

THE OFFICIAL CANOEING MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

canoe

focus

10-03

No. 145

£2.00

Irish Sea crossing

Canoeing

on Lake Manyara

Plus all the usual features and...

European Polo Champs; WW Racing World Cup
Junior Sprint & Slalom World Champs

**7 pages of jobs, courses
and accommodation**



WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER UNDER THE RACE RELATIONS ACT & WELCOME MALE ENQUIRIES FROM ALL ETHNIC GROUPS

**YOU'RE BEATEN.
YOU CAN'T GO ON.**

GOODBYE.

IF YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH OF MIND
TO BECOME A ROYAL MARINE VISIT
ROYALNAVY.MOD.UK OR CALL 08456 07 55 55.

99.99% NEED NOT APPLY.



Canoe Focus

The official magazine
of the British Canoe Union
John Dudderidge House, Adbolton
Lane, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 5AS
Tel: (0115) 9821100
Fax: (0115) 9821797

E-mail: info@bcu.org.uk

www.bcu.org.uk

ISBN 0953-010X

BCU Enquiries to
above address

President

Albert Woods

Chair

Brian Chapman

Chief Executive

Paul Owen

Annual Subscription Rate

UK inland: £18.00

Overseas: £23.50

Supplied free to BCU members -

Adults: £27.00 basic

£32.50 comprehensive

Under 18's: £13.50 basic

£16.50 comprehensive

Family: £12.50 basic

£15.50 comprehensive

Publishing Contractors

2b Graphic Design
49 Greenfields, St. Ives,
Cambs. PE27 5HB
Tel/Fax: (01480) 465081
ISDN 01480 359956

E-mail: peter@canoefocus.co.uk

www.2bgraphicdesign.com

Editor

Peter Tranter

01480 465081

Assistant Editor

Debbie Colt

Advertising Sales

Anne Egan

01480 465081

Printed by

Warners, Bourne, Lincs

Magazine Design

Steve Clarke

Illustrations

Richard O' Donovan

Typesetting and Page Make-up by

2b Graphic Design

THE BCU VISION IS TO:

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

The BCU's mission is quite
simply helping and
inspiring people to
go canoeing

Paddle now join us now,
together we can all
achieve more

"Canoeing and kayaking are
'Assumed risk water contact sports.'
that may carry attendant risks.
Participants should be aware of and
accept these risks, and be
responsible for their own action and
involvement".

Contributors:

Canoe Focus would like to thank the
following contributors for their
articles and photographs:

Kevin East, Rob Cunliffe, George
Arnison, Brett Wastie, Grainne Duggan,
Simon Wright, Laurence Oliver, Anne
Ferguson, S Montgomery, Ruth
Bermudez, Mike Martin, Nobby Cranny,
Ken Jackson, Ian Aitken, Tony Cornwell,
John Fenna, Sue Hornby and
Mike Devlin

Front cover:

An aggressive clash in the Germany vs
Netherlands European Polo
Championship final

Photo: Grainne Duggan
Photography

Contents

5 Comment

6 News

12 Access

14 Feature: Irish Sea crossing

Anglesey – Dun Laoghaire.

18 Competition: Euro Polo Champs

Bronze all-round for Britain in Ireland.

20 Competition: WW Racing

World Cup from California, USA.

22 Competition: Junior Sprint Racing

World Championships from Japan.

24 Competition: Slalom

World Championships from Germany.

26 Feature: Tanzania

Canoeing on Lake Manyara.

28 Feature: London

London canals: London sunrise...

30 Feature: Me v. Leptospirosis

A close encounter with Leptospirosis.

32 Youth:

Children of Chernobyl 2003 and the London
Youth Games.

34 Youth: Youthfest 2003

36 Letters

Your points of view.

38 Member's classified

39 Classified section

Courses, accommodation, equipment, insurance and
vacancies in the canoeing job market.

46 Paddler's gear

Reviews of new and useful products from: Volvo,
Pelican, Helly Hansen, Powerblade, Coleman,
Nookie, BCU Supplies and Yak.

50 Events

What's happening for late autumn 2003.

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 it's agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. Next Copy date is the **28th OCTOBER 2003**. Material arriving after this date cannot be included in the **DECEMBER 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.



Starter Pack

BOAT: Conquest/
Cypher
DECK: Yak Nylon
PADDLE: HPI
was
£348.90
OFFER
£299



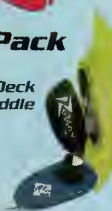
BEG-INT Pack

BOAT: ARC, SPARK,
JIVE 8'10" or KENDO
DECK: Yak Kronos
PADDLE: Schlegal N20
was £581
OFFER
£509



Dagger Pack

Dagger Kingpin
Palm Extreme Deck
Robson Chill Paddle
was
£994
OFFER
£869



Malibu Two Pack

BOAT: Malibu 2
PADDLE:
2 x Pyrahna HPI
PFD:
2 x Escape Vest
RRP: 528.80
OFFER
£459



DEMO BOATS AVAILABLE £20 PER DAY

Offer Boats

Pyrahna 56x (new).....from **£829**
Necky Chronic (new).....**£750**
Necky Vibe (new).....**£750**
Eskimo Topelirio (new).....**£599**
Perception Java.....Was **£699**, Now **£550**
Riot Techna used.....**£490**
Dagger G-Ride (used).....**£599**
Wavesport Big Easy (used).....**£430**

INTEREST FREE ON KAYAKS AVAILABLE

Yak Storm Cag

• Latex neck
• Breathable rip stop fabric
• Twin wrist and waist seals
was **£89.95**
NOW £44.99



Paddles

Pyrahna
Hpi A85 Blades.....**£24.95**
Schlegal
Work Blades N2.....**£129.95**
Duraline.....**£59.95**
Werner
Side Kick/player.....**£199.95**
Waterstick
Karma W/W.....from **£179.00**
Zen W/W.....from **£239.00**
Ainsworth
K100.....from **£55**
K103.....**£45**
Split option extra.....**£15**

Gorilla

Rodeo X.....**£119.95**
Rodeo X HPS.....**£144.95**
Riot
Freeride.....**£79.95**
Freeride (split).....**£89.95**
Robson
Gloss.....**£139**
Carbon.....**£179**
Chilli 100% Carbon.....**£199**
Chilli Crank.....**£289**
TNP
2 piece split.....**£34.95**
3 piece split.....**£39.95**
Lendal Paddles Available



ALL PACKAGES ABOVE ARE AS A GUIDE AND CAN BE TAILORED TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS

PALM PRO TOW LINE

3 metre line,
Stainless fittings
with big karabiner
was **£34.95**
NOW £25.95



20M GUL THROW LINE

was **£25.50**
OFFER £15



Nookie River Monster

Removable Chest
Harness, front pocket,
shoulder & side
compression
£89.99



Yak Contour

Available in
carbon blue,
red, black,
silk blue
SPECIAL PRICE
£34.95



Protec Side Cut

Funky style,
great colours



ONLY £39.95

Yak SkullCap

• Neoprene
fleece lining
• Ear
perforations
• One size
fits all
£9.95



Wildwater Competition

Foam inserts for
comfortable fit,
lightweight,
strong
£26.00



Peak R.5 Freestyle

• Twin wrist and neck seals
• Neoprene neck
• Breathable
ripstop
• Cadura wear
patches
£110



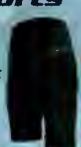
Nookie Alien L/S Cag

• Twin Adjustable
Waist
• Neoprene dog
collar neck seal
£129



Bomber Scud Shorts

2mm titanium
neoprene with
tuff tex
reinforced seat
was **£44.95**
NOW £29.95



RoHo 3mm

Wetsuit longjohn
Adults
£39.95
Juniors
£34.95



Yak Fabric Deck

Nylon deck taped seams
• Webbing
reinforced
• Adjustable fit
£19.99



Palm Side Winder L/S Cag

Latex neoprene
double waist
and wrist seals
OFFER £139.95



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR LATEST OFFERS

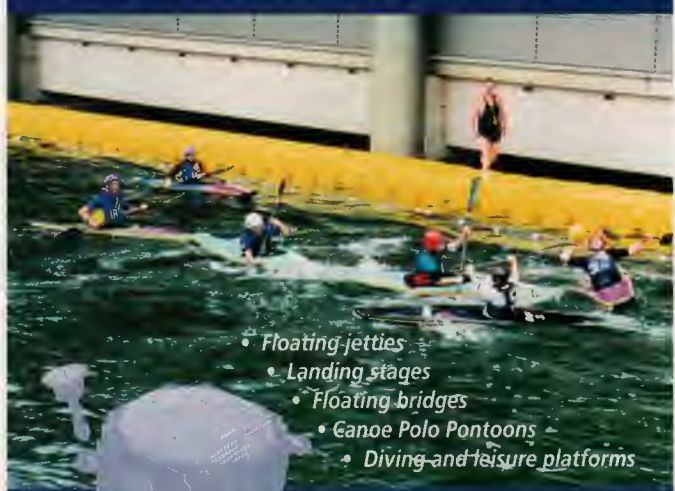
152 Leeds Road, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire
check website for full stock **WEBSITE: www.roho.co.uk**

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE 01924 444888

BEST PRICES FOR SCHOOLS, CENTRES & SCOUT GROUPS - WE CAN QUOTE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!

Eirfloat®

Modular Pontoon Systems for Industry and Recreation



- Floating jetties
- Landing stages
- Floating bridges
- Canoe Polo Pontoons
- Diving and leisure platforms

Eirfloat Ltd., Lislevane,
Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Tel. +353 23 40525, Fax. +353 23 40536, Email: info@eirfloat.com

www.eirfloat.com

HAYLING TRAILERS

Established 1983

The UK's canoe & kayak specialist trailer builder



4 kayaks with 2 GRP boxes



10 kayaks

FOUR POSTER (From 1 - 4 layers - up to 6 kayaks or 2 Open Canadians can fit on each layer)



2 1/2 Layers and mesh box

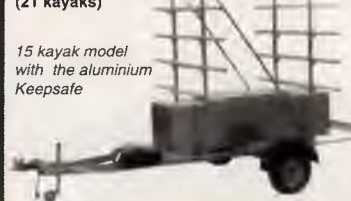
The 6 trailers shown here are just a few of the options available. Each trailer is built to suit the customers requirements. Full details in the brochure



3 layer - Open box, drop tail & PVC cover

THREE KAYAK WIDE TRAILER
max 7 high
(21 kayaks)

15 kayak model with the aluminium Keepsafe

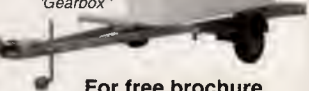


All boxes optional - GRP, Mesh & Aluminium boxes are lockable

THE MARK FOUR One Design
(6 kayaks or 2 Canadians per layer 4 layers)

All models include lights & jockey wheel
All trailers are hot dipped galvanised
Full range of accessories
including Security Wheel Clamps
Number Plates & Straps
Mail order or collect direct

optional GRP 'Gearbox'



Opening hours
Mon- Fri 8.0- 5.30 Sat 9.0 - 3.0

For free brochure price list & friendly professional service
Call 023 92 464176
Fax 023 92 463069
email haylingtrailers@btclick.com

254A Havant Road Hayling Island Hampshire PO11 0LW



COMMENT

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

In memory

It is with great sadness that we must open this edition of *Canoe Focus* Comment, with news concerning the deaths of some of our most prominent members and of a long serving member of staff. The summer has not been good to us having lost the following people:

Eric Blake.

Eric was a stalwart and long time member of Pangbourne Canoe Club, many paddlers owe an awful lot to Eric, who introduced so many to the sport – a full appreciation of Eric's work is set out on page 6.

John Heath.

John was a world renowned American authority on Inuit kayaking handling skills and design. A more detailed obituary appears on page 10.

Bob Porter.

Bob was an institution in himself, a selfless coach. His work both within Barking and Dagenham Canoe Club and within the BCU national scene, helped so many – a full appreciation of Bob's work is set out on page 9.

Maggie Kos.

Maggie was the BCU receptionist and one of our longest serving members of staff, anyone telephoning the BCU office would have probably spoken to Maggie, see page 8.

And just as we close for Press:

Ron Rymer.

Ron was a key member of the BCU Yorkshire Region for many years, a past BCU Councillor and member of the exhibition committee, in addition to numerous roles within the coaching service. A celebration of Ron's work will appear in a future edition of *Canoe Focus*.

International success

Our sprint racing and canoe slalom teams have hard won three Olympic qualifying places.

First on duty at the Augsburg Course in Germany were our slalom canoeists whom fought hard for Olympic places with Paul Ratcliffe achieving 4th and Heather Corrie 5th placings.

Our sprint racers travelled to Gainesville, USA and Tim Brabants just missed out on a medal finishing 5th.

Other notable results from non-Olympic events: Rachel Train, 4th in Women's K1, 5th 200m; Tricia Davey 5th in Women's K1 1000m. The European Polo Championships, where both men and women's teams won bronze medals. Finally, apologies to Jonathan Schofield, whom I reported in August's *Canoe Focus* won one medal at the Wild Water Racing Junior Worlds; it was actually two medals (3rd Men's K1 Classic, 2nd Men's K1 Sprint).

Shaun Baker

Congratulations to Shaun Baker who has been asked to become a patron to a new UK Government project for young people.

The "Positive Futures" project, which is funded, by the Home Office and Sport England will work with London youngsters who are at risk of involvement with drugs and crime. It is hoped that Shaun will provide inspiration as a role-model, as well as raising the media profile of the scheme by way of public appearances with his name appearing on their headed paper etc.

Kit for clubs

The Kingsmill free kit for clubs activity will really help funding at a grass routes level and can directly benefit your club. All you need to do is make sure your club registers. Then get your members, friends and family collecting tokens from special packs available across the Kingsmill range of products.

Simply visit www.kingsmillkitforclubs.com to register your club and it will be sent a registration pack. Packs are available until August 2004.

Access and the River Dee

The BCU has been working hard through the WCA to secure access for both this years' Dee tours and to secure the event in the future. Several English based paddlers have asked what can they do? The problem being that the Dee is considered by government to be a devolved Welsh issue.

English paddlers are encouraged to lobby Carwyn Jones, AM, who has responsibility for tourism in Wales. The address is: Carwyn Jones, AM, Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside. National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA (see page 12).

John Dudderidge

BCU President of Honour John Dudderidge celebrated his 97th birthday by going up in a glider for the first time. Taking to the skies on September 1st, John was so impressed that he booked another flight for his 98th birthday. Commenting on his experience John said, "I was given a fair amount of liberty with the controls. The instructor encouraged me to experiment, so I was able to get a feel of the machine,"

Incidentally, Where did John get the idea of his glider trip from? He attended the 2003 International Canoe Exhibition and took a wander through the Outdoor Show, spotting the glider on route.

International Canoe Exhibition

The International Canoe Exhibition will take place from 2nd to 4th April, 2004. Building on the success of the 2003 event, the exhibition will again run alongside The Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show.

Providing a unique opportunity to view in one place the latest manufacturers designs and products, the International Canoe Exhibition provides the ideal kick-start to the season.

Annual consultative meetings

The following specialist committees/regional development teams have informed the BCU office of the dates for their annual consultative meetings:

Regional development teams

Cumbria: 21st Jan, 2004, Golden Rule in Ambleside, Cumbria.
North East: 2nd Dec, 19.30, Newton Grange Pub, Durham. Map available from Secretary.

Eastern: 17th Nov, 19.30, Club Room, University Athletics Ground, Adams Road, Cambridge. Maps available from Secretary.

East Midlands: 3rd Nov, 19.30, Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Club.

Presentation at 20.30 by Chris Cartwright.

North West: 7th Dec, time and venue to be confirmed.

Competition disciplines

Polo: 7th Dec, 12 noon, 73rd Derby Scout Group Headquarters, Allestree, Derby.

Surf: 25th Oct, 19.30, Woolacombe, North Devon. Venue will be shown on BCU website nearer the time.

Wildwater Racing: 2nd Nov, 19.00, Langollen.

Freestyle: 11th Oct, 19.00. Venue to be advised.

Marathon: 8th Nov, 11.00, NWSC, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Racing: 8th Nov, 13.00. NWSC, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Slalom: 10.00. 22nd Nov at the National Watersports Centre.

Other dates will be posted on the BCU website as they are received.

East Midlands

East Midlands paddlers are to send their contact details to Lorraine Pell (East Midlands Regional Secretary) l.pell@ntlworld.com Lorraine has recently had her laptop and mobile phone stolen and has lost all her contacts.

Stolen

If anybody is offered some Dagger Redlines, Streamlyte Paddles, Palm Viper PFDs, AP2000 Helmets and Bushsport Decks from an unknown canoe or kayaking source can they please contact Michael Punter at Paddle Sport as soon as possible. If the information leads to the return of all the goods a reward may be given. Tel 01926 640573 or michael@paddlesport.co.uk
Best regards
Still Paddling
Michael Punter (Grunt)

Plans needed!

Have any members kept details of self build canoes and the necessary plans? Back in 1956 I built 50 or 60 PBK 11' & 14' examples in Malta. Do these plans still exist? Or any others? My thanks for your answer of PBK or others.

Peter Padwick
020 8367 6793

Exclusive offer to BCU clubs and members



The BCU's World Class Programme athletes regularly train at the British Olympic Association (BOA) Training Centre in Lofer, Austria.

The BOA would now like to extend the facility for use by BCU clubs and members at certain times of the year.

Location: The Olympic Training Centre is located in the small hamlet of Scheffsnath, less than a mile from the centre of the village of Lofer in the Salzburgerland region of Austria and only 200m from the International Slalom Site on the River Saalach.

Facilities: Dining Room, Athletes Lounge/Seminar room a dedicated medical room equipped for use by physiotherapists, doctors or other suitably qualified staff. Two computer workstations a drying room and equipment preparation room.

First Floor: Second smaller lounge/seminar room, laundry. A daily laundry service is provided at the centre at a small cost. A large sauna is located on the third floor and is available on a daily basis.

Accommodation: 22 bedrooms are currently available on a twin share or single room basis, with most having en-suite facilities and a sun balcony. All rooms have cable TV.

Weights Room and Gymnasium: In the basement a first class weights room and separate gymnasium/ conditioning area, both of which have been equipped to a superb standard.

Availability: Periods that the centre is likely to be available is during the academic Summer and Easter holidays, plus the October half-term which would be attractive to age group squads and club groups. For adult paddlers the BOA is also happy to consider club booking enquiries during

Obituary



Eric Blake

1926-2003

Eric Blake - who for more years than most of us have been paddling, was a key player to the development of canoeing in the heart of the Thames Valley.

He started paddling at Reading

Kayak Club where he caught the bug and soon was competing in Division 1 slalom in canvas kayaks on local Thames weirs. He moved upstream 200 metres and was one of the founders of the Warren Canoe Club run with Dennis Riley.

In 1966, Eric moved to take the post as the senior instructor at the New County River Training Centre run by the Youth Service at Pangbourne. For the next 30 years developed the paddling at the centre with his family helping run the junior youth club for much of that time. Eric finally stepping down in 1999 from the coaching scheme. In the years he worked at Pangbourne he helped to found both the canoe club and Adventure Dolphin while he introduced thousands of young people to the fun and challenge of paddling, as well as training many of our local coaches.

The competitive paddlers in Eric's care at Pangbourne enjoyed great success including team trophies for the Devezes Westminster, marathon and slalom. Then a change to running the club holidays at Pendine and Woolcombe with the occasional trip to the Ardeche. The calendar not complete without the annual National Association of Boys Clubs 100 mile canoe test. Eric played his part on the local coaching panel chairing the group for a number of years and supporting the development of several new initiatives his efforts being rewarded by the BCU Award of Merit and the Gold Keystone Fellowship Award from the NABC.

Eric will be remembered as a good friend, coach, mentor and guide who taught me to paddle over 35 years ago - always a warm welcome and a happy smile, never more content than on the river paddling with friends.

Kevin Dennis, Chairman Southern Region

June, July and September when there may be some spare capacity.

Available to BCU Clubs and members at £22 per person full board on a twin share basis.

For further information about availability, bookings or local facilities contact: Saul Herbert Tel/Fax: 00 43 (0) 6588 20106. Centre Manager Mobile: 00 43 (0) 664 8960566. British Olympic Training Centre
www.olympics.org.uk/training/lofer.asp or Rachel Simon BOA
Tel: 0208 871 2677 ext 207

The 'Prospector' in the UK

Outdoor Active and Wenonah launched the new 'Prospector' in the UK at the Open Canoe Symposium at Glenmore Lodge on 5-7th September. This classic design of Bill Mason's 'Prospector' features an easy-to-handle, versatile design with historic charm.

Available in three lengths, 15', 16' and 17', the 'Prospector' is a beautiful canoe with a traditional look which many people choose simply for its aesthetic appeal.

However, its versatility and easy handling have added greatly to its popularity. The rockered hull makes it quick to turn while the shallow arch cross-section gives it excellent secondary stability - even when heavily loaded.

In rough lake water, the Prospector is very stable and predictable. On rivers it is easy to tilt, and stable when on edge. While manoeuvring and steadiness in rough conditions are its strongest assets, the Prospector also has enough tracking ability and efficiency to be enjoyable on flatwater - and it paddles well as a solo canoe, too.

The Prospector is available in Tuf-Weave TM and Kevlar TM in all three lengths, and is also available in Royalex in the 16' and 17' models. For more details contact Richard Bennett at Outdoor Active on 01454 261058, or email sales@outdooractive.ltd.uk



Werner Paddles Introduces three new designs for BCU paddling style



Werner Paddles are introducing three new paddles, the Ikelos, Corryvreckan, and Shuna, designed specifically for the aggressive high angle market, namely BCU paddling style. With growing popularity in higher angle BCU style paddling, Werner became aware there was not an ideal paddle currently offered or preferred by this niche market. "Paddlers were using everything from heavy plastic to longer whitewater designs. Nothing being used offered ideal performance. We saw the need to design a series specifically to perform well for this aggressive high angle style." Said Andy Bridge, Research and Development Director for Werner Paddles.

"These new designs needed to offer smooth slicing strokes to allow for easy and stable transitions when linking or combining strokes. They also had to work well with shorter paddle lengths." Noted Bridge, "We wanted to offer a relatively light weight design, with solid features, as well as have it available at several price points." Said Shelley Furrer, Marketing for Werner Paddles.

The Ikelos, Werner's top performance carbon foam core design, combines several features for peak performance during high angle and BCU style paddling. The foam core blade creates a quiet entry, light stroke, and very smooth slicing stroke for ease in blending strokes. With the correct distribution of foam to blade surface area the Ikelos' buoyancy enhances bracing and allows for easier eskimo rolls. This short wide blade shape combined with shorter paddle lengths allows a faster cadence to be used while maintaining good body and blade placement. A gradual dihedral makes forward strokes smooth as well.

The Corryvreckan and Shuna are solid laminate construction, two blade sizes, with similar performance benefits as the Ikelos. Furrer stated, "The laminate construction of the Corryvreckan and Shuna allowed us to offer this paddle at both carbon and fibreglass price points" Furrer inserted, "Deserving attention is each design comes standard with our Adjustable Ferrule System allowing the consumer to experiment with different feather degrees." "We're very excited about our designs and the choices available to these aggressive paddlers."

Available November 2003.

Ikelos performance carbon: MSRP \$375.00 - \$399.00
Corryvreckan and Shuna: MSRP \$250.00 - \$357.00

Atlas mountain trips for 2004

After Adventure Whitewater's successful paddling trips in Morocco this year they are planning some great Atlas mountain trips for 2004. For next March / April they are offer two mellow class 2-3 kayaking trips, two family rafting trips and a special kayak clinic.

Together with sampling some exhilarating rapids, crystal clear water and magnificent mountain scenery, there will be a chance to surf from the famed Jimmy Hendrix Beach in Essaouiura and enjoy the mystery of Marrakech. This is the perfect antidote for those wishing to shake off their winter coats and head south for some sun and river fun!

For further information contact Adventure Whitewater
Tel 0870 443 0240
info@adventure-whitewater.com
www.adventure-whitewater.com

Discover Perfection

Prijon introduce two new HTP plastic kayaks that will redefine the touring market forever.



