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The official magazine
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John Dudderidge House, Adbolton
Lane, West Bridgford, Notts NG2 5AS
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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: £18.50

Overseas: £24.00

Supplied free to BCU members -

Adults: £28.00 basic

£33.50 comprehensive

Under 18's: £14.00 basic

£17.00 comprehensive

Family: £13.00 basic

£16.00 comprehensive

Publishing Contractors

2b Graphic Design

49 Greenfields, St. Ives,

Cambs. PE27 5HB

Tel/Fax: (01480) 465081

E-mail: peter@canoefocus.co.uk

www.2bgraphicdesign.co.uk

Canoe Focus Enquiries to

above address

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

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Contributors:

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following contributors for their articles
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Tamsin Phipps, Steve MacKenzie, Oliver J.
Cock MBE, Sylvia (Captain) and Jim
(Engine room) Stokes, Peter Hutchison,
Paul Robertson, Steve Brooke, Peter
Cornes, Paul Hurrell, Les Ford, Sue Hornby,
Penny Farthing and Mike Devlin

Front cover:

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Supplied by Paul Robertson

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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE CANOE FOCUS HAPPEN.

The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers, so don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. **Technical Information:** Contributions are acceptable in typed (double spaced) or preferably as a Microsoft Word file, which can be emailed to peter@canoefocus.co.uk, 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 **1st JULY 2004**. Material arriving after this date cannot be included in the **AUGUST 2004** issue. Canoe Focus encourages contributions of any nature but reserves the right to edit and condense to fill the space available and unless otherwise stated the publishers assume no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Canoe Union, its committees or members. The printing of an advertisement in Canoe Focus does not necessarily mean that the British Canoe Union endorse the company, item or service advertised. All material in Canoe Focus is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without prior permission from the Editor is forbidden.



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COMMENT

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

Access

At the time of writing this *Canoe Focus* Comment we are waiting to hear from the Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP. The Minister whose remit includes waterways and rural affairs, is due to inform us about the results of the latest report by the University of Brighton. This has been commissioned to look further into the access situation in England and Wales.

The BCU are grateful for the Minister's interest in the access issue and are hopeful that this latest stage in the story will be a further step towards a right to paddle on all rivers in England and Wales. This would provide equitable legislation with that enjoyed in Scotland and most of the rest of Europe. The Minister's response will define the BCU's access policy for the foreseeable future.

Olympic Games 2012

A further decisive step towards hosting the Olympic Games in London was announced in May with the London bid making the final group of countries that will go on as full candidate cities. Paris, New York, Moscow and Madrid joined London. A final decision regarding the 2012 host city will be made in July 2005.

London's bid includes canoeing at a new white water centre in Broxbourne and a sprint racing regatta at the Eton School facility near Windsor.

Women in sport

The ICF have approved a new rule that all ICF standing committees must have at least one woman. This is a major step forward for the ICF and the BCU will be complimenting this decision and looking at its own representation at this level.

First World Cup Medal

Congratulations to Campbell Walsh, Men's K1, on winning a silver medal at the first Slalom World Cup of the season on the Olympic course in Athens. The team also qualified both a C1 and C2 for the Olympic Games in August ensuring representation across all four slalom classes.

Membership details

The BCU Office would appreciate it if members completed the email address section of their membership renewal forms. This would help with communication and increase our potential ability to offer further services in the future.

International Canoe Exhibition

The International Canoe Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre took place in April with a record number of visitors. Next year the event will again take place alongside the Outdoor Show from March 18th to 20th.

It is intended to develop the whole show to be the final event in a full outdoor week. The week will include major conferences and activities across the whole country.

Devizes To Westminster

Congratulations to Richmond Canoe Club who dominated all of the major senior doubles classes in this year's Devizes to Westminster Race. Of particular note was the outright victory of brothers Richard and Henry Hendron together with the winners of the Women's race Guin Batten and Louise Cleary. Guin a rower and winner of a silver medal at the Sydney Olympics is also the BCU's client manager at Sport England.

"Whole Sport Plan"

Work continues in the BCU to produce a new "Whole Sport Plan" for presentation to Sports Councils during November. Richard Lee who until recently was Chief Executive of the Welsh Canoe Association is facilitating and leading the plans preparation. Richard will be arranging a series of consultations where members will be given the opportunity to contribute to the plan's composition.

Anglo French relations

BCU Officials have met with counterparts in France to discuss areas of common work and in particular the possibility of working towards common standards in coaching and personal attainment awards.

Poznan –

Final Olympic selection

As we close for press the sprint racing team depart for Poznan in Poland for the European Sprint Racing Championships. Significant enough in its own right, the European Championships will double up as the final Olympic qualifier with the GB team hoping to add to the one place gained by Tim Brabants at the World Championships in Gainesville last year. Also, by the time you read this our competitors will have taken part in the Wild Water Racing World Championships and final selection of the Olympic slalom team will have taken place following the second Slalom World Cup in Spain



The Shearwater (webbed canoe paddle)

The recent International Canoe Exhibition saw the launch of the 'Shearwater' webbed paddle concept by Irish-Canadian inventor Chad Townsend. Exhibiting from a small stand without anything actually for sale, this novel idea captured the interest of hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts and retailers. Although not yet on the market, the Shearwater product concept has already won awards for innovation from Business Link, Invest Northern Ireland and the University College Cork.

The Shearwater is an imaginative water craft paddle concept inspired by the brilliant webbed foot design and movement of leg-propelled swimming birds. Unlike all other open canoe/raft paddles, an efficient fore-and-aft stroke is facilitated entirely underwater. Accordingly, for the backward - power propulsion stroke, the strong webbed blade is spread apart in a delta shape. Then, during the forward - recovery stroke, water pressure curls the web's angled supporting ribs into a thin ellipse, "shearing" it back through the water with virtually no resistance. This imaginative project, combining natural science and materials technology, will no doubt result in a product with significant commercial and educational potential.

Riding the current of interest generated at The International Canoe Exhibition, Chad plans to have the Shearwater webbed canoe paddle in production by this summer. If interested, he can be contacted by e-mail at shearwater2004@yahoo.co.uk

Mark Birkbeck.com Paddling the South West Coast Path

Mark Birkbeck, the well known freestyle K1 paddler, has just launched his own Coaching and Adventure Holiday/Trip company, 'Mark Birkbeck. Com'.

Mark is a qualified British Canoe Union Level 4 coach. He has extensive experience from teaching beginners to advanced groups or individuals, whether it is freestyle, whitewater or calm water.

Coaching, adventure holiday and trips on offer can be arranged individually. For further details check out the website www.markbirkbeck.com



A sponsored sea kayak expedition in aid of the RNLI and Surfers Against Sewage. The inspiration was in a song – well an instrumental album actually. Last year the Devon based folk group Show of Hands, released an album; "The Path" celebrating 25 years of the South West Coast Path. The SW Coast Path is fantastic, but walkers miss out on the best vantage point of all – from the sea. So I set about planning to do the path by kayak, from Minehead in North Somerset to South Haven, Poole in Dorset, via Land's End.

A winter of planning and searching for information inevitably led to deciding that this was more than the usual summer holiday and should be put to good use. So I selected two worthy causes, both of immense personal importance to me and I'm sure supported by canoeists of all disciplines.

The RNLI needs little or no introduction, they are the true heroes of the British coast and although we all hope never to need them, it is great to know they are there. The RNLI relies totally on voluntary donations (they receive no government funding).

Surfers Against Sewage are perhaps less well known, and their name is perhaps a little misleading. Membership is not just for surfers – but they are most definitely against sewage. They have been campaigning for over fifteen years for higher standards of coastal sewage treatment, they have forced water companies to raise standards and local authorities to improve beach cleaning and information.

I shall be launching on Monday 28th June, at 06.00am from Minehead Lifeboat Station. The expedition has been broken into thirteen stages, averaging 25 miles per day, however if the weather is favourable I hope to complete the journey in 11 days, averaging 35 miles per day.

This is a come and join us event; anyone who has access to sea kayaking equipment and is a competent kayaker (minimum BCU 3 star) with experience on coastal waters is welcome to join me. Participants must be self-sufficient and will be responsible for their own safety (this is not a led expedition), transport, catering etc. Camping will, in the main, be wild camping and most days (weather permitting) will be based on two stages; an early morning start and a shorter evening trip. Paddlers will be invited to either raise sponsorship, to contribute to the total fund, or to make a donation based on the number of days they paddle.

For more information on the expedition please contact Brian Smith by email: swseakayak@hotmail.uk

Special thanks to my two sponsors: Anquet Maps and Outdoor Active. Anquet Maps have supplied me with a copy of their OS software package for the south west. This has proved invaluable in planning the trip and producing suitable navigation maps for use on the expedition. For more information on Anquet Maps please contact: www.anquet.co.uk. Outdoor Active, based in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, are the UK importers of Current Design Sea kayaks and have provided a fleet of kayaks to enable members of my local club to join me on sections of the expedition. For more information on Outdoor Active and the Current Design range of sea kayaks please contact www.outdoor-active.com

Brian Smith

Ladies canoe polo team

Final selections for the 2004 Great Britain Under 21 Ladies Canoe Polo Team were announced in March at Hatfield Water Park in Doncaster.

A team of eight were selected and will now attend a further three training weekends and compete in three International Tournaments in Belgium and Germany between April and July 2004.

Those selected and their clubs are as follows,

Claire Mitchell	-	Viking/Manchester
Claire Griffiths	-	Aberfan
Hilary Clarke(c)	-	St Albans
Jemma Murray	-	St Albans
Jo Townsend	-	Green Star
Sam Barry	-	Meridian
Sarah Kirwan(vc)	-	FOA
Sarah Tracey	-	FOA

Congratulations to all selected

**Aaron Fear-Ross and James Harmer
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Beware in the French Alps

Winter in the southern French Alps has continued into late April and river levels are expected to remain high until June, especially in Haute Provence. Due to high winds, there are also more trees down than usual. If the river is narrow and tree lined expect fallen trees. Rafting companies do not usually paddle them, rafting larger rivers is usually safer.

Struer Kayak A/S new C-1 Zeta racing canoe

This C-1 is an improvement itself. It is built based on the knowledge and experience gathered for more than 50 years but also to follow the new ICF-rules.

Simultaneously it satisfies the paddler's wish for stability, speed, and freedom of movement.

Struer say the new C-1 travels, due to the rigidity of the four layers of veneer, very straight when paddling in spite of any conditions. The temporary tests tell them they have created a racing canoe that fully lives up to their former model's success.

The Zeta is 5,2 m long, 45 cm width and has a weight of approximately. 13 kg. Zeta is presented for the world at the EC in Poznan in next week. For further information contact Struer Kajak A/S at www.struerkajak.com

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Sea Scout's new kayaks

The Sea Scouts and Explorer Scouts of the west London based Third Osterley Sea Scout Group have recently taken delivery of a fleet of eight new kayaks, buoyancy aids, paddles, spraydecks and helmets. Over the last few years the group has had to tighten its belt in order to save for an extension to their headquarters. However, with this project now complete the executive committee has turned its attention back to

raising funds to replace some of the group's outdated equipment. The Scouts and Explorers are looking forward to using the new kayaks during the upcoming season to develop their skills in order to gain their British Canoe Union star awards. The group would like to extend their thanks to the various sponsors who have helped them to purchase this equipment, especially to the Trinity House Trust fund, Entertainment UK Limited charity committee plus George Woods and all the staff at 'Whitewater the Canoe Centre' of Shepperton Marina.

Third Osterley Sea Scout Group, based in Isleworth, has been working with children and young adults in the local community for nearly 75 years. The group has approximately 100 youth members, from Beavers at six years old to Explorer Scouts up to 18 years, plus members of the Scout network, which is for adults up to 25 years. Anyone interested in joining the group or to obtain more information, should contact Mick Heath Group Scout leader on 020 8560 7180.

The picture shows Sea & Explorer Scouts checking out the new equipment following its delivery. Left to right: - David Colgan, Aaron Openshaw, Caroline Moore, Yaseen Ahmed, Hamish Fielder & Jack Fisher.

Kayaking for cancer

During the summer of 2002 I spent four months circumnavigating the coast of Great Britain by sea kayak in memory of my brother Mark. £22,000 has been raised for Leukaemia Research to date and I am now determined to build on this. The exposed coastline of Ireland is next. On the 20th June, I will set off to paddle the 900 miles around the coast of Ireland by sea kayak.

My brother Mark asked me to promise to one day raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund (LRF). During 2002, 13 years after he passed away, I kept this promise. With the award winning BBC website, people were able to follow the progress of the expedition by listening to audio reports that were left by me daily. This website is still online and can be linked to from www.kayakingforcancer.co.uk

The 900 miles around the coast of Ireland by sea kayak. At an average of four miles per hour, the 900 miles around the coast of Ireland will take roughly 225 hours of paddling.

I am going to start the expedition from Holyhead, Wales and cross the Irish Sea. This 50 mile crossing will be the longest crossing I have ever attempted. The journey around Ireland will take me past the tallest cliffs in Europe and along the exposed Atlantic Coast. I will be out on the water for around 12 hours a day, only coming ashore to raise money, eat and sleep.

During the circumnavigation of the UK I was pushed both mentally and physically especially along the exposed coastlines. This expedition is set to be an even greater challenge on the water due to the exposure I will face on the west coast. I will be on my own on the water for the duration

of the trip which will challenge me mentally more than I have been before.

I want this expedition to be as successful as KFC 2002 and raise the awareness for the Leukaemia Research Fund as well as reach my target of £40,000. If you would like to sponsor the expedition you can visit my website and guess the number of hours minutes and seconds it will take for me to kayak around Ireland. The person whom is the closest will win the expedition kayak. This will be a Nigel Dennis Kayak.

Thank you for your support and please check the website out to view daily video, photo and audio updates. www.kayakingforcancer.co.uk

Don't miss the fundraising party at the ASSC on anglesey on the 19th of June.

