeared into the final reach, so hoping Sue and John wouldn't mind, I pressed on past Aira Force as Glenridding at the end of the lake became an achievable goal.

John Bull, pipe in mouth, had overtaken me in his trimaran, and I could see that by Norfolk Island at the next bend he moved smartly across the water with a full sail. Sure enough, the wind blew in strong gusts straight down the last reach. Dogged beating up this gully in the mountains finally brought me to the busy spit of land at Glenridding with a real sense of achievement. Sue and then John, sporting his black crab claw rig, landed shortly afterwards.

From Howtown the lake had become quite busy, with large cruisers on a fancy dress race, reproduction traditional boats (eg Lune

Whammels) from the hire centre at Glenridding, as well as steamers and kayaks.

We spoke briefly to the advanced party who were now ready to return. Running before the lively wind, they quickly disappeared, and after John returned from a brief cream tea, the three of us set sail. What bliss! Our efforts on the wind were now rewarded by about 90 minutes of effortless running in the evening sun. We had the water almost to ourselves. As our canoes were very evenly matched it was no effort to keep together and have a chat.

At about 6.45 we landed at the Yacht Club after 11 miles of sailing. It really doesn't get better than this.....

Roy Bonner

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Canoeing... An intro

The correspondent on the Letters Page in the February issue of *Canoe Focus* asking "Where are the canoes?" sparked a train of thought that was further fuelled by an article in the same month's *Wooden Canoe*, the journal of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, a north American organisation. The article was titled *Canoe Versus Kayak* and the author, a dedicated wood and canvas canoe man, was remarking on the perceived "cultural differences" which distinguish the modern kayaker ("technologically hip") from the canoer ("traditional and square").

After reading his piece I came to the conclusion that both sides could benefit from talking to each other; even if we do not share an enthusiasm for a particular type of boat it does no harm to learn a bit about the alternative paddle craft. He did not mention his age, but I feel sure that *anno domini* has a lot to do with preferences in canoeing. It is far more fun "getting as wet as possible" and attaining every muscle straining millisecond of extra speed when youth is on your side than when you reach the wrong side of fifty!

Over the years that I have been the mate of a designer, known best in the canoeing world for his plywood kayak designs, (see Feb 03 issue of *Canoe Focus*) I realise that I have had more social contact with open canoeists than with kayakers. Dennis and I are, or have been, members of the Open Canoe Sailing Group, the Open Canoe Association, the Historic Canoe & Kayak Association, and the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association.

From time to time, we have attended meets of all except the last mentioned - their annual Assembly in up-state New York must be quite something judging by the reports of it in the journal. Despite his early interest in kayaks, Dennis's personal book collection mostly features open canoe titles and, on reflection, I would estimate that most of our customers for secondhand books are also primarily open canoe orientated; as they are apparently also mostly over forty maybe it is the age thing again.

So, where did my train of thought lead? First to look out photographs of meets of the above UK organisations, and second to compile a brief introduction to each which may guide *Canoe Focus*



readers to where the open canoeing activity is taking place. Maybe some of those hip young kayakers will go along and try a different aspect of the sport we all know as 'canoeing'!

Open Canoe Sailing Group

Although the concept of "sail when you can, paddle when you must" goes right back to the 19th century instigators of recreational canoeing, the OCSG is far from being a frumpy, totally traditional concern. The races at the regularly held meets are always keenly contested and innovation for both cruising and racing canoes is encouraged and much mulled over on site and in the pages of *The Gossip*, the group's monthly newsletter. Discussions on the technology and technicalities sometimes get heated (and way over my head!) but the welcoming atmosphere at meets is always genuinely extended to all-comers.

Highlights of the OCSG year are the winter meet, usually at Lakeside on Windermere, when members gather for the AGM and annual dinner, and the week-long August bash held on one of the Scottish lochs. Because of the need for a largish body of water on which to raise sail the group's activities are centred in the north, but the southern members live in hope of adding alternative venues to the calendar. Talk has recently turned to visiting Dutch lakes; the group has contacts with like-minded canoeists in parts of Europe and the USA



roduction

oeing organisations



and a few members are confirmed globetrotters! Check out the very easy to use web-site at www.ocsg.org.uk or write for information to **OCSG, 110 Heacham Drive, Leicester LE4 0LG**

Historic Canoe & Kayak Association

This consists of a small core of enthusiasts, who between them have a great deal of knowledge about canoeing's past. If anyone has an elderly canoe or kayak that they wish to identify and/or restore the HCKA should be their first port of call. 'Elderly' does not have to be antique - many boats of the 1960s and 70s fall within the HCKA remit. Even some early plastics models



may now be considered historic and today's competitors in various disciplines might find it interesting to see what earlier generations considered fast! The Association's archives include a collection of plans for many older designs which may no longer be easily available elsewhere. For details write to HCKA, 18 Barnards Hill, Marlow, SL7 2NZ

Open Canoe Association

This is the largest of the three UK groups under discussion. The OCA convenes national meets, at sites convenient for camping and with good river access, but also has a comprehensive regional network so there is almost certain to be something on somewhere near you during the course of a year. Various training events are held and much emphasis is put on open canoeing as a family activity. A quarterly journal keeps members in touch at regional and national level. One of the great advantages of belonging to a group like this is that there are always enough vehicles to organise pick ups at the end of trips! A detailed web-site includes a calendar of events - www.opencanoe.org - or write for info to OCA, 1st floor flat, 12 Orwell Road, Dovercourt, C012 3LD

All the above are non-profit making organisations run by the members so please remember to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing for info.

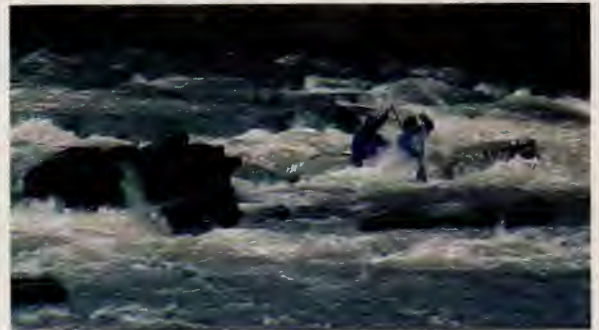
Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

The WCHA web-site (www.wcha.org) is a great browse for anyone interested in wooden canoes of any derivation, including birch barks. You could try persuading the family that the WCHA Assembly would be

a fabulous alternative to Disneyland for a holiday! We have a few back numbers of the journal 'Wooden Canoe' on our secondhand list; call 01237 475165 for details. ●



The first big WWR weekend of the season



The Grandtully and Thistlebrigg races happened during the first weekend of March. The weekend on the river Tay included the Grandtully Sprint and Classic, the Thistlebrigg Classic and the Annual National Prize Giving.

The busy weekend got off to a great start when everyone discovered that the river had gone up to a good level, after a nights rain. The racing started off, after everyone had had their boat scrutinised, with the Tully classic event on the Saturday morning, which starts downriver from Aberfeldy and finishes below the 'Tully rapids. The race was won by Pete Keron for the men's k1 and Tina Parsons in the ladies class. There were lots of C2 crews competing and the winners were Dave Belbin and Phil Caunt. Mark Laskey won the C1s and Dee Paterson won Division B.

A couple of hours later it was time for the Grand Tully Sprint. Starting just above the rapids and finishing just before the last weir it was a very short course. It was a good race for the juniors as junior world champion Jonnie Schofeild won the men's k1 with a total time of 1.47, under 23, Mary-Jean Smith won the women's k1 and, under 23, Colin Radmore won the C1s. Dee Paterson won division B for the second time that day and Ian and Andy Clough won the C2s.

That evening it was the National Prize giving, with awards for 2002's racing year. This time it was held at the Riverside Inn at Grand Tully, where there was lots of food, drinks and then the presentations. This year, being the first year with separate classic and sprint series, there were more winners than last year. A member of the local community Council, Muriel Simpson, gave out the prizes and the evening was enjoyed by all.

The next morning everyone was up early to do runs of the course before the race. The race started at Burnmouth and finished at the Thistlebrigg rapids. The course was about 4km long, with large flat sections and big, bouncy, wavy parts too! The racing began at eleven and brothers Ian and Alan Tordoff won the race with exactly the same time of 11.07! Tina Parsons won the ladies event and Colin Radmore won the C1s. Again Dee Paterson won the division B event, even with an injured foot! Belbin and Caunt won the C2 class. The event was popular as usual but this year, especially for the juniors as one of the selection races for this year's GB team is at Thistlebrigg in May.

After the race everyone went to the Tayside hotel at Stanley, for food and prizes and a well-earned rest before the long drive home!

Thank you to Kelso Riddell for organising the events and thanks to everyone who helped out during the weekend. ●

Viking Kayak Club

The end of a busy year during which Viking Kayak Club celebrated the 50th year of the Bedford – St. Neots Marathon Canoe Race which is generally recognised as the first formal event in that discipline, together with one of the most popular National Marathon Championships of recent times closed with celebrations for local recognition of the contribution made by Club President Brian Sidaway.

At the Bedford Borough Council and Bedford Local Sports Council Annual Awards ceremony Brian was selected from a large and very strong field of candidates as the Local Sports Administrator/Club Person of the year for 2002, receiving the Perpetual Cup and a cash award which has swelled the club's contingency fund.

The citation referred to Brian's interest in canoeing, at home and abroad, since the 1940's, his participation in the first Bedford – St. Neots Race and his involvement ever since, being a founder member of Viking Kayak Club in 1961 and an officer in one capacity or another (and sometimes more than one!) ever since. It also referred to his active involvement in all spheres of club life – on and off the water. As well as his active participation in our town –twinning exchange with our colleagues at Bamberg Football Club for more than 20 years.

Many congratulations, Brian, and long may we share your wisdom and experience



New kid on the block - Ross Phillips



last 10 months, he knows what his goals are and he is super keen to achieve them. Look out for him at next year's surf kayak competitions and maybe he'll let loose on the freestyle circuit. His ambition is to do the double - to compete at the Worlds in Surf Kayaking and to compete in a World Championship in Freestyle. Good coaching needs an enthusiastic student and Ross has proved himself to be more than enthusiastic. ●

Ross being coached by Jacko at Hurley Weir
Photo by Kayakojacko

New kid on the block, 15-year-old Ross Phillips has arrived on the scene by winning a Mega Cyclone Jester as the top junior newcomer in surf kayaking last year (Jester kindly donated by Malcolm Pearcey of Mega Performance Kayaks). Although he began paddling when he was nine years old, he only started seriously working at his skills when he hooked up with Kayakojacko just over ten months ago.

He finished off the surf season ranked 3rd and placed second in juniors at the British Championships. Ross has used the skills learnt with Jacko in his surfing competitions and has earned himself a place in the Welsh Surf Development Squad – he is determined that he will be given a place in the team and paddle for Wales at the World Championships next year.

Jacko has encouraged Ross to be positive about his boating and showed him how to do SWOT analysis so that he could assess his own progress, build on his strengths and convert any weaknesses into strengths. Over the last few months Ross has developed a positive attitude, a competitive will and realised that he wants a career in kayaking.

Jacko's coaching methods are not just about kayaking. It is a holistic approach to the whole ethos of paddling – river awareness, rescue techniques, positive attitude, confidence, courtesy, good manners, fitness and diet – not to mention a whole range of skills which enable serious playboating to take place. For his efforts Ross has been given a place on the System-X B team and is equally determined to get into the Pro team!

Ross has progressed at a phenomenal speed during the

New team to take on Hurley Rodeo

This year's Hurley Rodeo on the River Thames marked the end of an era for its pioneer, who is handing over the reins after 15 years.

The Thames Weir Rodeo was the brainchild of Shaun Baker but this year he will hand over the job of organiser to Andrew Jackson of Kayakojacko and a team of three from Thames Weir Projects.