Touryak

The Touryak is the quintessential all-rounder at home in almost every condition. A boat designed for new enthusiasts as well as seasoned paddlers who require plenty of storage for day trips or serious expeditions. Fantastic speed and directional stability are achievable even with its extremely forgiving hull design.

Barracuda

The Barracuda is the fastest and most revolutionary sea kayak to emerge from Prijon yet. This gem will interest sea-kayaking connoisseurs who crave speed and plenty of carrying capacity (3 storage compartments).



As with all Prijon Expedition kayaks both boats come equipped with the new Flex 4 seat outfitting system and a 3 part split reserve paddle (£65 saving). The blow moulded (HTP) plastic guarantees hull stiffness and durability that is the industry benchmark. A super lightweight kevlar carbon version of the Barracuda is also available.

AVONCRAFT

ROBERT VARDY LTD

12 West Burrowfield Ind. Est. Welwyn Garden City,
 Herts AL7 4TW

Tel: (01707) 330000 Fax: (01707) 333026
 email: sales@avoncraft.co.uk www.avoncraft.co.uk

Perception 2004

Perception have a new white water brochure coming out. Perception have been slaving away to produce their new 2004 white water brochure. In a new A5 format the brochure gives you all the information you need to choose your perfect white water kayak.

To be one of the first to get hold of a copy please give the Perception sales team a call on 01825 765891 or log on at www.perception.co.uk



Endless River competition

Winner

Clair Jury
Great Yarmouth

Runners-up

Matthew Rowley, Witney
Steve Waterson, Dartford
Mrs W Gee, Nantwich
Mr R Beardmore, Leicester
Paul Coventry, Eccleston
Chris Arniston, Hartlepool
Hannah Graham, Brigg
Mrs H Chanell, Bodmin
Sally Trench,
East Grinstead
Sam Hutson, North Ferriby

Extreme Film Fest

Extreme is once again offering its viewers another veritable feast of celluloid entertainment with The Extreme Film Fest.

Screening some of the greatest extreme movies ever made every day from 19:00 to 20:00 and repeats at 00:00 to 01:00, seven days a week.

This month's classic kayak movie action highlight include:

Still Twitch'n

9th November @ 19:00

Paddle Frenzy

9th November @ 19:30

Nurpu

29th November @ 19:00
Extreme Sports Channel is currently available in the UK to all digital satellite TV and NTL Home subscribers on channel 422 and Telewest Broadband subscribers on channel 527. For further information on all of the above check out www.extreme.com

Swiftwater rescue technician – In Europe

The Rescue 3 International - Swiftwater Rescue Technician is an international qualification, not just for kayakers and river guides but also for fire-fighters, paramedics, helicopter crews and law enforcement agencies. Rescue 3 has been running water rescue courses since 1979 and over five years ago Rescue 3 international started running courses here in the Europe.

The first day of the three day course is a class room day and covers: rescue philosophy, hydrology, victim behaviour, communications, team organisation, personal and team rescue equipment, ropes and knots, multiple anchors, mechanical advantage systems and water related medical considerations. The next two days are on the river and covers: swimming in moving water, in water contact rescues, throwbag techniques, use of chest harnesses, live bait rescues, shallow water crossings, kayak rescue techniques, line crossing options, tension diagonal traverse, foot entrapment, strainer drill, tethered boat based rescue techniques, boat wraps and kayak pins.

No prior experience is necessary to attend a Rescue 3 class, just a willingness to learn and try out new ideas. All the water work is carried out on grade 2 or 3 white water. If any student feels uncomfortable about participating in any activity they can observe. Rescue 3 recognises caution as the first sign of a good rescuer. Courses are limited to just 12 people to ensure adequate safety and to maximise learning.

After the course students are Rescue 3 International trained Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and receive a certificate, SRT badge, ID card and manual. There is also an advanced course which goes into greater depth in the area of search and rescue and technical rescue which can be taken after passing the level 1 course.

Further information on courses in Austria by email:

neilnt@gmx.at or www.swiftwaterrescue.at

Striking Typhoon

Typhoon International has expanded their range with the introduction of the Alpha Kayak Drysuit – a fully breathable drysuit, specially designed for kayaking, for under £250.

The Alpha Kayak is a product of Typhoon's extensive and ongoing research and development programme and its pedigree really shines through. It's made from a 7oz breathable polyurethane (PU) coated material that's been designed to be amongst the most durable available and is covered by Typhoon's three year warranty. The fabric used in this drysuit has been thoroughly tested by the Outreach Centre in Bangor where they

Obituary

Maggie Kos

It is with much sadness and regret that we have to report the loss of Maggie Kos, receptionist here at the BCU in Nottingham since April 1991.

Whilst instantly recognisable to many, perhaps riding her bike to and from work, or turning up at and helping at numerous events, some of you will perhaps only have known Maggie as the first person you will have spoken to when contacting the BCU office in Nottingham. None the less, all initial impressions of Maggie will, I am sure, have been very similar. She was always bright and breezy, only too willing to help and assist all who contacted the BCU by providing the information they needed or by passing them on to a person who could help.

What many may not have appreciated with such limited contact, was Maggie's seemingly endless enthusiasm for life and helping and assisting others. Whether it was trying to ensure that an elusive piece of information was found, or for giving up her time to support and coach others. Maggie would be selfless in her efforts. Rare would be the night that I would drive home and not see her coaching or running along the side of the regatta lake here in Nottingham working with local rowers.

Sadly or somewhat ironically perhaps and as testament to this, was the record of thanks from Tim Fitzhigham of the Paper Boat Challenge printed in the August edition of *Canoe Focus* titled 'Magic Maggie'.

Maggie had lived a full, interesting and exciting life, travelling the world and enjoying life's adventures whilst having a particular interest in skiing and socialising with friends and colleagues. Again many of these aspects of her life were understated and few will perhaps have realised Maggie's thirst for life which was so relentless.

Similarly few could have realised just how much was missing from Maggie's life and how unfulfilled she felt. The commitment and enthusiasm evident to most, hid much personal sadness and turmoil. Maggie will be sadly missed by colleagues and friends alike and although they perhaps don't realise it as yet, also by any BCU members or non-members who call the BCU office in the future.

Mike Devlin

used and abused a number of suits from the Alpha range for more than eight hours a day for months on end, and were impressed by how well they performed.

It comes with a back entry zip and latex wrist, neck and ankle seals, it also features an elasticated waist and internal braces so the suit can be adjusted to ensure a snug fit whilst paddling. The Alpha Kayak has been designed specifically with kayakers in mind, so it has a neoprene skirt at the waist to fit around the kayak spray deck. The combination of this neoprene skirt together with the breathability of the fabric means you stay dry and comfortable.

You can look good at the same time as the Alpha Kayak comes in a striking combination of warm red and gunmetal grey with Typhoon's new logos completing the up-to-date look and it comes in a wide range of sizes from XS right through to XXL. It's even available in Children's size 4.

To find out more about these or any other products in the Typhoon 2003 range contact Dave Carr at Typhoon International on telephone: 01642 486104 or email: david@typhoon-int.co.uk



Canoe England announces its next round of club forums

Buoyed by the success of the Club Forums in February this year, Canoe England will be putting on a further 4 dates in November. The dates and venues are:

Saturday 1st November, Exeter CC

Sunday 2nd November, South Yorkshire (venue to be confirmed)

Saturday 8th November, Adur Outdoors Education Centre

Saturday 15th November, Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham

Originally the forums started as back-up training and support for clubs aiming to implement the new BCU Child Protection, Harassment and Vulnerable Adults policy, however, with so many issues facing the survival of voluntary clubs the agenda expanded. Each one-day forum is run to the same format; a keynote introduction followed by a series of workshop style presentations. Alongside Child Protection hot topics include Club Safety, BCU Insurance, Equity in sport and Sport England's ClubMark - a national initiative to kite mark safe, effective child friendly clubs.

The workshops are designed to inform and update delegates on the issues covered and provide an opportunity to help club leaders put policy into practice. The first round of Forums back in February worked well, enabling clubs to share proven good practice as well as giving delegates the opportunity to tackle their own club needs. "Our aim is to provide practical help to support the every day activity of BCU Clubs," said Richard Ward, English Coaching Development Manager, "there are plenty of other organisations that provide excellent training on their speciality, we just wanted to build on the great work that goes on at canoe clubs to make modern ethical and safety standards do-able!" Indeed 86% of the delegates who attended went away from the forums more reassured and their feedback has been used to re-focus and refine their delivery in November.

Each forum will be lead by a senior BCU staff member supported by the local Coaching and Paddlesport Development Officers and up to three club representatives per club are invited to take part. Further details of the forums and an application form were circulated in September to all club secretaries or alternatively the BCU Website has the latest information on:

www.bcu.org.uk/news/clubsbulletinboard

Obituary: Rob Porter

Bob Porter head coach of Barking and Dagenham Canoe Club began his input to the youth of his area through scouting. His move into canoeing began a long association with the sport, as the Club he founded became a thriving group, based in the youth of his area.

For fifteen years, his paddlers have been involved in sprint regatta, whilst being ever present at Eastern Region Marathon events, the Devizes Westminster Race and the Waterside series of races. His considerable grass roots contribution was recognised when in 1994 he was awarded the "Trevor Bailey Award" present by Margaret and Nigel Bailey at the International Canoe Exhibition. There are a number of crucial figures in racing who hold our sport together. Bob was one and his selfless devotion to his young paddlers was to be admired by all who knew him. This was a bigger issue than canoeing for Bob, his investment in the young people of Barking no doubt meant, that many individuals found a lifelong sport, personal development and maybe became excellent paddlers rather than local nuisances!

Bob became involved with Sprint Racing's Junior Development Squad in its early days and supported national paddlers at many training days and international events. Bob was almost a father figure for hundreds of paddlers and many of them celebrated his life in a packed service at St Margaret's Church in Barking on Friday 5th September, which was followed by a family cremation. Bob's legacy continues at Barking with the support of his assistant coaches, the parents and the British Canoe Union.

Graham Campbell, Racing National Development Coach



Powerblade

An exciting NEW range of Kayaks and Paddles available

Kayak range starts £49.99	Canoe range starts £27.50
420Mpa Marine Grade Alloy	340Mpa Marine Grade Alloy
Asymmetric Blade Design	Solid Beech Wood Palm Grip
Sizes 160 – 230cm	Or Plastic T Grip (CLUB)
Circa 1.1Kg * 0 - 90 degrees	Sizes 135 – 160cm/Circa 0.83kg

AS Watersports	Whitewater Consultancy	Joel Watersports
Brook Bank Canoe	UK Canoes	Stirling Canoes
Powerhouse Marine	Kent Canoes	Highland Canoes
Fleet Canoe	Robin Hood Watersports	White Water Canoe
Carlisle Canoe	Outdoor Active	Cornwall Canoes
West Midlands Canoe	Desperate Measures	Berkshire Canoes

Manufactured by 17BURN
 tel: 01670 829346
 fax: 01670 828079
 email: info@powerblade.co.uk
 web: www.powerblade.co.uk

Comical greetings cards

Andrew Quick has designed a series of comical greetings cards. There are 12 different cards in the range at the moment with another four in the colouring stage soon to be produced.

The current range consists of eight general paddling illustrations and four Christmas related ones. They sell for £1.50 to trade with a suggested retail price of £1.99 P&P depending on order size and location. They can also produce special one-off designs for special occasions.

Email;

aquick@3t.co.uk



©3t.co.uk



©3t.co.uk



©3t.co.uk



©3t.co.uk



£1 Million watersport centre opened

Sunderland's £1 million sea front Marina Watersports and Adventure Centre has opened its doors thanks to a Sport England grant of £719,074.

The new Centre consists of a two-storey building of a total of 750m². The ground floor provides a reception, changing facilities, drying room, and a climbing wall; the upper level provides two classrooms, an office and the upper level of the climbing wall. It also provides training and specialist equipment, which would otherwise be difficult to obtain.

Judith Rasmussen, regional director of Sport England, said: "It is a pleasure to see a local sports club receive money when they have shown such a commitment to encouraging young people and providing sporting opportunities in the community. The new centre will establish a major role in the economic regeneration of Sunderland."

With a dinghy park, a car park and a low ropes course area, the entire project is mainly funded through the Sport England lottery fund grant with other funding from University of Sunderland, Sunderland City Council and a previous contribution from Sunderland City TEC.

The new centre has not only improved facilities for existing users but allows wider use by all areas of the community, Sunderland University teams and local school children with additional opportunities to play a range watersports.

Sport England is the leading sports development agency in the country, and a distributor of lottery funds to sport.

First canoe club achieves Club Mark status

Tandridge Canoe Polo Club has just been awarded the Sport England Club Mark award and revised BCU Top Club award. Whilst clubs from other sports have received the Sport England award, Tandridge are the first canoe club to achieve it.

The Club Mark and Top Club awards recognises clubs that are safe, effective and child friendly and there are currently 48 BCU clubs working towards the awards. Full details of the awards and how to register are on the BCU web site www.bcu.org.uk/youth/youthindex.htm This is not the first time Tandridge have been nationally recognised. They had previously obtained the BCU Top Community Club Award and in 2001 were highly recommended for the Sport England Volunteer Investment Programme awards for their work with volunteers at the club. To read about the club turn to page 34.

Community grant for Hungerhill School

Hungerhill School canoe polo teams have had a boost from a grant from the East 1 Community Forum.

After achieving a magnificent first and second in the British Canoe Union Yorkshire Polo Year 11's League earlier this year, the grant for £1,991.61 will help the teams to compete to an either higher level and enter more teams for the forthcoming season.

The money has been used to purchase another two carbon kevlar canoe polo boats, ten new neoprene spray decks and another nine buoyancy aids allowing the school to enter three teams at a time for competitions around the country. During the recent months members

from the teams have competed in international tournaments in Liverpool and Hull and have been invited to play in other international tournaments later this summer in London and Ireland, this is a credit to the school and the pupils.

The presentation of the equipment by Mr Paul Goodman Neighbourhood Development Officer for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council took place on Thursday 17 July at Hungerhill School, Hungerhill Lane, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Obituary

John D. Heath 1923 – 2003

John was born in the town of Cameron in Texas and developed an interest in paddling at an early age, building a canvas covered kayak in his early teens and paddling it on the nearby river and local ponds.



In 1954 whilst residing in the Seattle area. John took to paddling again but thought that the commercially, produced kayaks then available did not show as much design logic as the native kayaks he had seen in museums. About this time John attended a lecture by the Arctic explorer Admiral Donald MacMillan whose film of Greenland rolling convinced him that recreational paddlers had a lot to learn from the Inuit about handling skills, as well as design. Thus began a long and ever more serious study of the performance of authentic replicas of native kayaks and learning the associated paddling techniques. John probably knew more about the practical side of handling Inuit craft and more rolling methods than any non-Inuit of his generation.

He did not keep this knowledge to himself but wrote many articles on the subject in journals like American White Water and Sea Kayaker as well as learned publications such as the Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America from the world renowned Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. He also developed the much copied method of illustrating rolling techniques by showing the starting position upright on the page then turning it upside down to follow the movements to complete the roll.

I first knew of and corresponded with John in the early 1960's when he was involved with the visit of the Scottish paddler Ken Taylor to Igdlorsuit in Greenland. He got Ken to have a native kayak built for him. Unfortunately, there was only enough sealskin to cover Ken's own native built kayak, so John had to make do with a frame. However, Ken's kayak subsequently gave rise directly and indirectly to over thirty distinct kayak designs in Britain alone, some of them highly successful commercially.

John contributed to many sea kayak symposiums in America as well as being an honoured guest at others in England, France, Jersey and Scotland. He travelled to Alaska, Canada and Greenland to study kayaks and learn techniques directly from the natives. He also acted as an American agent for video material on kayaking skills produced in Greenland, any resulting profit going back to the benefit of Greenland paddlers.

Apart from all that, John was a thoroughly nice individual with a great sense of humour. I will miss John. He is survived by his wife Jessie and son David, who have my sincere condolences. They are endeavouring to have his last great work on Greenland kayaks published. I hope they succeed; it would be a suitable memorial to him.

**Duncan R Winning OBE
Honorary President Scottish Canoe Association**

The Bigger, Better **BOAT SHOW** Now at ExCeL

8th – 18th January 2004

Preview Day 8th January

IT'S GOT EVERYBODY GOING!

NEW!

Check out the **New Watersports Lifestyle Village** at the Schrodgers London Boat Show now at ExCeL in London's Docklands.

GET KITTED OUT! The top brands in kayaks, open boats and sit-on-tops plus paddles, clothing, gear and accessories.

GET THE HOLIDAY! The UK's best choice of paddling and watersport holidays.

GET THE BUZZ! In the huge Indoor Watersports Arena

Catch the Indoor Windsurfing Championships – every day
Plus demonstrations from the world's top stars.

GET THE SKILLS! First timers to seasoned river runners can hone their technique FREE with qualified instructors on the pool.

EXCeL – Easy by Car, Coach & Rail

Indoors and under 30 min from Waterloo



Schrodgers

F I F T I E T H

L O N D O N

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

BOAT SHOW

8th – 18th JANUARY 2004 at **EXCeL**

in association with

The Daily Telegraph

Advance Tickets (24hr)

schrodgerslondonboatshow.com

0871 222 8230

10am - 7pm every day (Sun 18th 6pm)
Late nights: Fri 9th and Thurs 15th to 9.30pm.

10 seats correct at time of going to press.

Brought to you by:



National Boat Shows



Symonds Yat rapids

The Symonds Yat Rapids Preservation Group's proposals for stabilising the groynes and the island are shown on the drawing below.

Formal Drainage and Planning consents have still to be obtained before any work can be done. We are continuing with our consultations with the Environment Agency and the Planners.

Funds will be needed to carry out the work to the groynes and island and to provide proper access points to the Rapids.

Please send donations and information on Sponsors to: Veronica Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2LU. Tel/Fax 01452 531218. Cheques payable to S.Y.R.P.G.

2003 NW BCU Canoe Access Seminar

We invite everyone interested to attend this seminar which is being held on Saturday 4th October at the Burrs Activity Centre, Bury, from 9.30am to 12.30. This seminar is held each year for information, discussion and encouragement. There are talks and debates on the legal status for access, the BCU actions and progress, local actions and progress, and speakers on river and canoeing related issues. Hopefully people leave the meeting informed and enthused to do something.

Please come along. Please let me know soon, so I do not have to spend time and money on the phone, I want to get out paddling too. A phone call will do 01625 878838, leaving a message on the machine.

The BCU pay for the room hire so it is free, and if there is enough water, there is river paddling at the centre afterwards.

Yours faithfully

Chris Cleaver

Dee access this winter

Permission is still being withheld for recreational canoeing access to the Dee this winter. Despite continuing pressure from the WCA, permission is still not forthcoming for the six annual days of river access that paddlers have previously enjoyed. We'll know more by mid-September after a meeting, chaired by the Environment Agency, with many of the land owning interests involved. It's still possible that an agreement will be reached in time for the tours to be reinstated, but it's a strong possibility that no recreational paddling will be allowed on the Dee this season. If permission is not forthcoming for the touring weekends, we will organise tours at alternative venues and take measures to highlight the economic value of such events to local traders in Llangollen.

However, permission has been granted for access on a number of weekends over the course of the winter season for competitive canoeing. As well as the competition events, there will be a number of training slots allowing paddlers to run the river from Horseshoe falls to Town falls. It's your choice whether you want to use these slots to paddle a competition boat or a touring boat.

18-19 October, 25-26 October, 1-2 November*, 22-23 November*, 6-7 December*, 13-14 December#, 20-21 December#, 27-28 December#, 10-11 January 2004*

The season will open with a whitewater challenge, organised by Llangollen Canoe Club, on 18-19 October, based at Mile End Mill and Serpent's Tail. This will follow a similar format to the Peak Challenges which have been so successful in previous years, incorporating down river, extreme slalom and freestyle events in one competition. New for this year is a head-to-head down Town Falls. It's going to be held on Sunday 19th October, in the afternoon, and will involve four paddlers at a time racing down Town Falls, before a head-to-head final. The following weekend (25-26 October) is Town Falls slalom. More details on these events will be made available as we have them.

Weekends marked with an asterisk are Wild Water Racing weekends. Competitions will be held on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, so open access will be allowed on the Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. These events will incorporate a short time trial on the flat water stretch above the Mile End Mill site. Lasting between ten and twenty metres, course details will be posted nearer the time.

The race training weekends, marked with a hash, will be limited to 50 boats per day.

There will be a charge made to access the river for those who do not pay competition entry fees. This is regrettable, but unavoidable. The charge of £5 will cover our insurance, use of the facilities at Mile End Mill and car parking for the busier

weekends. Water fees will be payable at Mile End Mill.

These plans are provisional, but we'll keep you updated on any changes. We will release any further information to the canoeing magazines, and it will also appear on-line at www.sharedrivers.org.uk

Hambleden Weir

After reading a number of articles about the new ramps that have been installed at Hambleden Weir there seems to be a few points that need clarification.

1) The ramps are never down flat. They are left in their rest position which is 15 degrees, and can be raised up to 30 degrees. Originally the EA wanted to fit fixed ramps with an angle of 15 degrees. Chalfont Park CC convinced the EA that variable ramps would give us more options and increase the time the weir would work, i.e. in low/high conditions. With this in mind the EA found the extra funds to give us the variable ramps.

Over last winter we have found leaving the ramps in the rest position gave us the best consistent wave at normal winter levels.

2) Lockkeepers always work weekends. Peter and his assistants have always been happy to help out as often as possible, but what we have to remember this is a working weir / flood defence and ultimately the lockkeeper has the final say in how many gates and which ones are open.

3) On the day of the opening ceremony the water conditions were not at its best. Two main gates on the weir were opened, _ each to allow the minister and press to get an idea of what could be achieved. In normal circumstances, with the flow conditions on that day the main weir would not have been opened, and no conclusions of what can or cannot be achieved should be drawn.

CPCC are still working with the EA to improve Hambleden with the knowledge gathered over last winter, you can expect to see improvements and ongoing repairs.

We are aware that gate 4 leaks air and needs to be repaired. Unfortunately this entails the use of divers who were not able to dive over the winter when the weir was running. This however was not too much of a problem as the ramps are always up at 15 degrees and the 4th gate is furthest away from where you paddle. We should all be applauding the EA for installing a first class facility for all the Thames paddlers to use, and at no cost to canoeing.

**Chalfont Park Canoe Club Secretary
Andrew Butterworth**

AM launches campaign

Laura Anne Jones AM calls for an inquiry into access on Welsh rivers

Laura Anne Jones, Conservative Spokeswoman for Sport in the National Assembly for Wales, has called for an inquiry into opening up access to Welsh rivers for canoeists.

Laura said, "There are 300 rivers in Wales which the Welsh Canoeing Association believe to be suitable for canoeing, yet there are access agreements to canoe on only 14. After pressure from the British Canoe Union, DEFRA launched an inquiry into access for canoeists in England, but the Assembly Government has refused to fund a similar exercise in Wales."

Laura stressed the importance of canoeing as an international sport. She said "Canoeing brings many tourists into Wales, not only from England, but also from abroad. Canoeing-related tourism provides an enormous boost to local economies, particularly in rural areas, in terms of restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions.

"Of the home nations, Wales is the best-placed to win medals in canoeing. It would be a tragedy to lose sporting talent due to access problems."

Although the Environment Agency has stated that canoeists do not harm fish, there has been speculation about the impact of both canoeing and fishing on the environment. Laura said "I would certainly like to see more research into the ecological impact of canoeing. We have, in Wales, the most

beautiful stretches of water in the UK on which to canoe, but many of these are out of reach. I have spoken to canoeists in my constituency who are very concerned about the poor state of access to rivers in Wales."

The Welsh Canoeing Association accepts that there are valid reasons why canoeing cannot take place on certain stretches of water and at certain times of the year, in some cases due to pearl mussels or other ecological reasons.