Fund raising for GB Paddle-Ability team

Members of 4A's club in Newark, in conjunction with the local Safeway store, raised £1,300 to support the GB Paddle-Ability team. Their fund raising activities included packing bags for customers in the store at new year and at Easter. Safeway customers were extremely generous and over £800 was raised this way. 4 A's also charged people to come and have a go on their Ergo machine, which was set up outside the store. Small prizes, donated by other local stores, were then given to those customers who paddled the furthest in one minute. A charity fishing match was set up at a lake owned by one of Safeway's employees and this raised a further £150.

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This is an excellent weight for a paddle that is tough, stiff and floaty, and is competitively priced at £60 for ally shaft and £70 for composite shaft construction. Available now through all good retailers www.ainsworthpaddles.net

Solihull Scout Group

2nd Solihull Scout Group has received a grant of £6,000 from the Solihull Community Foundation to purchase kayaks, equipment and to provide leader training. The grant will enable cubs and scouts to experience an introduction to canoeing in the North Solihull area. Local scout groups will be able to use the equipment and leaders will be encouraged to improve their qualifications to lead the children. The purchase was put out to tender and the winning supplier, Paddlesport was able to affix the scouts logo to clothing and spraydecks to make them readily identifiable.

Scout leaders wishing to use the equipment should contact the group on Tel 0121 743 3832. Enquiries from experienced paddlers wishing to instruct the scouts are also welcome. Scouts try out new kayaks in the scout hut.



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Lightning strike at Nottingham

83 new Pyranha Lightnings were delivered to the BCU HO recently as part of the BCU Placid Water Junior Development Project. The BCU secured funding for the project through the Community Club Development Programme which is a collaboration between government - the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Sport England and 16 national governing bodies

In addition to the Lightnings are paddles, buoyancy aids, progression K1's and Paddling ergo machines which are being distributed over the coming months to clubs and centres committed to junior development and who contribute to 50% of the equipment cost. The Lightnings, which are specifically designed for the 8-12 age group, were just in time for the first Pyranha Cup Sprint race of the season at the National Watersports Centre. For more details of the race series go to www.lightning.co.uk. Full report to follow in the next edition.



Bob Campbell from Pyranha handing over the lightnings

Drew Delany 1952 – 2004

The paddling community has lost a great character in Drew Delany, who passed away in February after a period of illness fought with great courage, humour and dignity.

Many paddlers will have met Drew during the last fifteen years while attending coaching courses at Plas Menai National Water Sports Centre. A remarkable individual,



Drew's willingness to take "the road less travelled" was a constant theme in his life. Never one to bend the knee to conformity, his irrepressible enthusiasm, wicked sense of humour and – at times – irreverent approach to the coaching scheme, clearly made a lasting impression on his students! The gleam in his eye that promised another paddling adventure will be sadly missed by many whose commitment to the sport

stems from the excitement, challenge and education that Drew unfailingly provided.

In the summer of 2003, prior to the diagnosis of his illness, Drew was immersed in training for the team challenge of swimming the English Channel. A man of enviable energy, he squeezed every drop of life from his fifty-one years and was an example to us all. It's hard to believe that there will be no more chapters in this story, but all of us who knew him can feel privileged to have shared a few of them.

Welcome to Capri! Anytime, Anywhere...

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Raising the profile of the access issue

At the Canoe Exhibition we talked to hundreds of people, mainly non-canoeists, who were completely unaware of the access issue. They were shocked to hear of it and how little access to water we actually have. All voiced support. It is important for us all to raise the profile of the access issue and the campaign will be set out but by the very nature of campaigning the plan and strategy will have to be flexible in order to respond to issues that arise during its course.

At this stage, although it is very frustrating, it is important for us to wait. If we pre-empt the DEFRA report we could potentially lose a lot of the support that we have gained. Many canoeists and supporters of the campaign have written to their MPs and started to raise the public awareness of the issue. Several are arranging events in which their local MP and town councillors etc are invited, the Rivers Access Campaign are supporting these events with literature, posters, stickers etc as well as advice and attendance, where possible. Please do let us know at

info@riversaccess.org

what you are doing to support the campaign and how we can help. Do let us have the information so we can put it in to Canoe Focus and up on the website so all can see we do mean business! As well as the campaign itself the BCU and its officers are continuously lobbying on behalf of the access issue every time the opportunity presents itself.

The Campaign needs all its supporters to increase public awareness of the issue whether or not they are canoeists as the more supporters the campaign can get then championing our cause will get easier. To achieve what we want will take time and perseverance will be very important.

Fishing and canoeing mix! Both working together



A unique partnership between fishing and canoeing has recently been forged to promote canoeing and kayaking at a top North West fishing location.

Brookbank Canoes of Stockport were approached by the owner of top North West fishing venue The Roman Lakes in Marple, Cheshire with a view on improving the park for paddling activity.

Both the fishing and canoeing activities are set to expand at the site providing an example of how the two activities can exist together and even benefit each other.

The site itself consists of two lakes, a series of linked backwaters and a 1.5km stretch of the popular River Goyt. The North lake is set aside for canoeing and kayaking, whilst the other is for fishing. The lake can be hired for group use with suitably qualified instructors or instruction and equipment can be provided. Water quality is excellent and the area is very quiet and unspoilt on the edge of the Peak District yet it is only a short distance from the suburbs of South Manchester.

Mark Burch owner of Brookbank Canoes adds:

"The Roman Lakes is a fantastic location and we were very pleasantly surprised by the positive and open minded approach of the owners. It is proof that these two great activities can exist together with the right attitude. I am very excited about the prospect of running our courses there and developing the venue with the owners. We are now also very well placed to offer a quality flat water venue in the region which is something we have always been in great need of. Group activity sessions can now take place in a clean, safe environment for schools, youth groups and other organisations."

Access to the river Goyt on this section has in the past been the only problem area along the whole river. A new access agreement is currently being finalised which means you can access the river approximately 3 miles upstream of the Manchester Canoe Club site adding a very pleasant extra mile or so of grade 2 water to the normal trip from Brabyns park to the canoe club site. Anyone wishing to access the river here should contact Brookbank Canoes for details and then report on arrival to the café at Roman lakes before setting off. Please note this section is only viable at a medium water level after recent rain.

Paddlers starting higher up the river and passing through the roman Lakes site are also asked to contact Brookbank first where information on the whole river can be obtained.

The Roman Lakes also offers a great base for mountain biking and walking. Free parking, on site café, Boules pitch are also available for the whole family.

For further details or information on courses and activity sessions at the park please contact Brookbank Canoes on 0161 474 1499 or info@brookbankcanoe.co.uk

For details on fishing and other activities at the Roman Lakes leisure park see www.romanlakes.co.uk

Competition winner

At the Canoe Exhibition and Outdoors show a competition was held on the Rivers Access stand and several hundred people entered. As we know we do not have access to 98% of the rivers in England and Wales.

The competition question was

What is the total length of rivers in England and Wales where you can go canoeing?

There are over 65,000kms or 104,000 miles of rivers in England and Wales and we are able to canoe on 2317km or 1,439 miles. The competition winner is Eilish Jennisson who comes from Hull.

Leaflets/posters

Help us to get the message out

We have produced a FACT leaflet that you can use to help your campaigning. If you would like to have a leaflet(s) let us know your postal address and how many you need and we will send some out to you. If you have an outlet/building where you can display an A3 poster please let us know and we can send you a poster(s) too.

New boat stickers

Put a sticker on your boat and help us to spread the message when you are out and about on the water!

Coming soon - car stickers

Put a sticker in the window of your car/method of transport and help us spread the message when you are out and about travelling the country and in fact the world!

Coming soon - t-shirts

We are going to have some T- Shirts printed up with the "Support the Rivers Access Campaign". We are going to sell these at cost – about £5 or £6. If you would like one let us know your size

If there is any other merchandise please do let us know what else you think we need to do – Ideas always welcome.

Email us and we will send you what you need as soon as they are printed.

Access Problems?... We need to know

Talking to many canoeists at the exhibition we heard tales of how they had been treated by individuals when they were on water or trying to get on to water and even when they unwittingly stayed on to water that has no access agreement. It would be extremely useful to us, to support the campaign documentation, which we will use as part of our case for greater access, to hear of incidents that happen or have happened. We would also like to know when positive interactions concerning access have been had by people out on the water. Please write to us at the BCU or e-mail on info@riversaccess.org If you can give a brief synopsis and the date, place etc that would be extremely helpful.

Contributions to the website are always welcome

www.riversaccess.org

Come and support the river access rally

13th June 2004; Where: Chester

Access is a major issue in England and Wales and one of the Rivers highlighted as having major access problems is the River Dee.

Peninsula Canoe Club are organising a River Access Paddle on the 13th June to highlight the access problems in England and Wales and in particular on the River Dee.

There are two starts, so you can paddle as much or as little as you like... or you can just meet up in Chester for some fun on the water. All the necessary permissions have been obtained from the Environment Agency. Come along and support us. We all need greater access to rivers in England and Wales. There will be a competition for who has travelled the furthest and for the canoe club who brings the most paddlers plus other activities.

Getting to the start and from the finish

It is your responsibility to get yourself, your boat and your kit to the start and from the finish. There are no shuttles, nor indeed any public transport. Our suggestion is that you either bring a driver who can drop you at the start and collect you at the finish or you buddy up with a fellow paddler and leave a vehicle at each end. Alternatively you may wish to paddle the return leg giving a round trip of some 24 miles if you paddle down from Farndon.

Farndon Start (Starting between 9.00am to 10.30am) (Approximately 12 miles to the finish)

Put in at the bridge at Farndon, (OS Sheet 117, Grid Reference 412 545). Marshals will collect your entry form and money and help you launch.

Toilets: There are public toilet facilities at the start.

Parking: Parking is limited at the start, so please remove your vehicle immediately after unloading your boat. There are two car parks in the village and no parking restrictions elsewhere so parking should be easy. You can also park at the Greyhound Inn.

Facilities including Breakfast: The Greyhound Inn, just up from the bridge on the English side, will be open for coffee and breakfast from 8.30am to fortify you for your journey!

Eccleston Start (Approximately 4 miles to the finish)

Put in at Eccleston between 12:30 and 2pm (OS Sheet 117, Grid Reference 415 622). There are no facilities of any kind here. Parking is very limited so please arrange to be dropped off and have your driver depart quickly. There will be marshals to collect your entry form and money and

help you launch. Eccleston is a good alternative if you are unable to paddle 12 miles or are unable to get to Farndon by 10:30am. We expect youth paddlers to use this starting point.

Chester

The paddle ends at The Groves, Chester, (OS Sheet 117, Grid Reference 408 659). Press and media have been offered a photo opportunity below the Iron Bridge at 3:45pm. You will need to time your paddle so you participate in this. Marshals will be on hand to help you get out. Please leave your boats and kit tidily.

Navigation at Chester: The river will get busy with pleasure craft as you approach Chester. Please remember your river etiquette and keep close to the right hand bank. As soon as you see the bandstand, head for the bank and get out. Although the water is placid at this point, there is a weir just 100 meters downstream.

Toilets: There are public toilet facilities at the get out.

Parking: It is hoped that cheap parking can be arranged so please do watch out or further information. Other long stay parking is available a short distance downstream from the finish at the Roodee Car Park.

Facilities: There are various ice cream and food stands on the bank as well as a couple of pubs and tea shops and areas where you can picnic too!

Accommodation: Hotels, Guest Houses and Bed & Breakfast. Chester has various types of accommodation to suit all pockets. Search www.yell.com for listings. The Greyhound Inn at Farndon (01829 270 240) also offers accommodation, as do others in Farndon, Holt and the surrounding villages.

Camping: Camping in the Chester area is available through A W Mitchell, Birch Bank Farm, Stamford Lane, Cotton Edmunds, Chester, Cheshire, CH3 7QD Tel: 01244 335233. There is also camping available close to the start at The Camping & Caravanning Club site within the racecourse at Bangor on Dee. Tel: 01978 781009

Hope to see you there...

Information also available at penpads@aol.com

Paddler entry form

Please ensure you read the details carefully. This form entitles you to a set of free goodies supplied by the Rivers Access campaign. We will use your address to determine competition winners.

Name of Paddler

Email address

Address

Home phone number

Telephone number for emergency contact during event

Car details (for emergency only)

Make, model and colour of kayak/canoe

Is it named? Y/N

- I understand that the organisers have the right to refuse to allow me/my child to participate if I/they are not properly equipped or fail to provide a consent form properly and accurately filled in.
- I understand that I/my child will participate at their own risk.
- I understand the risks involved.
- I understand that Peninsula Canoe Club takes no responsibility for me/my child or my/their equipment off the water before the start and after the end of the session.
- I understand the transport arrangements. I understand it is my responsibility to get my child/myself and all equipment to and from the start and finish. I understand there are no shuttles, nor indeed any public transport.
- I understand that Peninsula Canoe Club is insured in respect of its legal liabilities only and that there is no personal accident or other cover unless I have been advised specifically by the organiser. (Parents/Guardians should arrange Personal Accident insurance cover if they consider it necessary.)
- I understand that Peninsula Canoe Club accepts no responsibility for personal property of any paddlers. Paddlers should ensure that they have adequate insurance cover.
- I understand that if I/my child deviate(s) from the original route as set out above and detailed by the organisers on the day in any way I am/ they are no longer deemed to be a part of the Peninsula Canoe Club event and as such no longer covered by Peninsula Canoe Club rules or insurances.
- I consent/give my consent for my child to participate in this event.

Signed..... Paddler/Parent/Guardian

Dated.....

Latest news!

The long awaited report from DERFA still has not been published. We are waiting, with much frustration, to know its findings, as what is said will depend on how we respond and how the campaign strategy is put in to place for the next phase of campaigning. Most of the groundwork has been done, however, this has been kept relatively quiet as we have formulated a number of responses to the various outcomes that could arise when the Minister announces his and the Governments response to the latest study carried out by Brighton University on behalf of DEFRA. Only then can we really fully define the direction and type of campaign that is required. The fact that we have started to raise the profile of the issue with non-canoeists is particularly important and it has certainly come to the attention of many of



the important decision makers and we are receiving support from various areas.