Andrew said: "Shaun has done a fantastic job making the Rodeo one of the best in the world. This year's Rodeo also established a new precedent worldwide for whitewater freestyle events, by giving away thousands of pounds in prize money. This is a big step forward in helping British paddlers to compete in world events. But it's been a lot of pressure for one person. With more people to run the Rodeo, we hope the event will become more fun, and not concentrate so heavily on team selection".

Explaining his decision to leave, Shaun said: "I'm really going to miss it but I haven't had time to compete while organising the Rodeo so now I'd really like to get back on the water."

He added: "I'd like to pay tribute to Hurley lock keeper Brian Webb, who, after literally decades of helping to set the weir to be "just right" for whitewater canoeists and kayakers is retiring in September. Hurley Rodeo would never have grown so hugely successful had it not been for the dedication and devotion of Brian, who, for 37 years, has controlled the water levels to create perfect whitewater conditions."

New Lock Keeper's Trophy

To mark this year's Rodeo, Brian Webb and his wife Shirley introduced the Lock Keepers Trophy, which they hope will be presented every year.

Brian said: "We wanted this trophy to be presented to the canoeist that the event felt most deserved it. It represents the lock keeper's participation in the event and I hope it will continue to be presented each year by the lock keepers that will work here in years to come. I have many fond memories of the Hurley Rodeo and I hope successive lock keepers will gain as much pleasure from it as I have."

The Environment Agency also introduced a cup this year to show its support for the event. Helen Page, Recreation and Leisure Development Officer, said: "The Hurley Rodeo is a fantastic event which actively promotes water sports on the River Thames. The Agency wanted to openly recognise this by presenting a trophy each year. We also support the event by offering free use of our campsite during the two days."

Ailsa Craig. A good day out

Once again we are on holiday in SW Scotland with our families. Paul had suggested a trip to Ailsa Craig in previous years but we had never managed to get it together. This year, who knows? Sunday came and it was pouring down and miserable. We would have a go the next day if the weather was OK. No point in making the trip just for the sake of it, we wanted to have a good return for our efforts.

Monday morning was glorious, blue sky and sunshine with a forecast that suggested it would last all day until winds increased to Force 5-6 and rain followed in the early evening. By 9.00am we were on the water at

Girvan looking across to Ailsa Craig. It looked huge with the tiny white dots of buildings facing us. A little more than two hours should do it. One hour of brisk paddling into a Force 2-3 wind and the island didn't look any closer. Hmm. It was closer to 10 miles rather than anything less and it was huge. Two and a half-hours paddling saw us looking for a landing. The map shows a jetty facing east but the beach there was steep and unfriendly looking. We landed a little to the south, below the lighthouse, on a beach of large cobbles, soon to be met by the bird reserve warden who invited us for tea at the house that he was using for accommodation. In respect of his wishes we did not wander far on the island since it was the nesting season, but we did walk up to the castle. This is a 19th century folly with a magnificent view from north through east to south. The castle, on a steep slope, felt high and exposed but on our return journey it was apparent that it was only a quarter of a way up the outcrop that forms the island.



sheltered mooring. The jetty is a large, steel and concrete structure with rail track lines along it. It can only be easily used when weather and tides are favourable. It was designed for large freighters and small vessels do not tie up against it easily. The reserve warden did not have boat since it was too difficult to manage, but was isolated on the island until he phoned for someone to call.

Ailsa Craig is a major granite intrusion. The commercial value of the granite has long been recognised and two former quarries can be seen along the shore. These were used to produce granite kerbstones for Britain's cities and curling stones for use in curling nations throughout the world – or just Scotland! The remains of a small rail line serving a quarry can still be seen just above sea level running round the north side of the island. It is hard to see how often the sea state was calm enough for it to be in use. When we were there a group of men were collecting stones off the beach for use in curling. These stones were so heavy that they could hardly carry them to the jetty where a boat would eventually come to collect them and the stones. A different sort of part-time job.

The lighthouse is now solar powered, but the range of buildings, jetty, rail line, winch house to haul wagons from the jetty and the associated ruins are explained by the lighthouse being formerly lit by coal gas. The infrastructure was developed to enable the importation of coal and the operation of a gasworks to supply the lighthouse. When on the island this seems to be an impossible arrangement, but it is apparently the explanation to the development on the island.

We spent an hour paddling round the island, watching young seals and a wealth of birdlife. Ailsa Craig is apparently home for the largest gannet colony on the West Coast of Scotland. The gannets were much in evidence, as were large numbers of kittiwakes and razorbills.

The return to Girvan was not as quick as we had hoped. The headwind on the way out had died and was not there to help us on the return. We made the return journey in two and a quarter hours. About one hour from Girvan the wind did indeed pick up as forecast and was a nuisance as it was on our beam, the last 20 minutes or so was 20 minutes too long. I was getting tired and had to really think about my paddling. When I concentrated I left Paul behind, when I relaxed he left me behind. We were both getting tired; 23 miles or so is a long day except for those who paddle more regularly than we do and the conditions were deteriorating. The shore at Girvan arrived just in time. We loaded the car in a strong wind and rain. What an excellent day. One to remember but not to be undertaken lightly.

Richard Simpson

info

Ailsa Craig is privately owned. A sign next to the jetty forbids landing, but we did not see this, landing on the adjacent beach.

Permission to land; if it is really necessary; can be obtained from the owners. Details from Girvan tourist information.

Ailsa Craig falls precipitously into the sea on all sides except for that facing east. Here there is a small area

of flat land, the lighthouse, jetty, some old houses and an extensive series of ruins.

Ailsa Craig is an odder place than one might imagine. Many people have seen it. Quite a lot have sailed around it. Relatively few have actually been there. The landing is difficult for yachts, even to anchor offshore is a risky business since the seabed slopes steeply and is composed of large round cobbles in which an anchor does not hold easily. There is no

BCU Yearbook 2003 Updates

Page 5 - Ballymena Sea Cadets - This Club is now called Seven Towers Canoe Club, C/O Jimmy Blair, 17 Foxhill, Ballymena, Co Antrim BT43 5JB e-mail: jimmy.blair@btopenworld.com

Page 23 - Paddle - Ability. Gold Medal Margaret Taylor - Should be K1 1000m

Page 24 - Silver Medal. S Whipp / K Yost - Should be S Whipp / J Oldham Mens K2 1000m

Page 32 - Ian Cave Touring and moving water, Ian's telephone number should be 01945 700038 - e-mail should be kayak@switched-on.uk.com

Page 38 - Nigel Williamson - Sea Touring - e-mail should be seapaddler@postmaster.co.uk

Page 38 - Paul Newman - Vice Chairman, Youth, Paddlesport Development Officer, Coaching Development Officer and Secretary of Maidstone Canoe Club. Please note that Paul's new e-mail address is paulnewmanpaddlesport@blueyonder.co.uk

Page 39 - Forest Canoe Club. The secretary should be Tim Bailey - All other details are correct

Page 42 - Carlisle Canoe Club - Web site address should be www.carlislecanoeclub.com

Page 45 - Garstang Canoe Club - e-mail should read jackiesnothere@btinternet.com

Page 48 - Portsmouth & District Canoe Club e-mail should be munphy@lineone.net

Page 50 - Avon Canoe Polo Club - This Club is known as Avon Outdoor Activities Club, all other details are correct.

Page 53 - Mike Hubbard - Access and Recreation - e-mail should be m.hubbard@bigfoot.com

Page 77 - Freestyle Chairman Mike Birkbeck - New email address mbirky@btopenworld.com

Page 98 - BCU River Information Service - Dane, Mr David Moore, telephone number should be 01606 648917

Page 97 - BCU River Information Service - Adur - Tel should read 01903 691473

Page 99 - BCU River Information Service - Etherow, please NOTE Mr William Thompson is NOT the LAO for this river, please contact the RAO

Page 100 - BCU River Information Service - Irwell, new e-mail address burs@activity-centre.freeserve.co.uk

Page 100 - BCU River Information Service - Mersey above Carrington - Please NOTE Mr Chris Cleaver is NOT the LAO for this river

Page 100 - BCU River Information Service - Mersey & Dee Estuaries Mr Graham James, his postcode should be L61 6XD

Page 100 - BCU River Information Service - Lune, please NOTE Mr Andy Clifford is NOT the LAO for the this river.

Page 101 - BCU River Information Service - Parrett - Tel should read 01932 421153

Page 102 - BCU River Information Services - Thames Weir - South. LAO Shaun Baker - Unit 3 Manor Farm, Sherlock Row, Reading RG10 0PY e-mail: shaun@hurleyweir.com Mobile: 07778 488355

Page 126 - Kayak Canoe Safety Test - June 21 Org No. 022 should be Thames at Abingdon.

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Christmas the Ecuadorian

We'd started our round the world trip in Ecuador last time round and thought at the time that the easy logistics would make it a great place for a two or three week trip, so we decided to try the concept out. It's got that expedition feel without all the hassle of needing overnight trips, cuts through the upper Amazon rainforest basin and offers the best benefit of all – warm water.

This time round we decided to take advantage of flat-bottomed boats to make the most of the great play that Ecuador offers. From flying it to Quito late on day one, we'd made the it to Baeza and were on the water by the next afternoon. If you have money to burn, you could get Vicente to pick you from the airport and take you straight to Baeza (normally three hours by bus).

Going over Xmas is the 'drier' season which means that it only rains for half the day. That isn't such a bad time to go, but apparently the sun comes out after the rain a bit more regularly in Feb when the 'more' rainy season kicks off. Essentially though, the rain forest climate means Ecuador works year round and doesn't really have marked seasons.

As a paddling base, Baeza offers loads of sections on the Quijos, which is big volume but not desperately steep. On the first day we got there we blasted down the Bridge to Bridge section as a warm up to find that the rain we'd had in the Papallacta valley on the drive over had fully kicked in and turned the river brown. As a warm up run this was quite a frisky intro and wasn't quite the river we remembered from our last Ecuadorian trip. With time pressing and light fading I was almost concerned our first section was going to be a getting off in the dark special.

Back in Baeza it appears that little progress had been made in the eating options since we were last there, and we ended up going to Gina's for every meal. They have reprinted the menu though (without actually changing what they offer).

Ecuadorian cuisine means eggs with everything, but also has the marvellous meriendas and almuerzos option. That's basically a three course meal for a buck fifty.