Laura said, "A lot more rivers could be opened up to canoeists. I am calling for a fair and sensible deal for canoeists and I call on the Minister, Alun Pugh to launch an inquiry into access on Welsh rivers."

Laura Anne Jones AM, Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales East and Conservative Sport Spokeswoman - 029 2089 8271

Countryside Agency Access Demonstration Schemes and the Action on Access Campaign - a Recap

Countryside Agency Access Demonstration Schemes

Progress Report No 3 from the Countryside Agency study to improve access for canoeing on Inland waterways was issued in August. The report is available on the Access pages (select Action on Access) of the BCU web site www.bcu.org.uk.

To summarise the report for the four study areas selected by the Countryside Agency, which at this stage is set to determine the feasibility of access agreements on specific sections of river:

Area 1: Mersey (inc Irwell, Goyt, Etherow): It is proposed to concentrate efforts on the entire length of the R Mersey from its confluence with the R Tame and Goyt in Stockport to the Manchester Ship Canal. The aim is to provide a 30km length of flat water close to major conurbations for beginners and intermediate paddlers. There is support from a number of local authorities.

Area 2: Little Ouse, Dove and Waveney: The Dove has been deemed unsuitable for canoeing along with the Little Ouse north of Thetford. The Thet has been added and combined with the Little Ouse downstream of Thetford that totals some 32 km to the confluence of the Ouse navigation.

NB The work generally benefits from a foundation of local BCU action that has gained and maintained access.

Area 3: Wear: Only 51 km of the 110km is being considered. The numerous riparian owners in the upper Weardale area are seen as presenting practical difficulties for the case study timetable to a backdrop of landowners who continue to object to access for canoeing.

Area 4: Teme, Onny, Clun: The study is concerned with some 100km of river from the English/Welsh border at Knighton to the Severn. It is evident the overall resistance to canoeing from riparian owners to protect their fishing interests remains embedded, especially above Tenbury.

Next Steps

The University of Brighton consultants for the Countryside Agency are to arrange open meetings with local landowners, farmers and their representatives in each study area. The aim is to determine the potential for negotiating access agreements for the sections of river as identified above. Following these meetings the Countryside Agency will make a final decision they think possible in each area.

The Action on Access Campaign - a Recap

Previous editions of Canoe Focus have provided news on the actions and progress of the Action on Access campaign and to pull together this fragmented picture for a recap and overview of activity. The campaign was initiated in the lead up to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) in 2000.

2000

January to March - BCU officers and members lobby Government for the inclusion of access to waterways, and placed amendments to the Bill in both Houses of Parliament without success. Access to water was excluded from the Act and the BCU continued to press for action.

March - the BCU meets with Government ministers who accept there is a case for improved access to water.

May - the Department of the Environment meets with stakeholders in seeking advice for improved access to water.

October - the Department of the Environment issues a specification and tender to commission the independent study, "Water based Sport and Recreation: the facts" for England and Wales.

December - The University of Brighton are appointed as consultants for the independent study.

2001

March to October - The University of Brighton consultants conduct the study.

May - first of a series of Intra-Government Group meetings. October - Department of the Environment/consultants seminar and interim report. The findings confirm the BCU's position that access to water for canoeing is both restricted and limited.

November - BCU finalises re-newed lobby action.

December - The study "Water based Sport and Recreation: the facts" is published. The essential facts are: 4678km of canal and rivers have a public right of navigation. The remaining 55,000km of major and minor rivers have just 812km (less than 1.5%) of access agreements, mostly with significant time restrictions.

The BCU launches the lobby document "Action on Access" - The case for an Access to Inland Waterways Bill.

2002

January - BCU officers, members and affiliated groups commence lobby of MPs and Ministers. Lobby packs dispatched regional committees, BCU clubs, activity centres and members.

February onwards - a series of Parliamentary Questions bringing attention to access for canoeing.

March - Early Day Motion No 978 signed by 72 MPs recognised the need to open more inland water for sport and recreation (canoeing).

BCU and WCA meet with the minister Rt Hon Alun Michael MP who recognised the difficulty with access for canoeing and would instigate further discussion within government departments

April - Over 130 MPs have been visited by members.

May - meeting with Department of Environment officials to again outline our case for access to water based on the findings of the University of Brighton study.

July - At the Angling Canoeing Liaison Group it is formally announced the government has arranged for the Countryside Agency to conduct a study to seek ways to improve access to inland water for canoeing.

October to December - the Department of the Environment (now DEFRA) prepare specification and tendering for consultants to the Countryside Agency.

This completes stage 1 of the BCU lobby

2003

January - BCU Access Strategy issued

March - The University of Brighton are appointed as consultants. Since then, their work can be tracked from the Countryside Agency progress reports.

Should this work by DEFRA fail to deliver, BCU England believes the only way forward is for primary legislation to provide access to our rivers. We shall then need the active support of every single canoeist for what would be Stage 2 of the Lobby to bring our case back into the public domain and increased attention. ●

Weir safety work to begin

Work is due to begin on Monday on a project to improve safety at one of the city's most famous landmarks. Water flowing over Pulteney Weir will be diverted by the opening of the sluice gate in preparation for the beginning of a two-month programme of work to increase the strength of the weir and reduce the problems caused by the water flow at the base of the structure. The main works involve plugging and in-filling the void beneath the weir and filling in the scour hole downstream of the weir. Safety will be improved by raising the level of the river bed immediately downstream of the weir. Large limestone boulders, up to half a metre across, will be brought by lorries to the Destructor Bridge at the Western Riverside and loaded on to barges and towed to the weir. The boulders, along with granular material, will be lowered into the scour hole to fill it. The hole in front of the weir will also be plugged by filling it with underwater grout. Contractors will also realign and reset the paving slabs on the island and remove sheet piling and debris upstream of the weir. Consultants will also be working with members of the BCU to discuss whether it is possible to alter the weir to allow canoeists to use it again. The weir works are expected to be completed by Friday, September 26.

Environment Agency Wye Navigation Advisory Committee

Thanks go to Tony Wilkins from Abingdon who has agreed to be the BCU England representative on the newly formed committee that meets for the inaugural meeting later this month. For this role, Tony who is a regular paddler on the Wye will be a member of the English Access Committee. The WCA also have a representative.



Feature IRISH SEA

Irish Sea

Several years ago a bloke said to me, 'forget mountaineering, for real adventure, go sea kayaking.' And so it was, on a balmy summer evening, and from a perfectly safe beach, we edged our sea kayaks out of Porth Dafarch, near Holyhead, Anglesey. Our destination, Dun Laoghaire near Dublin some 63 nautical miles (NM), and 20 hours of near continuous paddling away.

We first discussed undertaking a big open sea crossing about a year before at a North West Sea Kayakers weekend on Anglesey, and decided very quickly that the Dublin trip was 'the one'. Soon after we undertook a week long expedition in the Outer Hebrides, which included a committing 16 NM crossing of the Little Minch from the Isle of Skye to Lewis. Despite our preparations, it turned into a nightmare. Struggling into an unforecast force 4-5 wind and rolling in a choppy cross-sea, Rob was violently seasick and at times, thought he would never make it. It was a good lesson for us: expect the unexpected – it can only get better.

Our training continued sporadically throughout the winter, general fitness work supplemented by some light paddling up and down the canal or river. Planning continued at the same time with tides, weather, shipping, food, travel, equipment all having to be considered in detail. As our plans developed our main outstanding concerns were firstly, avoiding being run down by one of the ferries and secondly how would our bodies stand up to 20 hours sitting in a kayak - having never before done more than 5 hours without a break?

Gradually we built up our 'boat-hours' struggling against strong winds off Anglesey, dodging ferries off Liverpool and gaining experience of night paddling in the Dee Estuary. Our most interesting training run was from the centre of Chester, up the River Dee and along the Flintshire coast to the Point of Ayr and back, a distance of 44 NM miles. Assisted by the tides it took just 12 hours – deceptively quick, but we knew the Dublin crossing would be a lot harder and longer.

Using the trip to raise funds for the Fire Services Benevolent Fund and Border Collie Trust (GB), Rob was contacted by BBC Midlands TV who filmed us training on the River Severn for the local news. We really couldn't change our minds now – not that we wanted to!

We had decided firstly, that we should leave just before high water so the ebbing tide would carry us south - away from the busy ferry routes; secondly we wanted to leave just before darkness so that we would be at our most alert during the night. Finally if the forecast wind exceeded Force 3 – we wouldn't go. The first window of opportunity was at the beginning of August. The tides were relatively weak and the weather outlook was fine, a 2 day gap in a complex system of fronts leaving stable N-NE winds (force 2-3) over the Irish Sea.....good enough.

Outdoor people can talk forever about kit, the pros and cons of each particular item. Amongst other things, the fitting of the navigation lights was proving a problem, eventually, after making a small mast for each



boat we taped conical white lights to the top of them. After advice from the Coastguard, the masts were covered in kitchen foil to act as a deflector for radar.

We were to put in at Port Dafarch at 9pm. Adrenalin made getting some sleep during the day impossible. Instead we checked our boats and equipment over and over again, prepared food and made final navigational calculations. After confirming our passage details with HM Coastguard in Holyhead we left the beach, set our course of 280°(Magnetic) and quietly paddled into an impressive sunset – a solitary seal escorting us out to sea.

We had a long way to go but our spirits were high, lifted by the good weather and the fact that after a year of preparing and talking about the trip we were actually doing it. The glow of the sunset disappeared, swallowed up by the darkness, and before long it was very, very dark. No moon tonight, and we felt that we were paddling closer to each other than usual – visible only by our rudimentary navigation lights and the bright green luminescence splashing from our bows and paddles.

Occasionally we would see the lights of a fishing boat crossing our

crossing

Anglesey-Dun Laoghaire

5th August 2002



path in the distance, or a ferry passing way to the north, but we were surprised how little shipping we encountered.

The darkness, particularly to the south was overbearing, it felt as if you could put your hand out and you would fall off the edge of the world. As the hours went by, we spoke less and less, just wanting to enjoy the atmosphere, the feeling of exposure and loneliness. Only sea kayaking an open crossing in the dark can give you this feeling.

We stopped for a strict 5 minutes every hour to grab a quick snack, swap water bottles over, have a pee and log our position on the GPS. Every couple of hours we reported in to the Coastguard on the hand held VHF.

The darkness was eventually broken by sunrise and the dawn was magical with a fiery sky appearing over a totally flat, calm sea. All around us porpoises lazily arched out of the mirror like surface. We couldn't help stopping for a while to enjoy it and take photographs.

Morale was still great, helped along by the warming sun on our backs, although at the back of our minds we knew we still had well over half way to go. We had also 'lost' an hour through longer than intended breaks, and

were slightly further south than planned so we adjusted our course by +10°. This would take us further north than planned but meant that we wouldn't have to paddle against the ebb tide on the final third of the trip, although we were aware that it would also take us across the main ferry route.

We paddled steadily on for a few more hours, and with the flood tide assisting us, made good progress. By 9am we had paddled about 38NM, were calling up the coastguard in Dublin rather than Holyhead, and were feeling good. Ahead of us however we could clearly see a dense fog bank rolling towards us. As the fog closed in we were in for an anxious time. Visibility could only be 100 metres and we were in the middle of the main shipping lane. A trawler passed close-by - only its foghorn could be heard. Then a much more menacing noise, the diesel engines of a large ship. The distinctive noise was suddenly very close and we both stopped paddling, and held our breath trying to pinpoint its location. Our eyes strained through the fog in every direction expecting to see the bows of a tanker come steaming towards us at any moment. Eventually the thump of the engines began to go away from us and in less than a minute we were glad to be riding the wash of the ship, knowing it had missed us. This had been a scary moment, and from this point on we were very careful. Even with the fog slowly lifting, with nothing to look at it was impossible to gauge visibility. A short time later we were discussing the effectiveness of our foil-covered masts, when there was a sudden - very loud - blast of a foghorn directly behind us. Looking around we saw the High Speed catamaran appearing out of the mist just 200m away and heading straight for us. All our energy was required to sprint to our right, and in no time it had cruised passed at 42 knots. Again, we rode the wash, this time whooping with exhilaration and relief.

With about 18 miles to go we emerged from the fog bank and started to scan the horizon for land. There were several times when we thought we had seen the headlands off Dublin Bay, each time being fooled by the

info

Thanks must go to the people who have done this trip before and the inspiration their reports gave to us, to the help we got from the Coastguard and the RIYC, and also to our families, who have had to put up with us in achieving our goal. Afterward, we both felt "very glad to have done it, but don't think we'll do it again". Looking back now, it doesn't seem quite so bad... At the time of writing, Peter Hatt, founder and motivating force behind North West Sea Kayakers sadly passed away (Sept 2002). One of life's good guys... Rest in Peace Hattie.

Technical Notes: George Arnison (38, a civil engineer, from Chester) and Rob Cunliffe (37, a firefighter from Staffordshire) both married with small children, and have been sea kayaking for a number of years. Rob paddled a P&H Sirius sea-kayak and George paddled a Nordkapp HM sea-kayak. Both carried hand held VHF radios, flares, navigation lights, charts, fixed compasses, spare paddles and the usual sea-kayaking clothing, provisions and water. George also carried a hand-held GPS.



flat light, but eventually there was no mistaking the lighthouse of Kish Bank and the headland behind – brilliant!

Over the next couple of hours however we just didn't feel like we were making any progress at all. We buckled down to some hard paddling – maintaining a sharp lookout for the ferries around us - but despite our aching muscles the land just didn't seem to get any closer and we both suffered from a noticeable drop in spirits. To boost our morale we took a tactical decision to alter course again by -20° so that we gained some advantage from the ebb tide flowing across us. We would be carried south of Dun Laoghairie and would probably have to paddle into the tide for the last hour or so – but maybe the current would be weaker close to shore or we would find an eddy flowing in our direction – and right now we needed to feel like we were making progress. The tactic worked but the final leg was still a real 'grind'. We now paddled a little way apart, heads down and grim, silently focussing on keeping our technique, maximising distance for minimum energy expended - stroke after stroke after stroke. The atmosphere of paddling though the night, the exhilaration of dawn and the euphoria of not being run down in the fog all seemed like a different trip. We just wanted to get in and stopped for just 15 minutes in the last five hours.

Gradually we approached Kish Bank, crossed it and then left it behind us. The last obstruction was a line of super tankers going into Dublin Bay, before we finally entered the bay's sheltered water and followed the coast up to the ferry port of Dun Laoghaire. We

were nearly smiling when we realised that we had to paddle around the breakwater of the harbour wall!

At last the slipway of the Royal Irish Yacht Club (RIYC) - we had done it! Without the help of some members of the club we would still be sitting there and we were very grateful for the help given to us. Our legs were completely numb and George's right knee had swollen to twice its normal size so that he could hardly walk. A small crowd of young dinghy sailors – suitably impressed by our achievement (where've you come from!) - carried our boats up the slipway, and later helped us push them on borrowed wheelbarrows to the ferry terminal. We had a hot shower and made our way to the bar for a ceremonial pint of Guinness... fantastic. Our achievement had still not really sunk in as we later boarded the fast catamaran (the one that we had met in the fog), taking our boats as 'hand-luggage'. We were instantly asleep and awoke back in Holyhead only 90 minutes later! ●

Rob Cunliffe and George Arnison



**Better Range
Better Prices
Better Ring**

Brookbank Canoes

The Specialists for Canoeing Equipment by all the Major Manufacturers

- Canoes
- Kayaks
- Wetsuits
- Buoyancy Aids
- Accessories
- Mail Order Service Ring for a free catalogue
- Contract Prices for Groups, Centres, Clubs etc
- Large Well Stocked Showroom
- Demo/Hire Boats

Unit 23, Meadow Industrial Estate, Water Street, Stockport SK1 2BX (Call for directions)

CALL US FREE 0800 542 6782
OR IF LINE BUSY: 0161 474 1499
www.brookbankcanoes.co.uk
e-mail: mark@brookbankcanoes.co.uk
Fax: 0161 474 1411

We Stock the Lot!
Call us FREE, then call us unbeatable!

The best, by design.....



Perception's pedigree is unrivalled in the world of white water kayaking. Our roots are in white water where we pioneered modern kayak design. More than 25 years later Perception paddlers are still forging first descents and return visits on rivers around the world.

Our 2009 range features a comprehensive array of models that cover the myriad of kayaking experiences. Newcomers and intermediates appreciate the user friendly and fun performance of our Classic Line. For experienced boaters and progressive paddlers our Proline ranges include renowned freeriders, creekers, river runners and freestylers.

Whichever Perception kayak you choose you can be sure of our design perfection, dependable quality and exceptional value.

Perception Kayaks

Bellbrook Business Park,
Uckfield, East Sussex.
TN22 1QQ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1825 765891
Fax: +44 (0)1825 763707
E mail: info@perception.co.uk
www.perception.co.uk



GB Men's bronze medal winners:

Alan Vessey (Capt)
Neil Parker
Martyn Williamson
Neil Edmunds
Peter Meakin
Neil Watters
Nicholas Archer

GB Women's bronze medal winners:

Kirsty Sutcliffe (Capt)
Kate Bridge
Eleanor Bridgstock
Philippa Grayson
Lianne Grayson
Antonia Harmer
Andrea Fear-Ross
Zoe Anthony
Virginia Coyles

Results**Senior Men**

- 1 Netherlands
- 2 Germany
- 3 Great Britain
- 4 France
- 5 Italy
- 6 Spain
- 7 Belgium
- 8 Portugal
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Poland
- 11 Hungary
- 12 Sweden
- 13 Denmark
- 14 Finland

Senior Women

- 1 Germany
- 2 France
- 3 Great Britain
- 4 Netherlands
- 5 Ireland
- 6 Spain
- 7 Italy
- 8 Poland
- 9 Belgium
- 10 Hungary
- 11 Sweden

U21 Men

- 1 Germany
- 2 Netherlands
- 3 Spain
- 4 Italy
- 5 France
- 6 Great Britain
- 7 Ireland
- 8 Switzerland
- 9 Belgium

Bronze for Britain

GB men and women win bronze in the European Canoe Polo Championships 2003



Kilcock, a small town on the Royal Canal in County Kildare, Ireland hosted the 5th European Canoe Polo Championships from the 13th - 17th August 2003. 34 teams from 14 nations descended on the town to battle for gold in three categories: Senior Men's, Senior Women's, and Under 21 Men's.

The venue proved ideal for the staging of the tournament, with recent improvements to the canal-side providing a stable boardwalk for referees and competitors alike. The venue also allows for significant numbers of spectators to watch from both banks. Canal-side amenities include pubs, restaurants and coffee shops, so there was certainly no shortage of available fare, which further helped to encourage the large crowd drawn to the event.

The competition's form was constructed of preliminary group stages, where the top ranked teams progressed to face each other in an intermediate group round. The second round placing determined semi-final berths for the top four teams, and positional playoffs for the lower ranking teams.

Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands and France were seeded to win their preliminary stages, and those four teams played their way into the semi-finals. However, the competition was more hotly contested than this suggests,

Andi Fear-Ross looks for the pass against the French

with the host nation Ireland almost causing an upset in the opening rounds by narrowly losing to the Netherlands. Similarly Italy and Spain created enormous problems for the top teams in the group stages. This rise in the level of play of these emergent national teams will benefit the sport, which is seeing an upsurge in interest around the world.

Great Britain has a traditionally strong Canoe Polo squad, and as current World Champions in the men's division, were expected to do very well. The GB women's team, although defending European Champions, did not place as well as expected in the last World Championships held in Germany, and so did not come into the event as favourites.

France faced Germany in the first of the Men's Semi-finals, which France went on to lose 2-1 to the defending champions. This allowed Germany to progress to the finals, and underlined their current strength in the sport.

The Netherlands, having lost their two previous World Championship finals to Great Britain, found themselves face to face with their old rivals, but this time in the semi-finals.

It was the Netherlands who came out of this battle trumps, just winning a high scoring, and emotive match 5-4. Great

Lianna Grayson battles with the French

James Bowers heads off the Irish Attack in the Under 21's





Neil Parker sets up a shot at the Netherlands goal

Britain failed to make significant inroads into the Dutch zone, and scored their goals from opportunistic breaks and long shots, rather than from consistent pressure on the Dutch defensive structure. This game plan did not work well enough to secure the World Champions a final place, and Great Britain were left to slog it out for the last medal with France.

In the third and fourth playoff Great Britain were once again left to defend, with French aggression securing them a tally of two goals. However, France's own failings in defence allowed GB to score 4 goals off fast breaks from their own line. France's two goal deficit at the final whistle saw Britain snatch the Bronze medal from their grasp.

The Netherlands went into the final to win, looking to depose the defending champions Germany from their throne. Having already beaten the Germans in the intermediate rounds, the Dutch were confident in their ability to do it again.

Germany were the team who had it all to play for, and had more to lose. Yet the Dutch put on an impressive display of ball retention and quick passing, a fact which helped them break through the German defence twice to set up goals for Erwin Roos, and Bart Verkissen. The Netherlands' two goal advantage put Germany under pressure, but a rare lapse in the Dutch defence allowed a German consolation goal by Richard Radloff in the penultimate minute. The joust ended with Netherlands the victors over Germany by 2-1.

The Great Britain Men's Bronze medal in the 5th European Championships provided the captain Alan Vessey with a full compliment of Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals from both the World Championships, and the European Championships. This remarkable feat shows how long both he, and the GB team have been performing to the highest standard the sport can offer. Neil Edmunds was the British Men's best goal scorer in the tournament with 9 goals, which placed him tied sixth overall.

In the Women's competition, the same four nations made the semi finals, but this time with France taking on the GB Women in the semi final. France had a tough challenge ahead of them, as the previous encounter in the group stages saw Britain win 4-2. However, France proved to be too strong this time around, and an easy win of 5-0 over the GB Women saw France into the final.

Great Britain's Women would now also have to play off for the Bronze medal. They met the Netherlands who had lost their semi-final to eventual tournament winners Germany. The third and fourth playoff was a close fought game which saw Great Britain secure a podium finish with a 3-2 win over the Dutch. GB's Philippa Graysons' goal tally of 13 for the tournament put her in third overall behind Germanys' Neher (21) and Weinberger (15).

The GB Under 21 Men's team failed to make the semi finals, and had to settle for sixth place. Spain and Italy displaced France and GB from the top four, and this result may be an indication of the future strength of these nations' senior polo teams. Germany won the Under 21 event, which meant all three German teams made the finals, and only the Senior Men did not come away with the Gold.

Vessey puts the result of the GB Senior Men's team down

to the building up of some of the younger members of the squad, with an eye to the future, and in particular in their gaining significant experience to aide next year's World Championship defence campaign, when the world's best converge on Japan. His confidence in the GB squad shines bright, and it is evident in his post tournament interview when he says "the other teams have a lot more thinking to do" if they are to denounce GB as World Champions, and take away the coveted prize, won back by GB in Brazil in 2000, and successfully defended last year in Germany.

Canoe Polo is Britain's fastest growing canoe sport discipline, and so with this increasing depth of the national player base, GB should continue to dominate, and consistently rank amongst the medal winners in the major tournaments. ●

Story by Brett Wastie

Photos courtesy of Grainne Duggan

www.graineduggan.com

info@graineduggan.com



Peter Meakin celebrates a fine goal

Great TV coverage for canoe polo

The Royal Canal in Kilcock, Co. Kildare, Ireland - the perfect venue for Canoe Polo



The European Canoe Polo Championships 2003 held in August in Kilcock, Ireland proved a popular event for television sports news editors around the world. Highlights of the Men's Final between Netherlands and Germany, and the Women's Final between Germany and France received coverage on CNN's World Sport and TWI's Transworld

Sport, amongst other local sports news programmes. These two programmes alone, which are broadcast globally to millions of homes in hundreds of countries, provided canoe polo with tremendous, and well needed exposure.

For a sport which is struggling to gain acceptance on the Olympic stage, the publicity generated by this well managed production and distribution plan will be paramount to securing future sponsorship deals. Sponsors of national teams, and international events should be encouraged by this step up in potential exposure, which can only further aide the development of the sport.