Paradise found

A sea kayak day trip from the west coast of Scotland

Starting the drive from Fort William, I have to admit a small niggle of doubt over the accuracy of the weather forecast I'd based my day on. The wind was slight, as forecast, and the weather yesterday had been calm, so the sea should be fairly flat today, but as far as the visibility was concerned, the clouds ahead weren't too promising. However, a day off is a day off, and you have to make the most of the chances you have, so westwards I went, in an attempt to prove my optimism the day before had been well placed.

And prove it, beyond all expectations, I did.

As I drove west along the coast road to Mallaig the cloud steadily cleared so well that by the time I'd reached the coast proper it was clear blue above in all directions, and the excitement levels were rising.

I managed to find my way through the new road system at Arisaig and down to a little point at the end of the road called Back Of Keppoch. I parked here at the end of a small sandy inlet pointed out to me by Pete as a good point to put in. A quick run through a mental checklist, and I was slowly paddling through crystal water over almost white sand as I exited the bay and headed out west along the coast.

Never getting as much time in my Sea Kayak as I'd like, the first five minutes are always slightly shaky as I regain the feel of the boat and get used to the confines of the cockpit, but my mind was drawn out of this into looking out to sea, where as clear as I've ever seen them were Skye, Rhum and Eigg, looking magnificent across a rippled sea.

I had decided to base the day on a trip round Arisaig bay in Loch nan Ceall, as I'd been there before at low tide and witnessed the bright beaches of calcified seaweed interspersed with small rocky outcrops before. I also have a soft spot for seals, and have always seen seals in these parts too. Sure enough, on turning to go down the channel, what I saw ahead of me was a seemingly uninterrupted rocky coastline, so sticking to my bearing I went, and soon found myself travelling into the Channel.

At low tide, the area between North and South Channels is littered with small islands and stretches of white beach, which in turn are dotted with rocks and mounds of seaweed, and I wasn't disappointed at all. With a background of Eigg and Rhum, this place is magical, with a definite tropical feel to it (especially as the sun was blazing down from above), one of my top spots anywhere in the highlands, and the seals didn't disappoint me either. As I rounded the corner to make my exit through the South Channel, I interrupted a small group of seals who, after diving into the crystal clear water had soon taken up station in a circle about 50m in diameter around my boat, bobbing upward and 'rubbernecking' to take a better look.

The journey out of the South Channel was spent marvelling at the beautiful beaches, trying not to disturb groups of seals sunbathing, and watching the kelp below me as I headed onwards. I'd spotted a small island on the map, just South of the mouth of the channel called Eilean Port nam Murrach, and thought I'd head off and take a look.

Finding a series of small islands about 1km offshore on the map I decided to make my way south via these, take a look, and practice a little more navigation. I got a little more than I'd bargained for. While the islands all had small colonies of gulls and cormorants, and a haze of guano about

The Silver Sands of Port Nam Murrach



them, I found a tiny tidal island in-between that had something on it I couldn't make out. Paddling over to it, I discovered a furry lump on the very top in the seaweed, and deciding it was just a seal so fast asleep it hadn't heard me; I almost turned away. I'm glad I didn't, because as I was preparing to go, a tiny head appeared on top of the lump, and it quickly dissolved into three otters, who in turn looked at me, and dived into the safety of the sea between us. Beautiful.

Still marvelling at my first glimpse of otters in the wild, I again set my compass, and headed for a small inlet behind the island I'd made my destination. A 10 minute paddle saw me turn into the small bay of Port nam Murrach, and discover a white sandy beach worthy of the south pacific, with a long shallow approach to a beautiful beach, complete with a 'shipwrecked' family having an impromptu driftwood bar-be-queue on the beach.

My next set of destinations I'd now set my sights on would involve longer and longer crossings. Gaining in confidence in the fantastic

nd? m Arisaig on nd



conditions and beautiful surroundings, I decided to continue on South-East into the Sound of Arisaig and then East to a fantastic little spot I'd walked to on several occasions, and always had a hankering after paddling to.

Starting at the back of Keppoch



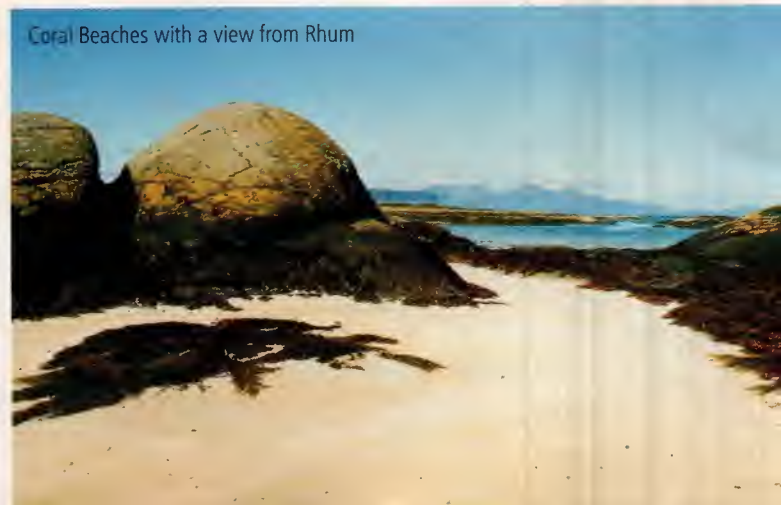
At the Eastern end of the Sound of Arisaig, splitting Loch Ailort from Loch nan Uamh juts the small Ardnish Peninsula at the end of which in a truly remote setting lies Peanmeanach. A throw back to ancient times, this area is home to two small settlements, consisting of several ruined buildings, however one of them has been maintained as a beautiful bothy, and it was here that I'd set my sights. I made my way out to the most easterly of the Eileann an t-Snidhe via a small outcrop with an adrenaline pumping split in it, guarded by two barely submerged rocks requiring good timing and a sprint start to avoid the holes produced by the swell. From the island, I then set my compass once more and set off on the 6km journey to Peanmeanach. It's like an old 'Monty Python' movie with



back to Port nam Murrach. Turning the corner on leaving the island I discovered that with the rising tide had come a rising windspeed, and while enjoying watching the passage of a wooden sailing ship, I was now paddling through slightly rougher water with the waves up to two feet in height. I decided to make a crossing of the south channel, and then make my way through the multitude of islands separating the two channels to the North Channel. From here I thought I'd see if I would be able to take a short cut through the small Channel separating the tidal island of Eilean Ighe and the mainland I'd initially passed round, and go straight back to my launch site. On turning round Luinga Mhor which defines the south channel I was in for a surprise, as almost all the islands had been submerged, and I was faced with a totally different scene from the one I'd left earlier on. The almost open water in front was quite disorientating, and it was only by sticking to the compass (quite difficult with the waves obliquely from the rear now) that I worked my way across the bay to the inlet accessing my shortcut. Once across however, I found a good foot and a half or so of water covering the sand, and was able to make my way back round to the launch point in good time to load up the boat and kit, and sit and watch the sunset.

The sunset was totally in keeping with the rest of the day. Even the obligatory midges were few, and the bay was nice and calm, as the orange sun sank into the sea beside Rhum with a brief blazing halo over the islands, before slowly receding, and leaving me to reflect on a fantastic day out. I'd challenged myself a little, and achieved some long held goals, and all in a warm, calm, and beautiful setting with some of Scotland's finest scenery, and wildlife to keep me company, and inspire me for the future. ●

Steve MacKenzie



Coral Beaches with a view from Rhum

the peninsula never getting any closer, then, suddenly, there it is in front of you, only there was no suddenly about it.

About an hour later I passed through the narrow channel between Eilean a'Chaolais and the Peninsula, and made my way round for a careful landing on the rocky shore exposed by the low tide in front of the Bothy. It was great to have reached this point from the sea, and I felt really pleased to have come on such a beautiful day as this, but the time was ticking, and being so far from my launch point, I felt the draw back to the sea quite strongly, and only made a brief visit for a quick leg stretch before I was once more heading out.

My return journey was made by crossing the Loch and heading to An Glas-eileann, and then West via Eilean a'Ghail and then along the coast

The early days of canoe surfing in the UK

Story No. 3 - Rock climbing for a change

(Told by Bill Goodman and corrected by Oliver who was, after all, the principle actor in this story)

We were idling away the time on the top of the cliff watching other people and how they were getting on in the water. Suddenly a man rushed up to us saying could we help? A boy had started to climb up the cliff, got stuck and could not get up and dare not go down. We went over to see what we could do. The lad was about ten feet down, looking distinctly unhappy.

We wondered who could help. Somebody remembered that Oliver had done some rock climbing when he was at school in Switzerland. Where was Oliver? Somebody spotted him walking on the sands below. One of us rushed down the cliff and ran over to him and told him of the situation. He immediately agreed to help and began to run gently towards the cliff. (No good to rush it and run out of puff half way up the cliff!)

At this point, I think, some information must be given on the nature of the rock at Polzeath. At the point where the boy had got stuck it is slate. Slate rock runs in thin layers, being twisted and turned as it develops. Sometimes the strata are upside down, sometimes vertical, sometimes flat. You name it, it will be that somewhere. The boy had got stuck where the slate was extremely steep. Having got onto it, he was terrified that he was going to slide down and drop some fifty feet onto broken rocks. He would certainly have been injured and possibly even killed. He stuck.

Oliver climbed the cliff up to him - and got stuck at the same point also! It was only about fifteen feet from the top. This was close enough for him to be able to call up to the people watching up there. "in the boot of my car is some rope. The boot is unlocked." (Polzeath was a singularly honest place in those days - you could leave anything anywhere and it would still be there when you came back!) Oliver continued, "Fetch all of the rope out and bring it down to the top of the cliff. Sort out an appropriate length. Tie one end firmly round one of the white posts where you are and throw the loose end down to me." This was done, but unfortunately in throwing the loose end to Oliver, a piece of rock was loosened which landed on his hand. No serious damage done but quite a bit of blood about. The loose end of the rope was too far from Oliver to be able to grab it. So more shouting to the people on



the cliff top to get the end nearer to his hand. This was done and he immediately grabbed it. Having got hold of it, he felt more courageous and gave it a pull. The rope held. He gave it a real pull and it still held. Hanging on tight, Oliver stood up. Hooray! He wasn't exactly standing up as normal.

If he had done that his feet would have slipped down the rock and worse things would have happened. He was leaning out from the rock - approximately at forty-five degrees, so that his feet were properly flat on the rock and gaining maximum grip of it. He was now free to move. He walked over until he was immediately below the boy, and then upwards until his feet were up against the boy's feet. Oliver's hands now had work to do. One clung to the rope, the other was held out to the boy, whom he now told to stand up, using any part of Oliver he wanted to hold onto : clothing; body; hair; it mattered not what. Once the lad was standing and feeling safer, Oliver could guide him to the top, where kind hands would pull him right up.

Oliver followed, using the rope, and then asked to have a chat with the boy, but the said boy had run away! Silly Oliver! He forgot to ask the lad his name and then to tell him to wait until he, Oliver, had a chance to have a talk with him. As to his hand, it was duly given first aid but it was pointed out that surfing with a hand like that was not on, and he could only sit and watch until his hand got better. ●



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Grey paddlers - just

My wife and I are what could be known as 'Grey Paddlers' as we are both 63 years old, and we own a 16 foot open canoe; a Ranger. It all started about three years ago when we were camped on the shores of Loch Lomond. We were stuck in camp because our reasons for being there were 'socked' in by really heavy cloud.

As I wandered across the campsite, being ex-Navy, my eyes were drawn to a pretty looking boat next to a jumble of kit, paddles etc. The canoe turned out to be a Hunter and the owners gave me chapter and verse on it and the canoeing scene. Being of a quick mind (!?!), I rapidly worked out that if we had a canoe, when the tops were out of bounds there is generally enough visibility to go on the water.

My next move was to convince my wife to have a go – she does not like deep water and 'moving' water was (and still is) a no go area. We tried a couple of hire canoes (we live at the bottom end of the Lake District), but Sylvia was not totally keen, although interested. Finally we went down to Widnes to Mobile Adventure's H.Q. and took a ranger out on the canal. Even as rank amateurs, we could handle this immensely stable craft with ease and my wife thoroughly enjoyed herself even when meeting rather large canal boats! She trusted my naval experience of small craft enough to go back to Mobile Adventure and order one on the spot.

Since then we have had a wonderful time, we have been back to Loch Lomond and this time we went up the hills and on the Loch. Mostly though, we go locally on our canals and up into the Lakes. We can be on



the canal twenty minutes from strapping the canoe onto the top of our very small car (see photo). The Lakes are our favourite. We have purchased a big watertight tub which holds a small disposable barbecue, sausages, rolls, bottle of wine, swimming gear, books, camera's etc. So we launch, paddle a while, explore the lake and then settle on a nice quiet bit of shore for a couple of hours. Our canoe is big enough to take four, so when our children visit us, we go off to a lake and while us 'lads' take the little ones for a spin, the ladies cook a meal off the beach (and get first crack at the wine I might add).

We are so keen on canoeing that we are already planning to purchase a new canoe made of Royalex which will be lighter, when this one gets a bit heavy. If this ever gets read, we would offer this advice, 1) do try



Peace on Coniston

loving it!



Grandad with 'Eastern Branch' grandchildren

different canoes before buying, 2) it is worth buying really good wooden paddles at the outset (we have Grey Owl paddles) and do Join the BCU! It is worthwhile and the magazine is interesting even if there is not a lot about us in it. Happy paddling, from two sailors and a sea dog (Tilly our Border collie always comes with us) 🐕

Sylvia (Captain) and Jim (Engine room) Stokes



Grandad with 'Southern Branch' grandchildren



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BUSA canoe polo '04



For more information on canoe polo refer to the BCU website on www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/canoepolo.html

76 teams comprising of 24 Universities descended on Hatfield Water Park near Doncaster from Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th April for an action packed weekend of paddling carnage that is BUSA canoe polo.

Canoe polo involves paddling and ball handling skills in a high contact, exciting team game, where tactics, position and fitness feature high on the play list.

Play started early on the Saturday morning with the 'Open A Team' and ladies group matches kicking off first, followed by the B' Team Div 1 and Reed Chillcheater matches in the afternoon. The places at the top of the groups were highly fought for, in order to secure a place in the playoffs later that evening. Play was brought to a close as the sun went down on a scorching hot day at Hatfield, with many teams settling for a night on the beer safe in knowledge it would not affect their position standings the following day!