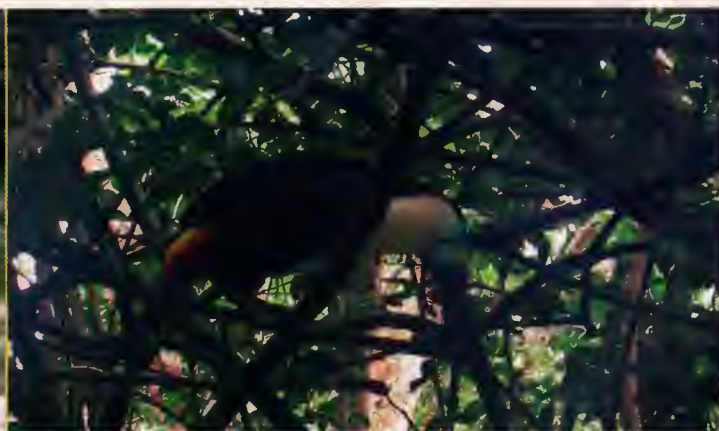
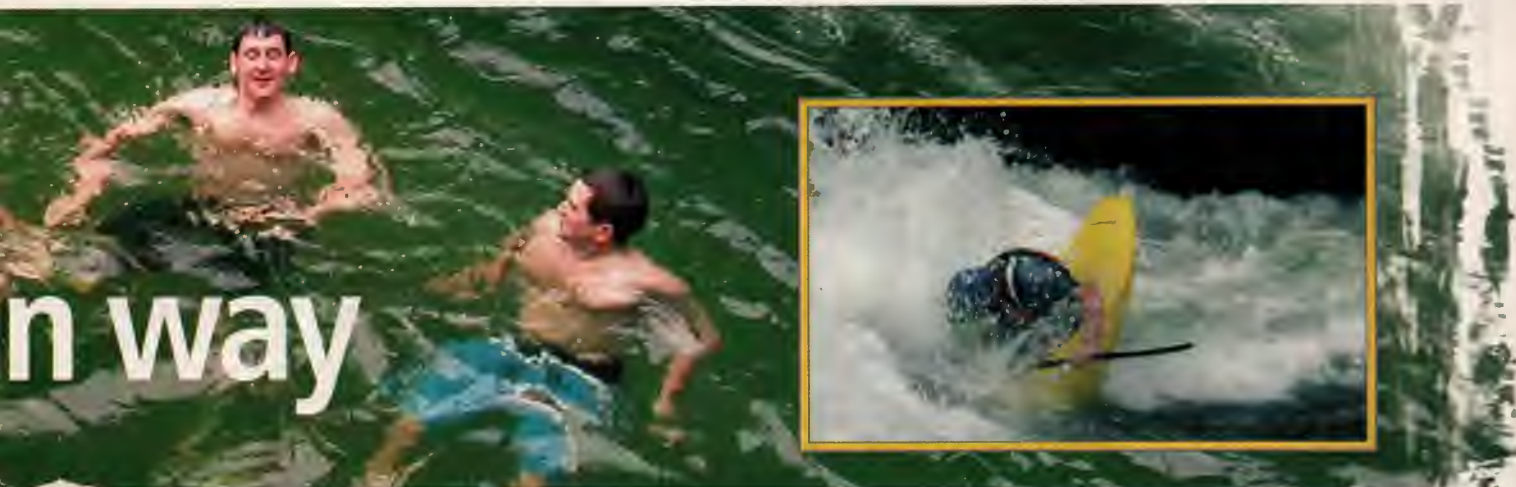
In spite of what the taxi drivers and gringos based out there will tell you, inflation hasn't really made it much more expensive. Prices may in some cases have doubled, but that means seven bucks a night for a hotel with hot water instead of four bucks a couple of years ago. The locals were used to weekly superinflation when the 'sucre' was the currency, but now find that people simply can't afford to pay high prices since dollars came in.

With the river-running playboats, we could make better use of features and found a cracking wave with eddy service on the Bon Bon section of the Quijos. The guidebook would have you believe that Hatless Hole on the Jatunyacu is the only play wave of note in Ecuador,



but we found loads of great waves and holes with convenient eddies.

Most of the classic runs out there are big enough volume for a river running playboat to be spot on – and there's more than enough to keep



been written to flog holidays at Smallworld Adventures' basecamp just downstream of Baeza. In my opinion they've been slightly sneaky and made the third paddling area of Santo Domingo seem less attractive than say the multiple sections of the Quijos at Baeza. We were puzzled by why for example there was a large gap on the topo map between the upper and lower sections of the Toachi. Closer inspection and seeking out some info from the locals convinced us that this middle section would also go and we weren't disappointed.

From Allurquien (the get out for the Upper), the river carries on in a similar type of canyon which I would put at a good grade four (rather than what the locals would have you believe). There is at least one portage maybe two on this section to watch out for. The first one, which comes soon into the run, had a heinous first hole and then dropped around the corner. Looked OK, but we couldn't really see, and after some cliff climbing on the left bank together with warnings of



you going for two or three weeks without having to resort to Rainsley tactics on the ditches.

One thing to bear in mind with the guidebook is that it's basically

poisonous snakes from the local school owner, we realised that the portage was actually better done on the right (for future reference).

Around the corner, the river dropped through another 2m slot that

we hadn't quite managed to spot. Thankfully there wasn't a hole in it at the level we ran it at (probably higher than 19 on the guage at La Union del Toachi).

A little way down we were surprised by the appearance of a river wide horizon line. We were even more surprised when Emma appeared after having been 'playing' in the eddy above and managed to do a little rolling before clawing herself back from the lip of the drop. This big five was a bit of a wake up call.



Damas coming in. Allurquien would have made a much better base than Sanot Domingo to explore here. There is a new hostel being built which is a much better base from which to do some exploring. There is a new hotel with a pool opening up on the cliff above the first bit of feist on the middle Toachi (next to Santa Rosita I think at the lower end of town.

There's also a great local guy called Pablo in Santo Domingo who will help out. We ran the Lower Otongo with him (good 3 with a couple of 4's) down into the Baba where there are a couple of cracking surf waves just below the take out bridge. The Baba could be run for another 30 km apparently as well. I've got some notes of put in etc that I'll post on ukriversguidebook.co.uk when I get a moment.

We spent New Year in the jungle central hang out of Tena which was an odd experience – the locals get hopelessly drunk and then set fire to Guy Fawkes type dolls of themselves to usher the past year out and the new one in. In amongst the old favourites such as the big water jungle play of the Lower Mishualli, we tried to get some of the runs down that for some reason we'd managed to miss last time round.

The Lower Jondachi was a gem of a long day run that we hadn't done before – it starts off a bit like the upper but then carries on for miles down to the Hollin confluence and beyond. Gary spotted the head of large snake emerging from one of the eddies in a calmer stretch which made us put on a temporary sprint. Subsequent discussion with our taxi driver identified it apparently as a water boa, which is as long

info

Marc and Emma Musgrove would like to thank sponsors Liquidlogic Kayaks and www.wetndry.com for the Bomber Gear, Werner, HF and Playboater kit.

Having managed to find somewhere near a road to get out shortly before dark (a regular occurrence on this trip), we realised that the Toachi has more than enough quality white water to rival the Quijos. There are a number of tributaries around worth checking out as well, such as the Upper and Lower Pillaton, and the wood-filled

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as a lamppost when not trying to eat kayakers.

The beauty of Ecuador still lies in the general cheapness of shuttles – you just hire a taxi driver who will turn up at a given time, load up your boats onto his pick up, advise you of the time needed for the particular section and be waiting to pick you up. This time round we actually used buses a lot more though as it gives you a bit more flexibility to play and not be constrained by being at the get out for a specific time. The Lower Mishualli for example has a bus right from the get out, which means that you can tie your boats on the bus and then have a beer while waiting for the bus driver to turn up. As Ecuadorians use buses for transporting all manner of produce, drivers are surprisingly tolerant of tying boats on en route and stopping right outside your hotel to let you unload. That said they do all have a tendency to drive off if you haven't got them tied on after two minutes, so you need to pay special attention to low bridges as you struggle to get the straps on.

From the Upper Toachi get out in Allurquien a bus was even happy to pick us up while we were still wearing our full paddling kit and drop us off right at the hotel. Luckily this one happened to have a swimming pool so we could jump in and rinse off the kit as soon as we got home (not quite sure if the hotel owner was quite as enthusiastic as us about this idea).



For three weeks we paddled pretty much every day bar travel days and covered three paddling areas, but we would spend more time checking out the tributaries of the Santo Domingo/Toachi and the Blanco river basin next time round. It's a bit more built up than Tena, but still got some good water to check out. The whole country is awash with rivers, but taking a larger volume playboat really lets you take advantage of the great play out there. ●

**Story: Marc Musgrove, Photos: Dave Musgrove
Team: Marc, Emma, Dave and Gary Manwaring**

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SAS Hurley Rodeo

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SAS, the EA, Playboater, Crazy Harse, Whitewater Canoe Centre, Canoe & Kayak, Playboating and the BCU Lifeguards for all their sterling work.

For full results of the weekend and photos check out

www.hurleyweir.com

Photos by Darren Baker and Kayakojacko

1 - 2nd Feb 2003

Despite subzero temperatures and three inches of snow on the Saturday morning, this year's Hurley Rodeo was once again a huge success.

As has become customary, the event was dominated by younger paddlers with local boy Alan Ward making a big impression in particular. Alan from Marlow, who trains regularly at Hurley Weir, took first place in the Junior class on the Saturday, and went on to come fifth in the main "Superfinal" of the Senior class the following day. Alan was followed in the Junior class by Tim Trew in second place and Jon Best in third.

£1000 top prize also went to a junior paddler - Richard Chrimes from Nottingham. Richard came back at the last minute and sneaked in his stunning performance in the "Superfinal" to beat local Carl Leahy into 2nd place - despite Carl having achieved the highest scoring run of the competition and being placed no.1 up to that point. The ever-present Mark Birkbeck, who it seems, never fails to make the podium, came in with an impressive 3rd. The Ladies class was once again dominated by Deb Pinniger, who won with a world class routine. Second in the ladies came Fiona Jarvie, with Louise Wigmore in third - again, stunning performances.

We tried to set a precedent with this year's event, by hosting a real "semi-professional" event - something that our paddlers and this sport deserve - we ploughed in a huge £2,500 of prize money. This meant that, along with the £1000 top prize, there were numerous £100 prizes for all the categories. When so much of the talent in our sport comes from juniors and these guys are generally the ones with least money, it seems only fair that we help them on their way so as they can travel out to the rest of the world and bring home medals.

As always, none of this would have been possible without all the support from the SAS computer software organization, which owns the

Bucks bank of the Thames at Hurley. SAS provides the event with most of our car parking and enormous additional support. Of course they also give our sport a much needed cash boost to allow the event to actually take place, allowing us to give all those lovely cash prizes - thank you SAS!! This has been a company that over the years has gone out of its way to help whitewater paddlers, and always without even being asked...

This year the Environment Agency themselves initiated a new trophy for the event "The Big River Cup". This lovely new cup was presented by Helen Page from the EA to Richard Chrimes (yes the same one) in recognition of the fact that as a junior, to win this event which is one of the biggest in the World, really is a giant achievement - well done Richard. You are an inspiration to all youngsters.

Sadly, Brian the lock keeper will be retiring later this year, and all the paddlers took the opportunity at this year's



Hurley Rodeo to say a huge thank you by presenting him with a framed picture of the Hurley Rodeo signed by all 150 plus paddlers. Over the decades Brian has helped so many of this country's talented canoeists with their training by setting the shape of the wave on Hurley's main weir to be "just right". The UK has in turn brought back far more than it's fair share of medals due to this excellent training ground. Generous as ever, Brian and his wife Shirley also wanted to give something back to the Rodeo, and had arranged for a special "Lock Keeper's Trophy" to be made. This will become a perpetual trophy and will be presented each year to the paddler deemed to have at heart the true spirit of this sport. For 2003 Brian presented the award to Tim Trew. Tim had won the prize for highest placed non-sponsored junior but he gallantly gave up his prize of a £700 Liquid Logic kayak to the next unsponsored boater, feeling that he was "just a little bit sponsored"... Good man!! Don't forget to bring the trophy back next year though Tim!

Shaun also took the opportunity to step down this year from his role as organiser. This had been his fifteenth year of running the event and he feels that a



combination of desire to get back to canoeing over waterfalls and the sheer weight of the organization involved with this event means that the task would better suit a team. Andy Jackson (of Kayakojacko fame) and Paul Robertson (twice C1 gold medallist) are taking over on the task of organising the competition, heading up a team of four. Shaun said: "I will always look upon the Hurley Rodeo with fond memories. The event has changed hugely since the 1980s and after fifteen years of organising it I feel its time to let a great new team take over with some fresh new ideas. I just yearn to get away from the paperwork and back on the water... and maybe even compete again!" ●

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GREENLAND

Greenland

During the summer of 2000 I made my first visit to the East Coast of Greenland, working as an instructor on a youth expedition, spending nearly a month sea kayaking and mountaineering in the Ammassaliq area.

One of the high points for me that year was visiting the site of the British Arctic Air Route Expeditions 1930 base camp.