Mr. Brett Wastie, the Producer for Blackflash Media Ltd, the company that provided the TV coverage said "We were asked at short notice to provide television coverage of the event, which involved flying a small TV crew out to Ireland. We were able to accommodate the event management's request, and went into full production mode." The London based production company produced a video news reel, which they then distributed world-wide. Mr. Wastie explained the process further "Television news distributors uploaded the news reel to their satellite feed, which is broadcast to their clients globally on a daily basis. We were confident we'd get the coverage we expected, and in a short period of time, our footage had appeared on a CNN World Sport news slot, and in news programmes from Ireland to Sweden and beyond. Later in the week our footage was also featured as a news item on Transworld Sport."

Blackflash Media Ltd are releasing a one hour (approximately) VHS video of the European Canoe Polo Championships 2003, which will feature some highlights of the group stages, the semi-finals, the third and fourth playoffs, and the finals. The video will be on sale for (GBP) £17.99 (incl. VAT and p&p) from 15th September 2003, and can be ordered by sending a cheque, along with your address details to Blackflash Media Ltd, 231 Wickham Street, Welling, Kent, DA16 3LR, UK. Further information, and bulk order discounts can be obtained by emailing info@blackflash.co.uk

Overall Results**Men's Kayak**

1. Kamil Mruzek CZE 391
2. Florian Wohlers GER 381
3. Robert Pontarollo ITA 381
13. Peter Keron GBR 318
18. Richard Forbes GBR 299
19. Martyn Steele GBR 296
23. Simon Wright GBR 283

Women's Kayak

1. Michala Strnadova CZE 196
2. Sabine Eichenberger SUI 188
3. Magalie Thiebaut FRA 186
10. Cynthia Berry GBR 138

C1

1. Vladi Panato ITA 200
2. Stephan Stiefenhofer GER 180
3. Tomislav Hohnjec CRO 172
12. Andrew Hamilton GBR 130
13. Colin Radmore GBR 130

C2

1. Vala/Slucik SVK 196
2. Grega/Sutek SVK 187
3. Raus/Pecek CRO 182
5. Clough/Clough GBR 158

How to mend the back of a WWR C2



Wild Water Racing -

World Cup 2003

Kernville California



Colin Radmore on Limestone Rapid

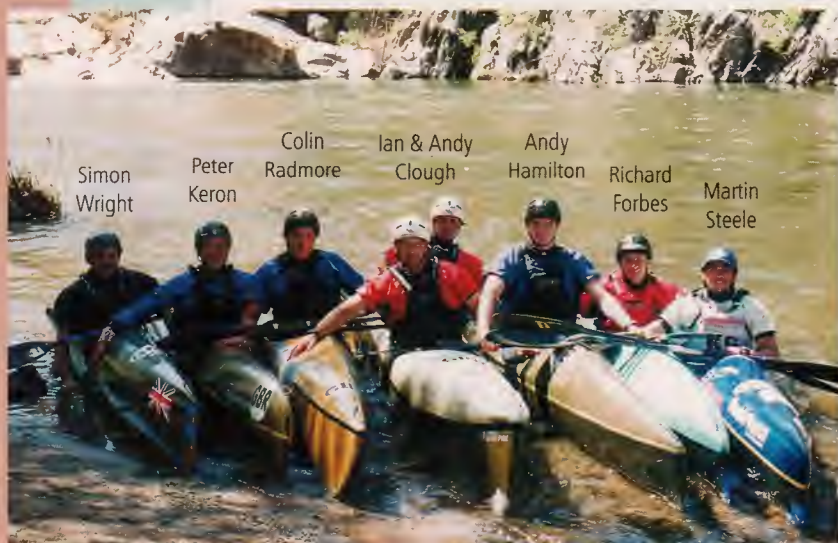
This year's World Cup was held on the River Kern in California, continuing the ICF WWR's Committee's strategy to ensure that every 4 years a full World Cup takes place outside of Europe, the previous excursion being to New Zealand in 1999. 3 of the team from that magical NZ trip also took part in the trip to the US during June, those being in MK1s, Peter Keron and Simon Wright and the LK1 of Cynthia Berry.

For the first time the 6 races (3 'classic' or long courses and 3 'sprints') were all held on different sections of the same river and all the races took place within 8 days. This untried format was used to try and make the trip as manageable as possible for the teams making the long journey around the globe.

As with most things States-side, all things are big and the

river Kern is no exception. Fed with water from Mount Whitney, (the highest mountain in the US) , it was flowing at around 100 cumeecs upon arrival in early June, for comparison the Tryweryn is around 10 cumeecs. The gorge that the river has cut is deep and hundreds of miles long and in some parts very steep, this made for many possible race courses and those chosen provided a magnificent challenge to all the paddlers. This was no straightforward big and bouncy river, it was big, fast, steep and technically difficult. One particularly memorable section was named 'Tequila' which ran around the opposite side of an Island to a rapid called 'Pepsi'. It was 200m of pure white that appeared suddenly around a corner and gradually got steeper and faster to a crescendo at the bottom, it was messy, with no defined lines and any clean runs delighted the paddler who would usually exclaim "how did I manage that without a hit !!!". Very few ran the Pepsi rapid, enough said. In most places the river was deep enough to ensure no major boat damage and since we'd only taken one boat each it was pleasing that such a large flow was raging but some sections were rocky and racing lines often avoided the deepest flow. With powerful water the impacts if they did come were crunching blows and the structure of boats was put at risk, so repairs and some general strengthening was being carried out every other day by at least one person.

In the Men's Kayak, Peter Keron led the British challenge with stoic consistency with a final ranking of 13th, a fantastic performance for the British Champion against the full time athletes of mainland Europe. Richard Forbes performed superbly to achieve 18th and should be proud, Martyn Steele's strength, technical ability and Nepalese experiences in big water assured him a memorable 19th and despite a swim on the final race on the awesome Limestone rapid Simon Wright finished 23rd. (Even the Ladies World Champion swam here!!). Kamil Mruzek from the Czech





Simon Wright on Limestone Rapid

Republic continued his domination of the long course events this year after winning the European Champs and won all three classics to take the men's title.

The C2 class was represented by Iain and Andy Cough who finished 5 overall, again a superb result up against full time athletes and well ahead of those behind. Iain and Andy's experience, rough water ability and all round level headedness earned them much respect from all the paddlers and they became known as the Daddy's. LK1 saw Cynthia with a final ranking of 10th and in the C1 class, Andy Hamilton was 12th and Colin Radmore was 13th. Andy and Colin on their first Wild Water Racing World Cup showed exceptional rough water ability in tackling the monstrous waves, deep holes and powerful flows and provided the crowds with spectacular rough water rolling skills. Michala Strnadova of the Czech Republic was victorious in the ladies events by winning two classics and a sprint race, completing a fine performance for the small Czech team who only sent one representative in each individual class.

Thanks go to Sarah Wright and Allan and Freda Brothwell for driving up and down the Kern for 3 weeks, Virgin Atlantic for carrying our boats as baggage and overall to the Kern Valley River Council for a truly superb event that ran like clockwork. From arrival to the closing ceremony we were treated like gods, every day there was a lunch or dinner provided, various community groups to meet, T-shirts to sign, photos to autograph and interviews to be held. The whole team raced and behaved in a truly exceptional manner and to make it all the more worthwhile, we had a cracking good time doing it. ●

Simon Wright



Martin Steele on Limestone Rapid

Paddle the way you want.
**Power
 Precision
 Elegant**



Adjustable Ferrule System

- Elegant design is light weight and easy to use
- Simply pull, twist to desired feather, snap back
- Adjusts Left or Right in 15 degree increments
- YOU decide what feather works best
- Standard on all Premium and Performance models

Introducing the Ikelos

- Designed for aggressive High Angle style paddlers
- Foam core blade is light and buoyant
- Powerful catch and stroke
- Smooth linking strokes
- Enhances bracing and rolling
- The Corryrecken and Shuna offer similar benefits in solid laminate construction

FOR MORE DETAILS

www.wernerpaddles.com

- Carlisle Canoes, www.carlislecanoes.co.uk (Tel 01228 531 703)
- Brookbank, www.brookbankcanoes.co.uk (Tel 0161 474 1499)
- Desperate Measures, www.desperate-measures.co.uk (Tel 0115 981 6815)
- Up and Under, www.upandunder.co.uk (Tel 02920 578579)
- AS Watersports, www.aswatersports.co.uk (Tel 01392 219600)
- Whitewater Canoe Centre, www.whitewaterthecanoecentre.co.uk (Tel 01932 225988)



Kent Canoe Services Superstore
 2,000 Sq. feet
 showroom full of boats and kit.
 Contract Prices for Scouts, Guides, Sea Cadets, Centres
 B.C.U approved Canoe School.
 Ring: (01732) 886688
 Surf: www.thecanoeshop.co.uk
 for directions and opening times
 New House Farm, Kemsing Road, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7BU

Junior Sprint Racing World Champs

Komatsu, Japan, 29th - 31st August 2003



The Greta Britain team



Lane 2: James Train C1

The Great Britain team was the first to arrive in Japan after a 23 hour journey and two weeks ahead of time, where they were made extremely welcome by the Japanese organisers. The kayaks and canoes, which the team were renting, were ready waiting by the shores of the picturesque Lake Kiba, which was to be the venue for the races. During the next two weeks the team adjusted to the eight hours time difference and trained in temperatures of up to 35 degrees celsius with high humidity.

By the time of the opening ceremony, held in the presence of Princess Sayako, the daughter of the

Emperor, the team was ready for racing.

Four hundred competitors from 47 nations competed in this championship. Great Britain entered eight events and reached three A finals and four B finals. Nine boats race in each final and in the A final of the 500m kayak singles Edward Cox (Wey Kayak Club) had a very good race finishing seventh in a personal best time of 1:41.931 only 1.9 seconds away from a medal. This time is one of the best ever recorded by a British paddler.

Shuna Braithwaite (Scottish Development Squad) and Hayleigh Mason (Nottingham) performed exceedingly well



Tom Daniels and Ben Brown

reaching the A finals of both the 1000m and 500m doubles' events where they came 8th and 9th respectively. Tom Daniels (Reading) and Ben Brown (Elmbridge) stormed towards the finishing line of the 1000m kayak doubles' semi-final, overtaking other kayaks as they did so, only to miss being in the A final by five thousandths of a second (about 15mm). They overcame their disappointment to win the B final with apparent ease.

John Sawers (Elmbridge) reached the B final of the 1000m kayak singles where he came fifth.

The only canoe paddler competing for Great Britain was James Train (Fladbury). James reached the B final of both distances. He was fourth in the 1000m and sixth in the 500m.

Thirty five of the 51 medals were won by Hungary, Russia and Germany. The only other nations to win gold medals were Belarus, Lithuania and Portugal. The remaining 13 medals were shared between eight other countries.

The fact that World Class funding enabled the paddlers to train together, under chief coach Shaun Caven, for six of the seven weeks in the build up to this championship, helped them achieve these overall good results. In Komatsu, Shaun was assisted in his coaching by former Marathon World Champion, Steve Train and massage was provided for the team by Karla Smith. The team manager was Laurence Oliver.

The last year in which Juniors compete is the year in which they reach their 18th birthdays. These results are encouraging for the 2004 Junior European Championships, in Poland, as five of this year's team will still be juniors next year. ●

Laurence Oliver

GB U23 Travel to Athens for first Test Event on new Racing Course

A GB team of eight athletes travelled to Schinias, Athens for the first competitive action on the Olympic Regatta course. Its a fabulous facility with warm up lake beside the main race lake and a return loop.

There were 20 countries there with over 150 athletes, mostly Under 23 which meant good competition for the team. GB qualified for five finals from nine events entered, and most athletes achieved personal best times which was all that could be asked of them. Of note was Andrew Kelly's qualification for the K1 1000m final and the K4 1000m with Rich, Adam, Keith and Liam. There were also a number of good comparatives to be drawn to the European U23 Champs at Zagreb in 2002.

K4 1000 The Hungarian K4 crew, which contained two of the crew that won Bronze at the European U23 Champs in Zagreb in 2002, was 3.4 seconds faster than the GB crew. In Zagreb they were nine seconds faster than the British crew. The British boys have closed the gap.

K1 500 In the 500m, Bethlenfal (Hun) won in Athens. He was 2nd in Zagreb and 4.5 secs faster than Ed McKeever. This time he was only two secs faster than Rich DD's fastest time (1.42)

K2 500 The winning Estonian pair of Tootsi/Becker were 2nd in Zagreb and five seconds ahead of Farrell/ Kennedy. In Athens the GB boys reduced that gap to 3.7.

C1 1000 Gabor Kroneker(Hun) was 11 secs ahead of Matt Lawrence in Zagreb. In a comparative semi-final (before Kroneker was disqualified) he was only five secs ahead of Matt.



Shuna Braithwaite and Hayleigh Mason



Ben Brown/Tom Daniels winning the 1000m B final



www.delta-sportswear.com

Southwater Watersports Centre



Necky WW Kayaks
Now In Stock!

01403 732389 www.ukkayaking.co.uk

26 Station Road, Southwater, West Sussex RH13 7HQ

- Dagger
- Wavesport
- Perception
- Eskimo
- Old Town
- Ocean Kayaks
- Werner Paddles
- Schlegel
- Lendal
- Palm
- Kogg
- Bomber Gear
- Gul
- Marlin
- Snugg
- Ainsworth
- HF

* SERVICING & REPAIRS * FAST TURNAROUND * COMPETITIVE PRICES *

Rubberman Drysuits & Seal Replacement Services



RUBBERMAN

* DIVE*CANOE*SAIL*RAFT*RAFT*RAFT*

Made to Measure Drysuits a Speciality
Repairs to Wetsuits, Drysuits, Cags,
Dry Trousers, Salopettes
All types / sizes of latex seals replaced
Pressure testing and leak troubleshooting
Zip and boot replacement
Alterations and repairs on other
outdoor equipment

Chris Steele, Rubberman Drysuits
& Seal Replacement Services
Tan-y-Ffordd Ucha, Glan Conwy
Colwyn Bay, Conwy LL28 5PG
Phone: 01492-580616 or 07778-803775
Email: chris@rubberman.co.uk
Website: www.rubberman.co.uk

• PYRANHA • PERCEPTION • DAGGER • WERNER

• PALM • NOOKIE • YAK • WILD WATER • PEAK • RIOT

• OLD TOWN • GORILLA • NECKY • STREAMLYTE



**PADDLE
SPORT**

PARK FARM ESTATE
COMPTON VERNEY
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 9HJ
TEL: 01926 640573
info@paddlesport.co.uk
www.paddlesport.co.uk

- Canoes & Kayaks • Whitewater & Recreation
- Large Showroom • Expert Advice • Demo Lake

Group Buyers Package Deals

• BEST ADVICE • BEST PRICES • BEST SERVICE

EG. 6 kayaks + decks + paddles + buoyancy
aids from £1710 inc VAT and delivery.

Interest Free Credit

12 months to pay (details on request)



BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE COURSES
BCU 1-3 Star

WORLDWIDE MAIL ORDER
01926 640573



Open 10.00 - 5.30 Mon-Sat
Sundays & Bank holidays phone for times

AINSWORTH • BUSHSPORT • PLAYBOATER

WIPEOUT
THE WATERSPORTS SHOP
www.wipeoutwatersports.co.uk

Canoe & Kayak Shop
7 Park Hill, Swallownest
Sheffield
S26 4UN
Tel: 0114 2695757
Tel or Fax: 0114 2692739

Tues - Sat 9.30 till 6.00
Contract prices for clubs, centres and schools
tackle@wipeoutwatersports.co.uk
New!! On-line Shop!!

Slalom World Championships

Augsburg 24-27 July

Men's Final:

1. F Le Fevre (Fra) 197.88
2. D Ford (Can) 199.69
3. H Oblinger (Aut) 199.70
4. P Ratcliffe (GBR) 199.79
27. C Walsh (GBR) 105.92
30. N Buckley (GBR) 107.67

Ladie's Final:

1. S Hilgertova (Cze) 224.02
2. J Bongardt (Ger) 226.81
3. R Giddens (USA) 228.1
4. M Planert (GBR) 229.5
5. H Corrie (GBR) 232.9
12. L Blakeman
16. H Reeves

Women's team:

1. Cze - 251.76
2. Ger - 253.84
3. GBR - 256.35

C1:

1. M Martikan (Slo)
2. T Estanguet (Fra)
3. S Pfanmoeller (Ger)
11. S McIntosh
28. D Florence
33. D Goddard

C2:

1. Becker/ Henze (Ger)
2. Hochschorner/ Hochschorner (Slo)
3. V olf/Stepanek (Cze)
13. Smith/ Bowman (GBR)
18. Roden/ Roden (GBR)
28. Baillie/ Morrison (GBR)

Ratcliffe finishes 4th but paddles with pride

Paul Ratcliffe must have stared with disbelief into gurgling waters of the Augsburg Eiskanal as the World Championship gold medal continues to elude him. With four gates remaining on the Augsburg course on his final run, it must have been within touching distance.

Ratcliffe was lying in fourth place after the semi-final run and less than two seconds behind the leader. He made up that time deficit in the early sections of the course but an error at gate 19 drew the collective groans from the course-side British fans as they saw him awarded a two second penalty for the lightest of touches on the outside pole of this upstream.

The agonising truth for Ratcliffe is that without the penalty he would have won the gold medal. But he still must take great positives from this performance. Ratcliffe must be one of Great Britain's genuine medal contenders for the Olympic Games in 2004 - no doubt that will continue to be his inspiration, perspiration and holy grail.

Unfortunately, Campbell Walsh could not produce his qualification form and incurred four seconds in penalties as he finished in 27th place. Neil Buckley had a clean run but finished in 30th.

Heather Corrie has best world's race

Heather Corrie had her best result ever in a world championship race to finish in 5th place. Heather qualified for

the final run in 6th position as Laura Blakeman (12th) and Helen Reeves (16th) could not translate Wednesday's qualification form into semi-final performances. Heather went on to consolidate her morning's work by posting another 116 second run which brought her up to 5th place - a result that qualifies Great Britain a place at the 2004 Olympic Games. Congratulations to Heather on a very good performance.

GB women's team

There was medal consolation for the girls as the GB women's team of Heather Corrie, Laura Blakeman and Helen Reeves emulated their last year's performance in the World Championships as they won the bronze medal. It looked like it would be a silver as the British girls were holding second place after the first run but penalties, once again, spoiled their chances of upgrading their medals.

Close, but no cigar for C1 class

It was just not to be for the GB C1 boys, as none of the boats made the final run (Top 10). Stu MacIntosh came closest - finishing in 11th place. It was nail-biting stuff as with only three athletes to run, MacIntosh was holding 9th place. Then Jan Benzien (Ger) was given four seconds in penalties, and it was so close as to whether he could nudge in ahead of MacIntosh. In the end Benzien got the 10th spot and last place for the final by 0.3 sec. It was just a 'bad day at the office' for Dan Goddard but he and Dave Florence will have added the experience of yet another top line World Championship event to their experience locker!

C2 fail to find final form

The C2 pairing of Stu Bowman and Nick Smith, strongly fancied for a medal at the World Championships this year, failed to make the final (top 10). Two penalties which added a total of four additional seconds to their time for the run, were their undoing. ●

Anthony 'Hooch' finishes second at Prague Trojan Horse Race



There was something for GB to cheer about at Prague on the weekend of 9/10 August as Anthony Brown finished 2nd overall and recorded a win in the Sunday race.

There was a large British presence at the double-header Trojan Horse. The Welsh were there in force - Nerys Rowlands, Anyta Jayes, Tom Wakeling, Philip and Stephen Green. Scots

were represented by Frazer Florence, Dave Florence, Adam Marshall, Claire Harrower and Kim Walsh while England had Anthony Brown, Huw Swetnam, Rich Hounslow, Michelle Patrick, Louise Donnington and Tom Patrick - a total of 16 paddlers.

There are both junior and senior events here, and there were no prizes for guessing the winner of the junior women's event - yes - Katerina Hoskova - won by over 6 seconds on both days. Her times would have put her in 6th and 7th place in the senior women's events.

The junior K1M event was won by Lubos Hilgert - who, if anyone has the best pedigree in the world it must be him. His parents, Stepanka Hilgertova and Lubos Hilgert were both running down the course cheering their son on. Lubos jnr came 2nd and 1st in the 2 races to take the overall title

GB interest was in the senior event

On Day 1, which was just a aggregate of 2 runs - the best result came from Hooch - 4th, who, if he hadn't dropped his paddles at Gate 2 feels he would have finished in 2nd place. Kim Walsh and Michelle Patrick had good first days, finishing in 6 & 7th places. Too many penalties spoil the day for the GB K1 boys

Day 2 saw a slightly different format, with 15 to qualify in each class (but 20 for K1M). Louise Donnington had an excellent first run to qualify in 10th place and finished in 15th. Michelle Patrick did well to pull up from 14th to 8th overall.

While no GB C1 qualified for final, it was down to Hooch (who was lying in 3rd place after the first run) and Huw Swetnam to fly the flag. Hooch posted a 2nd clean and fast run of the day to win. Huw once again picked up penalties as he came 15th.

Interestingly, Lucas Kubrikan, last years silver medallist in the Junior World Champs took 2nd place in the Sunday race and won the event overall.

News from the Freestyle Committee

The Freestyle Committee would welcome bids from all parties willing to host the 2004 British Freestyle Championship. Ideally this event will occur between July and the end of 2004. Within that period we hope that all potential UK sites should be able to find suitable water conditions. Please submit all bids to the Secretary in writing or email by 1st October 2003. If there are multiple bids, all parties will be asked to present their proposal to the Committee at the AGM on 11th October.

It is with regret that the Freestyle Committee accepted the resignation of Su Ottoline as Team Manager. Su has done a fantastic job of organising the British team, bringing much needed order. Her efforts were once again superb in Austria this year. On behalf of the team we would like to thank her for all that she has done. Su has agreed to continue in the role until a replacement is found.

At the AGM on October 11th 2003, the two year cycle for the posts of Vice Chairman, Secretary and Team Manager come to full term and are therefore due for election. Please send all nominations for these roles in writing/email to the Secretary by 1st October 2003.

Chris McMurray

BCU Freestyle Committee Secretary, 19 Quayside Close, Turneys Quay, Nottingham NG2 3BP

To improve your paddling, make sure you feel comfortable in your boat. (And out of it.)



Whether you're learning to paddle for the first time or fine tuning your technique, it pays to feel at you best.

That's why we make you as comfortable as possible during your stay at Plas y Brenin.

At the end of every day's paddling you'll enjoy a hot shower, a hearty meal in great company and a pleasant evening in our well stocked, scenic bar.

And when you've finished swapping tales in the bar you'll be able to climb into a warm, comfortable bed, waking the next morning eager to get back on the water.

What's more, we'll make sure you're well equipped too. At no extra cost. Our stores are packed with the latest boats and gear, all meticulously looked after.

Of course, these unusually high standards take nothing away from the quality of coaching. In fact, we can boast more level five coaches than any other centre, with every one of our instructors a true enthusiast.

So the next time you book a paddling holiday or course make sure you feel comfortable with your decision.

For our free 56 page colour brochure e-mail brochure@pyb.co.uk or phone 01690 720214.



F
O
C
U
SFeature
TANZANIA

Canoeing on

We stood at the edge of the cliff and looked down. Before us, as far as the eye could see, stretched the Great Rift Valley. In the foreground lay Lake Manyara, opalescent in the early morning mist.

The villages were still asleep as we drove over the bumpy red dirt tracks down the edge of the valley. Mist draped the thick jungle on either side. At the base of the cliff we drove through the gates of the Lake Manyara National Park. Baboons ran across in front of the jeep, then paused to watch us. Suddenly we turned a corner and, where a stream crossed the track, an elephant stood drinking.

After about an hour's drive through the damp, stirring forest we came out onto a wide stretch of beach at the lake's edge. The early morning sun was already burning hot. The sand formed a thick, salty crust which, as we neared the water's edge, melted beneath our feet into mud-filled footprints. We unloaded our canoes from the roof of the jeep and waded into the lake.