A party marquee was erected on the Hatfield campsite with the all-important catering team from Grimsby and Cleethorpes Venture Scout Unit and more importantly the bar. Everyone was fed and watered by the wonderful catering staff (all volunteers) and then carnage reigned!

The more professional(?) teams at the competition got an early night as play restarted at 8am on the Sunday morning, again the weather promised to be good and we weren't disappointed. Sunday separated the men from the boys as Nottingham, Cardiff, Cambridge and York battled it out for the top place in the Open A Team competition. Liverpool, Warwick and Bath ladies saw off their rivals to finish 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The Leeds 'Biscuit' and the 'Donut' Teams dominated both the top and bottom of the

Take four pitches measuring 35 x 23 metres, stir in two teams of five, one ball, and goals suspended two metres in the air, add in a huge amount of sunshine and blue sky what do you get? BUSA canoe polo 2004!



Reed Chillcheater division! With the GB women, warming up for the World Championships in Japan, beating up the boys to finish a creditable 3rd place in the B' Team Div 1 competition behind York Uni Old Boys in 1st and Warwick 'Old Gits' in 2nd. The whole weekend was rounded off with the BUSA Open Final between Cardiff and Nottingham. Both sides were fired up for the final. The first half started tentatively with both teams getting shots blocked. Cardiff tried to initiate a chasing game but then settled into a set defence. The first goal came when Barney Connell took a dribble down the left of the Cardiff zone and shot from a tight angle. Richard Longley added a second minutes later before Cardiff got one back to make it 2-1 at half time in Nottingham's favour.

Nottingham secured the second half sprint and rushed the first attack of what was a scrappier second half. With about five minutes to go Longley scored a second to give Nottingham a two goal lead. This forced Cardiff to try and chase the ball

down. In response, Nottingham played the ball deep around the half way line drawing Cardiff out and eventually earning Nottingham a fourth goal, they were then slow to focus back on the game. Allowing Cardiff to take the opportunity to score an immediate reply. At 4-2 with two minutes remaining Nottingham spread themselves out making it difficult for Cardiff to retain the ball and ran the clock down. Nottingham came out 4-2 winners to retain their title. It was a well-contested match, a fitting end to a great weekend. This game saw the Nottingham keeper Graham Aitchison play in his last BUSA, having participated in the event for the last ten years!

An excellent level of competition and participation made this what is believed to be the largest two day canoe polo event in Europe, something which could not have been possible without the amazing organisation by Loughborough Students Canoe Club - especially Chris Walder. The event would also not have been possible without the support of the sponsors and a huge thank-you goes to Chris Reed from Reed Chillcheater, Dave Brown from DBXclusive and Epsan Waterfly for providing the polo balls and finally all the staff at Hatfield Water Park for once again helping the event run very smoothly. ●

BUSA is kindly sponsored by The Daily Telegraph and Price Waterhouse Coopers.



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DW medical survey

Physical endurance, survival and recovery are essential parts of DW. A medical survey is being sent out to all participants of this year's race. The DW organisers have asked if all paddlers could make every effort to complete and return the survey.

DW snaps

Photos taken along the course will be available through the DW website in the next few weeks.

On the web

DW official site:

www.drace.org.uk

Times story:

www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,4-1071339,00.html

BBCi (Good background to the race):

www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/sport/042004/09/devizes_westminster_canoe.shtml

For more information on marathon refer to the BCU website on

www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/marathon.html

Every second counts in clos

Richard and Henry Hendron took first place in this year's Devizes Westminster Canoe Marathon finishing with a time of 18 hours, 34 minutes and 50 seconds.

Taking victory from James Treadgold and John Drummond by just 65 seconds, it is the smallest winning margin in the race's history – the equivalent of a photo finish in the 125-mile canoe marathon.

After a slow start through the 12-mile, still-water stretch of the Pound from Devizes to Pewsey and capsizing after hitting a log, the Hendron brothers were 26 minutes behind at Marlow, the 70 mile mark. By Teddington the lead had been cut to 6 minutes with only 17 miles to make up the short fall with Treadgold and Drummond approaching the finish line, having been the fastest through every checkpoint. The Hendrons shot the Tideway and took first place.

"We had to go full on from the Tideway," said Richard, reflecting on the tactical race. After winning the Waterside Series the Hendrons were clear favourites having competed in the event before, knowing the course well and with the careful preparation. Using a lightweight Double Dutch kayak the brothers expected to be faster. "It was by no means a perfect paddle," recalls Henry, reflecting that expectation may have contributed to the early swim, "we went in immensely pressurised, feeling that we had to win."

Their race went as planned arriving just five minutes later than the 18 hour target. For nine times finisher Treadgold, the last couple of years have seen a retirement and a non-start so the idea was to just finish. Admitting to be a fairly philosophical chap, Treadgold says that looking at it now "the chance of winning DW has probably gone", barely pausing for breath to add, "a great deal of credit to the Hendrons, they went for it and took the time out of us." Drummond shares the respect, but firstly is really proud of the Reading team's performance, especially given that he only started kayaking in 1998.

Fun Paddlers

As Treadgold says, for most Devizes Westminster is about finishing, to which you can add personal best times and the physical and mental challenge of breaking down the course.

Martyn Harrison and Rob Coleman



Paul Ralph at Marsport normally has a couple of aquatic anecdotes to bring out the human side but after last year's gales this year was "boringly wonderful," although he's certain the competitors didn't think so.

Come on Paul, paddlers are busting their gluteus maximi for this event. Of the 420 competitors and over 230 boats there must be some interesting tales passed down through riverside communities. Turns out commercial modesty has turned Paul shy. Craig Hill, winner of the C1 race and employee at Marsport, served a couple of customers when passing through Dreadnought Reach on the Saturday and repaired his support crew's car when it broke down on the Sunday, reinforcing the dedication and flexibility that is Marsport.

Strength in Numbers

High praise goes to all paddlers through an Early Day Motion from the House of Westminster congratulating "all who competed in the gruelling Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon."

Competitor numbers were up on last year, with the greatest increase in the Endeavour class – adults completing the course in four stages over four days – increasing to 27 boats from last year's 10.

In the Junior Doubles James Purchase and Iain Hissett of Pangbourne Canoe Club took first prize, with Bryanston School taking 2nd and 3rd. For many of the schools, DW is a single term challenge with most paddlers only starting serious training in the Spring term. "Most haven't seen a canoe before," says Paul Ralph at Marsport, commenting that of the many impressive performances Dauntsey's seemed to do particularly well this year.

Leaside Canoe Club also put in a good show taking first and second in the Senior Singles in addition to a good number of K2s and K1s out on the course.

In terms of numbers James Treadgold was "genuinely impressed by the sheer volume of crews that Richmond Canoe Club put out," something the club is proud of with 12 of their 14 K2 boats finishing the race. In addition to the Hendron brothers, Graham and Nevil Stonehouse took the



Winners: Richard and Henry Hendron

"It was a fabulous race and we always felt we were in contention but 65 seconds was a bit too close for comfort!" said a relieved but very happy Henry (left).

Picture and text: Neil Thomas

Best DW finish in race history

Richard and Eddie. They completed the race in 40.5 hours in a Prijon Capri II provided by Canoesplus-



Very tired finishers

Veterans title, Roxanne Dunn and Russ Dawkins took the Mixed Doubles. One team broke with tradition (and the letter of the rules if not the spirit of determination) snapping a boat in half, flirting with hyperthermia while waiting for a replacement and eventually crossing the line in their 3rd boat. "It's the best club performance in 40 years," booms Trevor Wetherall, long-time club member and former Commodore at Richmond.

Olympic Effort

Richmond also took a new record with Guin Batten and Louise Carey shaving almost three hours off the Ladies Veteran time coming in at 22 hours and 4 minutes – pretty good for a couple of paddlers who hadn't got in kayak until last December. But there is a water-borne history. Carey and Batten have a strong sculling track record, with Batten winning a silver in the Sydney Olympics. Asking how DW and the Olympics compare gets what is, in hindsight, a reasonable response. "It's like comparing a banana with a car," says Guin. The medal winning 2,000 metre sprint in a skull took 6 hours 21 minutes. "It was a challenge," says Guin, "to see if we could learn in time, and to see if I would last 22 hours." Touching on something that every paddler knows, "DW brings you very close to the other person in the boat." Louise, that other person, has taken part in some fairly extreme events including the SAS Are you Tough Enough. "The last four hours were horrendous," she laughs, "I loved it in an insane kind of way," recalling the physical and mental pain, the swim as they crossed the finish line and the tingling in the fingers that acts as a permanent reminder of the pain the body has been through.

Giving Support

One great leveller is realisation of the importance of the support crews. As the unquestionable authority on DW Brian Greenaway says, "the two paddlers in the boat are only part of the team."

"We graded the support crews on who you got, how much food you got and whose food it was," said Louise, laughing about how some stuffed the mouth to the gunnels while

others were stingy, and carefully planned dietary preferences were thrown aside. Henry Hendron agrees, "once you've won there is only way to go. For the next few years, I'll be paying back favours to others who have supported us."

All in a good cause

Some even find the energy to race for charity. Martyn Harrison and Rob Coleman finished in 27 hours, 2 minutes and 51 seconds. "I am chuffed to bits," said an exhausted Martyn after the race, "we were actually amazed at how hard it was and were absolutely shattered but we had fantastic support from the bank." Martyn and Rob have raised almost £6,000 for the Dom and Euan Appeal at Poole Hospital maternity Unit where Martyn's sister-in-law Dominique died from a rare amniotic fluid embolism giving birth to Euan who also died. The Golden Oldies team of paddlers from years gone by added a certain pedigree to the event with a group of 26 former Olympic and international British paddlers from the 1950s and 1960s with an average age of 65 years completing the course in relay. Dr Bernard Watkin said the idea came out of a reunion last year in Scotland after one too many whiskies. The line up of a quadruple heart bypass, pacemaker, artificial hips, diabetes and several spinal operations completed the course and fundraising efforts collected some £14,000 for Médecins Sans Frontières.

While some give their efforts to raise fund for good causes, others give time. Some 300 volunteers give their time to help with the running of the DW – a broadly thankless task.

However you tackle DW, or from whatever angle you're involved something happens along that 125 mile course. It's a physical and mental challenge, by the end you're just surviving. The feeling when you've done it is incredible, and once you've walked up those steps, nothing is impossible. And that includes the prospect of doing it again. As one paddler put it "I spent 20 odd hours praying for the pain to stop and, the moment it did, I started looking forward to next year..."

Easter Saturday is on 26th March in 2005. Put the date in your diary, you know you'll be there. ●

Peter Hutchison



Results

For full results and information visit www.dwrace.org.uk

Senior double

- 1 Henry and Richard Hendron, Richmond Canoe Club, 18:34:50
- 2 John Drummond and James Treadgold, Reading Canoe Club, 18:35:55
- 3 Alistair Ringer and James Williams, Cambridge University, 19:00:29

Endeavour

- 1 Adam Reid and Pete Thomas, Dauntsey's School CC, 18:59:02
- 2 Kirsty Fletcher and Rachel Midgley, Trent College, 22:59:24
- 3 Stephen Courtney and David Woods, Wokingham, 23:10:08

Junior doubles

- 1 James Purchase and Iain Hissett, Pangbourne Canoe Club, 17:14:19
- 2 Henry Dodson and Duncan Slater, Bryanston School, 17:33:57
- 3 Joost Elias and William Thomas, Bryanston School, 17:39:27

Veteran junior doubles

- 1 Mark Adams and Matthew Freestone, Leaside Canoe Club, 17:47:34
- 2 Markus Panayi and Gary Rowell, Leaside Canoe Club, 18:20:30
- 3 Mike Hart and Elizabeth Polson, Royal Hospital School, 20:56:15

Senior singles

- 1 Daniel Beazley, Leaside Canoe Club, 16:38:58
- 2 Graham McKeand, Leaside Canoe Club, 17:23:08
- 3 Josef Feichtinger, Donau Linz, 17:24:28

The home straight

For more information on freestyle refer to the BCU website on www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/freestyle.html

The 2004 Hurley

There is a phrase “its not as good as Hurley” that’s been around for a few years... It’s not... The 2004 Hurley Classic took freestyle competition right off the scale.

The event, which has a 16 year history, had paddlers heading into the UK from all over Europe for the first true international Rodeo held in Britain since the inaugural world rodeo championships held back in 1991.

The organising team made up of a collective from the Thamesweirproject and Kayakojacko (plus a host of helpers) took on the organisation from Shaun Baker last year. Despite this being the group’s first try, they managed to raise the bar considerably by introducing a more social feel to the current 45 second run format currently used at most other events. The competition was also the first part of the coveted Euro Cup - a three event series. However it was the inclusion of an event called the “Classic” that drew the crowds with a return to open heats of 20 minutes and a style and size based score system.

With crazy weather conditions throughout the weekend, all present relished the heated marquee based alongside the river where you could watch the action on the wave, which was broadcast live onto huge plasma screens. Also welcome was the chance to get hot drinks and food from the on site caterer’s who sold out each day.

One aspect of the competition that the organisers had worked hard on was the ‘added value’. This was achieved by including all manner of displays, trade stands, off the water competitions and lectures by the likes of Charlie Muncey, and BCU white water course designer George Parr. It’s certainly

refreshing to see this level of effort going in to what can otherwise seem like an expensive ticket price at events.

During the event, the wave was on a perfect three gates-despite widespread concerns over poor water levels the week before. This allowed the best to show off to the rest, all the latest moves were demonstrated by the likes of Tobi Bersch (current European champion), Mark Birkbeck, and Deb Pinniger. The Euro cup event took place through the Friday and Saturday with paddlers coming

from as far a field as the Czech Republic and New Zealand. There was also a large contingent of German Freestyle paddlers who used the event as one of their selections for the upcoming World Championships in Australia.