There was little left of the expeditions hut or base camp, however we found it fascinating picking through the remains.

The expedition had been led by a little known explorer called Gino Watkins'. Watkins expedition mapping the area, crossing the ice cap with dog sled and scientific study of local weather conditions had fascinated me for many years. His ability to observe and acquire the locals skill of hunting from a kayak enabled his small team of explorers to travel light, live off the land and even winter over without the expense or logistical worries larger more traditional expeditions encounter. His approach enabled him to open up the area by producing the first accurate maps of the coast and provided information later used by Pan American Airways on the first transatlantic flights. Greenland is the home of the sea kayak and Gino Watkins was largely responsible for its introduction to Britain.

This summer I returned with Pete Jones. Pete and I had worked for many years at the ASSC a kayak school in Anglesey, North Wales and we both knew the area and local conditions having been leaders on "The Return Of The Kayak Expedition" in 2000.

This year our plan was to kayak from Ammassaliq travelling approx 120 miles north along the coast to the site where Watkins established his second base in 1932. It was while in this area that Watkins was tragically killed during a hunting trip.

In July we flew out to Kulusuk on the east coast of Greenland. Our kayaks had been brought over to Kulusuk from Ammassaliq where they are kept by a local contact and within 40 minutes of getting off the plane we were paddling our loaded boats across to a good camping place on the opposite side of the bay. We arrived self sufficient for a month in everything except fuel for our MSR petrol stove and a rifle for bear defence and this we collected that evening from a friend in Kulusuk.

We heard from the locals that many Polar bears had recently been shot in the area. This was due to extremely bad ice, some said the worst for 50 years, which extended out to sea in places for 35 miles, allowing bears to wander ashore easily and scavenge through the few local settlements. Unfortunately this made it easy for the locals to hunt them.

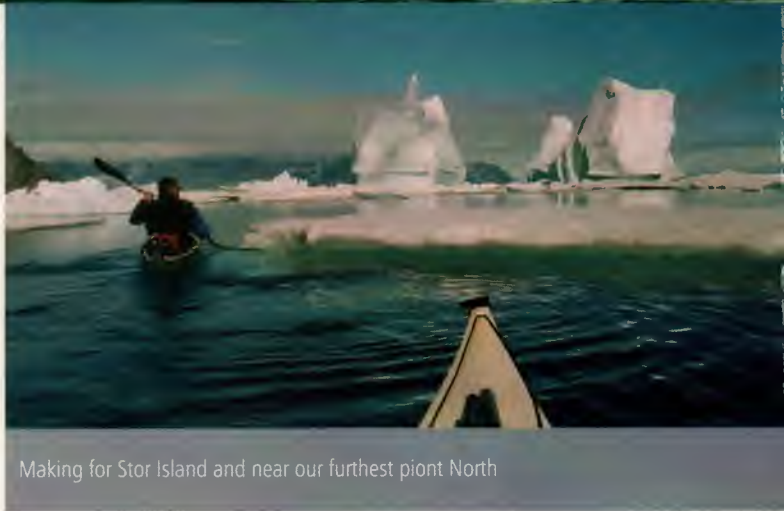
By the time we left over 37 had been taken in an area where they had



Over 35 Bears were shot during the summer - although many were around we only saw dead ones



Ice in Ikatek heading towards the old American Air Base



Making for Stor Island and near our furthest point North

only shot 10 the year before.

During the first night Pete had a boot stolen by an Arctic fox. Fortunately he disturbed it when he got out for a pee and after a frantic chase in his undies, retrieved a rather chewed left boot. It brought home how dependant we were on our equipment. Nothing could be replaced here and carrying only the essentials meant we couldn't afford to lose anything.

We awoke next morning to find sea ice packed into the coast, crunching and grinding as it moved with the tide, filling all available spaces and preventing any easy way through. After a hasty breakfast and recce from the headland we donned our dry suits.

These were as useful a protection from the mosquitoes and black flies as they were for the extremely cold seawater.

Our route took us north past a number of abandoned settlements and hunt camps. These were always good spots to stop for the night as landings were generally good. There was usually plenty of fresh water and a view in several directions enabled us to check out the ice conditions. Obviously the

Revisited

A day off - mountaineering - Top of Poloms near Ammassaliq



Camp site on Gruse island



Often we had to resort to dragging the kayaks over the ice into the next section of open water. It was dangerous, the ice was moving all the time and was unstable. In thick ice we were particularly vulnerable to the Bears.

local Inuit experienced similar problems with the flies 200 years ago as all the camps were sited so as to catch the very slightest of breeze.

On trips like this it is far too easy to fall into the trap of "head down and paddle". You come home having got somewhere, but not seen anything. We knew this and took every opportunity to stop and explore ancient hut and gravesites which all gave a good insight into an incredibly primitive way of life, which is now almost forgotten.

The ice this year was far worse than we had expected and we regularly climbed headlands in order to select a route through the maze of jumbled blocks, which were often the size of Safeways and moving either towards you or away from you at the speed of a healthy cyclist. At times like this it was important to leave plenty of room behind you. If you came to a dead end a very quick turn round and detour was required.

As the days went by we experienced some of the most fantastic sea kayaking I think you could ever get. We called in at Kungmiut and Sermiligaq both communities where only Greenlandic is spoken; housing is primitive and

the way of life extremely hard. During the summer many hunters' families live on seals, narwhal, bear meat and sea birds supplemented with a few basic essentials brought in from the only store in Ammassaliq.

The threat of Polar bears was a real one. We had a rifle which was always loaded and went everywhere with us. When on the water it was kept on the front deck of a kayak in a waterproof dry bag.

If not around the campsite we made sure we went exploring together and at night, the time of greatest risk, it was kept between us inside the tent. I was paranoid about Polar bears and found it extremely stressful constantly paddling through very thick ice which when above your head creates such bad visibility. We could easily have paddled round any piece of ice and found ourselves in an extremely dangerous situation.

Eventually we were forced to ask the question - Is it wise to go on - Is it time to call it a day and head back or have we just lost our bottle!

I had spent two years planning this trip and felt this pressure pushing me on and on, when really we knew that the ice conditions were extreme

info

Our thanks go to all our sponsors who without their help this trip would not have been possible. Richard Watkins – expedition patron. Gino Watkins Memorial Fund and Edward Wilson Fund. Gareth Burnell and the ROK Foundation. Lental Paddles Antarctica Tents Kokatat Drysuits Anyone interested in the slide show or further information about this expedition should contact Martin Rickard who lives on Whalsay, Shetland or Pete Jones at the Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre, North Wales.

Clear water but with ice moving fast towards us in the current



and without the goal of reaching the last base camp and site of Watkins' death we would have turned round long ago.

The ice was getting worse and everything we went through had to be retraced on the way back. On our 8th day out and only 15 miles from our destination we reluctantly decided to call it a day.

As in mountaineering, if the weather is good things are possible and can go well. However we estimated that it would still take 2 or 3 days of hauling and paddling the kayaks to reach our goal. This meant at the best another 6 days just to be back at the point we were now in. Reluctantly but with a certain amount of relief we turned

back mid way along the east coast of STOR Island. For the most part we were forced to retrace our outward route. However the scenery was so fantastic this was never a problem. Huge vertical cliffs coming straight out of the sea, glaciers running for miles out of the mountains before calving onto the ocean and islands like the tops of Alps sticking 2000 ft straight out of the water. Everywhere ice, with a backdrop of the Himalayas. Although we saw many arctic fox, seal and many whales I am pleased to say we didn't see any bears. If we had the chances were we would have had to shoot them in self-defence. Certainly something neither of us would

have liked to do.

Eventually after many unforgettable experiences we returned to Tasiilaq the main settlement in Annessaliq.

We had arranged to spend time kayaking with the children and staff from the school. Helping further establish the kayak club ROK set up in 2000 for the local youngsters. This was an equally important and rewarding part of our expedition and helped establish some good contacts and sow the seeds of a future trip. ●

Martin Rickard

Sleds waiting for the freeze



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LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

Please send letters either by email to peter@canoefocus.co.uk or post to: Canoe Focus, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB

Calm down!

Ordinarily I am not driven to put my views forward regarding the content of *Canoe Focus*, but feel after reading two letters in the February issue of *Canoe (kayak) Focus*, a moan coming all over me. I have to agree wholeheartedly with both Alan Vessey regarding the canoe polo and with Ian Cruickshank regarding open canoe coverage in the magazine. For the magazine to say it's all because nobody sends in the appropriate information is not fair. Are we so full of world class paddlesport success in the other disciplines that we can afford to miss the opportunity to rave about our gold medallists in canoe polo?

I feel if you are aware of any success and that it has not been forwarded to you, then you should ask the relevant body to get you the info. It cannot be fair for these young athletes not to be recognised by their own union's magazine after all their training and sacrifices. If *Canoe Focus* is not more active in chasing the news its readers want to see, it will not give a representative view on what is happening in paddlesport. You are missing an opportunity to publicise success in paddlesport by being pedantic. A write-up did appear in *Canoeist* which tells its own story.

A similar situation arises in the canoe/kayak debate that Ian Cruickshank alludes to. If you are not dropping off a thirty foot waterfall on some obscure river in Outer Mongolia you cannot be a "canoeist" of any regard. The chances that 99% of us (your average BCU member) have to paddle these rivers are very remote. We seem to be more aware of the access and egress points of these far flung white water rivers than we do of our own local/national stretches. I feel we need to promote the "calmer" side of canoeing as much as, if not more than, the aggressive/spectacular side and, dare I say it, "return to basics" if we are to encourage new people to our sport. The "Whirling Dervish School of Paddlesport" is not the only game in town.

So that I do not appear all negative, and in an effort to be constructive, might I suggest you have a section/page devoted to river/canal/lake trips in the UK. Access egress, mileages, parking, access officer area, grading, map references, camp sites etc. etc. could be put on a single page to allow removal into a trip folder. Possibly Access Officers could either send these in or ask a fellow paddler to do so, thereby publicising what is in their own area. If the BCU is so keen on the access argument why is it not publicising the access that is available now in a meaningful way. I will gladly send you details of one or two now to start the kayak rolling if you decide it is an idea worth pursuing.

Alan Waites,

(Level 2K coach and keen open boater to boot.)

I do think it is an idea worth pursuing and I look forward to receiving your material and from other contributors out there. I do agree that the whitewater side of the sport is not the only one and Canoe Focus actively promotes the calmer aspects. If you look through Canoe Focus past issues I think you will agree. Ed

Unfair tax

I refer to Alan Vessey's letter in the recent edition of *Canoe Focus* regarding the sport of canoe polo within the BCU.

I am sad to say that I agree with him completely and I know a lot of other polo players who have the same view. I have been a member of the BCU for the last 18 years and unfortunately look on it as a tax, something we have to pay to be allowed to play the sport and no more.

It would appear to me that this tax goes to the other disciplines which have a higher profile, either with Olympic status or greater sponsorship opportunities.

I would like to be proved wrong, if I am incorrect, please publish the evidence and I will happily write an apology. I know the

hours and personal sacrifices that players such as Alan have had to put in to reach the level they have, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them, not just for the result, but the years of dedication that have made it happen.

Douglas Leigh

Due to the limited overall amounts, specific funding available to disciplines is currently based upon member participation figures and national / international profile. Currently, the Sports Council do not give the BCU any grant to cover canoe polo, accordingly the £30,000 awarded to polo comes from BCU membership. With BCU membership showing an increase, the BCU's Sports Management Committee are looking at reviewing the approach to funding and the amounts available in the hope that additional money can be made available.

Different strokes

How about putting a section on canoeing technique in your magazine? I'm sure almost all paddlers want to improve. Diagrams and explanations of various strokes or manoeuvres would certainly help in this respect. Knowing how to pass a polo ball accurately, perform a blunt or even just paddle in a straight line would surely increase the enjoyment your members gain from canoeing.