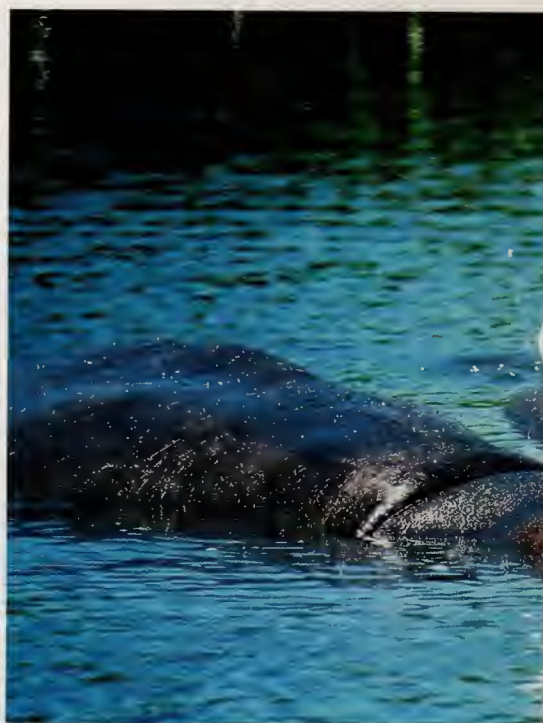
Manyara is a soda lake. Full of algae, its greenish-brown water feels oily-smooth against the skin. It is also very shallow – elephants have been known to walk right across the centre of it to reach the far side. As we waded out deep enough to launch the canoe, our feet sank unpleasantly into deep warm mud beneath and inch or two of water. We had been told that it was safe but the grossly oozing mud filled us briefly with a kind of atavistic fear.

At last we could launch. Away from the shore and the sounds of the forest, the sudden stillness took us by surprise. There was no wind and the surface of the lake was as smooth as a mirror. As we silently dipped the paddles, we felt tiny and insignificant against the vast expanse of water. Lake Manyara covers an area of over 150 square miles, and to us it seemed endless. To our left, the escarpment from which we had looked down at first light now towered above us, reflecting back the shimmering heat. Black swifts and orange swallows dived in the air

around us. To our right, a blue haze of mountains floated above the glittering surface of the lake.

On the shore beneath the escarpment, we saw a herd of giraffes at the forest edge. They watched us placidly, picking delicately at the softest leaves on the crowns of the thorny trees. They were not disturbed by our presence, and as we drifted along the only sound came from the bees humming among the sweet-scented golden flowers of the acacias.

The horizon of the lake was edged with pink. As we drew closer, the pinkness formed itself into a huge flock of flamingos, the most dazzling birds I have ever seen. Also the noisiest - as we drew near the air filled with their raucous cries. We paddled silently towards them and drifted right among them. They looked down at us from their stilt-legged vantage point and if we came too close they would take off into a beautiful, languorous flight before settling down again slightly further off. Their lack of fear makes them easy prey for the jackals which skulk along the shoreline of soda lakes. We saw one of these small, guilty-looking creatures feasting on a dead flamingo, chomping determinedly on



Lake Manyara



mouthfuls of pink feathers. Further along the shoreline, grazing in the long grass, we saw a solitary hippo. We gave him a wide berth. Although they seemed harmless, we'd been told that hippos could be aggressive. They are able to move very fast on land and are particularly dangerous in water as they quite often attack small boats from underneath; we were safe in the shallows though. We saw some other hippos out in the centre of the lake – they seek out the deeper water to escape from the blistering heat of the

sun. Again, we steered well clear, although they seemed uninterested in us as they splashed about idly. One of them would occasionally roll over to reveal an undignified fat pink belly and short stubby legs waving wildly in the air.

As the sun rose further in the sky, we pulled into shore to find some shade. Unfortunately we must have picked an area where water buffalo lived (although we did not see any) because tsetse flies swarmed around us the instant we went ashore. Tsetse flies look something like a giant brown version of the common housefly but give a nasty bite – and, more

importantly, can transmit trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness). In Manyara, we were told, the tsetse fly does not carry sleeping sickness, but their bites were unpleasant nonetheless. We were wearing long-sleeved shirts (essential in any case against the sun) and powerful insect repellent, but the tsetse flies were persistent and we soon set off again.

Out over the lake there seemed to be no insects. The stillness and the shimmering heat made it seem like canoeing through a mirage. Far away along the escarpment, waterfalls and streams crashed silently into the jungle before emerging at the foot of the cliff into swamps.

It was too hot to paddle fast and we took our time as we travelled northwards. We passed flocks of pelicans which took off slowly with a strange, bouncing gait across the water. Nearby, a family of elephants foraged beneath the trees at the lake edge. We caught glimpses of a tiny baby elephant gambolling in their midst. They were compelling, prehistoric-looking creatures and it was a real privilege to be able to get so close: it felt like travelling through The Lost World.

It was a wonderful experience to see the wildlife of Manyara from the safe vantage point of a canoe. We were able to get close to the animals without disturbing them. Our knowledgeable guide, Stephen Senkondo, paddled nearby and was a fund of information on the local wildlife. We had been somewhat concerned about crocodiles, but Stephen explained to us that there were none at Manyara as the rivers there were too small to provide a habitat for them.

info

We also had some concerns about meeting some of lions for which Manyara National Park is famous (Manyara lions are different to other Tanzanian lions because they climb trees). So we were relieved to hear that canoes are not permitted to launch in the areas frequented by lions, and we always kept a respectful distance from anything that could be dangerous.

At last it became too hot to paddle any further. The sun felt like a dead weight on our heads and shoulders, despite our hats and protective clothing, and the landscape took on a somnolent aspect as birds and animals grew silent in the approaching mid-day heat. The cool scent of the forest drifted out invitingly across the water. We pulled the canoes out onto an empty beach and into the shade. ●

Text and photographs by S Montgomery

We found Tanzania to be a very friendly country. Tourism is an important source of income for local people and they were very welcoming. Anyone planning to travel there should check the latest Foreign Office Travel Advice on www.fco.gov.uk The canoe trips were organised by a local firm called Serena Active and can be booked at any campsite or hotel in the area.



London canals: London sunrise...

For the last twelve years I have been living in London, and I have slowly fallen in love with this city. I have seen most of the museums, cathedrals, churches, historical and tourist places and have also visited parts of London subterranea. It has only been till very recently though that I have discovered a new 'activity', a new hidden secret in this great city.

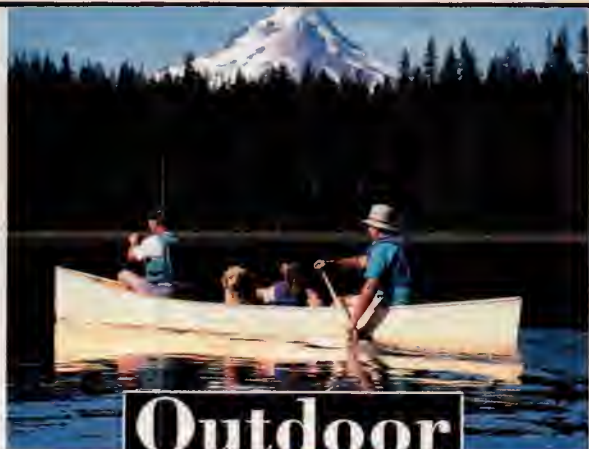
I have seen London canals while walking alongside them, and once been on a houseboat but I have never believed that kayaking on the canals could be such an amazing experience. I have a two-seat kayak, which I share with my two children and one day we decided to try it on the London canals. When you work from Monday to Friday and have children, it is not easy to plan activities. Schools, traffic, food, clothing, and on top of that, the kayak itself and all the equipment you have to carry with you. So, when is the best time? Very, very early in the morning. My first attempts were with a friend who also enjoys kayaking. The plan was to wake up at 4.30 am, peep through the curtains and if the weather was good, and they were no clouds in the sky, we would meet up and drive to one of the canals. I live in North London and the most attractive and closest to me is

in Regents Park. By 5.30am we were in the water, children being looked after by a friend (still asleep!) and, we ready for a half an hour of exercise! Paddling across the tunnel in Little Venice is quite an adventure itself, so long and dark... just look at the photograph! don't you think it is fantastic? When approaching the end of the tunnel, you can see the reflection of the houseboats in the water, the sky, the trees, all in a perfect circle! By 6am we have finished and almost ready to go back, carrying the kayak from and to the top of the car are the most tiring moments, but there isn't anything that can beat a good cup of coffee before getting in the water and an English breakfast after the paddling. By the time we are back to our homes, the children are only waking up, and we would have a different kind of energy to continue and finish the day, like as if we have just come back from holiday, before going to work! Even though every London canal is a small world in itself and it is worthwhile to see them all, I have to admit the day I kayaked on the Thames at six in the morning, watching the sunrise, going from Cleopatra's Needle to and crossing under Tower Bridge, was one of the most amazing and incredible kayak experiences I have had. It was one of those very special moments, not easy to describe with words, that I recommend to any kayaker in love with life. ●

Ruth Bermudez



IMPARTIAL ADVICE



COMPETITIVE PRICES

**Outdoor
ACTIVE**

**Come and try the latest
CANOES, KAYAKS
CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES**

E sales@outdooractive.ltd.uk

T 01454 261058

F 01454 260179

Damery Works, Woodford, Berkeley, Glos GL13 9JR

**UK Importer for
WENONAH CANOES
CURRENT DESIGNS SEA KAYAKS**

ENDLESS RIVER

Mail order specialists

- NEW 38mm wide canoe tie down straps
- NEW 30/60ltr barrels
- Descent helmets
- Kelly Kettles
- Expedition Tarp
- Rescue Pulley

**ON-LINE SHOP
NOW OPEN**

www.endlessriver.co.uk

email: dave@endlessriver.co.uk

PO Box 699, Worcester WR2 6ZL

Tel/fax: 01905 640003



New from **Pelican**

The Viper Fade **£280 + VAT**

- DLX back rest
- Self-bailing
- Grab handles
- Drain plug
- Paddle and paddle tie-down

The Viper



Known for their great value canoes -

the Navigator (Red canoe £339+VAT. 25 Kg, 2 seats) and Colorado (Green Canoe £390+VAT. 37Kg, 3 seats and 2 paddles)



The Wave Fade **£262 + VAT**

- Adjustable DLX back rest
- Easy-drain design
- Grab handles
- Paddle and paddle tie-down

E-mail info@thefamilyboatshop.co.uk

or phone 07092-091575

for colour brochure and further details of great canoes at great prices including pedal boats

T H E FAMILY BOAT SHOP
www.thefamilyboatshop.co.uk

Our premises are not open to the public



As distributors for Pelican International we welcome trade enquiries

Me v. Leptospirosis

This is the story of my close encounter with Leptospirosis – Weil’s disease. Something that may be of interest to many other canoeists. I’m a fortysomething man and been kayaking for about three years, reaching 3 star level, and I’ve recently become a trainee level 2 coach.

It started out like any other cold or flu that I seemed to get every winter since having children. And for the first two days I ignored it like we all do, surviving a day’s work, popping paracetamol to keep me going. However, by the end of the second day I was spending virtually all day and night in bed and by the third I wasn’t getting better like the usual colds or flu normally do. That’s when my wife, Mary, said “This couldn’t be Lepto, could it?”.

As well as being a kayaker the other reason this became a possibility was because both my wife and I are vets (another risk group). But that maybe turned out to be a double edged sword – a little knowledge proved frightening. We were aware that if the disease was not treated promptly it could lead to kidney damage, liver failure, respiratory problems or even meningitis; and death, although rare, was possible. But on the other hand our knowledge was undoubtedly a factor in obtaining early treatment and thus a full recovery.

Day 1

It was a Friday. I woke up with that familiar slight general ache in which you know there’s a virus having a battle with your body. It always wins! A headache develops later in the day, but during the course of a normal working day, the adrenaline kept me going as it always does. By the afternoon I had taken a couple of paracetamol. That seemed to help the general ache but not the headache. I went to bed early that night, hoping to sleep it off and sweat it out. I had booked myself on a drum workshop on Saturday (Winterdrums) near London - Stefan Hannigan was giving a workshop on the Bodhran (the Irish drum) and I couldn’t miss that!

Day 2

I had an unusually bad night’s sleep, alternating between shivering and sweating. But loaded with more paracetamol and a packet of Tunes, off I went to the drum workshop. The African drums seemed very loud and unappealing that day! I found myself having to top up with paracetamol a little more than I would have liked. The hours seemed to pass slowly, but I made it home and went to bed.

Again having periods of dreadful shivering and shaking, feeling cold and not being able to get warm - this would last about an hour. After a short sleep I would awake with sweat dripping from me. Mary changed the sheets as they became soaked in sweat. And so this would go on all night, alternating between sweating and shivering and short sleeps. The headache, which was across the front of my head, was getting worse. I tried a stronger pain killer, diclofenac, which did help the headache but not the fevers.

Day 3

The flu was not abating, which started to make us think this might

not be the normal winter flu. I was now getting lumbar pain (in the area of the kidneys) and an ache in the top of my abdomen. I had become nauseous and then started vomiting, and I couldn’t keep water down. It was at this point that Mary mentioned Lepto. I guess I was not in the best state of mind to rationally think about this, but inevitably whilst lying in bed, my mind stewed over this thought. And the more I thought about it, the more I believed Lepto was a real possibility. At the same time I tried to tell my brain that given the symptoms of any disease anyone could talk themselves into having that disease. I made a real effort to debate the arguments for and against the possibility of Lepto. That Sunday afternoon my wife called the ‘on-call doctor’. His message service said they would get him to call back, which he did when Mary was out and I spoke to him in a semi-lucid state. The conclusion of our conversation was that it couldn’t be Lepto because I wasn’t passing blood in my urine and I was not jaundiced. I was browbeaten into agreeing that a house visit wasn’t needed – “its just a flu, take more paracetamol”. The illness continued with a headache across the front of my head, kidney pain, abdominal pain and the shivering, alternating with sweating. Mary kept changing the sweat-soaked bed sheets and provided water to drink. I was unable to keep down food or water at this stage. I was alternating between paracetamol to control the fevers and the diclofenac to ease the headache.

Day 4

There was no improvement. An appointment was made with the GP that morning. Mary brought home some urine test strips from work to check for blood in my urine. This did not reveal any blood but did reveal evidence of jaundice, which exacerbated my psychological concern about the possibility of Lepto. And my urine was very concentrated, indicating dehydration. While in the GP’s waiting room I became deeply concerned about the possibility of Lepto (but my state of mind was not good) and “what if he/she does not at least give me antibiotics to cover this possibility?”. However I was very fortunate to have a doctor that appeared to sympathise with my concerns and did provide antibiotics to cover the possibility, but I don’t think she believed Lepto was remotely likely. She suggested I was hospitalised in view of my dehydrated and weakened state, although I preferred to try to re-hydrate myself orally, but promised to go to hospital if I failed to do so (I was also concerned that hospitalisation would only delay appropriate antibiotic treatment). I think she only accepted this because Mary and I were vets. She prescribed oxytetracyclines and suggested I take paracetamol and diclofenac

together to control the headache and fevers. She also gave me a note to go to the local hospital for a blood sample to be taken for routine tests as well as a Lepto titre. In the evening she telephoned to say that she had spoken with a registrar at the hospital who suggested a change in antibiotics to amoxycillin and clarithromycin which would cover a wider range of possibilities. That night continued as before, but I made more effort to drink more fluids - water and chilled boiled-lemonade.

Day 5

I was still not taking food and becoming weaker, the fevers were less severe but the headaches persisted. My urine was still very



concentrated and I needed to get more fluids into me. There was still evidence of jaundice in my urine, but now also a trace of blood. Mary got the prescription and the new antibiotics from the chemist. We read up more about Lepto and discovered from a caving website (www.caving.org.uk/wdic) that Hereford County Hospital is the Leptospirosis Reference Unit and blood samples should be sent direct. The GP agreed to take more blood, which was sent direct to Hereford. The blood chemistry results were received from yesterday's sample - there was a slight rise in my liver enzymes and mild jaundice. I was now a very slight pastel shade of yellow at this stage. Otherwise my kidneys and proteins levels were OK. Other information we read suggested that amoxycillin was a good antibiotic against Lepto which was also reassuring.



Hereford hospital – this proved positive. I remained off alcohol for a couple of months because of the liver dysfunction. I had lost a nice quantity of weight, but this is creeping back on again.

Finally; whilst there are a large number of information pages and posters through various sources including the BCU, when you suspect you might be infected with Leptospirosis, I found I need much more information than was available. The cavers

website (www.caving.org.uk/wdic), as well as access the medicine books in a medical library, proved important to me. ●

Mike Martin

info

What, I think, is important to know about Lepto

- Antibody levels to Leptospirosis take 7 to 10 days to reach a level to give a positive antibody test, thus requesting a Lepto-test with your GP before this time is virtually pointless.
- When Leptospirosis is suspected, antibiotic treatment is recommended within 4 to 7 days to prevent serious complications. Don't wait for a positive Lepto-test or it may be too late!
- When a blood sample for a Lepto-test is taken, get your GP to send this direct to the Leptospirosis Reference Unit at Hereford County Hospital for a quick result.

What else, I think, is worth knowing

- Rat's urine is the most common source of infection, via water or soil. Possible sources of infection may be muddy river banks or drinking from beer bottles (depending upon where crates of beer have been stored).
- The bacterium only survives in fresh water and lives for weeks in damp mud or clay.
- There are over 200 pathogenic serovar variants, thus exposure and immunity to one is of little preventative value.
- Infection can be through the lining of the eyes, nose and mouths, as well as cuts.
- The time between exposure to Lepto and the symptoms of the illness is typically 4 – 10 days, but varies from 2 days to 4 weeks.
- Most symptomatic patients have no more than a flu-like illness. Fever is a consistent symptom following exposure.
- Approximately 8 people per year in the UK contract Lepto through watersports and caving.
- It is estimate that 500 people per year contract the infection in a mild form (thought it was a flu), some may have been prescribed antibiotics by their GP and been treated unwittingly.
- Only a small proportion of people (<10%) develop Weil's disease (ie. when there is kidney and liver involvement).
- It is a notifiable disease in the UK.

Day 6

I didn't feel any worse, otherwise the symptoms continued as before. The urine test was similar to yesterday and but with more blood. Knowing I was on antibiotics that would cover the possibility of Lepto and in trying to avoid admitting to myself that I needed to go into hospital for fluids, I developed a much more positive attitude. I vomited after trying to take too much fluids. I switched over to Lucozade Sport, which seemed to hang around for less time in my stomach. I also started eating small amount of tinned soft fruits, not having eaten since Saturday. I had a re-examination with the GP who found some abdominal pain and abnormal lung sounds. She sent me to the hospital for another blood sample for follow-up tests.

Day 7

There was a small but definite improvement and the headaches were less severe. This helped by mental state enormously. I got out of bed for a couple of hours in the afternoon. The urine tests were similar but less concentrated, indicating an improvement in my hydration status. This gave me some optimism. But there was continuing presence of blood on the urine test strips. I also had some spotting of blood when I blew my nose. I was a nice yellow now. Then the GP phoned with the blood biochemistry to report that all my liver enzymes had sharply risen but worryingly my kidney enzymes were high. I decided to really push the re-hydration but over did it and vomited again. I began taking small but frequent quantities of soup as well as the tinned fruit. The Lepto result from the blood sample sent direct to Hereford (on day 5) was negative at this point.

Day 8

I had definitely turned the corner at this stage. There was a good improvement and I had felt the antibiotics had had an impact. Mary and I concluded that this must have been a bacterial infection of some sort and despite the negative Lepto result we believed it was still the most likely explanation. I felt the infection was under control but was quite weak at this stage. I gradually began increasing the amount of food – tinned and fresh fruit and soups mainly.

Day 9 & 10

Over the week end there was a continuing improvement and I was now beginning to feel hungry. My hydration status was virtually normal by this stage.

Recovery

The worst of the illness was behind me by now. I took another week off work and then fortuitously I was on a pre-booked week's holiday after that, thus a total of three weeks off work. Psychologically I felt much happier knowing I was going to get better and it surprised me how much of a psychological element there was to my illness. More blood tests showed the level of jaundice to have reduced, consistent with my improvement, although the liver enzymes had deteriorated. The result of the very first blood test (taken on day 4) for Leptospirosis performed by the hospital was received and was negative. Because of this, the GP did check for other possibilities such as bleeding disorders and viral hepatitis. A repeat blood test for Leptospirosis was taken on day 11 and sent to

Children of Chernobyl 2003...

A breath of fresh air

Every year a group of 14 children and their interpreters from Chernobyl in Belarus visit Portland in Dorset. The children stay with local families and are kept very busy with trips out and visit to local schools and attractions. On one of their evenings I organised a canoe session for them.

I did not know what to expect so when 14 very excited children came in chatting away in Russian I was a bit overawed. This feeling carried on when the interpreters told me that they were not coming on the water with us.

What is the Russian for "STOP come back!"

We got them kitted out and onto the buses for a short trip to Sandsfoot Beach. With the help of Emma (I asked her for help with the session but Emma can't speak Russian either) we got the Canadian canoes and kayaks unloaded and the children split into two teams of eight.

It was a challenge both Emma and myself enjoyed, trying to show how to hold a paddle and how to use it.

Once in the boats some of the children looked unsure before launching, so they were launched with me pulling them in and then me falling into a heap in the water getting soaked. This they seemed to enjoy.



The session was kept very tight but it was hard to keep them all together. Me shouting instructions to the interpreters who then shouted these instructions out to the children. The children picked the skills up very quickly and after some raft games we swapped the groups round from canoes to kayaks.

Another great session which after three hours had come to an end. This was where the problem of getting them off the water began. One little slight of a girl tried to paddle away so after several attempts of shepherding her into the beach I had to take her in tow. This young girl was shouting plenty at me and I think it was a good job I couldn't speak Russian.

A session, which went better than planned and which made all the training to be a canoe coach worthwhile. This to me is what being a canoe coach is all about. I would like to thank Emma Whitcombe and Bob Milverton for giving their time and assistance free of charge, also Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre for the loan of their equipment and facilities.

I would like to offer this session for the children who will come over next year so if you can help in any way please contact me:

Nobby Cranny 01305 826137 or mr@cranny.fslife.co.uk

London Youth Games

The Borough of Kingston upon Thames was represented at the recently held London Youth Games by a team from Albany Park Canoeing and Sailing Youth Club. This annual indoor Slalom event held at the Crystal Palace Sports Complex, is attended by most of the London Boroughs. This is the second year that this Kingston team has competed finishing in 9th place, (18th in 2002).

The Friends of Albany Park supported the training for this event, with a grant awarded to them by the Kingston Grants Unit. The event was sponsored St. George plc.

Ken Jackson

Albany Park Canoeing & sailing Y.C 020 7942 2724



Above:
Left to right

Louisa Parkinson, Victoria Laming, Ryan Parkinson, Nick Mears, Andy Amer (Leader), Peter Wilkinson (Volunteer Leader), Patrick Steele.

Left:

Ryan Parkinson on his first run negotiating the poles for a clear run in a very competitive time.

INSURANCE

TO MEET THE MOST DEMANDING CHALLENGES
 To obtain a personalised quotation, arrange cover or to simply ask a question, one number is all you need:

0845 601 2385
 MON - FRI 9am - 5pm

Devitt

SURFING & WINDSURF **DINGHY** **SMALL CRAFT** **CANOE**

WHITEWATER The Canoe Centre

The canoe & kayak specialists for all your paddling needs!
 (We are not just for the whitewater paddler.)

6,000 square feet of paddler's paradise 5 mins from junction 1 of the M3.

Shepperton Marina, Felix Lane
 Shepperton, Middx TW 17 8NS

Tel: 01932 247 978; Fax: 01932 241 368
 Email: whitewater@canoecentre.demon.co.uk
www.wwtcc.com

You rarely spot a Canoe Store this good

Focus on UK Canoes for whitewater, sea and touring, open canoes, sit on tops and accessories.