Throughout the competition the local paddlers really shone through with great performances by Jak Alder dominating the junior ladies, Flea Jarvie in



Classic

the ladies and James Weir in the open boat. But it didn't go all their own way as inspiring performances from the likes of Eddie Smith from Scotland and Stefan Patsch from Germany took some of the top honours - in the junior men's and C1 respectively. However as the event progressed it was a relative newcomer from Holland who began to be mentioned around the site. Casper Kalmthout who pretty much only gets to paddle white water when away at events eventually stole victory in the floodlit men's kayak final from other world class paddlers, he also went on to take the double in the Sunday 'Classic' competition.

On the Saturday evening, the whole event moved to Longridge scout boating centre and the party where 300 paddlers enjoyed dancing, drinking and the chance to wallop each other senseless in the inflatable boxing ring. The night ended with a variety of glow stick covered types raving wildly to the tunes spun by a variety of DJ's - thanks must go to the local brewery (Marlow) for helping these folk with their confidence.

Sunday, and a host of new competitors had been saving

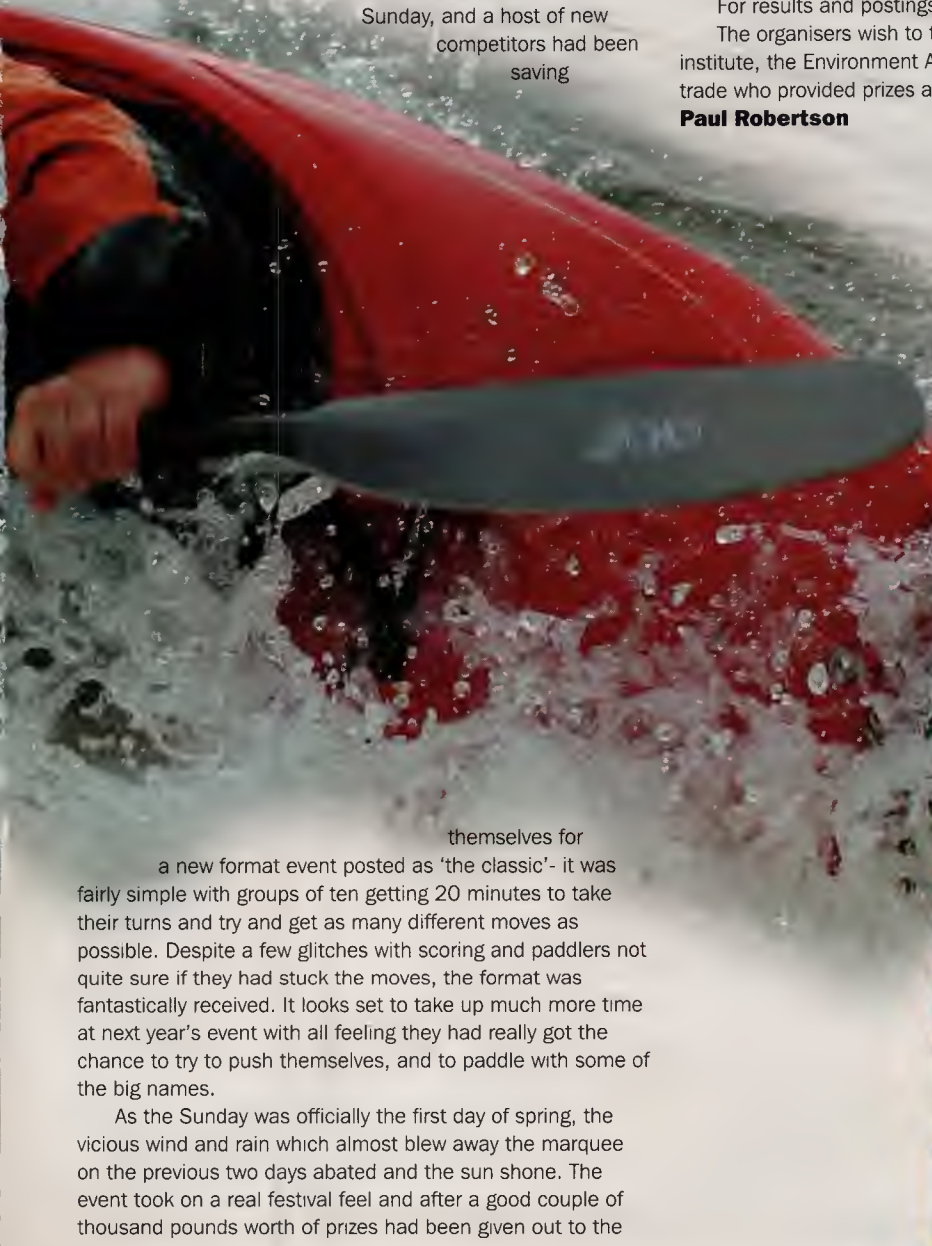


winners, and losers, the organisers were able to take stock of what had been achieved - "a Classic... well until next year!"

For results and postings look up www.hurleyclassic.com

The organisers wish to thank the major sponsors SAS institute, the Environment Agency, and those members of the trade who provided prizes and support. ●

Paul Robertson



themselves for a new format event posted as 'the classic' - it was fairly simple with groups of ten getting 20 minutes to take their turns and try and get as many different moves as possible. Despite a few glitches with scoring and paddlers not quite sure if they had stuck the moves, the format was fantastically received. It looks set to take up much more time at next year's event with all feeling they had really got the chance to try to push themselves, and to paddle with some of the big names.

As the Sunday was officially the first day of spring, the vicious wind and rain which almost blew away the marquee on the previous two days abated and the sun shone. The event took on a real festival feel and after a good couple of thousand pounds worth of prizes had been given out to the



The Colca Ca

More people have stood on t Everest than journeyed throug

Around dawn we stopped for a leg stretch, the scenery around us was amazing, all around was a dry, dusty barren area. There were no houses, in fact the only sign of man was the track we were standing on! In the distance we could see Nev. Coropuna at 6425m in altitude; we were on the Altiplano some 3800m in elevation. We finally arrived at the Plaza in Huambo at 7am, all the houses and walls were made from sun dried mud bricks giving the whole area a yellow/brown feel. Ivan our mule driver was already waiting for us, something that surprised me, we were only able to ring his sister yesterday and I was certainly apprehensive about whether he received our message or not! However, our first priority was breakfast, a small restaurant the other side of the Plaza was open and so we managed to get a healthy "Tuna Saltado" (basically tuna fried with onions and garlic then mixed with rice and fried potatoes), all of this was washed down with a mug of Coca tea!

We met back up with Ivan and he began to load the kayaks onto the mules. Each mule could only take one kayak, so some mules had a better time than others. Our food and supplies went onto another mule and we decided to carry our kayak gear and paddles as we have heard the track down to the river was a class five! It was 8am when everything was strapped down and secured onto the mules and we finally set off into the canyon for the next four days.

The dry arid area of the Colca region

We followed behind the mules on what was to be a gruelling journey to the put in at Canco. First we crossed through fields being farmed by the local population, then the greenery left us and we had just the dry arid area of the Colca region. We followed a path worn away over hundreds of years, zigzagging to lose height and then contouring around the edges of the mountainside with some really big drops down to the Rio Huambo. The area was so arid, dust was being kicked up into the air by the mules making our throats dry, the sun was beating down on us!

At midday we reached a bridge over the Rio Huambo, we stopped and had lunch, the bridge providing us with the first chance to shelter from the sun and the river to refill our water bottles; it was so great to put our heads into the cold water, something we all needed. By the time we had

It was 2am when my alarm sounded, it took me another cosy bed I was in, Nobby (alias Adrian Clarke) got a k Marco's bus arrived half an hour later and with every five hour journey to Huambo. I cannot remember too accustomed to bus journeys in Peru I was sound asleep to the speaker that was keeping our driver awake. Around hairpin bends, dodging dogs and blindly overtaking bus journey was certainly part of the adventure of the

cooled off and started eating our lunch, Ivan had already set off with the mules and so it was not long before we were again on the trail to Canco. The Rio Huambo was now far below us and it was amazing to see how the river has cut its way through the layers of volcanic rock, making each drop a waterfall followed by a flat pool and then again a waterfall. We now came across a very tricky traverse, the track had disappeared and we had to negotiate a scree field, with one slip or mishap we would slide down a 500m scree slope that stopped at the edge of a cliff and then 300m down to the Rio Huambo. We saw the mules cross and decided it could not be that bad, however, once we were on the scree it was certainly harder than the mules made it look! With every step we took our feet slid from under us, we all decided to cross one at a time in case the whole slope went, just like an avalanche in winter. Each of us took our time making sure we maintained our balance. We all made it across though TJ had the scare of the day, weighing in heavier than the rest of us, not only was he sinking deeper into the scree but also sliding that bit further down with every step. He then felt the whole area around him sliding beneath his feet; TJ was now moving with the slope and starting to pick up speed. Luckily, he kept his balance and with one leap he got a foot out and onto an area of scree that was not yet sliding, with another three leaps and bounds he was out of the scree and back onto the dusty track. The relief on his and our faces was immense, if he would have lost his balance and fell into the moving scree he would have had not a hope of getting out and with the 300metre cliff at the end the result would have been



nyon

he summit of Mount gh the Colca Canyon!

er 15 minutes to get out of the warm
nck and so did TJ and Melvin. Gian
thing finally packed we set off for a
much of the journey as now being
ep, however, Nobby's head was next
apparently the van was going so fast.
aking buses; it seemed as though the
e Colca.

something we all did not want to contemplate, it was certainly enough excitement for the day!

First sight of the Rio Colca

We reached a ridge and as we crossed we gained our first sight of the Rio Colca. Canco was situated just 100m above the river, a piece of emerald green in an area of what seems desert. Though we could just pick out the houses, the surrounding fields below were full of life. We made a quick stop to say "Hola!" to some interested villagers and then 20 minutes later we reached the river bank, it had taken us a long and gruelling seven hours to arrive at the banks of the Colca. We unpacked the mules and said our thanks and goodbyes to Ivan as he went to sleep in Canco before going back up to Huambo the next day. We on the other hand knew from here that there was only one way out of the Colca Canyon and that was in our kayaks! We settled down to preparing dinner, getting our bodies rehydrated and listening to the sound of the river. As we did not bring tents with us we were rewarded with the stars shining high above and an amazing show of sparks on the canyon walls, this was provided by the falling rocks bouncing off and hitting the canyon sides.

The next morning we polished off breakfast and headed upstream to



go and find the biggest waterfalls in the canyon. We could just get to see the falls and while doing so a few rocks came crashing down 25 metres in front of us. We then headed back to camp, packed our kayaks and prepared to set off on our trip through the Colca Canyon. The first couple of kilometres were pretty shallow and we were faced with class II and III rapids. It was only when the Rio Mamcocha entered from the right did the

volume of the Colca double. It was about another two kilometres of class II when we hit our first major rapid. Due to the canyon being so unstable and the frequency of earthquakes in the area the river changes constantly, in fact when the river gets paddled at the beginning of each season it is like doing a first descent! There was a huge avalanche of rocks that had now changed the river and so we had to get out and inspect. We had been told not to hang around too long as the area was prone to collapse again. The river was working its way around some large boulders that must have fallen there, creating ledges and holes beneath).



The rapid was about 300m long with a few moves to make but nothing too "dicey"! I explained to Nobby that I wanted to film this section as I was not too sure how many chances we would get through the canyon. As I was explaining this to him a big splash happened some 20m downstream, then some dinging sounds could be heard as more rocks started falling around. With that he sped off to run the rapid before the whole canyon came down on top of me. The next rapid was just around the corner and we again scouted and filmed this section. The entrance was fine but at the end of the rapids were two big holes, the first of which if you did not make the cut move to river left then you were asking for a working in the last hole, Melvin was first, followed by TJ and then Nobby. The guys all nailed the line and it was then up to me to meet everyone in the eddy at the bottom.

After lunch it did not take us long to reach "Ducha Del Condor" an amazing waterfall cascading over 1000m, it starts falling with a stream of water and ends up at the river in a spray of mist. Near the top condors were flying through the waterfall like they were washing the dirt and sand out of their wings, hence the name "Showers of the condor"! We started looking for a place to camp, while now negotiating class III rapids until finally at 5pm we found a beach on river left that had some sand and more importantly was free from rock falls! Dinner for me and Nobby was a

thanks

Steve would like to thank the following people for their support:

Pete Astles of Peak UK - www.peakuk.com

Nik Conti of Smith Sport Optics Europe - www.smithsport.com

Robert Sommer of Robson Paddles - www.robsonpaddle.de

"Soya meat saltado" with mashed potatoes, while TJ and Melvin had tuna and pasta. The fire was well under way and we settled down to another night of sparks, pings and splashes.

Day three saw us hit a class IV rapid after the first bend, we scouted river right. The line was simple, start river right and work left to exit, the whole teams opinion was just do not go right in the last half of the rapid. I began to film and as TJ and Melvin nailed the lines Nobby thought it was about time the video needed spicing up. On the diagonal wave halfway down Nobby got tall ended and went over running the last half of the rapid upside down, finally rolling up in the pool below. When we met up again Nobby explained that he nailed the line just the wrong way up! We negotiated another class IV and then we were in the Chocolate Canyon, an amazing place one that words truly cannot describe, it can really only be appreciated actually in the canyon by river runners, something hidden from the outside world. More class IV rapids followed and then we hit our first portage, with all the water going under a huge flat boulder and a line so tight that if you made a tiny mistake you were under



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Open Canoe Association



We are a group of enthusiasts who enjoy everything to do with open canoeing. Annual membership includes our quarterly journal *Open Canoeist* and access to trips, events, coaching and contacts around the country. Individuals and families are welcome regardless of experience and ability.

If you want to find out more about OCA membership contact us at:

Open Canoe Association, PO Box 7317
 Harwich, Essex CO12 3WZ
colin.taylor@highnambb.co.uk
www.opencanoe.org



the boulder. We realised this drop was too risky and under different circumstances we maybe would have run it but here in the Colca the cons far outweighed the pros of running the drop. It was only another 50m to the next portage, this was a death trap! The whole river passed through a 1m wide gap which was chocked full with logs, a definite portage. It took us over 30 minutes to portage the kayaks and at the end we decided to

have lunch, just 10m upstream a huge boulder balanced precariously on the edge of a cliff just waiting for the small rocks holding in place to slip away and the after effects would be enormous.