On another note I totally agree with Alan Vessey on the lack of polo in your magazine. One of your rival magazines had pages and pages with dozens of photos of the World Championships that I read with interest. Without television coverage it's the closest many can get to the Worlds.

Richard (University of Bath Canoe Polo Captain),
OK, I surrender, I'm packing my bags now for the Polo European Championships, which for those who don't know, will take place in Ireland between August 9th - 17th. Details: www.canoepolo.ie/europeans2003 Ed

World Canoeing Day

We are considering a development plan for local paddling and are interested in any reasonable opportunity to publicise canoeing and pull together current and potential paddlers.

The latest issue of *Canoe Focus* carried a small notification that ICF had declared 5 June 2003 as World Canoeing Day. The ICF website proposes that this second World Canoeing Day has the motto "Keep the water clean".

In April '02 *Focus* stated "The ICF have announced that World Canoeing Day will take place on June 5th. The day will concentrate on developing the recognition of canoeing worldwide. The idea is for paddlers to show themselves as defenders of the environment with the slogan of keeping the water free from any pollution".

I don't recall anything in *Canoe Focus* post-5 June last year about World Canoeing Day - how did other paddling groups or countries make use of the PR opportunity afforded by World Canoeing Day?

I am also puzzled why the date of 5th June has been set two years running. This year it will fall on a Thursday, in 2002 it was a Wednesday - neither are typical paddling days for most people, so arranging publicity of paddlers undertaking beach or river clean-ups (if that indeed was the intention) is rather difficult.

Richard Agnelli

Not too sure why the date is 5th June, though this date was set by the ICF and not the BCU and the only PR item we could find on 2002 was an old story hidden on the ICF website. If any members want to send an article on their 2003 event to Canoe Focus, please feel free. Ed



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NEXT DAY
DELIVERY

Following on from the article in the last edition of Focus – this explains Access Organisations work and the benefits from involvement.

National recognition for young people's activities

Contact Information:

Award Web-site:

www.theaward.org.uk

Head Office: Gulliver

House, Madeira

Walk, Windsor,

Berkshire SL4 1EU.

Tel: 01753 727400

Fax: 01753 810666

Visit the youth pages on the new BCU web site for information on all our activities – www.bcu.org.uk/youth

All young people involved in paddlesport can now gain national recognition for involvement, time and commitment in addition to schemes offered by the BCU.

There are numerous young people who regularly paddle through clubs, centres and voluntary organisations. There are others who help behind the scenes, engage in coaching activities, help run competitive events and more. These young people can now receive more recognition at a national level, which can also be used in CVs and personal portfolios.

The How's and Wherefore's

Recently, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award launched a range of new initiatives aimed at raising awareness and broadening its reach. One of these initiatives was to establish

Access Organisations across the country.

A potential Access Organisation is one that works with young people in the 14 – 25 age range, has the interests of young people at its heart, and offers activities which are suitable for one or two sections of the Award. The young people do not have to be participants of the Award Programme but need to be engaged regularly with the organisation: the equivalent of 1 hour a week for 3 months (minimum).

The organisation will then be able to issue the young person with an Award Section credit note. If the young person then decides that they might like to continue with the Award, they have completed 1 out of 4 sections already. They send their credit slip with a registration form to their Local Operating Authority and receive their book with one section already filled in for them. If they don't want to take part in the Award, they can put their credit slip in their portfolio and enter it on their CV.

How to get Involved and Why

How: Any organisation involved with paddlesport offers activities suitable for at least one section of the Award.

- Regular paddling activities, BCU Star and Paddlepower awards, competition paddling: all these are suitable for

the Physical Recreation section of the Award.

- Young people working voluntarily as coaches, Cadet Leadership, lifesaving/water safety, club-leadership: all these are suitable for the Service section.
- Young people who help organise and run competitive events, umpire events, work on committees, help repair equipment: all these are suitable for the Skills section.
- Young people engaged on training and planning for a water-based expedition may be suitable for the Expedition section.
- Young people who go away residentially for 5 days



working with people who aren't known to them: may be suitable for the Residential section (applies to Gold level only – 16 years old and over). If you feel that your organisation might be suitable as an Access Organisation, then you need to contact your Local Operating Authority who will then discuss

your role and responsibilities and agree which sections you may offer as an Access Organisation (normally up to 2 sections). For contact details see the end of this article.

Why: There are a lot of young people engaged on a variety of paddlesport related activities: let's recognise and reward what they're already into.

Linda Clark, Southern Region Development Team: Youth and Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Girlpower – Crystal Palace slalom 2003

Almost 80 young people took part in the LSE regional slalom event at Crystal Palace at the end of February which included a pleasing increase in the number of girls taking part. There was lots of top notch slalom paddling on display including 2 World Class Start paddlers and excellent performances from Sarah Green of Purley (winning her event for the 4th time) and not to be out done, Chris McCabe, who won his class for the third time.

The youngest paddlers this year were Aimee Robson from Meridian and Gavin Collier from the Splash Project (both aged 9). There is some great talent coming through



demonstrated in the diving pool where the Diamond Slalom Challenge took place. 40 awards were achieved, 5 of which were gold!

Huge thanks to the many volunteers who help to make this event a success each year - Richard Hodge, Gavin Hollis, Michelle and Tony Green, Colin, Sam and Heather Hayes, Sean Hudson, Terry Walling, Bryan Ditchburn, Ian Bowditch and anyone else who helped on the day. Thanks also to Crystal Place, Perception, Sport England and Whitewater Canoe Centre.

Results

Under 12 Girls

1st Becky Read – Hillingdon, 2nd Eine Francis – Laburnum, 3rd Lauren Ditchburn – Hillingdon

Under 12 Boys

1st Jack Robson – Meridian, 2nd Jack Sachs – Welsh Harp, 3rd Andrew Randall – Addlestone

Under 15 girls

1st Sarah Green – Purely, 2nd Samantha Hayes – Chiswick, 3rd Sarah Ellsworth – Meridian

Under 15 Boys

1st Danny Ward – Islington BC, 2nd James Warren – Addlestone, 3rd Matthew Ellen – Splash

Under 18 Girls

1st Michelle Coyle – Welsh Harp, 2nd Sophie Britton - Chiswick, 3rd Louise Piper – Hailsham

Under 18 Boys

1st Chris McCabe – Isling BC, 2nd Semir Ahmed – Splash Project, 3rd Mark Pope – Hailsham

Overall Club/Centre Trophy

1st Islington Boat Club, 2nd Hillingdon, 3rd Addlestone

Events...Events... Events...

There are lots of great events scheduled for the coming months – too many to list here – here's just a few that are on offer...

There's the new Perception Wavehopper Challenge Series under way with finals in October on the Nene. The Pyranha Lightning Sprint Cup series kicks off again on May 10th with Leighton Buzzard defending their Sprint Club title – and the Marathon Cup finals are in Worcester on 26th July. A big event not to miss of course is Youthfest on 12th July.

For details of these and all other events check out the new BCU website – under youth there is a page for regional activity which will tell you what is happening near to you and who to contact for details.

New – Key Stage 3 curriculum guide

When this reaches you we will have an updated guide to Paddlesport and Key Stage 3. It gives details of how you can link all aspects of Paddlesport – not just adventurous activity – with learning outcomes for Key Stage 3. More details will follow in the next edition of Focus – and on the web site. In the meantime, if you would like details of our Key Stage 2 Guide take a look on the youth section of the web site (Paddlesport and Education) or contact youth@bcu.org.uk or phone 0115 982 1100.

Visit the youth pages on the new BCU web site for information on all our activities – www.bcu.org.uk/youth

YOUTHFEST
and National Bellboat Championships

Saturday 12th July 2003
Salford Watersports Centre,
Salford Quays, Manchester

Come and join us for a day of fun and excitement! There's lots to do which includes...

BELLBOAT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Join with your mates to make a team of 8 to race against other teams and the chance to become a national champion! There are 3 age groups: Under 12, Under 15 and Under 18 plus a race for adults and VIP's! Racing is in age groups so that when you've finished you can move on to one of the other activities.

DIAMOND SLALOM CHALLENGE

try your skills going round our Diamond Slalom course. You can go for the blue, bronze, silver or gold certificates - plus top tips and coaching from our top GB World Class paddlers and coaches.

RACING

if you prefer you can try some straight line racing over 200 metres in our Lightning and Open Canoe Sprint Regatta. GB World Class coaches will be there to give you some fast tips!

FUN CHALLENGE

Ergo Paddling Machine Challenge – 30 second timed runs – go for bust and beat your mates!

COME AND TRY

different boats to experience plus polo and freestyle demos



For further details, an Information Pack and Entry form visit our web address www.bcu.org.uk - go to Youth/Events YouthFest Information. Further info will be added to the site nearer July – so keep looking! Alternatively, contact youth@bcu.org.uk or call Mandy on 0115 982 6265



Please send adverts either by email to peter@canoeing.co.uk

or by post with BCU membership number to: CF Members

Classified, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB.

Adverts cannot be taken over the phone.

For Sale

2 Mad River/Pakboat canoes - hardly used and rated to Class 3 water by the maker. One is a 16ft boat weighing in at 48lb and comfortably carrying 3 people. The other a 12 ft model weighing 28lb. The larger boat currently sells for around £1500 and the smaller would cost over £1000. They come with a kitbag, and I've ridden a bike carrying the small boat over my shoulder. These boats can be taken back from the landing point on a bus or in a car with no need of roof racks etc. Looking for c £850 for the small boat (colour red) and c£1100 for the big one (colour green). Can supply photos of assembly sequence for 12ft boat (16 ft is similar) send sae. Dave Holladay 0141 332 4733

2 sets of AT 2's, one set brand new in wrapper, both 45 degree feather, 195 in length the best play paddles around. Also 1 set of ATX's as above spec. will sell all together or separate. Make me a reasonable offer! Richie 01432 820046 (Herefordshire)

10 ACE Uropa's in excellent condition £1500.00 would suite Scout group or club. Delivery can be arranged. Contact Dave on 07710773523.

As New Dancer XT - £180, Dancer Clubs - £180, Strim Junior Kayak - £140 Little Used. Perception Fox Slalom - £250, Eskimo Topo Duo - £480 Tel: Keith 07887691729

Bruynzeel plywood sea-going 16 foot DK21 kayak with 10 year guarantee, made by Dennis Davis: excellent condition, £250 ono. Contact Jean at 0121 453 3129

Canadian canoe for sale, in good condition, green, 16ft long, new seats and thaws. contact oily on 07870 572371

Canadian Canoe Red Coleman as new £400 Surrey area 01737 242 988

Canadian Langford Legacy Limited Edition (only 100 produced). Recent Canadian Import. British Columbian Red Cedar 16ft Canoe. Raw Hide Seats. Mahogany Trim. Stunning Boat! Returning home to Canada hence sale. £2000. Leicestershire. Contact Paul Tel: (01858) 540134

Email: jpwardsuk@yahoo.co.uk

Canoe sail Solway Dory lateen sail with leeboard. Complete with all spars. In excellent condition in bag. £120 01540 661051

Carolina 2 yrs old full, yellow, touring spec including spray deck £333 ono email carole.williams2@btopenworld.com or David Williams on (01736)762210

Club liquidation. Trailer for 8 kayaks plus paddle storage box 1 Rotobat 1 Rotobat Heavy duty 1 Pijon Avenger 1 Europa 1 Valeta 2 x Pijon Invader Various Buoyancy aids / Helmets / Paddles Phone club sec Paul Jenkins 0790 994 2931 (Kent)

Coleman Open Canadian - Ram-X construction VGC wooden paddles £275 WWR K1 Gabyo Delphin 81 E65 Various plastic kayaks for sale. Dancers etc from £80 Ian Snodin 01332 873789

Complete Wilderness Paddler by Davidson & Ruggie, 1975, first edition. Very good condition in dustwrapper. £22 including UK post. 01237 475165

Cyphur and Conquest for sale both in very good condition £150 each. Telephone 01890751331 or E-Mail lesley@lough52.freescrve.co.uk

Dagger Centrifuge: 2 yrs old, faded red multi art. Coaching use only, well looked after. Full WWS spec. £400 ono. Call Lewis on 07968 354009 or email johnlew@btopenworld.co.uk Live in Barmsey area S. Yorkshire.