UK Canoes

Open: Monday to Saturday 9.30-5.30
 Sunday 11.00 to 5.00
 Just 1 minute off J34 M6, next to the River Lune

We Stock the Lot!
 Call us today, then call us unbeatable!

www.ukcanoes.co.uk

01524 388850
 Fax: 01524 388830 Email: info@ukcanoes.co.uk

UK Canoes
 Unit 8 Lansil Industrial Estate
 Caton Road
 Lancaster
 LA1 3PQ

Anglesey Sea + Surf Centre

Level 2 Training (Sea): 1/02, 02/02 (Spain), 8/03, 9/03, 25/03, 26/03, 6/05, 7/05, 17/05, 18/05, 14/06, 15/06, 20/09, 21/09, 25/09, 26/09, 18/10, 19/10, 1/11, 2/11, 8/11, 9/11.

Level 2 Assessment (Sea): 5/02 (Spain), 10/03, 27/03, 22/04, 6/05, 19/05, 22/06, 26/09, 20/10, 3/11, 11/11.

Level 3 Training: 8/02, 9/02 (Spain), 10/02, 11/02 (Spain/Surf) 22/03, 23/03, 12/04, 13/04, 8/05, 9/05, 31/05, 1/06, 16/08, 17/08, 20/09, 21/09, 25/10, 26/10, 8/11, 9/11 (inland), 15/11, 16/11, 6/12, 7/12.

Assessor Training: 6/05, 23/09
 Coaching Processors Course: 10/05, 11/05, 27/09, 28/09

For further information or to book a place contact us on +44 01407 762525 or visit www.assc.org.uk

Nigel Dennis Kayaks Ltd.
 Manufacturers of Quality Hand-Made Sea Kayaks

Our Range includes:

- :: The Romany ::
- :: Romany LV ::
- :: Explorer ::
- :: Explorer LV ::
- :: Explorer HV ::
- :: Greenlander ::
- :: Greenlander Pro ::
- :: Triton Tandem Sea Kayak ::
- :: & The Poseidon ::

www.NigelDennisKayaks.com

For further information on our range why not visit our website or telephone Dave Williams on +44 01407 761188

Youthfest 2003



Wall to wall sunshine and wall to wall youths paddling best sums up the day - without doubt the best place to be at Youthfest his year was on the water! Over 30 teams took part in the National Bellboat Championships - with many of the paddlers participating in the other activities being run over the day. In addition to the bellboat racing some youths came just for the slalom and sprint races which were both very popular - so wherever you looked on the day - there was paddling!

Bellboat Championships

Without doubt the overall standard in this event is improving, with some very skilled teams participating this year. In the Under 12 event, Melbourne Cubs were out to improve on their third place from last year - in the end it was their red team that took first place with Melbourne Green winning the minor final. 5th Mansfield greatly improved on their result last year to take second place closely followed by 58th Southport Sea Scouts in third place.

In the Under-15 event Salford were consistent and strong storming through in the final to take first place - whilst behind them there was a real battle for podium places with Runcorn/Macclesfield taking second place and Shropshire Paddlesport squeezing out Waverley Crew to take third place by 0.27 seconds!

The Under-18's saw some tactical racing to bring the teams in best form to the final and challenge last year's winners. In the end 5th Mansfield proved to be just too strong

for the other crews and took first place - retaining their title, with Scratch Specials 2nd and Maverick Mustange 3rd.

Throughout the day young people took the opportunity to try out other aspects of the sport. In the Diamond Slalom Challenge - over 100 youths took part with 13 youths gaining the silver award and Peter Hollis and Adam Cooper included a 200m sprint and a long distance race. In the latter some old rivalries were fought out with some very tight finishes. It was great to see a lot of knew faces in the Lightnings and we hope you try out some more races in the future.

Meanwhile, in the Ergo Challenge over 70 young paddlers went for bust (coached by Steve Marnell and the Runcorn team) to score some really fast times on the paddling ergo machines - in addition, some not so young paddlers joined in the fun to see if they could beat the times! Whilst on the water in the freestyle Austin Floyd, Dave Walker and Patrick Hobson performed some great demos in between coaching some "cool" flatwater stunts. The "try a boat" session kept Mark Birch and his Brookbank Canoes team busy all day with a wide range of craft on offer including a KataKanu from Ian White.

Thanks to Salford Watersports Centre for providing the facility for the event, the many volunteers on the day and clubs and centres who provided the equipment not least Len Hartley and his Youthfest Working Party and all the BCU Paddlesport Development Officers. A full set of results can be found on the web site:

(www.bcu.org.uk/youth/youthresults.html).

Photographer - Ian Aitken



First canoe club achieves Club Mark status



Following on from our news item on page 10 - Christine Norris from Tandrige Canoe Club gave us an account of the club's activities..

Tandrige Canoe

Polo is a very ordinary community club with a simple aim: to introduce young people to paddlesport by means of polo in a safe and fun environment. A key to success for any group is building a strong team of helpers, so juniors, their parents and other adults are encouraged to develop their skills and experiences in all aspects of paddlesport. Those that naturally start helping others are encouraged to train for coaching awards.

The committee keeps a close eye on changing needs so that the club can respond quickly with funding and resources. Many of the helpers and coaches have a background in Scouting, Guiding and the D of E Award, so safety and good practice are second nature.

Whilst running a local introductory level canoe polo league is the club's main activity, the local pool size means that club teams are unlikely to compete successfully at regional level in this discipline unless they commit to regular training in a larger pool. However, several of the earlier members are now at university and competing in BUSA and regional leagues and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

All the club's coaches are recreational paddlers - none are "polo specialists" - so river trips, surf weekends, rodeo, slalom competitions and whitewater trips feature regularly in the calendar, as well as BCU Star training, safety and coach training courses.

For more information, visit www.tandridgecanoe.co.uk. Adults interested in joining the club to help with the pool sessions and enjoy the trips away are welcome to call.

From 'up north'

With two events happening within a fortnight of each other, the North has been fairly hopping with activity!

The first event was the BCU Northern Junior Talent Camp on the 21st of June held at the Tees White Water Centre, Stockton. Based on the format devised last year for the Sport England Active Sports Talent Camp, five disciplines were on offer - polo, slalom, sprint/marathon, wildwater racing and freestyle. Clubs were asked to nominate youngsters who they felt would benefit from a day's top level coaching in a particular discipline. The sun shone, the forty or so youngsters were keen to learn, the coaches impressed by their enthusiasm - hopefully the message goes back to the clubs that this is the day in the region not to be missed!

The second event on July 5th was again tried for the first time last year - a canoe exhibition aimed at the general public and held at the Tyne Riverside Country Park, Prudhoe. Perhaps 'exhibition' sounds a bit staid as we did not attract the numbers we'd hoped for, but for those that went, it certainly was entertaining. On the water, numerous canoeing activities were taking place on the Saturday - water polo, flat water cartwheels, open boating and slalom to name a few. Pyranha brought along their latest fleet of demo boats and strategically placed them at the top of the 15' seal slide - an irresistible invitation! Much hilarity for both canoeists and public alike was caused by the cardboard canoe race with two tandem crews out of the five starters completing the course down grade 2 rapids. On dry land, a large assortment of craft was on display,

supplemented by Four Seasons of Stockton who also brought along boats and the 'gear' for sale. There was information on canoeing activities in the region and the BCU Young Peoples' programme, coupled with the Environment Agency's display on Water Recreation. On Sunday there was the opportunity for the public to 'Come and Try'.

So who says nothing ever happens 'up north'! See you at the Tyne Tour, November 8th/9th - and watch out for details of the Junior Perception Wavehopper event!

Bobby E. Timperley, N.E.Region PDO

Schools and Paddlesport

Schools offer a fantastic opportunity to introduce young people to Paddlesport - you could look at it like this - all our future paddlers have to go to school - so let's start there! So the BCU now has two Paddlesport curriculum guides to help teachers and coaches make the link.

One of the six opportunities/strands included in the National Curriculum for PE in secondary school is Outdoor and Adventurous Pursuits - which includes Paddlesport. In addition various disciplines within paddlesport could be included in the athletics and games strands of the PE syllabus.

To make this more accessible and to encourage a bigger uptake of paddling the BCU has produced a Key Stage 2 document (primary and middle schools), and to provide continuity, a Key Stage 3 document (years 7 to 9 secondary) for teachers and coaches wishing to incorporate paddlesport in their programme at schools. Useful for schools alone if they have facilities for paddlesport; or nearby centres if the school uses them to augment their activities, to ensure they will meet the requirements of the school curriculum and OFSTED inspectors.

Further details of the documents can be viewed on our website www.bcu.org.uk/youth/paddlesportandeducation

Christmas card competition

The BCU Young People's Programme is searching for a new Christmas card design to send out for 2003. Last year we had some great entries so we are running another competition this year - so pens and paints at the ready - and read below. There are some great prizes - and what's more you get to see your artistic work published!

What do I need to know?

- The picture must be about Paddlesport and Christmas - for example - images of where you go paddling - your friends or family paddling
- Size should be around 150 x 210mm (A5) but don't worry too much - if you work to A4 size we can always reduce it to fit if needed
- Colour or black and white - your choice - but must be hand drawn/painted.
- You must be under 18 and it must be all your own work
- Entries must be received by 14th November 2003 - please write your name, age, address and phone number on the back of your picture & include a sae for return of picture.

Send your entries to: British Canoe Union, Youth Programme Competition,



Adbolton Lane, West Bldgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS or email paddlesport@bcu.org.uk

Conditions of entry - Submission of entry indicates permission to publish. Judges decision is final. No responsibility will be taken for loss or damage to entries by the BCU.

LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

Please send letters either by email to

[peter@](mailto:peter@canoefocus.co.uk)

canoefocus.co.uk

or post to:

Canoe Focus,
49 Greenfields,
St Ives,
Cambs PE27 5HB

Correction

Thank you for publishing my letter about access in the August *Canoe Focus*. Unfortunately you seem to have given me a title that does not belong to me. I think it probably belongs to the other correspondent with the same surname of Adams. I have no connection with the Outdoor Industries Association.

Steve Adams

Tennis elbow

I read the magazine both here and abroad on a regular basis. I have been plagued with tennis elbow which has not got better no matter how much I rest it and how many steroid injections or physio I have. This, I understand is a common problem with kayakers and as I have never seen an article about this in *Canoe Focus* I was wondering if it would be possible to sound our members out and find out how they manage. I wonder if there is a bad technique which I am adopting? Has anyone found a better way to paddle or a paddle which works for this problem? I have wondered about the bent shaft paddles and would love to hear if they have worked for anyone. A short paddle has been suggested so that I use my body more than my arms to paddle... is this a fact or fantasy?

Amber Draper, Devon

Safety guidance on fittings

As a very active club, Leeds Canoe Club runs monthly trips to all parts of the country. It was whilst away on one of these trips we had the misfortune of an event now known to us as the 'Pitlochry Incident'.

Whilst paddling on the Lower Tay Grade 2/3, we decided to park and play in a small deep wave Grade 2 water. One of our competent junior paddlers capsized, failed her Eskimo roll and subsequent hand rolls. Being at hand to assist in a rescue I realised that something was drastically wrong. I went to right her and in the thrashing and confusion a single breath was caught by the now near drowning girl who inadvertently pushed myself away which caused her boat to enter the current and be swept from my grasp. Several seconds later she appeared on the surface gasping for air before being escorted to the bank.

As any leader knows the speed of an incident, the trauma following, tears etc. all have a profound influence on the individual and group's confidence which rapidly declined. The situation was nurtured back into shape over some time and our journey completed.

On investigation Rachel and her father had bought a new style rodeo boat from a dealer whom endorsed their choice. Ratchet straps, inflatable hip pads, adjustable footing to restrict movement and aid control, all contributed to the victim becoming pinned into her own boat by over adjustment due to a lack of experience and information.

From this incident, each of our members with newly purchased boats must demonstrate a knowledge of fittings, their purpose and be able to exit their boat in various controlled environments. Boat design and purpose are also covered.

As part of our follow up we wrote to canoe manufacturers expressing our concern about new boat fittings and the lack of safety guidance directed towards such fittings. Only a few manufacturers provide adequate information which is fixed with the boat. This provides subsequent owners with the safety information they require attached to that vessel in a prominent location.

We also expressed our opinion that current manufacturers not providing information in this manner should take heed from our experience and produce safety information that is permanent and prominently placed on their boats. As we received little feedback, we then took it upon ourselves to provide the non responders with a dossier of diligent responses to substantiate our concerns.

The majority of manufacturers failed to provide any response which we feel will only lead to unnecessary risk of loss of life. Rachel's experience was, in our opinion, a blessing in disguise. We feel, had she not been paddling in a controlled environment she may very well not be with us today.

On another positive note, we would very much like to publicly thank Perception and Dagger for their response. To the other manufacturers, canoeing is a fun enjoyable sport, let's please make it safer for everyone.

Justin Scott, Chairman

"Day Cruise"

I would like to thank Peter Adams for his corrections to my 'Day Cruise' article in the June edition of *Canoe Focus*. He is, of course, right regarding the access situation on the Maun. I have never tried to use that route because it

had been pointed out to me that there was an access issue. As to the naming of the river 'Whitewater' rather than its correct name, it was done so as not to confuse people who would probably use Ordnance Survey maps to navigate their way to the start point. I have had contact with people since the article went in, thanking me for informing them of the possibilities of paddling a local river that they were unaware of.

The thrust of my whole argument regarding access information was highlighted by Steve Adams letter in the August issue. We need to protect the mileage we currently hold whilst pushing on with the fight to get equitable use of the rest of our national water. I am hoping more canoe clubs and individual canoeists will come forward with write-ups on paddles in their area and so increase the common knowledge. River Guides are not the complete answer. It seems to me the *Canoe Focus* is the ideal forum in which to do that.

There are members of the Midlands Group of the Canoe Camping Club who are in the process of getting together some other day paddles and indeed even a three/four day canoe camp which we do is being worked on. So let's have more local clubs publicising the paddles they use each weekend. They should not assume that other canoeists are aware of what's on offer locally.

Alan Waites

Njord Sea Kayak Symposium

Trys' account of the above symposium made excellent reading and while I hold the lady in high regard I must take issue with one aspect of her report. The bold type overprinting the title picture states 'Easter 2003 saw Norway's first ever Sea Kayak Symposium', not so! If you care to refer to *Canoe Focus* number 110 for December 1997, on page 40 you will find an article 'Norwegian Experience' reporting on the Norwegian Sea Kayak Symposium held at Nord Kjerringa in Austerhelm.

Having attended some 34 Sea Kayak Symposia, been a contributor to all but three of them and co-organiser of six, I consider myself well qualified to state that the 1997 Norwegian event was an outstanding success. Over 90 paddlers from nine countries participated, there were more designs of sea kayaks than at any symposium I had been to and there was a tremendously friendly atmosphere. It was a credit to the organisers, Lillehammer Kayak Club and the Bergen Student's Sports Association Paddle Group supported by the Norges Padleforbund (the Norwegian governing body).

Interesting, coaching was a hot topic of discussion in 1997 as well. Bengt Hanson gave a presentation on the Swedish system and Gordon Brown, one of our leading sea coaches, talked about the BCU scheme. Having been closely involved in introducing the coaching scheme in Scotland I found it significant that the almost unanimous verdict of the Norwegian paddlers present was that the British system was far too complicated for their requirements. Perhaps this was a reflection of the fact that the 1997 event was run by and for recreational paddlers whereas the 2003 one was run by the trade, if I read Trys' article correctly. Or maybe things have just moved on.

Duncan R Winning
Honorary President, Scottish Canoe Association
and recent ex BCU Board Member



CARLISLE CANOES
 OLD RAFFLES PARADE
 WIGTON ROAD
 CARLISLE
 CUMBRIA
 CA2 7EX

TEL/FAX 01228 531703
 E-MAIL info@carlislecanoes.co.uk
www.carlislecanoes.co.uk
 OPENING TIMES
 MON - FRI 9.30 - 5.30
 SAT 9.30 - 4.30



STIRLING CANOES
 BLOCK 4 UNIT 2
 MUNRO ROAD
 SPRINGERSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
 STIRLING
 FK7 7UU

TEL/FAX 01786 478820
www.stirlingcanoes.co.uk
 OPENING TIMES
 MON - SAT 10.00 - 5.30

SUN & BANK HOLIDAYS BY ARRANGEMENT

THE NORTHS PREMIER KAYAK AND OPEN CANOE SPECIALIST

KAYAKS IN STOCK

PYRANHA
 ESKIMO
 NECKY
 PRIJON
 RIOT
 PERCEPTION
 DAGGER
 WAVESPORT

SEA KAYAKS
 & OPEN
 CANADIAN
 CANOES
 FOR HIRE

INFLATABLES

GUMOTEX
 EURORAFT

OPEN CANADIAN CANOES IN STOCK

MAD RIVER
 DAGGER
 PYRANHA
 MOBILE ADVENTURE
 OLD TOWN

SIT ON TOPS

PERCEPTION
 COBRA
 OCEAN KAYAKS
 PYRANHA

SEA KAYAKS IN STOCK

P & H
 PERCEPTION
 PRIJON
 PYRANHA
 DAGGER

INTEREST
 FREE CREDIT
 3-12 MONTHS

PADDLES AND ACCESSORIES FROM ALL LEADING MANUFACTURERS








VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR SPECIAL OFFERS

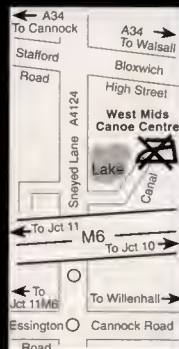
www.carlislecanoes.co.uk

MAIL ORDER HOT LINE 0800 0747975 FREEPHONE
 SAME DAY DESPATCH    NEXT DAY DELIVERY



100% Washable

-  Washing Guidelines
-  roto moulded kayaks
-  open canoes
-  buoyancy aids
-  paddles, crash hats
-  cags, spray covers
-  roof racks etc.



email wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk

West Midlands Canoe Centre Fax: 01922 479096
 Sneyd Wharf, 401 Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall, WS3 2LT
 web site <http://www.arrowmcc.demon.co.uk>



- Raft
- Canoe
- Kayak
- Climb
- Camp
- White Water Course
- Retail Shop
- Cafe



BCU Approved Centre

Teesside White Water Centre
 Tel: 01642 678000

Come and study various Full and Part time Outdoor Education modular courses in one of the most beautiful counties in Wales.

- NVQ Level 1 in Sport Recreation & Allied Occupations Activity Leadership Outdoor Education
- NVO Level 3 in Outdoor Education Development Training or Recreation
- Opportunity to gain National Governing Body Awards
- Courses are structured to include college based theoretical and practical studies, practical skills development and work placement

colegsirgâr
CORNWALL, LAKELAND COLLEGE

For further details please contact admissions on
01554 748000
or E-mail: admissions@colegsirgâr.ac.uk

WOODMILL OUTDOOR CENTRE

Kayak and Canoe programme for beginners, advanced and instructor.

Well stocked shop with extensive range of Kayaks and equipment.

Sea kayaking and Whitewater trips to Spain.



Woodmill Lane, Swaythling, Southampton. SO18 2JR
02380 555993 Fax 02380 556641
http://www.woodmill.co.uk



Sea Kayak Outer Hebrides

UIST Outdoor Centre

"The finest sea kayaking coastline in the world"
Guided tours and expeditions.
Introductory/Intermediate
Full range of courses.
Accommodation. Details:
Uist Outdoor Centre, Lochmaddy,
Isle of North Uist, HS6 5AE
Tel 01876 500480
www.seakayakouterhebrides.co.uk
email: info@uistoutdoorcentre.co.uk

Adventure Whitewater

Kayaking, Rafting, Trekking, Biking, Wildlife Safari, Bungy jumping, Canyoning adventure holidays.

Nepal, Peru, Bolivia, New Zealand, Chile, Turkey, Morocco & the Zambezi.
Kayak clinics in Nepal and Morocco

Private group trips can also be arranged

0870 443 0 240 (UK)

Agent for ATOL 3348

info@adventure-whitewater.com
www.adventure-whitewater.com

Practical, jargon free

First Aid Training

for remote area activities.



Open courses in the Peak District.
Groups at your own venue.
HSE approved REC course.

tel/fax 0771 4094029 www.mediact.net

BOULDER ADVENTURES

KAYAK COURSES	DATE	TIME
4* training	15/16 Nov	
5* training	22/23 Nov	
5* assessment	06/07 Dec	
L3 training	22/23 Nov	
L3 assessment	06/07 Dec	
WW intro/progression	22/23 Nov	
	20/21 Dec	
	24/25 Jan	

PLEASE CALL US WITHIN 10 DAYS
TELEPHONE 01286 870556
Bryn Du Mountain Centre
Llanberis, North Wales.
www.boulderadventures.co.uk

FOR SALE

15 FOOT GRUMMAN DOUBLE-ENDED CANOE in very good condition, motor mount, paddles, £400. Buyer to uplift. Contact 01349 877505 (Ross-Shire) or evelyn@moraypark39.freeserve.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

Bunkhouse

Near Bala, North Wales

Excellent quality and value. Open all year, central heating, drying room. Self catering or pre-booked meals available. Set in private grounds amidst farmland. Bunkhouse sleeps

10+8. Studio cottage sleeps 4.

WTB*** Bunkhouse

Lynda Parker

01490 420680

Tyddyn Bychan, Cefn Brith

Grid ref: SH931 504

River Dart, NewBridge

Riversmeade B&B offers quality ensuite accommodation, ample parking and drying facilities. Open all

Tel: Joy Hasler

01364 631224

COME CANOE AT SLENINGFORD

A superb riverside camping/caravan site in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales

- Excellent on site grade 2/3 canoeing on the River Ure
- Camping/caravanning by the riverside
- Changing and other facilities for canoeists
- Day visitors also welcome



SLENINGFORD WATERMILL CARAVAN PARK
NORTH STAINLEY, RIPON, N. YORKSHIRE, HG4 3HQ

Tel: 01765 635201

BOULDER ADVENTURES

- Bed only £11.00 (including bedding)
- Bed & breakfast £12.50
- Full board £19.50
- Skills & Coaching courses

GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
CALL 01286 870556

Bryn Du Mountain Centre
Llanberis, North Wales.
www.boulderadventures.co.uk

Excellent hostel/bunkhouse

s/c accommodation, sleeps 2x10, 1x4, 1x2 ample parking £8.50 per night. Benllech, Anglesey

tel: 01248 853024

www.lakehouseholidays.com

Keswick Independent Hostel

River Greta access across road. 52 beds in dorms, linen included, central heating, hot showers, 10 mins walk to town centre.

Instruction available.
Groups or Individuals;
£10/person/night

www.vividevents.co.uk

017687 75351

GREY CORRIE LODGE AND ROY BRIDGE INN HOSTEL For the Highlands

Two independent hostels located on the A86 in the village of Roy Bridge. Fort William 12 miles to the west. Private rooms for 2, 3, 4 and 8 persons. Complete self-catering. Heating. Showers. Toilets. Drying rooms and All bedding provided. All inclusive price. Bar on site, live music some Saturdays.

ACCESS VISA & SWITCH ACCEPTED

Tel: 01397 712236

Fax: 01397 712241

BALA NORTH WALES

Bala Bunkhouse ideally situated for the Tryweryn White Water Centre
Open all year round providing comfortable self-catering

Accommodation suitable for groups & individuals. Fully heated, hot showers, separate ladies & gents, drying room.

Steeps up to 26-1x2-1x4-1x6 1x8 & 1x6 self-contained bunkroom.

£9.00 pppn.

For Brochure and booking information contact:

Jane & Guy Williams on:

Tel: 01678 520738

Visit www.balabunkhouse.co.uk

Fort William

Self-catering - Home comforts
Excellent drying rooms - Twin and four-person bedrooms - Parking for trailers - Groups or individuals
22 Beds

Tel: 01397 700451

alan@westcoast-mountainguides.co.uk
www.westcoast-mountainguides.co.uk

GLAN - Y - BORTH

Nestles on the banks of the River Conway in the heart of Snowdonia.