The Chocolate Canyon was behind us and the canyon had opened out thus being safe from rock falls, we had arrived so early at our campsite that we just kicked back and took in the immenseness of the Colca and watched condors soaring high above us.

The deepest part of the Colca

The fourth and final day of the expedition saw us setting off early as we needed to catch the bus to Aplao before 1pm, we were negotiating first a few class II rapids and then the canyon started to close in on us again. We then went through a small gap in the canyon only a couple of metres

wide, that we believed to be the deepest part of the Colca, the right wall was some 4200m high and the left wall of the canyon 3200m. We could not see to the top but we had a feeling of the canyon closing right in on us! The river was somewhat flat and it carried on like this for a kilometre until a horizon line appeared, we could hear the water thundering below the horizon line, we scouted on river left only to see the third and final portage. However, we were on the wrong side to portage and so we had to carry our kayaks up a little way and then ferry over to the other side, catching the last mans eddy. We first walked the kayaks but then we had to climb up some 10m to a ledge. It was another 100m walk over slippery rocks until we could put in, we then had to run the last drop blind but this was not difficult. The river really eased off now, though we were still in the Poles Canyon the gradient had mellowed and we were making the last of the magnificent canyon before we met up again with civilisation. The Rio Andamayo came in on our right and the canyon opened right up, green terrace fields could be seen and also a few houses were starting to dot the river banks, the river had now changed its name to the Rio Majes. It took us an hour to reach our take out Hacienda Peru; the village was further up the hill next to the road. We had just completed one of the best river expeditions in the world, though the adventure was far from over. We still had to carry our kayaks up to the road and somehow get a lift to Aplao where we could find a bus to take us back to the city of Arequipa. While waiting for a bus a taxi turned up and we managed to get the boats on the roof and off we went to Aplao, however the taxi driver did not realise our negotiating powers and we ended up with a ride all the way to Arequipa, what a journey! The Colca Canyon is an amazing expedition, though the river was not that difficult to kayak, the feeling of being closed in by walls thousands of metres high certainly makes it that much more mentally hard going and not forgetting once we were in the canyon there really was only one way out. We were only the fourth group that had journeyed through the canyon that year and once we had arrived back in Arequipa, Gian Marco told us that there had been more people on the summit of Mount Everest than had journeyed through the Colca Canyon!

Steve Brooke

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Making a splash

More than 50,000 visitors from around the world flocked to the 3rd annual Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show this April at the Birmingham NEC to sample everything the outdoors has to offer.

This year's event was hailed the biggest and best ever, attracting over 500 exhibitors and showcasing a diverse range of activities from rambling, climbing, canoeing, diving, adventure sports and adventure travel.

Vanessa Lawrence, Director General of Ordnance Survey explained, "It is an amazing feat to think that the show started in 2002 in only one hall and has gone from strength to strength as the public and industry have really embraced it. This year the show has taken over four halls and considerable outside space. Freediving world champion Tanya Streeter, a speaker and special guest at this year's show swapped the sea for the sky as she tried out the virtual hang glider, while climber Conrad Anker made a splash in a kayak in the Merrell wave box. And champion rower Debra Veal exchanged her paddle for an axe as she showed Vanessa Lawrence how to scale the Sprayway ice wall.

Debuting at the show as part of the BCU's 'Canoe 2004', the EZ Dock - Wave 7 canoe polo tournament featured many of the leading teams in the world and acted as the official selection event for the British world cup team. The tournament was won by Meridian from London.

Also part of ICE this year was the Peak UK indoor freestyle competition. The Men's title went to Ed Smith of GBR with a score of 120, Deborah Pinniger also of GBR won the women's title and Oliver Castle of GBR won the Canadian men's. For those looking for more inspiration, the ever-popular Sir Chris Bonington reminisced on past encounters in the Berghaus super theatre while the other walking workshops and speaker theatres were repeatedly filled to maximum capacity. Next year's show will act as the finale of 'National Outdoor Week' therefore the Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show will return 18th - 20th March 2005.

Here's a brief round up of the show's highlights Supplied by www.desperate-measures.co.uk

Mega were showing a new plastic surf boat, the X-Ray. Based on the Revenge surf boat, the X-Ray is a no holds barred high performance surf boat in plastic, selling for £649. They also had a prototype on the stand that was specifically designed for rockhopping - paddling up to sea cliffs in decent swells and then bouncing off on the wave.

One of the most talked about stands at the show was Nookie's. Though their paddling kit wasn't particularly prominent, their new clothing range was taking pride of place. What drew most people's

attention was the fact that Nookie had hired two models to wander the exhibition in tiny skirts and Nookie T-shirts!

Rough Stuff were as popular as ever, making up paddles and giving out Guinness. They had the 'Black Magic', their new white water paddle designed with harder lines for a more aggressive paddling and playboating style. It was available in Twintex or carbon fibre.

Mean Scream were having a really busy time of it. An exhausted looking Jonny Pearson was spotted helping his wife shift a huge quantity of jumpers, jackets, t-shirts and hats. This is the bankwear of choice for the fashion conscious freestylist!

NiteRider were new products for many, but their SRT series swiftwater rescue lamps drew attention from the rescue rangers in attendance. Attached to your helmet and with a waterproof battery pack, the LED lamps looked ideal for rescue applications.

Peak UK were expanding their Riot range by bringing over the Riot touring range in force. The composite boats were looking rather fetching. They also had some slinky new lined board shorts.

Even though Wavesport weren't exhibiting, their new boats were drawing attention. The Zero Gravity looks like a great design - they've lost the mushy rails from their more recent playboats and gone back to the crisp carving rails that we last saw on the For-play. Though not as poppy as some, the volume distribution looked as if it would make for a balanced and smooth playboating experience. The Diesel, described as the 'SUV' of kayaks, looked as if it could be interesting as well. Similar to the H3s or Hoss/Lil' Joe in design philosophy, it's a flat hulled river boat that can take to the creeks or handle the volume.

RTM were showing the Slide, a new Waveski with a skin over a foam core. It weighed nothing to pick up, but looked like it would only really be a good idea in warmer climes. BIC were also showing recreational boats. Though they make windsurfers already, the boats were a surprise to many.

Trampa were also fuelling the longboard revolution that's taking over the East Midlands paddling scene this year. Their revolutionary twintex decks are almost indestructible and have an unfeasible amount of flex built in. They're mostly making mountain boards, but were also showing a range of skateboards.

And, finally, one of the only places to be at ICE 2004 - the Peak UK wavebox freestyle event was the centre of attention for paddlers and non-paddlers as well. An awesome display of virtuoso twisty-turnings was in evidence from the C1ers, with Ollie Castle beating the opposition into submission with some unethical airloops. Eddie Smith took pole in the K1 mens from a mobius-sequence of unprecedented pace and proportion.

EZ-Dock Supports Canoe Polo

At the Outdoor Show EZ-Dock, manufacturers of a modular pontoon system, supported the canoe polo event by sponsoring two large pontoons. Through its UK marine dealer, Wave Seven Marine Ltd., EZ-Dock were able to build two simple temporary pontoons some 30 metres long for use by the judges.

EZ-Dock provides a range of pontoon equipment which can be used to build almost any shape or size pontoon. Made using a rotational molding technique, these units are extremely durable and likely to outlast any traditional steel and wood structure. **For further details contact Roger Nadin of Wave Seven Marine on 0845 1080420 or sales@wseven.com**



LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

A big thanks

Thanks so much for the excellent advice, ideas and suggestions that so many paddlers kindly offered! I will definitely be checking out some local clubs, websites and brochures people have sent me! You have all offered such a warm welcome into the paddling community - I look forward to joining you on the waterways very soon! (I'll be the one with the L plates!)
Kind regards, Helen Henry

Many thanks to all those who took the time and effort to help Helen. Ed

Fantastic weekend at Hurley

I would like to put pen to paper to praise The freestyle event called The Hurley Classic. The event was run by the Freestyle committee with Andrew Jackson of Kayakojacko. I have twin boys who competed in the junior Hurley Classic event and the whole weekend was a brilliantly organised affair.

River access was provided by SAS software computer providers and parking with marshalls took the stress away of car break-ins. A warm heated tent with plasma screen was a real treat as gale force winds blew outside. The scoring system seemed to work well and the prizes were amazing.

All in all a very good weekend and those running similar events should take note.

Mrs S. Tomlinson

A mum and Level 2 Coach

Boaters beware!

My son had his Orange Liquid Logic Skip stolen from the roof rack on my Discovery in the middle car park at Tryweryn on the 17th April.

Was it locked I hear you ask. No, my lock was securing a friend's boat to the same roof rack at the time. But rather than leave his boat lying around, my teenage son had sensibly put it on top of the car, waiting for me to return from leading a group of relative Tryweryn novices down the lower section. What makes it really galling is my son had had a terrific day playboating, even paddling with some of the GB freestyle team and himself, that day handed in a paddle he had found on the river in at the reception. The paddle has since been claimed and the owner has kindly taken the time to phone and thank my son. My son had saved his pocket money, worked and scraped enough money together to buy his own secondhand playboat and some low life just helped themselves. I only hope one day something they have worked hard for gets stolen, so they can experience the emptiness, frustration and disappointment. As I explained to my son, we will be inspecting orange skips for the rest of our paddling lives looking for those unique memorable scratches and I apologise now to all legitimate owners for the nosey intrusion. Next time you are offered the bargain of the century just ask a few questions to establish ownership. I am sure you wouldn't like it happening to you. I will get off my soap box now, as I have a son that needs some TLC and his faith restoring in the paddling community. One final warning: lock it or loose it, save yourself the despair and disappointment.

Trevor Watts, Chairperson, SOAK

Faith restored!

Due to Diana Wade from Meridian Canoe club, who put the word out about the stolen Skip it has been returned. It was offered to Mark Burbeck at Hurley, who confronted the seller and took the boat off him. My thanks to both Mark and Diana for making my son very happy and restoring his faith in the paddling community!
Trevor Watts

Canoe scam

My canoe missed the deadline for the latest edition so it was kindly uploaded to the Canoe Focus and BCU websites. I had an immediate and overly keen e-mail from someone who seems to be living in another country and wants to pay the full asking price without even seeing as much as a picture of the canoe.

The next e-mail said that this person was owed £3,000 by a client in Britain and she would instruct him to send me a cheque for £3,000 and then I could take my £750 out of it and send the remainder to her. The canoe would then be taken away for shipment out of the country... they forgot to mention that the cheque would bounce! Bet it would though!

I smell a big fat rat here and need all readers to be aware of this scam.

This is the first of three letters on this latest scam. It does seem to be a general problem across the web as somebody in Thailand tried to pull the same trick on me regarding a laptop, so beware as it is becoming widespread. Ed

Please send letters either by email to peter@canoefocus.co.uk or post to:
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Feature
SCILLIES

The dangers

Preparation

The trip to the Scilly isles was as organised as it could be without actually being at Sennon cove and looking out to sea. I set off from Weymouth with the camper loaded down with two Inuk sea kayaks, a couple of barrels of the standard gadgets and paddling gear. Arriving in good time I had two missions, to find somewhere to park two vehicles for a few days and to have my plans confirmed by a Cornish salty sea dog.

The first problem of parking initially seemed a nightmare with none of the Sennon car parks allowing more than a 24-hour stay. From previous trips to Lundy and Pembrokeshire I was aware of how long winded the 'getting afloat' could be and I was anxious to find somewhere to park, which was a short walk from the launching site. My prayers were answered by the owner of a local art shop who kindly allowed us to park a campervan and a car in the driveway of her bungalow for three days. Who said chivalry was dead?

On to problem number two, local knowledge. I milled about the slipway watching the local gig racers and was eventually directed to a man in charge. I introduced myself and held out my hand to shake, the shake was ignored and the gent abruptly replied. "What do you want?"

This unnerved me a little but I continued with my plan thinking how much less confident I now sounded. I was introduced to another knowledgeable chap and it was as these two seafarers began to talk that I realised I was not fluent in 'Cornish fishing folk' or 'Salty sea dog'. I decided the best thing to do was nod, smile and try to remember as many key phrases as I could to check up on later. So with 'She'll be coming round lion spit rock at 'bout three after' and other gems of knowledge I thanked the locals who by now were my best friends and headed for the van to consult the charts. As you can imagine nothing they said related to anything on the chart except that my plan for getting there was basically fine and getting back was a problem.

My paddling partner Ben turned up at the camp site on time which is a first for this over enthusiastic Irish man who had been known to claim he was 'miles from home and well on the way' when he was actually still in bed. Ben's early arrival seemed like a good omen and we slept soundly, excited by the adventure ahead.

Setting off

There we were on the water at 11.00! The weather was fine with a reasonable forecast and any predicted increase in wind being on our backs. The first paddle to longships was a good warm up and a chance to spot many seals. Our bearings started from longships and as usual the first bearing seemed way off any predicted course and sowed the first seeds of doubt for my navigational skills. Being new to the whole GPS thing it took me far too long to realise why there was a 20 degree difference between my deck mounted compass and the bearing on my GPS. I'll leave those of you who aren't laughing to work it out. Within an hour or so we were chasing dolphins and really settling into the crossing.


Time passed quickly and we were always in sight of a cargo vessel, helicopter, yacht or plane. I must confess the least enjoyable aspect of the trip was holding Ben's kayak still whilst he knelt between the boats to take a pee. We both had to go through this routine way too many times and it was only when the sea state became too rough that we decided to hold on for land. On one occasion we seemed to be on a direct collision course with a large cargo vessel. For anyone who has never been on a sizable open crossing I must tell you that it seems that you convince yourself that you are on a collision course with every vessel! This time however seemed genuine and after a bout of fast

paddling to try to get passed the ship we decided to stop and wait for it to pass. This seemed a good time to eat. I am sure the captain felt as if he was in a remake of 'Carry on cruising' when he looked out on us from the bridge with his binoculars to see Ben and myself arm in arm tucking into our chicken salad sandwiches. The vessel passed and we were soon on our way again. It was approximately five hours into the





of jellybeans



trip when the wind started to increase and eventually reached a good force four with white caps all around us. This wind was pushing us in the right direction so we enjoyed the conditions, surfing down waves with the islands now clearly in view. On many occasions either Ben or I would pick up a wave, which would carry us for quite a distance leaving the other way behind. I glanced across at Ben on one occasion just as a fin rose out of the water on the other side of his boat; I still have no idea what it was it didn't look like a shark or a dolphin. It was with 9.9km to go that I discovered the dangers of jellybeans. I

manoeuvred my kayak next to Ben's so I was holding his bow with our boats making a 'T'. I announced that our distance to the isles was now in single figures and we should celebrate with some jellybeans.