Dagger ID 6.8 - ex-Demo, nearly new. Would like to swap for ID 6.9. - Yes, I am fatter than I hoped! 01234 853638. Bedford.

Dagger R.P.M. - Great Condition, Black/Blue/White. Hardly been used. Swirls-all round boat. Plus Werner Carbon Fibre paddle, Palm buoyancy aid, Palm roof ties, Play Boater - Spray deck unused. Bargain - all in for £550.00. Tel Jon on - 07956098222

Dagger Vengeance, playboat, excellent condition, garaged £250. Bristol Area. Contact Simon 07870 248235. Email annetteandsimon@tinworld.co.uk

Dagger Ultrafrage: Great condition. Nottingham area. £350. Jon: 0115 9811725

Dagger vengeance. An excellent intermediate white water kayak. Easy for most advanced skills and tricks. Fits most under the size of 5'9". for only £350 ono. Contact Ben tyler. 01242 675345

Dagger Vengeance. Top condition in blue and white. Stored indoors. Superb boat for play and surf suited to lighter paddlers. £340. Email charlie@cowuk.net Tel 07973 264310 or 01509 222419.

Folding Canoe for Sale. Pouch RZ 85 Touring Double Canoe. Never been on the water! Carrying Bags, Rudder & Paddles. Telephone for details. Will not give it away, but this is an absolute bargain. Only £ 475. Tel. 01932 343 746 (Surrey)

H:2, S:8, S:6, 450 each all vgc. will deliver to north west for petrol money, contact me for more details tel: 07739 094 594 email: matt.morrison@dpblue.co.uk

Inazone 230. Slightly battered but a safe solid paddle, £250. Nottingham area. Jon: 0115 9811725

K1 'Retro' Slalom kayak. Karbon/Kevalur Hull, Carbon deck. Used twice, immaculate condition. £500 o.n.o. allanlee85@yahoo.co.uk

Kayak kevlar, 11kg, Tbar £150, wing paddle and cover £30, wooden seat £40 zip spray deck pogies £7. Contact Kay 07780534786 Hampshire

Kendo Evolution - 2 years old, excellent condition, with new deck. £350. In NE England. Email doctorcurly@hotmail.com

Liquid Logic Session. Blue, lovely slicy cartwheel machine, sponsorship forces sale. £425 o.n.o. Contact Geraint on 0787 0127566

Mad River Intrigue open canoe. Excellent condition, Green, Plastic Gunwhales, cane seats and kneeling thwart. kevlar bang plate kit. Air Bags. Little used. £550 ono. Tel 07764392346

Mountain 300 in good condition - red colour complete with airbags and all fittings. Excellent river runner for the medium sized or larger paddler. Stable but responsive. Please phone Alan on 0710 708712 or email aat.brown@lineone.net

Necky Switch, Blue Used but not abused, bomber gear back rest. £450 (may haggle) 01635 550528 ask for Paul

Necky Switch - VGC, hardly used and house trained. Can deliver. A sweet £400 ono. Peugeot 306 hatchback roof rack - £40 ono. Call Me on 07790006816

Necky Switch two tone Red-Orange Nice and Cheep at £450 or nearest offer Financial issues reason for salecan get it to Hpp or Hurley Interested?

Contact Ryan 07986 420 244 or rgm.activty_coach@hotmail.com

Necky R I P for sale. Fabulous surf / white water boat for a beginner / intermediate paddler. In twin colours of red / touquoise. Full white water spec including air bags etc. Only £265. Contact 01244 - 811380 (Chester) for further details. Local water is Llangollen or Bala

Nordkapp HM sea kayak. The classic expedition kayak. White GRP 3 hatches/bulkheads. Ocean cockpit. Deck pump. Knee tube. Good condition. 600 pounds sterling. View in Kent. Owner in Thailand - nicholasfromdevon@yahoo.co.uk

Obsession K1 sprint canoe for sale £600. Duo C2 £100. Call Chris Wilson 07736 257020.

Old Twin Pack 12ft solo open canoe, royalet, very light-33lbs, green, as new £395. Tel Dave 02476667101 or 07786655846

P&H Xenon slalom/GP K1, glass/diolen construction, excellent condition - in fact virtually unused, open to sensible offers. Call Chris on 0114 230 3097

Perception Corsica S (purple) 150, Eskimo Gambler (black) 140, Pijon Hurricane (red) 130, All excellent beginner boats. Used but in good condition, full whitewater spec, full-plate footrest, garage stored. Prices include airbags. Contact Owen on 02920912581 or 07796857203 or daviesowen@hotmail.com (Cardiff)

Perception Mr Clean, with paddle, spraydeck and other kit, good condition. £300. Phone or text Paul on 07759 125385 (Guildford)

Perception Mr Clean, Kober paddle, spray deck and helmet. £395. Blowkarts good condition great fun for windy days £750.00 each contact steve at steve@jones@amserv.com or 01443 740156

Perception piroouette s in good condition hardly ever used not needed because bought new boat. £275 or nearest offer contact Ross at 01494 433982

Perception phat, excellent creek boat in v.good condition, little use on white water. contact oily on 07870 572371

Perception Sabre £120 MI Breaker surfer ski £100 VCP Nordcap HM £375 VCP Weekender sea kayak £100 Gabyo WWR K1E80 Microbat 230 (repaired) £135. Various fibre glass kayaks(slalom, general purpose and baths) all sound with decks from £25) Phone Derby 01332 873789 mob07711 083920

Perception Spin - 6 months old, excellent condition, x team boat, £450, phone james on 01276 475719 or 07729871896

Perception Super Sport, blue, excellent condition stored indoors. Complete with paddle. £250ono. Cambridgeshire. Tel 01480 891144 E-mail alexcade@hotmail.com

Peugeot 206 roofrack. 3 door only, good condition and solid fit. £45. 07779 577294. west mid's, DY8.

Ply Canoe 11'6" Excellent Condition £300 on 01562 865308

Polo paddles - 200 cm, carbon blades, carbon / kevlar shaft. V.good condition £85 ono contact telephone : 01492 514051

Prijon Fly kayak, red, under a year old, excellent condition, full ww spec, suited to the smaller paddler, £250. Contact Ed on 07979 403832 epi@snoton.ac.uk (Southampton).

Prijon Seayak, plastic seakayak complete with rudder. Excellent condition, only used 2 or 3 times. £600. Tel: 01780 721026 or email mike.cockrell@which.net

Prijon Spud. Yellow. Toughest creek boat ever made, sponsorship forces sale. £150 o.n.o. Contact Geraint on 0787 0127566

Prijon T-Slaloms. 14 ex-centre kayaks for sale. All well used but still serviceable, complete with footrests & backrests. £75 each. Various faded shades of red! Fort William area. Contact Dave Ford or Claire Knifton at outward bound Scotland on 01397 772866; or email lesinstructors@outwardbound-uk.org

Pyranha Acrobat 270 multiart v.g. £275 ono tel

Dave 02476667101 or 07786655846.

Pyranha Acrobat 270 in black. Full ww spec. Ideal beginner's ww boat. Well loved but in good condition. £250 ono. Contact Tony 07968843315 or e-mail flat5@lyham.fsnet.co.uk Preston area.

Pyranha Inazone 230 One year old, green, need to sell going travelling £300. Also surf ski (up to 75kg) with paddle and leash, out grown £100. Tel. Oliver 07890318079 or 01608 650356 - Gloucestershire.

Pyranha Master Lite - Smaller version of the "Master", this is probably the best kayak available for younger/smaller paddlers, suitable for flat water through to grade 1-2 moving water. This boat has a built in retractable skeg (to stop boat spinning in the hands of beginners) and adjustable footrests (for quick changeovers when its someone elses turn!) I am selling the boat with an almost new, keyhole size neoprene spraydeck (doesn't fit new boat). £200 Phone 0161 2922427 or email mike.corrin@uk.ibm.com (Stockport)

Pyranha Microbat 230, only paddled once, full WWS spec incl airbags, garaged, £350. Bristol Area. Contact Simon 07870 248235. email annetteandsimon@tinworld.co.uk

Pyranha Mountain Bat 300. Light purple. Well used. Never abused. No repairs. Garaged. A sound and faithful servant. Ideal for any novice or beginner. £160 (with a medium spraydeck). Contact John @ Royal Leamington Spa CC. Tel: (01926) 771446 (H) 07947 166099 (cell) or john.hannan1@ntlworld.com

Pyranha Mountain 300 - All round general purpose kayak with double concave hull suitable for river trips, white water and flat-water touring. Suitable for larger paddlers or those carrying gear. Full plate foot rest. Good condition. £200 Phone 0161 2922427 or email mike.corrin@uk.ibm.com (Stockport)

Pyranha playboats, S6 190, S6 200, S8 225. £500 each S7.1, S7.2, £450 each. No scratches these kayaks have only been used in the pool and a couple of times on flat water. N Yorks. Paula 07867 903928.

Pyranha Prelude whitewater iopen canoe with saddle and full airbags. As new. 2002 model. £550 Call 01540 661051

Pyranha Prozone 225 Team Colours, good play and surf kayak. £250. N Yorks. Paula 07867 903928.

Pyranha S6 200 as new, paddled once £575 Call 077665 22348

Pyranha Rangers 16s, 2 seat and 3 seat versions in red. Very good condition, hardly used. Both with bow and stern airbags. £450 no offers. Please contact either Dave McCarthy or Matt Warland by telephone on 01234 782211 or email to: ghawkins@shambrook.beds.sch.uk

Pyranha Storm Orange with some yellow fleck. A nice flat bottomed kayak for an introduction to white water and surfing for the beginner or novice. Good river runner with volume. Suit teenager or adult. £200. Contact John @ Royal Leamington Spa CC. Tel (01926) 771446 (h) 07947 166099 (cell) or john.hannan1@ntlworld.com

Raider waxeski: Excellent condition. Suit 12 stone and below. Lap strap, leash, fins. Nottingham area. £150. Jon: 0115 9811725

Revenge 'Polo' plastic canoe polo boat (blue) with Keeper Footrests, Backrest, Padded Ends, used 1.5 seasons, approx. 2-3 years old, £95. Tim on 07748 931903 or timmurdoch@avenuecw.co.uk

Riot Booster 55 excellent condition, latest spec. Only 8 months old. Great boat for rivers and play. Based in North West near Chester, can meet. £450 tel H 0151 645 5235 M 07702 817152

Riot Booster 55 Excellent Condition Blue(ish) in colour All original padding (uncut) £450ono. e-mail: dhevworth@mmm.com or dan17@btinternet.com Tel: 01254 386352 Mob: 07779 714627 (North West)

Riot Dominatrix 44: Yellow and red play boat, excellent condition - nearly new, £300 ono. Email: canoe.club@durham.ac.uk

Riot Glide - very good condition, excellent surf and river runner. Happy to throw in neoprene spray deck. 300 ono. Tel Adrian on 0771 3636 902. Boat located very close to Nene White Water Centre, Northampton but could possibly deliver.