Ranging from 2-8 berth Bungalows.

20 fully equipped Self Catering Bungalows.
Offers home from home comfort.

Please Phone Bill

01492 641543

Sea Kayak MILOS

Calm seas, warm water, and a spectacular coastline; amazing sea caves, deserted beaches.

- Rentals, guided trips, B&B
- Open April thru to October

www.seakayakgreece.com

Olympics accommodation

70 mins Schinias

Quiet location

Reasonable price

Sleeps 2,4,6,8.

01788 822567

CAIRNGORMS: Ardenbeg Bunkhouse and Outdoor Centre - Fully equipped S/C accommodation for 24 with excellent drying room and off road parking. Only £10.00 per person per night. Equipment hire and tuition available. Tel: 01479 872824 email: enquiries@ardenbeg.co.uk visit: www.ardenbeg.co.uk

DARTMOOR O.S.SX 706 696. Camping Barn. At Holne. Sleeps 16. Close to pub. 5 minutes to Newbridge. Cheap and cheerful. Showers. Woodburner. Tel Katie 01364 631544

PERFECT FOR EXPLORING SHELTERED SCOTTISH SEA LOCHS AND ISLANDS. Rahoy Cottages are set beside Loch Teacuis, Loch Sunart. Open fires, well equipped, sleep four. Phone 01967 421 287

www.rahoy-estate.com
BRING YOUR KAYAKS TO NORTH WEST SCOTLAND. Comfortable cottage sleeps 6, quartr mile by road from launch bay. Paddle in the sheltered crystal clear waters of island studded Loch Carron and provide interest for the local seals. Brochure: Sue Gerrard 0207 267 6548 or Valc@orange.net

The largest classified section in the canoeing world
01480 465081

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Canoes - Kayaks Direct
 Best Prices Free kayak delivery
 Tel-07720 955427
 Fax-08701 638201
<http://www.canoesdirect.co.uk>
 Email: sales@canoesdirect.co.uk

TREVOR STEELS TRAILERS
 KAYAK - CANOE - WINDSURF - TRAILERS
 ALL TYPES STANDARD OR CUSTOM BUILT
 HIGH SPEC GALVANISED ROAD LIGHTS
 PHONE/FAX FOR COLOUR BROCHURE 01430 860882
www.trailers.freeseve.co.uk

www.4YourLeisure.co.uk
 Activities : Accommodation : Retail & Trade : Jobs

- Activities in your area and across the UK.
- Accommodation suited to your individual requirements.
- The job you deserve
- New and used equipment
- Selling your own equipment at no charge to you

Info@4yourleisure.co.uk

JOEL WATERSPORTS
For all your Kayaking & Canoeing requirements

Large and wide range of stock
 Discounted prices call for details

Friendly Expert Advice
Speedy Mail Order Service
Colour brochures available

Holt Fleet,
 Nr Worcester, WR6 6NW.

Tel: (01905) 455311
 Fax: 08707 400258

[HTTP://www.joelwatersports.co.uk](http://www.joelwatersports.co.uk)
 email:sales@joelwatersports.co.uk

Located off A4133, adjacent to river bridge

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

RAS DEX
 for all your kayaking needs

18 High Street
 Bala, Gwynedd
 LL23 7AY
 0845 6442860
 e: info@rasdex.co.uk
www.rasdex.co.uk

waterproof, breathable, tough

warm kit

TEL: 01271 815828
 free mail order brochure
www.chillcheater.com

FIBREGLASS MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

Resin	Coatings	Pigments
Gelcoat	Releasers	Acetone
Mats, Fabrics	Epoxies	Books, Tools
Fillers	Foams	Free Advice

LOWEST UK PRICES
 Free Catalogue Next Day delivery
 Tel 01209 822200

Order from our on line catalogue
www.cfsnet.co.uk

PLASTIC TUBS

ONE PIECE LID

19x15in dia
 1 Tub £10
 3 Tubs £19
 5 Tubs £30
 Includes P&P

78 High St, Boston, Lincs PE21 8SX
www.tubs.net
 Phone: 01205 366044
 for leaflet

INSURANCE

Specialist Canoe Insurance from

Devitt **PER DAY**

FOR INSTANT COVER

0845 601 2385

MON - FRI 9am - 5pm

ADMINISTERED BY BOATINSURE, 10 KINGS HILL AVENUE
 KINGS HILL, WEST MALLING, KENT ME19 4QZ
 members of the General Insurance Standards Council

N. W. BROWN

INSURANCE BROKERS

Insurance available for:

- ◆ Canoes & Equipment
- ◆ Activity Travel
- ◆ Activity Centres
- ◆ Personal Accident

For details contact us at:-
 Richmond House
 16-20 Regent Street
 Cambridge
 CB2 1DB

Tel: 01223 357131
 Fax: 01223 353705
 Email: canoe@nwbrown.co.uk
 Web: www.nwbrown.co.uk/canoe

SITUATIONS VACANT

SCOTTISH CENTRES

Outdoor Instructors Required

To support our customer programmes for the 2004 season at 4 Centres in Scotland.

Training (incl NGB awards) and accommodation provided. Further details available from:

Scottish Centres Loaningdale House
BIGGAR ML12 6LX
01899 221115
jobs@scottish-centres.org.uk
www.scottish-centres.org.uk

THE OUTDOOR TRUST

BCU COURSES
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
BUNKHOUSE
RECRUITING INSTRUCTORS

TEL/FAX: 01668 213289
 Email: trust@outdoor.demon.co.uk
 BCU, RYA & AALA approved
 Registered Charity No. 1052677

SITUATIONS VACANT

Calvert Trust
 K I E L D E R

Kielder water
 Northumberland
 Hexham
 NE48 1BS

Experienced Instructional Staff required for activity centre in the North East of England. The Calvert Trust Kielder is a centre of excellence in the provision of outdoor activities for disabled and special needs groups.

We require experienced instructional staff for our continuing development. The ideal candidate will be over 21, have worked in the outdoor environment for three years and have the following qualifications:

- RYA Instructor
- BCU Level 2 open canoe
- SPA assessment
- RYA Safety Boat
- One of the above at a senior level (ie RYA SI, BCU Level 3 Open, MIA/MIC, PBI)
- A D1 endorsement on your driving license

It is equally important that you have the soft skills and commitment to maintaining our high standards of guest care.

In return we can provide you the opportunity to develop your own projects within the Trust; an ever changing and challenging work environment; fantastic guests; and a very competitive pay package.

Pay scale is £13000 - £17000 + 20 days holiday + pension scheme dependent on experience and qualifications. We have shared and private accommodation on site if required.

Contact Peter Coulson at activities@calvert-kielder.com or phone 01434 250 232

Summer time is for paddling and having fun... agreed?
We've been doing it for 21 years, now it's your turn.

CANOE / KAYAK

INSTRUCTORS AND RIVER LEADERS

Provide young people with the time of their lives whilst you have yours working in fantastic adventurous locations across Europe.

Do your hobby as a job and in return receive everything you would expect from the UK's leading provider of outdoor adventure camps.

Benefit from Acorn's unique training opportunities and take the next step to develop your outdoor career.

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE RECRUITMENT TEAM NOW AND LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN.

Apply online:

www.acorn-jobs.co.uk

Email: topstaff@acornadventure.co.uk

CALL: 01384 446057

acorn



adventure

ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL

BE A MULTI - ACTIVITY INSTRUCTOR @ ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL
& BECOME PART OF OUR TEAM. FULL TRAINING IN ALL N.G.B.'S
PRIOR TO AND DURING SEASON 2004. BEGIN IN FEB END NOVEMBER.
ONLY HIGHLY MOTIVATED, ENERGETIC OUTDOOR TYPES WITH
PERSONALITY NEED APPLY!!

TEL : 0870 7775111

www.adventure.uk.com email : tracy@adventure.uk.com

Arnfield Care Ltd

Instructors/Care Workers Wanted



Arnfield Care requires Instructors and Care Workers for dynamic outdoors based child care teams. We are based in the Peak District, but work UK Wide with young people who present challenging behaviour. Outdoor, craft or art qualified or experienced staff are preferred, but not essential.

What we do require from you is enthusiasm, high degree of personal motivation and an interest in young people's well-being.

Please contact Paul Booker 01457 860200

CHALLENGING - YET FUN AND REWARDING!

Does this sound like your kind of job?

Then come and join our team in providing activities for people of all abilities.

The trust offers competitive wages and training.

Applicants should ideally possess a minibus endorsed current driving licence together with a combination of NGB awards in sailing, climbing or paddle sports.

Interviews on 2nd to the 4th December 2003.

For an application form and information please contact the Activities Manager, **Calvert Trust Exmoor**, Wistlandpound,

Kentisbury, Barnstaple, Devon. EX31 4SJ

Telephone on: 01598 763221

E-mail: activitiesexmoor@calvert-trust.org.uk

www.calvert-trust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1005776

Canoeing and Kayaking Instructors, BCU level 2 required for 2004.

Year long contracts available, 40 hours per week on NJC Scales 4 - 7, working out at between £4.94 and £5.29 per hour. Subsidised accommodation is also available.

Avon Tyrrell is a busy outdoor activity centre in the heart of the New Forest offering a diverse range of activities including kayaking, canoeing, raft building, ropes course, climbing and abseiling, archery and many others to a wide client group including people of all ages and abilities. The successful candidates will receive training in all of the led activities on site and will deliver and run activity sessions and courses throughout the year.

Interviews will take place over the weekend of the 6th and 7th December and the closing date for applications is November 17th.

For an application pack please contact Joyce Wilford
Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre,
Bransgore,
Hants,
BH23 8EE

Tel: 01425 672347 Fax: 01425 673883

E-mail: info@avontyrrell.org.uk Visit: www.avontyrrell.org.uk



Multi Activity Instructors

Based at Carroty Wood in Kent, Barnabas Adventure runs a wide range of activities from canoeing to archery or abseiling. If you like working with young people, sharing your Christian faith, enjoy outdoor activities then this is just what you are looking for!

All instructors need a good background in outdoor pursuits, preferably with GNAS, TL2K/OC or above. Salary £10,900 £11,900 pro rata depending on quals.

Contact Rachel Allen at Barnabas Adventure, Carroty Wood, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9QX 01732 363995 Rachel@barnabas.org.uk



Will YOU take the challenge?

Bradwell Outdoors

Qualified multi-activity instructors required for March to October 2004 season at this residential centre situated overlooking the tidal Blackwater estuary in Essex. RYA or BCU instructor award essential, plus at least one other skill/NGB qualification to include sailing, canoeing, high ropes, climbing, archery, ATBs. Additional training provided for appropriate candidates.

Accommodation available on site.

Salary from £10,284 to £12,285 per annum based on 37-hour week (pay award pending), plus holiday entitlement.

For details and application forms for above posts apply by telephone, email or letter.

Bradwell Waterside,

Southminster,

Essex CM0 7QY

01621 776256

adventure@bradwelloec.freeserve.co.uk

www.bradwelloec.org.uk



Essex County Council
Learning Services

SITUATIONS VACANT



INSTRUCTOR/CAREWORKER

£12.5K - £14K p.a. after training

We are looking for enthusiastic highly motivated staff committed to obtaining NVQ III in Childcare, who will be required to work with young people who present challenging behaviour. Seasonal work available possibly leading to full time positions.

- Considerable opportunities for training, including NVQ & outdoor education disciplines with a career path in an expanding organisation • Annual bonus
- Corvedale Care is an equal opportunities employer

Applicants should be over 21 and hold a full Driving Licence All applicants will be police checked.
 For an application pack contact Head Office - 01694 724488
www.corvedalecare.net

Instructor Positions for 2004

A spectacular cliff-top residential multi-activity centre and surf school with a wide range of client groups.

Specialising in coastal action, adrenaline and skills-based activities, personal development and team building.

Preferably 2 qualifications from the following:

- BSA Coach, BCU Kayak and/or Canoe, SPA, RYA Windsurf, Beach Lifeguard. PCV license desirable.



Full induction - training package available.
 Salaries starting from £10,400 per annum pro-rata based on qualifications/experience.
 Send CV and covering letter to: Personnel, Outdoor Adventure, Atlantic Court, Bude, Cornwall EX23 0DF
OutdoorAdventure.co.uk info@OutdoorAdventure.co.uk



Summer Adventure

Needed for Schools Adventure Programme;

- ▶ BCU Level 2 Instructors
- ▶ Multi-Activity Instructors
- ▶ Winter positions also available

▶ Telephone 01209 860000
 ▶ Email jobs@tjm.co.uk
 ▶ Apply on line www.tjm.co.uk/jobs

▶ By Post
 tjm travel,
 Penhalveor East,
 Redruth, TR16 6NL

Work in France, Spain or Cornwall



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.

Must have a minimum one NGB assessment, and one NGB training from the following Summer ML, SPA, BCU L2 Canoe/Kayak Coach or RYA Dinghy Instructor plus one season's prior experience of working in the outdoors.

Outstanding training package offered.

For further details and application form contact :
 Seasonal Staff Coordinator,
 Lakeside YMCA National Centre
 Newby Bridge, Cumbria LA12 8BD
 Tel 08707 273927 ext 115



A Registered Charity No. 212810

SITUATIONS VACANT

SCOTLAND

Instructors required

From early January to end of October 2004. Possible full time posts also available. Residential schools to non residential adults. Activities include white water rafting grades 2 to 5, high ropes course, climbing and abseiling, gorge ascents/canyoning, archery, mountain biking, hillwalking, environmental work, orienteering and duckying. Full training, assessments and NGB qualifications are offered to the right people. Food and accommodation included. Any candidate with SPA, GNAS, CYCLE LEADER OR KAYAKING/RAFTING QUALIFICATIONS will be considered first.

We also have two positions available for trainee staff. These persons should also have reasonable river skills. GOOD RIVER SKILLS WILL BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS. Call 01887 820298 for application forms and details.

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

Telephone: 01887 820298
 E-mail: info@dunollyadventures.co.uk
www.dunollyadventures.co.uk



GRAFHAM
 water centre

Senior Instructors, Instructor and Trainees

For 2003 and beyond we require enthusiastic staff who are able to deliver programmes of exciting and educationally valid activities for schools, youth groups and individuals.

Activities include Sailing, Windsurfing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, Climbing and Abseiling, Archery, High and Low Ropes Courses, Mountain Biking and Team Building. NGB qualifications are required but training is given.

Salaries for Instructors are £201.60 per week plus accommodation and meals.

Catering staff are also required.

For further information and an application form, please ring Christina Butler at Grafham Water Centre, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 0BX on (01480) 810521

www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk



Cambridgeshire
 County Council
 Making equality a reality



Opportunities in Ireland

Instructors and Senior instructors required for Ireland's leading adventure organisation.

- Kayaking, Sailing, Surfing, Rockclimbing & Multi-Activity
- Work in a fun yet professional environment
- Multinational team of staff
- Centre is set amidst the spectacular scenery of Connemara
- Positions include full board, skills training & wages
- Corporate / Adults / Childrens programmes on offer
- Season runs from Feb - Dec

Visit our website at: www.delphiadventureholidays.ie

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

Personnel Tel: 00 353 95 42336/42208
 Delphi Adventure Holidays Fax: 00353 95 42303
 Leenane Email: hr@delphiescape.com
 Co. Galway, Ireland

Activity Instructors

We are looking for motivated, energetic instructors to deliver our 2004 Activity Programme at centres across the UK.

You should hold at least one of the following:

BCU Level 2 Training, SPA Training, Girlguiding UK's climbing/abseiling scheme Level 1 assessment, GNAS.

We provide training opportunities, flexible contracts, work placements and the opportunity to participate in an exciting, challenging and highly rewarding environment.

To apply online please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

Alternatively email: hr@girlguiding.org.uk or call 020 7592 1892

Charity no. 306016



Girlguiding UK



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Sealyham Activity Centre, Wolfscastle,
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
SA62 5NF

Tel: 01348 840763 Fax: 01348 841919
www.sealyham.com

Season Vacancies

2004

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

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people interested in working predominantly with school groups. The post holders will require a wide range of interests, experience and qualifications in outdoor education.

Applicants should hold at least 2 (but all applications will be considered) qualifications from any of the following organisations

- BCU
- RYA
- GNAS
- MLTB
- BSA
- A clean driving license with PCV entitlement, if possible



Please send CV to Alec Williams.



LONGRIDGE S.B.C.

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

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

Competitive salary plus food & accommodation

Applicants must be over 18 and be qualified to BCU Level Two Kayak Coach (other NGB qualifications an advantage) For further information including application form contact Martin Plain at:

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



Require instructors to complete our team for the 2004 season. First aid certificate and Residential centre experience essential, preferably with two NGB Awards.

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

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



Full Training NGB Course Opportunities Paid Holidays
Unrivalled Accommodation Competitive Wages Return Travel to the UK

NST Adventure has opportunities for you, whatever your coaching status, at our Multi Activity Centre in the South of France.

If you expect all of the above and more and would like the opportunity to work for Europe's Leading Educational Travel Company contact Lorna Stewart on Tel: 01253 503011 or visit our website for more information on the jobs available at our French and UK centres.

www.nstjobs.co.uk



Looking for the best Training & Working Adventure?

Rewarding work and great fun instructing exciting adventure activities to 8-12 year olds, including Canoeing, Climbing, Caving, Archery... and many more.

Robinwood offers:

- ▲ Two great locations in the Pennines.
- ▲ An excellent staff training programme, including NGB qualifications paid for by Robinwood
- ▲ Great working conditions, with an average 3 days off per week
- ▲ Good quality staff accommodation
- ▲ Staff residentials and activity events, all organised and paid for by Robinwood.
- ▲ Great staff wages
- ▲ National Training Award Winner 2001

For further details:
bestjob@robinwood.co.uk

robinwood
Activity Centre
Todmorden, Lancs
www.robinwood.co.uk

Tel 01706 814 554

STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Upminster, Essex

Vacancies for 2004 season

Instructing and support staff

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

More details on website: www.stubbers.co.uk

Applications with CV to Bob Edwards (Centre Director) at:
Stubbers Adventure Centre, Ockendon Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2TY
Or email: admin@stubbers.co.uk
Charity No. 1080941

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre

Shadwell is a multi-activity Centre located on the banks of the Thames in East London that provides outdoor activities for the whole community.

Training Co-ordinator up to £20,490

We need an enthusiastic, hard working and experienced instructor with a wide range of NGB qualifications.

The Co-ordinator is required to develop and implement a scheme for young people aged 15-19 from Tower Hamlets. The purpose of the scheme is to engage young people in a systematic development programme to gain canoeing and other NGB awards.

For application pack write to: Centre Director, 3-4 Shadwell Pierhead, Glamis Road, London E1W 3TD.

Or visit our website at

www.shadwell-basin.org.uk

Closing date Friday 24 October 2003

Shadwell Basin is committed to equality of opportunity
Registered Charity No.293475





City of

NOTTINGHAM

Leisure and Community Services

Female Adventure Activity Leader

£13,581 - £16,515 pa (pro rata)

27 hours per week (Plus opportunity to work additional hours)

Ref: LC/9265

Based at the Arches Adventure Base in Nottingham city centre, you will ensure the safety of yourself and others whilst providing adventure activity sessions and residentials for young people from a variety of locations.

In addition to assisting with the development of adventure programmes and activities, your duties will include providing simple administration (including taking bookings and keeping records), monitoring the equipment and helping to maintain the site as a safe environment for young people.

With a minimum of two National Governing Body Awards (one of which should be a Single Pitch Award or BCU Level 2), your experience must include working developmentally with groups and individuals outdoors, and with a diverse client range. A broad knowledge of adventure activities is vital.

This post is for a female only under Section 7(92)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. The successful postholder will be subject to clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau.

An understanding of and commitment to equal opportunities is required for all posts. Further information (job details and application forms) for all vacancies can be found on www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk or can be obtained from Central Personnel, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT on (0115) 915 4624. Minicom available during office hours.

Email: general.personnel@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Applications are welcome from all sections of the community.

Closing date: 17 October 2003.

dynamic & vibrant city



www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk



Nottingham
our style is legendary



**Mill on the Brue
Outdoor Centre**
are looking for
Instructors for 2004

needed January until November

Rewarding career

Full training provided.

Apply with CV to

Mill on the Brue, Trendle Farm,
Bruton, Somerset BA10 0BA

Tel: 01749 812307

E mail:

millonthebrue@compuserve.com

The
largest
classified section
in the canoeing
world

**01480
465081**



get out **more!**

Canoeing & Multi-Activity Instructors

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

If you want a rewarding position, supported by excellent BCU training opportunities – then get in touch now!



www.pgl.co.uk/people
email: pglpeople@pgl.co.uk
phone: 01989 767833

PGL is committed to equal opportunities

learn it teach it love it

an equal opportunity employer

STANBOROUGH PARK
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Post No P00471

37 hrs per week

£16,464 to £18,099 p.a. inclusive

Stanborough Park is a busy RYA and BCU approved centre delivering watersports courses and activities to individuals, schools, colleges and companies. The Centre is situated in a 126 acre country park in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, close to the A1(M) and M25.

We are seeking to appoint a committed Chief Instructor with the motivation and enthusiasm to lead a great team of seasonal and part-time instructors. Additionally, you must have the imagination and creativity to develop the water sports programme and market and promote the centre.

The successful candidate will have relevant experience of working at a recognised establishment, hold the appropriate national governing body qualifications and be able to provide instruction to all ages and abilities.

Hours are determined by the service and will involve regular evening, weekend and Bank Holiday working on a rota basis.

For further information call Ashley Cato on 01707 327655.

For a recruitment pack please call the 24 hr Job Line on 01707 357281 or e-mail l.robertson@welhat.gov.uk quoting the post number and job title.

Closing Date 14th November 2003

Leisure & Community Services
Campus West, The Campus,
Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6BX



WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

www.welhat.gov.uk

www.watersportsjobs.co.uk
THE on-line directory of UK & overseas watersports vacancies

windsurfing instructors
kayak instructors
sailing instructors
yacht skippers
diving instructors
support staff
management

www.watersportsjobs.co.uk
vi recruitment
T.08707 429 770



www.outwardbound.uk.org

INSTRUCTORS

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

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

- a full time, permanent position
- work with a wide variety of clients
- the chance to broaden your existing qualification base
- opportunities for progression within the organisation
- a comprehensive training package
- a challenging and dynamic environment

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

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

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

In addition, the following are mandatory requirements -

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

A competitive salary and employment package are offered. There are also Trainee Instructor posts available.

If you meet the above requirements please forward your current CV to:

Kate Jones, The Outward Bound Trust, Watermillock, Penrith Cumbria CA11 0JL

Or email: katejones@outwardbound-uk.org

Northern Ireland

OUTFITTING IRELAND

Canoe/kayak rental • Camping equipment • Shuttles • Guides • Skills courses 1-4 Star • Coaching courses (Level 1-3) • First aid/rescue training
Castlewelan Forest Park, County Down, Northern Ireland
TEL: 028 4377 0715 Email: info@interactiveteambuilding.com

TRADE

West Midlands

New waterfront shop
CanoeKayak Trader
0845 456 9533
www.canoeKayakTrader.co.uk
Expert advice & the best price. Guaranteed!
New and used demo's on site

South West

AS
Watersports
HAVEN RD, EXETER. 01392 219600
Full range of equipment for all aspects of the sport. Playboating, Fun, Surf, Touring, Racing.
www.aswatersports.co.uk

Greater London

CANOE RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDING GREEN SLIME THROWBAGS
MAIL ORDER SERVICE AVAILABLE

CONTACT: SUZY, 2 VICTORIA CLOSE, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY, KT8 9SQ
TEL/FAX: 0208 941 2714

South Yorkshire

SPLASHMOOT
KAYAKS & LEISUREWEAR
Try us for mail order or come along to the new bigger shop
All enquiries welcome
300 Thorne Road, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster DN2 5AJ
Tel: 01302 344403

Essex

Nucleus Watersports
The Essex Superstore
Kayaks, Canoes, Accessories
www.nucleuswatersports.org.uk
Sales: nucleuswatersports@org.uk
Tel: 01255 812 146
204 Frinton Rd, Holland-on-sea, Essex, CO155SP

West Sussex

SOUTHWATER WATERSPORTS CENTRE
26 Station Road, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9UD
www.southwatersports.co.uk
(Training)
www.ukkayaking.co.uk
(On-Line Store)
01403 732389

Somerset

PERFORMANCE KAYAKS
66 Uphill way, Uphill Village
Weston-super-mare BS23 4NT
Tel: 01934 613612
Fax: 0117 9235961
Email: performance@kayaks.co.uk
Website: www.kayaks.co.uk

Gloucestershire

WEIRWOLF
Canoe & kayak builders and repairers.
Super marathon C2 available as plans, pre-cut panel kit or completed boat in ply, fibreglass etc
Other boats built to commission at realistic prices.
Repairs in GRP, Kevlar/Epoxy, polythene, ply, stripwood.
Plastic welding service also available. Call for details and quote on your boat
Iain Hutchison (01594) 826273 (Glos)

The Lochgoilhead Centre

Staff required for 2004

Level 3 Kayak Coach from April until the end of October
RYA Senior Instructor from April to the end of October

These positions are both senior posts with management responsibility, which are reflected in the pay and conditions.