Momentarily letting go of my paddle to get the sweets from my pocket Ben's kayak was lifted by the swell and landed hard in my deck giving me just enough time to grab my paddle as I capsized. Hanging upside down with my paddle in one hand and the jellybeans in the other I seemed to develop confusion over my priorities. For some reason I didn't want to release the sweets and was trying to adjust my grip so I could save both the sweets and myself. I soon regained my senses ditched the jellybeans and rolled up. We laughed at the poor quality of my celebration, as we salvaged what sweets we could from the surrounding water and tried to pretend they didn't taste salty.

Arriving at the islands

I'm sure that most sea paddlers would agree that it is the last few kilometres that are the hardest and this trip was no exception. Tempted slightly off course by the north-eastern isles we eventually landed on a small island where we jubilantly stuffed our faces, emptied our bladders and congratulated ourselves for what felt like a worthwhile venture. Tucked out of the wind with a beautiful view over these magnificent islands we soon felt refreshed and continued through the islands to the main port to St Mary's. We stopped off for a pizza and a beer before back tracking on a short night paddle to bivvi by a fire on a secluded beach. I am a real believer in minimal impact camping and understand the pressures on these small, easily accessible islands, but our fire was actually cleaning up the beach as we burnt a couple of pallets which had washed up on the beach and then sifted through the ash in the morning to remove the nails. The next two days were spent exploring the islands on foot and in the kayaks. We didn't need to cover great distances to get a feeling of adventure and with such an interesting area you could change your route as often as your mood or the weather dictated. We bivvied on



deserted beaches, explored uninhabited islands, battled around exposed cliffs and drifted along with the wildlife. Our last day found us on one of the busier beaches of St Martins where we decided to sail the 5km to St Mary's

to catch the ferry. Laying out our equipment we started the 'scrap heap challenge'. The 'junk' consisted of a group shelter, krabs, towlines, gaffer tape and split paddles. We dry tested a number of prototypes much to the amusement of the other tourists. Both Ben and I had very different concerns (not that I'm convinced that Ben has ever had a genuine concern in his rather short life). I felt we had entertained the crowds enough and needed to get afloat soon after a young girl paddled over from a moored yacht to enquire.

'My mum and dad want to know what you are doing.'

With an air of sarcasm, I replied.

'Tell your mum and dad that we are going to sail to St Mary's' She shook her head with a look of disbelief and mumbled.

'That's never going to work'

I confess that this seemed a particularly astute and accurate observation for a ten year old but as usual Ben's overwhelming enthusiasm won me over. Despite last minute frantic adjustments to avoid a reef we were soon sailing along in speed and comfort whilst eating sweets and waving to doubting crowds. We sailed the 5km in just under an hour and only needed to paddle the last 100m through the harbour.

Returning home

The crossing back on the ferry confirmed our decision and made us proud of our achievements when we considered the length of crossing and sea state. I'm sure we would have made an impressive site for the numerous helicopters and light aircraft, which passed us on the outgoing journey. As usual Ben had to rush off as soon as we docked to get to a random party which although you felt he had already missed, deep down knew that it wouldn't really get going until he turned up with a pair of tin foil spectacles, a bad taste tie and an exaggerated story of another adventure. ●

Paul Hurrell

More canoe clubs gain prestigious award

Congratulations to Halifax Canoe Club in Yorkshire and Tamar Canoe Association in the South West on gaining Top Community Club and Clubmark in the last couple of months. They join five other clubs to receive Top Club and ClubMark Awards. Len Hartley Paddlesport Development Officer for NW and Yorks commented, "Halifax CC have shown great commitment in their work with young people. This award reflects all their great efforts including hosting youth events such as Wavehopper Challenge, Diamond Slalom and playboating events."

Working towards Top Club and Club Mark

Les Ford from Halifax explains how their club approached gaining the awards...

Receiving the information about Top Club and Club Mark came at a time when Halifax CC were looking at its future development and seemed to provide a structure and direction to guide our development.

Working towards accreditation meant updating and formalising a lot of the policies and procedures that we already had at the club. More importantly, it identified what we were missing and gave us the impetus to put these in place. But it's not just about paper work (thankfully). It has coincided with us taking a look at the coaching and activities offered by the club, giving these more structure and ensuring they meet the needs of our members.

Achieving accreditation has involved a lot of hard work, and inevitable delays mean that it took us ten months rather than the six months we had originally planned on – but it has definitely been worth it, as the club is better and stronger for going through the process.

A major benefit is increased publicity and public recognition for the club. This is an important part of our aim to increase the club's membership and raise our profile in the local community. We have also developed good links within the community, with other sports groups and clubs, and we are now members of a multi-agency partnership looking at the development of the whole of the river valley where we are based.

Working towards and gaining accreditation has brought additional support from the BCU and their Paddlesport Development Officer, including support for events at the club, advice and assistance with club policies and additional resources. It has also made us aware of the courses and support material available to us from outside of canoeing through UK Coaching and Sport England.

Our accreditation is also starting to open doors to additional support from the local authority Sports Development Officers, Sport England in the region and the Local Sports Partnership. We also believe that accreditation will provide more opportunities to access funding for the club.

However, as we have only just gained accreditation, I guess we are still discovering the full extent of the benefits that Top Club and Club Mark will bring in the future!

Further details about the awards and how to get involved can be found on the youth section of the BCU website – www.bcu.org.uk

Sport England Clubmark and BCU Top Clubs

Chelmsford CC - TPC, TCC
Macclesfield DCC - TCC
White Rose CC - TCC
Halifax CC - TPC

Elmbridge CC - TPC
Tandridge CC - TPC
Tamar Canoe Association - TPC

TPC = Top Performance Club

TCC = Top Community Club



Perception Wavehopper Challenge Series

Over 130 young paddlers took up the Wavehopper Challenge in three events as far a field as Carlisle to Northampton over the last weekend in April. The events were run over short courses on the rivers Nene, Tyne, and Eden and all gained points towards the challenge series.

More details of the series and forthcoming events are on the BCU website www.bcu.org.uk/youth/youthevents - in the meantime, this report is from Bobby Timperley, PDO for the North East.

What a whopper!

A double 'back to back' Perception Wavehopper and Div B weekend event was held in the Northern Regions on the 24th / 25th of April. Attracting 35 juniors from seven clubs, the Saturday event was held at Tyne Riverside Country Park, Prudhoe and the Sunday event at the Sands, Carlisle. Under the expert tuition of Mike Mason (junior WWR Team Manager) and Nigel Timmins (CDO) morning coaching sessions were followed by timed runs over distances ranging from 350m on the Saturday to 500m on the Sunday. Four juniors also entered for the Div B events.

Despite a number of spills and swims, there were happy smiles all around by Presentation time – and an encouraging remark from one of the contestants for the organisers Nigel and myself – 'why can't we do this more often!' (This could be partly the fantastic weather we had all weekend!) A special trophy was awarded to Jennifer Hyslop for 'best overall time' at the two events. Hopefully some of these youngsters will head for other Whopper events in neighbouring regions and end up at the Perception Wavehopper Challenge Final held at the Nene, Northampton in October!

Our thanks for all of the support from parents, coaches, timers, recorders, boat carriers and Rescue squad without whom these events would not be possible!

Anna-Louise on sponsored roll!

Congratulations to 15 year old Anna-Louise Glendenning from Hexham Canoe Club who has just completed 100 hand rolls in 5 minutes and 19 seconds. Anna was raising fund for the Alzheimers's Society following the death of a close family friend from this degenerative illness. Anna has been attending Hexham Canoe Club for two years and now has her sights set on the next challenge – 200 hand rolls!

Picture by the Hexham Courant



Forthcoming events

Here's a look at some of the main events coming up in the next few months. Don't forget the **Lightning Cup** and **Wavehopper Series** which run throughout the year - details of these plus all events are on the youth section of the BCU website -

www.bcu.org.uk/youth/regionalactivity.html

NW Girl Guides Bellboat Regatta Event will be held at Salford Watersports Centre Salford Quays on Saturday 19th June and Sunday 20th June. Up to 400 Girl Guides taking part each day. Great venue for spectators to observe one of the biggest Bellboat Regattas that takes place nationally.

Paddlefest Liverpool - part of the Mersey River Festival - is at Merseysport Centre, Queens Dock, Liverpool Saturday 26th June 04. The Youth event will include many aspects of Paddlesport for young people to try out and is a great day out for the family.

North East Talent Camp - 12th June Talent Camp at Teesside White Water Course. **The region's youth event not to be missed!** A chance for a day's top quality coaching in one of five disciplines - freestyle, wild water racing, slalom, polo or sprint/marathon. Get yourself 'spotted' or come just to improve your skills. If you've not entered their might still be places - or just go along to spectate.

Flat water freestyle event - Hurley

The BCU youth freestyle events kicked off the season with a bang running alongside the famous Hurley Classic Event in March. The coaching for these events are led by the KayakoJacko team who as always did a brilliant job with coaches Chris and Dennis running through a range of paddling skills and manoeuvres for the young paddlers to work on and add to their repertoire. In addition the paddlers were given personal video feedback once warm and dry in the marquee!

In addition to the on-water coaching the BCU ran an Ergo Challenge where all paddlers were able to test their fitness on a paddling ergo machine in the marquee - with Easter eggs for the top scores!

More freestyle events are planned through the year - for dates check the website -

www.bcu.org.uk/youth/youthfreestyle.html

Youngest Paddlepower achievers

Two young paddlers from Kingston Kayak Club in Hull have just been awarded the Black Paddlepower Award - the highest personal achievement award in the BCU Young Paddlers scheme. Nine year old Eilish and her 12 year old brother Iain Jennison, were presented with the BCU Young People's Programme Achievement Award by Deb Pinniger at the recent canoe exhibition at the NEC. As women's freestyle world champion in 1999 and world silver medallist in 2001 and 2003, Deb was able to give the young paddlers some top tips and encouragement. Iain and Eilish have already notched up a fair range of paddlesport experiences and will no doubt be names to look out for in the future.



Eilish and Iain Jennison with Deb Pinniger



YOUTHFEST

including the National Bellboat CHampionships 2004 at the National Watersports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham 2nd October 2004



Lots of fun and lots to do...

Bellboat racing... Ergo challenging... Diamond Slalom... freestyling... Lightning & canoe racing... For details & entry forms contact BCU Young Peoples Programme, email: youth@bcu.org.uk (0115 982 4220)



The two-day rapid

“Paddle now – suck face on the couch later”

The flood is on – watching the rains come down whilst chasing paper around an office knowing that little dried out river you spied last summer is now a raging torrent of fun can sometimes turn even the most encouraged of us into right miserable buggers! (Knowing smiles all around!)

The frustration took its course and the excuse was made, followed by a mad dash for gear and the drive that seemed to take an eternity to the get in on the “Taf Fechan”, and the bandit run to glory! Leaving work at 4pm knowing there was only one hour of daylight left was probably mistake number one. Number two was probably the fact I went on my own and now I think about it, the key mistake (no 3), was slipping on the walk in and putting my full weight (obviously solid muscle) onto the shaft on my paddle... ouch, you just know I am going to pay for that later!

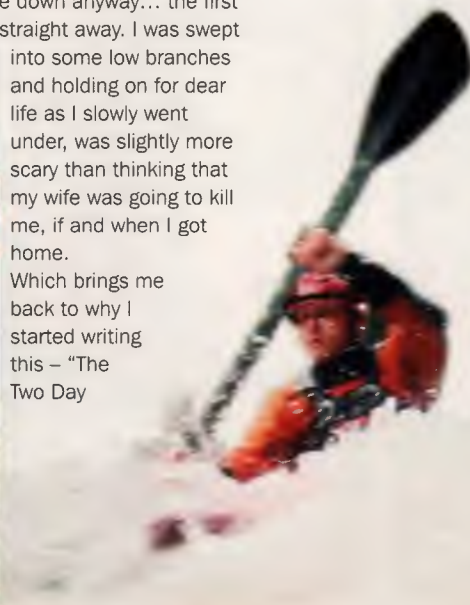
I slipped into the river, which was just mad – with only the knowledge of the river from a little summer scouting to go on. Hard sweep right – edge left and support followed by support and the speed was just soooooo unreal. No eddies and definitely no stopping. The feeling of being totally alone and pushing it was just too much – well it was until the bloody paddle shaft snapped in half and I wasn’t even using it at the time! Being a family magazine I can’t even attempt to type the flow of obscenities as I went over the lip of the drop into a pile of white frothing fury waving two halves of a paddle around like I was paddling a rowing boat. The upside down bit arrived instantly and all those hours of hand rolling in the pool to show off to students went right out the window. The river level being so high meant that the trees were in the water and I had just lost my ability to control any direction – admittedly I was upside down anyway... the first swim in quite a few years followed more or less straight away. I was swept

into some low branches and holding on for dear life as I slowly went under, was slightly more scary than thinking that my wife was going to kill me, if and when I got home.

Which brings me back to why I started writing this – “The Two Day

Rapid” – taking the opportunities while they are around, which is why I agreed more or less right away when I answered my phone to the near hysterical banter of Mr Mad himself – Ian Cave. “Get packed we are going paddling this weekend”, “Okay” I replied, “where?” Now here’s the amusing bit; not north Wales or the Dart but wait for it... Austria and The Mike Jones Rally. Never heard of it? Call yourself a paddler? Mike was a top paddler of his day who bagged some major rivers with a first-class gang of mates, tragically though, he met his maker on a river long before anyone should and now his mates organise a rally in his name every year to grab some fine boating time and then spin “dits” and drink beer. Okay, that’s not quite true as the Alpine Kayak Club were hosting the event at Crazy Eddies in Silz. After doing the Upper Otez I paddled into an Eddie with the extremely talented but maybe slightly mad Olaf to be handed a beer before continuing the paddle... later finding myself the guinea pig to volunteer to demo the bridge launch for the raft freestyle in my Prozone. Then, of course, we spun the “dits” of the day with more beer!