Roof Rack/ Roof Bars for Mk2 VW Golf. Excellent condition, £25, contact tim on 07956 434841 or email t.pearson@shf.ac.uk

Roof bars - Thule, for car with gutters £20. Yak canoeing salopettes, med, cerise, good cond, ideal for open boating - £25. Neoprene shorts - sml £10, Nookie dry bag, dble seal, neoprene neck, sml hardly used £40, Rockclimbing boots - size 7 vertick odyssey, worn once, £25 tel 07734 464751 (Lakes)

Royal Canoe Club Rules and list of members 1888, 1908 and 1926 (Diamond Jubilee) The Books are in hard covers and are in perfect condition.

Offers/Enquiries to Mr. C.Somers, County Carlow, Ireland. Ph. 087 6663829.

S6 200 three months old ,perfect condition, only used in surf, orange and red £525 ono contact bsuac5@bangor.ac.uk

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Werner side kick paddles on the river Luss near Loch Lomond on Sat 8/2/03. Return appreciated if they are found 01434 672303

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Your role will be to play an active part in the Water Parks future development, ensuring that it meets its full potential and continually improves its service provision both to the local community and Doncaster's Tourism. You will also undertake the role of RYA Centre Principal to ensure that activity standards and safety are met at all times.

Applicants must have a Senior Dinghy Sailing Instructor qualification and experience working at a water sports activity centre. Other desirable qualifications include RYA Level 2 Windsurfing Instructor and RYA Powerboat Instructor.

This an exciting opportunity which requires commitment and dedication and you will be expected to work some evenings and weekends.

A relocation package is available.

For further information and an informal discussion please contact Graham Cawthorne on (01302) 737362. An application form and further details can be obtained from Doris Hardy (01302) 735177 or e mail TradServ.Recruitment@doncaster.gov.uk The closing date for applications is 11 April 2003 (Ref: X386/NEB2)

Applications from all sections of the community are encouraged in order to ensure our workforce reflects the communities in which we work.

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Delphi Adventure Holidays	Fax: 00353 95 42303
Leenane	Email:
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Ireland	



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SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

JNC LEVEL 2 POINT 4 £14,044

BEWL WATER OUTDOOR CENTRE NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS

REF: EP/02/059R

You will be responsible for coaching a range of outdoor and adventurous activities to young people and the wider community. Additional responsibilities include deputising for the Head of Centre in his absence, maintenance of a range of outdoor equipment to a high standard and PR and marketing of the Centre. Applicants must hold the RYA Senior Instructor Award and ideally BCU Level 3 Coach and the MLTB Single Pitch Award as well.

For an application form and job description please email: janet.streek@kent.gov.uk telephone 01622 221212 or write to Youth & Community, Education & Libraries Directorate, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX.

For further details of the post and about sessional work available please call Richard Retallick on 01892 890716.

Applications to be received by 11th April 2003.



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AT

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Fiona Hutchison on 020 8547 5812 or
email fionah@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



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We have a number of centres based in Northumberland and Scotland providing activities including canoeing, kayak, sea kayaking, windsurfing, sailing, climbing & abseiling, hill walking, orienteering and problem solving. We require instructors with a range of national governing body and leadership qualifications.

Full driving licence with D1 entitlement and educational experience an advantage but not essential.

Comprehensive training available.

Remuneration dependant upon experience and qualifications. Full board accommodation available.

For more information and an application form please contact The Outdoor Trust on 01668 213289
Email: trust@outdoor.demon.co.uk



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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Redruth, TR16 6NL



Windermere Outdoor Adventure Have vacancies for the following

Deputy Principal – Full Time – Scale 5 - £17402 - £17995

The post holder will require to have substantial experience of teaching Watersports to young people together with managerial experience including leadership of other staff. Programme and staff planning, equipment ordering and maintenance, an ability to deal with clients and members of the public, and to deputise for the Principal in the day-to-day running of the Centre is essential.

Qualifications required:

RYA Senior Instructor (Dinghy)
BCU Level 3 Coach Kayak/Open Canoe
Instructor level in Windsurfing

Power boating and land based activities would be an advantage

Candidates who have at least two of the above qualifications may be considered

Chief Instructor – Full Time – Scale 4 - £14316 - £15957

The post-holder will require to have substantial experience of teaching Watersports to young people and the ability to work in a flexible way as part of a team to supervise staff and oversee the maintenance of site and equipment. Practical ability to act as waterfront controller and co-ordinator of activities.

Qualifications required:

RYA Senior Instructor (Dinghy)
BCU Level 3 Coach Kayak/Canoe
Instructor level in Windsurfing

Power boating and land based activities would be an advantage

Candidates who have at least one of the above qualifications plus other watersports qualifications at a lower level may be considered.

Both the above posts are initially offered as a one year contract

2 Posts for Seasonal Instructors – £13716 - £14040 pro-rata

The post-holders require to have experience of teaching Watersports to young people and a willingness to work in a flexible way as part of a team under the direction of the management and to assist in the implementation of the Code of Practice and administrative procedures.

Qualifications required:

RYA Instructor (Dinghy)
BCU Level 2 Coach Kayak or Open Canoe
RYA Windsurfing Instructor Level 2

Power boating and land based activities would be an advantage

Candidates should have at least two of the above N.G.B. qualifications.

For application forms please contact Nigel H Seymour, Principal on

Telephone: 015394 47183

Fax: 01539447330

Email: woa@telinco.co.uk

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Instructors Required

For a busy multi-activity centre providing a wide range of activities to schools, youth groups and universities throughout the UK and Ireland.

NGB Qualifications Required

Kayaking, Climbing, Archery, Sailing, Wind Surfing, Safety Boat Handling, Lifeguards etc.

Please forward applications to
 Mr William Ward,
 Adventure Centre Manager,
 Tel: 00 (353) 42 9375385
 Fax: 00 (353) 42 9375417
 E-mail: tainhol@eircom.net



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The Prince's Trust - Cymru

Activity Centre Manager

Salary £25,000 per annum
 Based in Pembrokeshire

Permanent Contract

The Prince's Trust Cymru supports over 5,000 young people each year to reach their full potential through self-development programmes, mentor support and financial aid. The Trust's Centre in Pembrokeshire has an all year round multi activity calendar. We are currently looking to recruit an Activity Centre Manager to manage and develop our outdoor activity programme. This new post will attract a high quality manager with experience of running a busy outdoor centre who is able to demonstrate significant development success in previous posts.

You will have good outdoor qualifications 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.

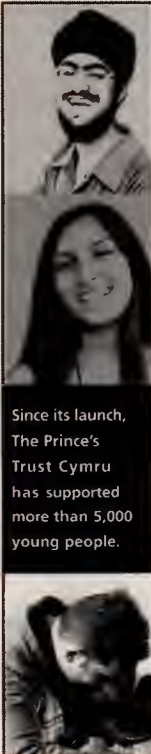
Ref: ACM/001/01/CF.

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

The closing date for submitting an application is 30 April 2003.

The Prince's Trust values diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

www.princes-trust.org.uk



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Vacancies for 2003 season

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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

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

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

Or email: admin@stubbers.co.uk

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Local Solutions Merseysport

We are looking for instructors for the forthcoming season April to October 2003. Applicants must hold one of the following minimum Governing Body Qualifications:

BCU Kayak Level Two Coach, RYA Dinghy Instructor
40 hours per week any 5 from 7 days.

Late evening and weekend work essential.

Salary £12,500 per annum pro rata. Positions could be made permanent at season end depending on funding.

For further details please contact Rob or

Maureen on 0151 708 9322

Local Solutions is committed to

Equal Opportunities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



High Adventure is a privately owned, busy outdoor centre in North Yorkshire. We require instructors and trainee instructors from April to work 5 out of 7 days a week with groups ranging from Primary children to Stag, Hen and corporate events.

Conditions of service are excellent and accommodation is a large house specifically for instructors, training is frequent and your professional development is taken seriously and given due attention. We are hoping to appoint a senior instructor from the successful candidates to take a more indepth role in the running of a Centre.

If you have motivation, a sense of humour and would like to work in a professional environment with like minded people please contact:

Chris Jepson

Tel: 01535 630044

E-mail: info@highadventureoec.co.uk

Salary range: 10k to 12k depending upon experience and qualifications

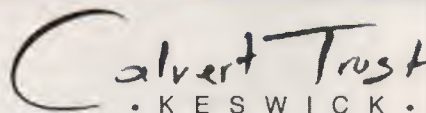
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We have vacancies for short and long term staff for 2003.

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



Cumbria, CA12 4QD Tel: (017687) 72254

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Further details and application form from above address

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

All spruced up

Hydrology Cag

Bomber Gear have recently spruced up the drygear range and we've been testing some of it playboating on the Thames Weirs, on rivers around Blighty and out in Ecuador.

They've put in a couple of quite innovative features which I haven't seen in dry gear before. By far the most useful is the dry pocket in the Hydrology Cag, which I think will be standard across their range. This is just the right size for a passport so comes in pretty handy while travelling. It's basically the same design as the Ortlieb passport pouch, but in the same fabric as the cag, and is built in within the chest pocket. They've got new zips on the outside of all the pockets which look like dry closures, but I don't think they're completely watertight (the pockets have a drain mesh anyway so water gets in).

This seems to work pretty well as long as you make sure you squeeze all the air out completely (normal procedure for sealing a dry bag really). Can get a bit damp if you don't, but if sealed properly it seems watertight even after a solid rinsing on 4 at Hurley.



Bombardment Dry Pants

The dry troos also feature this dry pocket which I think is the most useful – I always seem to forget something waterproof to put my car key in when I go boating and end up having to give it to friends. The lads from Marlow Canoe Club I think will be able to tell you that leaving keys under the front wheel of the Minibus can also tend to be a costly exercise.

This pouch in the dry trousers means that you have an accessible pocket for you key even when you've put all your kit on and is slightly more convenient than trying to get it into the chest dry pocket once you've put your buoyo on. What's nice is that the pocket in the Bombardment Dry Pants is positioned so that the key doesn't dig into your hip when you sit in the boat as well.

Another new feature is a transparent window for your watch so that you can see it without having to mess about with the cuffs of the dry cag. Of course it's not quite so convenient for left



handlers, but then us lefties are used to that. One niggle with the cag are the outer fabric wrist seals, which seem to hold water between them and inner seal – some kind of drain hole would probably be a good idea (they may put this on the production model). The waist

drawcord buckle also seems a bit flimsy as well, but that should be easy enough to replace if it goes.

The trousers have an upside down double seal, so if you put that around the inner seal of your cag, you have a pretty watertight seal around the waist before you put your deck over the top. We tested this in Scotland and it seemed to not let any water in around the waist, which is a big change from other dry trousers I've used. That said I've only jumped in a river, not swum through a big hole in it so it might not hold up to full pressure.

I've used cheaper dry trousers in the past without breathable fabric, but ended up not wearing them because I tended to get a pool of sweat around my ankles that actually made me quite chilly. The new Bombardment Dry Pants we tested are made of Micro Dot fabric which isn't supposed to be fully breathable, but seems to do a good job to me (doesn't seem to get sweaty at all even after a day of use bashing around the banks of Scottish rivers).

Marc Musgrove
or more information
Bomber Gear products
www.wetndry.com



Delta Sportswear Combo

The eagerly anticipated Delta Sportswear Long sleeve Cag and Long John have hit the shops just in time for the Canoe Exhibition where a number of retailers will be selling them. The Delta Long Sleeve Cag is a durable, breathable, rip stop Cag and features a ventable neck, adjustable cuffs and waist, and a chest pocket. All of this makes it a superb Cag for touring, open boating, summer instructing as well as a whole host of other watersports as well. Currently available in blue it is sized XL to XS and has a T.S.P. of £37.99.

The Delta Long John is an innovative suit that is ideal for any paddlesport or watersport where the user wants the best combination of performance and comfort. The suit, which is made from 3 and 4mm double lined neoprene comes in both men's and ladies shapes and has an impressive list of features including: Pre bent and twisted legs, super stretch panels behind the knees and under the arms, a unique zipless neck entry (eliminating the problems of Zip damage and jamming), rubber knee protectors and is flat locked for increased comfort. It is available sized XL to S in both men's and ladies and has a TSP of £69.99.