Successful applications would also have a range of other qualifications. These positions would probably suit over 25-year olds.

Level 2 Kayak Coach from April until the end of June
A range of other qualifications would be of an advantage to applicants.

Trainee Instructors

Applicants for our trainee scheme must be over 18-years old and unemployed They must have an interest in leading people in the outdoors. There is no charge for this highly successful course, which runs for a minimum of 12 months maximum of 24 months.

The Lochgoilhead Centre is on the west coast of Scotland and is ideally situated for you to further your career in all areas of the outdoors.

Please send a C.V. to: Jeremy Game, The Lochgoilhead Centre, Lochgoilhead, Cairndow, Argyll PA24 8AA
The closing date for all applications is 30th November 2003.

Heatree Activity Centre

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

Senior Instructors

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

Trainee Instructors

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

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

The Volvo XC90

Seven seat SUV luxury



It's not every day I have the pleasure of testing out a piece of equipment that costs in the region of £30,000 but try I did. Volvo asked me if I would test drive their new SUV vehicle the XC90. With room for seven people, leather clad air conditioned luxury, four-wheel drive and their unsurpassed reputation of Volvo for safety, there could be worst things to do.

After looking at the car on the Volvo website I waited in anticipation on the Friday morning for its delivery and I wasn't to be disappointed. Some would say Volvo has a conservative image, pipe and slippers come to mind, however, this is a motor that aims to break that image and it does.

On first sight it is an impressive beast and creates an impression with onlookers rubber necking to see what this large silver vehicle really is. Its first duty for me was taking it down to the local golf club less than two miles away, probably a typical drive for an SUV vehicle nowadays as local schools will testify.

On getting behind the wheel for the first time, it feels typically high with a vast array of buttons vying for your attention. Thankfully they are logically laid out and for the time being I just need to know the basics such as lights, wipers handbrake etc. The car is a four-speed automatic with an option of manual mode for when you want to drive more actively but I choose the auto as I am feeling lazy.

Once you are underway the car has a very laid back American feel to it and this feeling is accentuated by the auto gearbox and sheer size of the vehicle. You get a very commanding feel of the road perched on the same level as a truck driver. However, unlike the often spongy feel of US orientated cars, this has a pleasant reassuring solid feel without rolling on corners.

All this is helped by a sophisticated four-wheel drive system that controls the power between all four wheels and re-distributing traction to where it is needed. Added to this is a roll stability system that cuts power to the engine when it senses the vehicle could be about to fall over!

If you do manage to find a way of rolling the car then a comprehensive set of airbags are deployed for maximum protection. This includes front airbags, side impact bags and an inflatable curtain system that runs the length of the car.

With ABS brakes, reinforced passenger compartment, whiplash protection system and an energy absorbing interior, it all adds up to an extremely safe package that Volvo is world-renowned for.

The car we tested was the 2.4 litre diesel unit producing 163 bhp which sounds as if it

could be under-powered for such a big vehicle. However, the high torque of the engine means there is a decent amount of power when needed.

The Volvo certainly attracted a lot of attention and raised eyebrows by fellow golfers, however I was more eager to get the car on a long trip, fully loaded and really put it to the test.

As stated above, when you get behind the wheel you can really be overwhelmed by the amount of dials and buttons facing you and if you want to go on a long drive then its best to sit down in the car and read the manual thoroughly to give you a taste of what's on offer.

Firstly, there is a driver information centre that relays more detailed diagnosis should a warning light come on and which also lets you know your fuel consumption. There is also a rear park assist alarm to warn you of close objects behind (very handy with a large vehicle) and cruise control (not very handy on the UK's congested roads).

The three items of most interest are the integrated GSM phone, the navigation system and the in-car entertainment.

The phone had no SIM card in our test vehicle and was therefore inoperative. However, it has an integrated keypad in the dash and allows for hands-free operation with text messaging when the car is at a standstill.

Personally, what I found most intriguing was the navigation system which slowly rises from the top of the dash displaying a 6.5 inch colour screen. It is worth taking the time to see how this works because I found it to be probably the most helpful item within the car and certainly ends



those stressful arguments with front seat passengers on where they went wrong with the map directions!

Before you set off, you key in your destination down to street number and a very pleasant voice (male or female, you choose) guides you to your exact destination, remaining quite unflustered should you miss a turn. The screen displays a map showing your current location and split screens with more detail when needed for complicated junctions and roundabouts.

The map information covering all of western Europe is stored on one DVD. When not in use the system slides back down underneath the dash, very James Bond!

Our car had a comprehensive entertainment system which included RDS radio, front loading CD and a mini disk player all controlled from the steering wheel. There is a long options list for adding Dolby Pro Logic speakers, sub woofers, CD changers and rear headset sockets.

Being an SUV vehicle the Volvo has an attractive set of aluminium roof rails and dual-split tailgate for easy loading. The tailgate is strong enough to stand on to unload kayaks mounted on the roof or for using as a bench or table.

The rear windows are heavily tinted to reduce prying eyes noticing your canoeing gear and laminated to prevent a thief from breaking the glass and the remote controlled locking system uses rolling codes to prevent the signal from being copied.

The Volvo is touted as a seven seater, however, the third row should only be used for children as it does become cramped and uncomfortable for an adult with the lack of leg room. Having said that, the seats are very comfortable and there is a bewildering array of options for folding seats flat, from individual to all six passenger for maximum loading

With a luxurious interior for up to seven people, intelligent seating system and exceptional equipment levels we had trouble handing back the XC90 after a week's use. I had read that a car reviewer in the US was mistakenly left with a car for two years. I was hoping for history to repeat itself. Unfortunately, the guy from Volvo duly collected the car on the Friday and it was safe to say we were pretty sad to see it disappearing down the road.

Peter Tranter

If you'd like to take a closer look at the Volvo XC90 and find out more - from downloading a price list to customising your perfect Volvo - visit www.volvocars.co.uk, and if you'd like a test drive call them on 0800 400 430.

Making a Wave



It is very appropriate that this fine looking kayak originates from North America as on first sight it reminds me of one of those

aggressive low-slung American muscle cars such as a Mustang. The cockpit lies towards the rear of the craft and you overlook the long contoured nose. On either side of the hull are what appear to be side grills, except these are the built-in foot braces. It has a short stubby backside and the front rises in the air when you put your foot down and you can get your foot down in this.

The kayak is probably best suited for grade 1-3 rivers, so on Sunday we packed up for a cruise on the Ouse. The kayak is light enough to put on the roof of a 4x4 with no huffing and puffing and the smart looking merge of yellows, oranges and reds of the Ram-X[®] constructed hull contrasts with the metallic blue of the car.

Publicity for the Wave mentions twin-tracking channels and a deep-V entry hull for exceptional straight line tracking and great paddling speed. I can vouch for that, it certainly doesn't disappoint in the speed department and it does paddle a very straight line. It's also a very comfortable kayak with its built-in adjustable backrest support and the graduated footbraces make paddling easy whether short or tall.

The boat is very wide and I didn't have a spraydeck to fit it, so I laid a waterproof jacket over me. Having said that, some very big kayakers could paddle this boat without discomfort. The large open cockpit offers easy entry and exit and the kayak comes with a two-piece split paddle. It also includes an easy-drain design, grab handles, and a convenient paddle tie-down. Pelican boats offer family fun on the water so my little five-year-old son squeezed in with me and off we went for a second stint. Due to the stable nature of the boat this was no problem and even though I had to paddle perched over him and his life jacket, it was still remarkably easy.

For somebody new to the sport or as a recreational kayak this package would be hard to beat with its great stability, manoeuvrability, comfort and straight line ability. When the built-in backrest and paddle are thrown in as well, you do not need anything more as far as the boat goes. And it suits almost any size. Plus it has those low slung good looks.

Tony Cornwell

Specifications

- Deep-V entry hull
- Large, graduated foot braces
- Adjustable back rest
- Easy-drain design
- Open cockpit
- Grab handles
- Paddle and paddle tie-down
- Length: 9 ft 6 in
- Beam: 31 in
- Depth: 14 in
- Maximum Capacity: 250 lbs
- Weight: 34 lbs

Price: £309

For further information contact The Family Boat Shop on 07092 091575 or fax 01252 836449

E-mail: info@thefamilyboatshop.co.uk

Web: www.thefamilyboatshop.co.uk



Spray Zone jacket

Helly Hansen is a world leader and manufacturer of high quality watersports gear which in the past has slanted more to the yachting world than kayakers and canoeists. However, they offer more than 500 individual product lines for men, women and children and as this is technical clothing for all seasons being developed and tested in the extremes, then they can become very interesting for us.

Reflecting the wide range of activities that occur on the ocean and rivers of the world, the Helly Hansen Watersports collection is designed to allow you to get on with your paddling and cast aside any worries about the wind, rain, heat or cold.

Helly Hansen sea gear has been inspired by experience and knowledge built from involvement in the famous World Volvo Ocean Race, and designed to protect you against the rough and rapidly changing weather conditions at sea.

This is where the Spray Zone jacket comes into use in the sense that it protects from all angles, no matter what the weather may throw at you. The jacket is a lightweight, waist-length, waterproof/breathable jacket for dynamic watersports. All this is down

to the construction and materials used within the jacket. The fabric is Helly Tech 10, a 100% nylon which gives the jacket the above properties and makes it a serious piece of kit albeit with a serious price tag but believe me it is worth it and it looks pretty damned good too!

The jacket is nylon 3-layer stretch and non-stretch fabrics. There are fully taped seams, a two-way zip at front protected by a storm flap, an adjustable collar in smock top style, water resistant pocket zippers, integration with spray zone pant, reflective patches at front, cuffs and collar, rubber loops for inflatable life jacket, inside mesh pocket with zip, adjustable wrist closures with dye cut cuffs, reflective piping and a stretch waistband.

Comfort is the top priority with the combination of the jacket and pants. Being waterproof and breathable is terrific, added to this the jacket is waist length for freedom of movement, incorporating stretch panels for improved mobility and a neck closure for venting and protection.

Spray Zone Pants

The trousers are constructed with identical materials with all the above properties. They also have fully taped seams, a zipper fly opening with gusset for waterproofness with an elasticised and adjustable waist. There are adjustable neoprene ankle cuffs, a jacket integrated system with beltloops, zippered hand pockets, centre front fly with gusset for waterproofness, die cut ankle tabs and a high back waist fit. Again, stretch fabric around the seat and knees allows for maximum freedom of movement.

Clothing for the extreme environment does not come much better than this. Prices are yet to be determined.

Jim Crompton

Spray Zone jacket and pants

Sizes: XS-XXL

Conditions:

Extreme -
Protection in
severe weather
(rain or snow
storms, severe
cold, high winds)

Key benefits:

Waterproof,
Breathable,
Lightweight.

Available now
from all good
outdoor stockists.

www.hellyhansen.com

Adventure with Powerblade

The Canoe Adventurer paddle forms part of an exciting new range of canoe and kayak paddles from Powerblade.

In use, the Canoe Adventurer is very enjoyable to use and has a comforting solid, lightweight feel to it. The paddle is topped off with a quality solid wooden palm grip giving good grip and balance and the alloy shaft feels nice in the hand, providing just the right combination of stiffness and flex. The fairly wide blade grabs the water and allows rapid acceleration whilst gliding smoothly through the water with no appreciable blade flutter, which in turn gives good control in manoeuvring and a positive feel.

This is an impressive debut for Powerblade and it will be interesting to see how durable the paddle is over the winter.

Brian Globe

- Lightweight, Strong and durable
- 340Mpa Marine Grade Alloy
- Solid Beech Wood Palm Grip
- Sizes 135 - 160cm / Circa 0.83kg

Tel: 01670 824346

email: info@powerblade.co.uk



www.powerblade.co.uk

Coleman F1 Lite stove

The Coleman F1 Lite Stove is lightweight at 77g (88g including its pouch), compact at approximately 4.3 x 8 x 5cm, gives out 4800 watts of power, can boil a litre of water (in a closed container, in still conditions) in about three minutes and gives a stable platform for your pans. All this makes it one of the smallest, lightest stoves ever and yet it is very practical and not overly expensive.

Using "High Tech." materials, including P.E.E.K. plastics that are heat and shock resistant and running off re-sealable gas canisters, the F1 Lite stoves incorporate secondary "pilot" flames to avoid the stove blowing out in windy conditions and can disassemble to pack away into the smallest of spaces.

Ideal for multi day canoe tours - where weight on portages is critical - and kayak trips - where space is at a premium - the Coleman F1 Lite stove comes with full care and use instructions plus a three year guarantee and costs around £29.99.

John Fenna

Contact: Coleman UK Plc, Gordano Gate, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7GG. Telephone 01275 845 024

www.coleman-eur.com

Keep ahead with Kontour Plus



The Kontour Plus is the latest headgear from Yak and is sure to make an impact (and protect against one), with style and safety conscious paddlers.

Upon taking the helmet out of the box, the design of the helmet is quite striking and stylish with its angular edges and silky blue/grey finish. The lightweight, cut-away design of the Kontour Plus is compact and

intended to provide maximum protection from impacts. In addition, holes have been incorporated across the top and sides of the helmet, providing good ventilation and drainage if needed.

The Kontour is a very easy helmet to fit with fully adjustable ear and chinstraps which ensures a secure, snug fit and for finer tuning, adjustment kits with velcro strips allow for the interior padding to be manually adjusted to suit the wearer. Each helmet comes with detailed instructions for recommended usage, fitting and maintenance.

The construction uses high density ABS, for the outer shell and for comfort and extra protection, they are lined with impact resistant high density EPS foam. The Kontour is CE Approved to white water grade 4.

Overall a very stylish and safe helmet which is easily adjustable. The current Kontour Plus range consists of four colours, silk blue, metallic, red, blue weave and matt black and two sizes S/M and M/L. RRP inc. VAT is £34.95

**For further information please contact:
Yak on 023 9252 8621 or email:
yak@crewsaver.co.uk**

www.yak-paddling.com



Thermal Xpansion



men's and lady's sizes and have a T.S.P. of £34.99.

As well as this Nookie have also introduced a 'Thermal Core' Trouser, these full-length trousers are made from Nookie's awesome heavy weight 'Thermal Core' material. This makes them not only much more windproof than normal thermals but also makes them hold almost no water when wet. With a high cut back and draw cord as well as a flat lock construction these are some of the warmest most comfortable bottoms on the market. Ideal for use on their own or under dry trousers they come in unisex sizing and are available from all good stockists now, T.S.P. £44.99.

For more information on these or any other Nookie Products visit www.nookie.co.uk or phone 01822 832333.



English white water - The BCU Guide

The first comprehensive guide to the white water rivers, playspots and artificial white water courses of England. Here you will find descriptions of both well known classics and little known gems. It covers the length and breadth of England and provides something for everyone, whatever the conditions.

Whether you are a white water novice or an out-and-out hair boater, you need this book. Produced in the same format as the acclaimed Scottish White Water guide and illustrated with maps, symbols and photos, this guide is an essential tool for canoeists and kayakers.

The royalties from the sale of this book will go to specific projects that will help gain or protect access to specific sites.



Available from beginning of October 2003 from BCU Supplies - price £15.95

Boulter's is back

The modifications are now permanent and we have a retentive hole which allows all the moves and yet is friendly. Wow! All this and there's no water anywhere else. Boulter's Rodeo is coming up on the 21st September so you have time to practice. The event again backed by Nookie will start at 10.00am. James is arranging camping for anyone who needs it and details can be found on www.thamesweirproject.co.uk

More details can be found on www.kayakjacko.com

Tyne Tour

7-9th November

I would like to remind all tour goers that the Tyne Tour will be running again this year. See web site www.tynetour.co.uk

The event will follow the same pattern as usual:

Friday: volunteers will be setting up but the rivers and campsites are open.

Saturday: rivers open, shuttle bus, Tyne descent race, retailers with bargains and demo boats camping, evening Ceilidh and guest speaker.

Sunday: rivers open, shuttle bus, retailers with bargains and demo boats.

Scottish workshop

11-12th October 2003

Following the highly successful first workshop out on Tiree in May we are proud to announce the Second Scottish Combined Rock and Water Activities Workshop, 'combined elements' which will take place in Oban.

We will gather at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, Oban at 20.00 hours on Friday 10th. We will be using its upgraded accommodation and will self cater for flexibility. There is excellent food shopping in town, it is our intention to have a BBQ on the Saturday evening. You will need to bring breakfast, lunch and dinner provisions, we have the use of limited kitchen facilities. There are the usual showering and drying facilities.

Please contact the office for a booking form, places are on a first come basis so don't miss out. We are excited about the workshop and look forward to meeting you in Oban.

Andy Spink on 01631 710317

www.hebrideanpursuits.com

Great Ouse Race

1st November 2003

I am currently organising the Herts Canoe Club annual Great Ouse Race for 1st November 2003.

It is a handicap race over 6.25 miles for all skill levels, ages and boat classes. For the last three years Leighton Buzzard have taken all of our major trophies. Are there any clubs out there capable of wrestling these from Leighton Buzzard?

Contact: Chris Wilson, 27 Cedarwood Drive, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0DN
tel. 01727 851773
email chriswil42@supanet.com

Daily Telegraph Adventure Travel & Sports show

Manchester G-Mex, 1-2nd November

If fighting for towel space on the busy beaches of the Med seems more of a headache than a holiday, then get your walking boots on and head for The Daily Telegraph Adventure Travel & Sports Show this November.

The newspaper is bringing the UK's biggest adventure travel event of the year to the north so whether you are a first-time globetrotter or a seasoned adventurer seeking new experiences, you can find the world under one roof.

Specialist tour operators will open visitors' eyes to a vast range of travel experiences and provide advice on how to book the trip of a lifetime – from deserted sands and far-flung islands, to more active vacations including trekking, hiking, climbing, diving, cycling, white water rafting and safari.

Those who may be tempted by the thrill of extreme sports on their travels can try out various adrenaline-packed pursuits at the show's Virtual Adventure Centre. From "soaring the skies" in a hang-glider simulator, experiencing scuba in the dive pool or scaling the climbing wall, there is something to satisfy every kind of adventurer.

A new feature, introduced for the will be the Wanderlust Connections and Jobshop Notice Boards. Connections is a chance for travellers to contact fellow travellers with a view to finding a travel companion or sharing information while Jobshop is a chance for travel companies and publishers to recruit staff from the pool of experienced travellers who visit the show.

Advance tickets for The Daily Telegraph Adventure Travel and Sports Show, Manchester, 2003 cost £5.00 and

are available by telephone on 0870 060 0199 or on-line at www.adventureshow.co.uk. Tickets on the door cost £7.00.

Avon Descent

Sunday, November 9th

The Avon Descent is a classic marathon descent race, organised by Mercia Canoe Club. It starts at Stratford on Avon and finishes ten miles downstream at Bidford on Avon with six weir shoots or portages.

There are classes for K1, K2, WWR, C2 Touring and Racing, and GP Touring. Handicaps are applied to even out the kayak classes. The start is at 12.15 pm with late entries up to 11.30 am. This is an ideal warm up for the Exe Descent or a good trip for those looking for an enjoyable paddle.

Please contact Nigel Wooltorton at Mercia Canoe Club on 02476 418796 or e-mail wooltorton@jings.com

Schroders London International Boat Show

8-18th January 2004

The Schroders London International Boat Show celebrates its 50th anniversary with the move to its new home at ExCeL. The additional space provided by the new venue has allowed for more features and visitor attractions than ever before. A specialised inland waterways feature complete with a riverside pub and a great new indoor windsurfing spectacle will make a welcome arrival to the show.

New for 2004 alongside the canoe village will be a purpose-built watersports arena complete with a 30 x 70m pool, fans capable of generating up to 30 knots of wind, and seating for approximately 1,500 people. The arena will host the UK National Indoor Windsurfing Championships as well as canoeing and sailing demonstrations, races and coaching sessions giving visitors the chance to try out new water activities.

Over 20,000 paddlers...

International Canoe Exhibition

2-4th April, 2004

The British Canoe Union's International Canoe Exhibition is the show for canoe and kayak enthusiasts and an annual meeting place and learning forum. In 2004 the show will run alongside The Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show for the second year running.

● Wave Box

The undisputed highlight of the 2003 show was the Freestyle Challenge in the Wave Box, organised by PeakUK, and this is back again, attracting an equally impressive line-up of visitors.

● Paddlesport Workshop

Three day programme of talks and discussions to inspire the new as well as the experienced paddler.

● Lakeside Activity Zone

On top of this the show will be expanded to include The Lakeside Activity Zone - incorporating a massive have-a-go area, as well as a National Canoe Polo Competition.

With many organisations and companies having already booked space at next year's show, this is set to be the largest celebration for paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts that the UK has ever seen. This is a great opportunity for novices and experts alike to explore all aspects of the sport, as well as discovering other outdoor activities, new places and the full range of outdoor equipment. Tickets on sale from November 1st. Register for great ticket offers and updates at bcu@brandevents.co.uk or keep up to-date on the BCU website on www.bcu.org.uk/news/eventsexhibitions.html



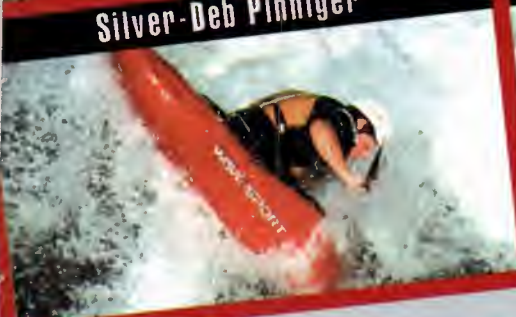
WAVE SPORT



Silver-Deb Pinniger

Gold-Brooke Winger

Bronze-Jutta Kaiser



TRANSFORMERS DOMINATE

**2003 WOMEN'S WORLD
FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
www.wavesport.com



AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING GOOD DEALERS

A S Watersports, Bournemouth Canoes, Brookbank Canoes, Carlisle Canoes, Desperate Measures, Eddylines, Four Seasons, Great Outdoors, Highland Canoes, Kayaks & Paddles, Marsport, Mike The Bike, Nucleus Watersports, Paddlesport, Performance Kayaks, Riverside Centre Oxford, Southwater Watersports, Stirling Canoes, Tiso, Whitewater The Canoe Centre, West Midlands Canoe Centre, Woodmill Canoe Centre
WHITEWATER CONSULTANCY, BRONWYDD, CARMARTHEN, WALES SA33 6BE TEL: 08000 151520 WWW.WWC.CO.UK



**Stay chilled all day in
Nookie Insane^{LE} Trousers**

Warm, dry and super comfortable; limited edition Nookie dry pants exclusively at our shop. A high quality product.

Tel: 0115 981 6815
39-41 Trent Boulevard,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5BB.
desperate-measures.co.uk

location | Roaring Meg
photo | the Poly

DESPERATE MEASURES