For more information on these or other products visit www.delta-sportswear.com or ring 01822 618688



NKE Long John

The NKE mission is to provide solid, reliable, hardwearing kit at sensible prices and their new NKE Long John Wetsuit fits the bill exactly. It is made from 4mm double lined Neoprene, with a two way YKK zip, reinforced knees and colour coding for size. These features make this Long John ideal for any surface watersport like kayaking, sailing or windsurfing. It comes sized from XL to Junior, has a T.S.P. of £49.95 and is now available from all good Kayak Stores. For more information on this and other products email nke@delta-sportswear.com or phone 01822 618688





Yak Kurve Freestyle Paddling Vest

While cags may be great at keeping you warm on even the coldest days, undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of safety equipment that every paddler should wear is a buoyancy aid. Buoyancy aids are similar to life jackets, except they make it easier to move and provide additional protection against injuries sustained from colliding with hard objects such as rocks, however they do not turn you face up if you are knocked unconscious,

In freestyle, it is important that body movement and rotation is not restricted in any way (even if you have a few layers underneath!) and this latest offering from Yak is designed with ergonomically low cut sides to give that total freedom of movement, whilst remaining secure and comfortable enough for a full days kayaking.

It is easy to pop on and a doddle to use the straps to secure yourself. It oozes quality and is well constructed with a tough Cordura shell and those shoulder and side adjustment straps. There is also a name panel you can personalise and as with the Kurta drycag, a spacious front cargo pocket, incorporating an internal D-ring for securing any type of key.

The Yak Kurve can be used in a variety of watersports including white water kayaking, kayak surfing, playboating, river running, general canoeing, sailing, windsurfing and rafting. Due to its practicality on all types of water, comfort, freedom of movement and good value for money, what more can you ask for? The YAK Kurve Buoyancy

Aids should be around £55.00 and can be found in all good outdoor pursuits stores.

Red/Black: Jun, S/M, M/L, XL
Blue/Black: Jun, S/M, M/L, XL



Yak Kurta Neoprene Neck Drycag

As any kayaker knows, one of the best pieces of kit anyone one can have is a cag and though these pieces of clothing remind me of the difficulty astronauts have putting on their spacesuits, it is the slight penalty to pay for a garment that will keep you warm and totally dry.

The new Kurta by Yak has a neoprene neck seal, latex & adjustable neoprene wrist seals and adjustable twin neoprene waist seals, the inner of which forms a seal against your body or clothes much like the rubber cuffs do and the outer seal which goes over the top of your spraydeck. The outer seal is a couple of inches shorter than the inner seal to prevent it from rucking up. There is also a spacious, mesh drained front cargo pocket, incorporating an internal D-ring for securing your keys. All the Latex seals are stitched, glued and taped.

This is kayaking gear of the highest quality, the best of which has to be the excellent clean design with virtually no cords dangling around. The attention to detail is first class with reinforced patches of RMR400 nylon material giving a high level of protection in all the areas subject to high wear. The breathability of the garment is provided by the BR1000 quality material allowing body moisture to escape as water vapour. Due to this, it is a garment I would be happy to live with all year.

This is indeed kayaking gear of the highest quality with the design work, attention to detail, and a build quality which tells you it will last. The Yak Kurta is excellent value for money at around £99.00 and can be found in all good outdoor pursuits stores.

Blue/Black: S, M, L, XL
Grey/Black: S, M, L, XL



Destination Nowhere

Westgarth TV, 37 mins



This time the gene17 crew (ex looner land) travel a bit closer to home to bring you a whole summers worth of white water action.

First up is a new school surf fest from Portugal with its powerful but warm Atlantic swell. This not your usual rail to rail surfing more a full

blown aerial assault with top German freestyler Tobias Bersch spinning and flipping his way to shore. The smooth lines of top Brit adventurer Ed Cornfield also get an air injection.

The vid then moves on to what we were expecting, big drops, technical big drops and big holes, this is why you need a big creek boat. Piemonte's landscape is stunning and very steep. We are treated to a bit of culture (fine food and opera on a kayaking vid!)

A short glimpse of extreme racing shows the danger involved in this discipline. Off the water comedy and companionship remind us why we travel with friends and gives us some time to catch a breath.

Norways Arctic circle provides us with a seemingly never ending amount of waterfall action, these guys are either a bit looney or totally on top of their game! The Miracle boys superhero antics sees comedy and carnage and big move play boating shows all the latest moves, donkey flips, loops and the elusive helix!

Worldwide travellers the White water warriors share some funky music and an ethos I would like to live by. Its not just this section that has funky music as its great through out, fast n` furious chilled and bouncy and fits well to the boating. Crazy creaking, comical capers and crashing surf make for hugely entertaining viewing.

The Westgarth TV machine keeps getting better and watching this just leaves one question. Where to go this summer?

Ray Goodwin

Cheshire Ring Race 28-29th June

Marathon race, run over 24 hours, 96 miles including 92 locks & 5 tunnels to be portaged, including night paddling. Enter as a team, or as an individual.

For information or an application form, contact; **Pauline** @23madcc.fsnet.co.uk or ring 01925 75 6728.

PeakUK Whitewater Challenge dates

After the success of the first International event in Nepal in 2002 the PeakUK Whitewater Challenge is becoming a truly worldwide event. Not only is there an event again in Nepal but on in Africa as well.

UK Series:
April 5-6

River Tryweryn, Bala, North Wales

May 3-5

Nottingham Kayaking Festival, Holme Pierrepont

August 30-31

Tees Side Whitewater Course, Stockton on Tees

September 27-28

Nene Whitewater Course, Northampton

October 4-5

Nottingham Final / British Freestyle Championships, Holme Pierrepont

Global Series:

September 19-21

Shearwater / Peak UK Challenge. Zambezi River Zimbabwe / Zambia

November 22-24

Equator / Peak UK Challenge. Bhote Kosi River Nepal

Checkout www.peakuk.com for more info and a downloadable entry form.

Snowdonia Charity Challenge

Saturday 28th June

A unique team challenge event to raise funds for men and women who are paralysed in sports accidents is set to attract teams with an even wider range of abilities in its third year.

The Snowdonia Charity Challenge is a one-day cycling, climbing and canoeing triathlon set in Snowdonia National Park in North Wales. Organisers are currently taking registrations for the 2003 event to be held on Saturday 28th June from teams from companies, clubs and groups of friends.

Teams of four compete against each other in the sponsored challenge to raise funds for REGAIN - the only charitable organisation dedicated solely to supporting men and women who become tetraplegic (severely paralysed) as the result of a sporting accident. It is a testing challenge for the very fittest of teams who want to set a good time. It is however an excellent team-building event for less experienced outdoor enthusiasts who want an action-packed and fun day helping charity at the same time.

The winning team last year - Ethos Health and Fitness from Cheshire - smashed the record and romped home in an amazing 5 hours 41 minutes. In contrast an all-girls team called the 69ers from Wiltshire were the last team to finish, completing the challenge in 10 hours and 50 minutes but keeping the marshals entertained and having a huge amount of fun along the way.

Each team is required to raise a minimum of £500 per person (£2,000 per team) for REGAIN to take part in the challenge. The challenge starts in Llanbedd in the heart of Snowdonia where teams set off on the first leg of a 40-mile circular cycling route around Snowdon. Along the way they will have to climb Snowdon itself before completing the cycling section and heading for a grand finish across Lake Padarn in canoes. Team members do not need canoe experience as rafted (roped together) Canadian canoes are used.

For further information contact **Ann Frampton at Action for Charity on 01590 612227 or email: events@actionforcharity.co.uk**

Conwy Ascent 2003

17th May

This year the Conwy Ascent race and tour will be on Saturday 17 May. The date has been chosen to coincide with a big tide which should result in some fast times and pleasant touring.

As usual the race is split into three classes, each with its own start: Touring Canadians, Singles and Doubles. Three years ago the race was on a similar tide and at least five course records were broken. Tourers can set off any time within a 90min window.

The course starts on the shore near the Conwy marina, goes up through the busy harbour and past the castle into a wide section where the fastest route is up the middle. Then the river becomes narrower and twists and turns past wooded slopes and through reed beds before reaching the finish at Dolgarrog. Participants use a wide variety of craft, including open Canadians, GPs, white water racers, sea kayaks and marathon boats. Buoyancy aids are compulsory and safety boats are provided.

For details contact **Penny Wingfield on 01492 650989 at Coed-Lyn, Rowen, Conwy LL32 8YL or visit our website at www.dcpaddlers.fsnet.co.uk/conwy_ascent/**

Shetland Sea Kayak Symposium 2003

4th - 7th July

Programme

Registration will be at Bridge-End Outdoor Centre on Friday morning, July 4th from 10am onwards. The programme will start that afternoon with an introductory paddle open to all. In the evening there will be a short introduction to Shetland and to the Symposium.

On Saturday July 5th there will be a choice of sessions, including a short trip open to all, a longer trip for more experienced paddlers, practical training sessions, seminars and talks. Topics for practical sessions should include Boat Handling Skills, Forward Paddling Clinic, Safety and Rescues. The swimming pool in Scalloway (five miles away) has been booked for a practical session on rolling later on Saturday afternoon. Saturday will be rounded off with an informal social evening in the Bridge-End Hall with music by local artists - and visitors we hope!

Sunday's programme will follow a similar pattern to Saturday, with trips being decided on Saturday evening. Also on Sunday there will be a session on safety involving Shetland Coastguard.

On Monday 7th there will be a similar, but slightly reduced programme, finishing mid-afternoon for those with onward travel arrangements.

The list of Shetland-based paddlers leading sessions and trips is headed this year by Martin Rickard. Martin is based on the island of Whalsay and has recent experience of paddling in East Greenland.

for further information please contact **Tom Smith, Sunshine Cottage, Bridge-End, Burra Isle, Shetland ZE2 9LD Tel/fax 01595 859647, e-mail tom@televiradio.demon.co.uk**

Go the extra mile for Macmillan Cancer Relief 18th and 25th May

Colourful mascot Miles the Mouse is calling on boat enthusiasts to do something different, this May - join the Macmillan Miles Challenge. Taking place between 18 and 25 May, the challenge raises money to help Macmillan Cancer Relief support people living with cancer.

It can be as simple as you like - as long as it is a challenge for you. Why not canoe or sail a mile in fancy-dress, or organise a boating relay race and get sponsored for it!

Last year, 30,000 people joined in and raised over £400,000 between them - this year, we want to beat this fantastic total, so we need your help! For more information on the Macmillan Miles Challenge, including details of organised walks in your area, call the hotline on 0845 602 1490. Join in and make a real difference to people living with cancer.

NOW! 2003

3rd - 11th May

The British Canoe Union is the latest organisation to put its backing behind National Outdoor Week, "Paddling a canoe is a great way to see and experience the waterways of Britain and spring is an excellent time to take to the water" said Richard Ward, English Coaching Development Manager and BCU NOW! co-ordinator.

"Traditionally clubs and centres are getting into full swing; encouraging people to have a go at canoeing for the first time and rekindling interest, so the timing of NOW! is ideal. A national campaign supporting local and regional events will really help clubs and centres promote their events and get more people on the water".

Canoe clubs, activity centres and other organisers of canoeing and kayaking events are being encouraged to register details of taster days, introductory courses, demonstrations and displays taking place over the May Day holiday weekend and through the following week on the NOW! web site at www.outdoorweek.org.uk. Events can also be registered by post using a form available by contacting the NOW! office on 020 8842 1111.

Washburn River 2003

Information for this year's events can be found at www.btinternet.com/~BCU.Yorkshire or by contacting the Washburn information line on 07626 978654.



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