The evening social was a classic, Crazy Eddies was an ideal venue, combine the fun mood of the Mike Jones Rally crew, the great food, awesome surf wave out the back of the bar and the entertainment – (rolling competition, freestyle raft competition, climbing wall challenge and top preview of the Skitline film), and you have a pretty wild weekend. The Sunday morning lie in was a necessity but far too early as we were woke by cries for “get geared up – we are leaving in ten minutes!” One of the boys had heard the Sanna had undergone a landslide below Prutz and this was an opportunity to paddle the new rapid formed by half the hillside making a new home in the river. (The local authorities already had a large digger thing lined up to make it’s way into the river on the





Monday to clear the obstruction as there was a danger of potential flooding to the village). It's hard to describe the feeling of paddling down a river (closely followed by the world's largest hangover), with guys you have only read about or watched in videos paddling monster rivers long before I even knew what an Eddie was, and about to paddle a new drop on a river thousands paddle every year. Arriving at the landslide it dawned on us how new rock fall has scary sharp edges



and so going upside down was not really the option of choice. We all inspected the rapid from the bank and listened to the words of wisdom passing around the group – "and then river right, small drop, paddle hard left, little S-bend and through the small wave and then beer".

How easy does it sound when a "legend says it?"

However, this is how it went for me:

"Sugar – meant to be right, ohh no, large drop, support, support, backwards, make a sweep, damn, broached, bloody W-bend and then upside down in the wave, roll, roll ahhhh easy?"

In the exhilaration we all ran it and then realised no one had taken any pictures – thankfully memories are always better – especially when

alcohol is added! Then the weekend was over and the long drive home for Monday morning followed - I hope Mike would have approved of our paddling, I was inspired by how his friends enthused about paddling rivers just to enjoy them – not to collect logbook entries as I often found myself doing to get up the coaching ladder. I think maybe mistake no 4 was trying to push it, get that tick in the box, so finally I have understood what should motivate me as a paddler after 10 years of trying– I may now be £140 worse off (new paddle as the Taf Fechan ate my old one – the boat turned up a mile down stream), but my logbook has been put to one side and I am now going paddling just to enjoy it and if it looks mad I am going to save it until Mr Cave turns up to watch my back! "Paddle now – suck face on the couch later" ●

Penny Farthing

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summer . Can anyone help?? E-mail:
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Mob: 07708 676571

Klepper Aerius II folding kayak or similar. 2 seater
wanted preferably with sailing rig. Up to £750.00
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George Betts: geobetts@hotmail.com,
07799744785, 01263577640.

Old Town Penobscot 16, any reasonable
condition. Tel mob 07831 555 145. Home 01922
418 448 Email threeboatdave@hotmail.com

Open canoe, must be cheap! tel:07904098053
56 190/ 56X 185. Please contact Paula 0788 178
1838 - Brighton

Stolen

16' Outlander open canoe by Mega. Composite
canoe with wood trim & bright mottled green finish.
Stolen from Holme Pierpoint whilst locked to a
porta cabin in the White Water course car park. Call
Martin on 0115 919 6000 (Work) or 0115 937 6639
(Home) if you have any info.

Lendal Kinetic XT1 kayak paddle - 2 piece c/f
shaft with white N12 blades - yak & wavesport
stickers. Galasport - Glassibre & Aluminium canoe
paddle Black & Yellow c/f canoe pole. Blue Endless
River paddle case. Tel: 01473 320 464

Liquid Logic Skip Orange stolen from Trywern
18/4/2004 from Discovery roof rack in middle car
park. Reward offered email twatts@cisco.com

Found

Kayak paddle found on Trywern, above Bala Mill
falls, on Thursday 8th April 2004. If you think it may
be yours, please contact Ruth on 01384 346996 or
0779577294

One small tent found on Peel Island Coniston,
25th April. Please contact Richard, 07867 - 511609.

Lost

Lost 2 paddles on the Wye over the easter
weekend. A canadian canoe capsized near Carey
wood islands on the Saturday. One is a short plastic
T handle paddle. The other is a wooden paddle with
a palm grip and a flat laminate tip. If found please
contact Dave on 01579 389512 or e-mail
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arnfield care

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- RYA Instructor
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Contact
activities@calvert-kielder.com
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Barnabas Adventure is a Christian Charity and requires all its staff to be willing to share their faith with groups and other staff members through their lifestyle, words and actions. They are currently looking for:

- **Chief Instructor:** Based at Carroty Wood in Kent, min quals. SPA, BELA & L2K or OC.
- **Senior Instructor:** Based at Frontier Centre in Northants, min quals. L2K or OC, SPA & GNAS.
- **Multi Activity Instructors:** to be based at either centres. Experience and / or qualifications essential

**INTERESTED?...Don't just sit there...
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Rachel Allen, Barnabas Adventure, Carroty Wood, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9QX.
 01732 363995 rachel@barnabas.org.uk



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We are currently waiting for approval for new projects in the areas that we currently work. See www.endeavour.org.uk for details.

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Salary: SCP 20-25, £18,582 - £16,944 pa plus night duty allowance (pay award pending), Full Time, 37 hpw, Permanent, Open to Job Share

Job Ref: 1985A

As a core member of the CATS team you will plan, organise and deliver programmes of activity and personal development for young people.

You will have a minimum of 2 Instructor lead body qualifications in Outdoor Education, a current First Aid Certificate, a clean driving licence with D1 + D1E and at least 12 months experience of full-time employment with at least 6 months experience of work with young people (9-18 years).

The CATS team would also be interested in hearing from Outdoor Instructors who might be willing to work on a sessional basis.

Successful applicants will be required to apply for a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure.

For an application pack please contact the Children & Families Recruitment Office, Social Care & Health, on (01325) 375696 (24 hours).

Email: nicole.metcalfe@durham.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday, 7th June 2004.

CATS Support Worker

Salary: SCP 14-17, £13,581 - £14,532 pa (pay award pending),

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You will have 2 GCE A'levels or an NVQ level 3 in a relevant discipline, (e.g. Child Development, Care, Education, Recreation and Leisure or Administration) and at least 12 months experience of full-time employment.

For further information about the above posts please contact Dave Watson, CATS Manager, on (01325) 375762.

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Edale YHA Activity Centre

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Key Workers must have a minimum of 2 years childcare experience, preferably an NVQ 3 in childcare or commitment to work towards it.

Team Members would preferably hold an NVQ 3 in childcare or a commitment to work towards this.

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Preference will be given to members/past members of the Scout or
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Salary will be c. £17,000 depending on qualifications held.

For further details and application form, contact
Andy Wilson

Centre Manager, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow G63 9AU

01360 770256

andy@auchengillan.com

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All applicants must be over 21 years of age, hold a full
driving licence and will be police checked. For an application
pack contact Head Office, quoting reference number on

01694 724488

www.corvedalecare.net



DIRECTORATE OF LIFELONG LEARNING AND LEISURE

Instructor of Outdoor Education (Three posts)



Hours of work: Normally 10 sessions per week

Salary: £16,632 (subject to annual review)

Based at Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre (2 posts)
Hilston Park (1 post)

Post number LLLOE 003/LLLOE 007

Closing date: 18th June, 2004

Monmouthshire County Council is an equal opportunities
employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the
community.

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ceisiadau wrth bob rhan o'r gymuned.

www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644198

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-
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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



If the scenery doesn't inspire you, the challenges will.

OPPORTUNITY AT HAWKHIRST ADVENTURE CAMP

Hexham, Northumberland

Hawkhirst has been providing young people with the opportunity to take part in a variety of outdoor activities and team-building exercises, including canoeing, sailing and rowing for over 20 years. Situated in the heart of the Kielder Forest, on the shores of Kielder Water, Hawkhirst extends over 70 acres, featuring glades and clearings which provide interesting camping.

For people who enjoy working with youngsters and thrive in beautiful outdoor environments, Hawkhirst offers you an ideal and picturesque location in which you can help young people develop themselves while engaged in a challenging and exciting career that's like no other.

Right now, we have an opportunity for a person with outdoor activity experience to help The Scout Association ensure Hawkhirst retains and builds on its reputation for being one of the most interesting and enjoyable camping and adventure locations in the UK.

Senior Instructor

Starting salary: £14,082 + accommodation

Ref: 04/004

Our operations span the world. We're Britain's largest voluntary organisation. We have more than 500,000 members in the UK alone. Crucially though, we focus on the individual, helping every single person in the Scout Association to fulfil their potential. And here's your chance to make your mark within our diverse business.

An RYA Senior Instructor is required preferably with BCU and climbing qualifications. You will be responsible for coaching in whichever of the above areas you excel in. We'll also expect you to deal with supplies to the camp, provide programmes to groups, oversee site activities and manage and motivate the staff who provide them.

This post is offered as a fixed term contract for the season with the possibility of becoming permanent.

Closing date: 18 June 2004.

This post offers the kind of benefits you would expect from a large organisation including pension, free lunch and free parking.

For further details please call our recruitment line (24 hour answerphone) on 020 8433 7162 quoting ref: 04/004.

www.scouts.org.uk

OUTDOOR ACTIVE

Retail Sales Person required for busy outdoors shop. You must have an interest in outdoor pursuits and be computer literate.

Experience of website design an advantage.

This is a full time position in a fast growing business.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

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Or email:

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www.ukkayaking.co.uk

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Swansea College, a quality Further Education institution, offering a final salary pension scheme, generous leave entitlement, exceptional opportunities for training and discounted sports facilities, seeks to increase its complement of talented, highly motivated and well qualified staff by making the following appointment:

Skills Tutor/Instructor - Outdoor pursuits £18,399

Ref: SC/93

You will instruct and guide students in local schools and communities on various outdoor pursuit activities from basic level of adventure up to a level 5 qualification. You will develop and strengthen community links and look for new curriculum and business avenues. With a working knowledge of education curriculum and a wide range of activity experience, you will possess Mountain Leader (summer) and Single Pitch Awards, rock climbing, level 3 kayak or canoe coach qualifications and have or be prepared to work towards a teaching qualification. With a working knowledge of Health & Safety in the outdoors, you will have a relevant first aid qualification. Highly motivated with good organisation and communication skills, you will have a clean driving licence and willingness to drive the college minibus is essential.

Application packs can be obtained from our website at www.swancoll.ac.uk or alternatively contact the Human Resources Department on 01792 284203.

Closing date: 11 June 2004

VALUING DIVERSITY AND COMMITTED TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.



RECOGNISED BY THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

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SITUATIONS VACANT



Can you help us build on our impressive track record and meet the challenges which lie ahead? Do you want to join one of the fastest improving County Borough Councils in the UK? Do you want to join an organisation which values its staff and sees each individual as fundamental in delivering a 'better life'...then we would like to hear from you.

Application forms and further particulars, in respect of the following post can be obtained by visiting www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk or by telephoning (01443) 484480/484476.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIVISION

Outdoor Pursuits Officer

Ref: PLA43

Miskin Project Outdoor Pursuits Team

£18,012- £19,824 plus essential car user allowance

Rhondda Cynon Taf, Children and Young People Division is seeking to recruit a nationally qualified and experienced outdoor practitioner. The Outdoor Pursuits Officer will be required to instruct and oversee outdoor adventurous activities within the Division. You will hold a minimum of 3 National Governing Body Awards (at least one to a high standard). A working knowledge of Adventurous Activities Licensing is essential.

The post involves delivering activities in a group setting to a range of disadvantaged and challenging young people. The Outdoor Pursuits Team also provides development through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and its own climbing and canoeing clubs.

The availability to work flexible hours evenings and weekends is essential. Interviews will be held on the 27 or 28 July 2004.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Matthew Free on (01443) 218112 for an informal discussion and further information about this post.

THOROUGH PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING IS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS. PLEASE NOTE THAT AN ENHANCED DISCLOSURE CHECK BY THE CRIMINAL RECORDS BUREAU WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT FOR THIS POST.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Midnight on 8 July 2004.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is striving towards Equality of Opportunity. Applicants are welcomed from all sections of the community. We operate a Job Share Policy and a recognised Welsh Language Scheme.



Opportunities in Ireland

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

- Kayaking, Sailing, Surfing, Rockclimbing & Multi-Activity
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 Delphi Adventure Holidays Fax: 00353 95 42303
 Leenane Email: hr@delphiscape.com
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SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted BCU Level 2 & 3 Coaches



Acorn Adventure is currently recruiting qualified Canoe and Kayak Coaches to work in the UK, France, Italy and Spain. These exciting opportunities are a great way to develop hundreds of teaching hours to a variety of clients. If you're not shy of hard work and commitment, and you want to progress your own personal proficiency, then a season with us is ideal. To prove our commitment to our staff development, we are offering FREE NGB qualifications at the end of the season.



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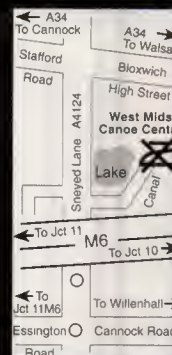
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email: wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk

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

PADDLER'S GEAR 47

Cool for summer

Helly Hansen's 2004 LIFA®Versa collection, for men and women, offers all the quick dry benefits of the popular LIFA®, whilst being worn as a single layer. Rather than getting hot and sweaty this summer, the LIFA®Versa will ensure you're dry for longer.

Manufactured using polypropylene, the LIFA®Versa garments transfer the moisture away from the body keeping the wearer dry and

comfortable. Unlike regular LIFA® these new garments are developed to work alone as single active layers in warm climates. It has a loose fitting cut for high energy sports which offers a more relaxed style and makes it look less like a piece of technical underwear.

The men's range includes the midweight long-sleeved (RRP £45.00) and short sleeved (RRP £40.00) Zip Jerseys. Both jerseys have a

half length zip fastening at the neck and are available in trooper/pewter and sky blue/pewter, the short-sleeved zip jersey also comes in crimson/pewter.

The men's short-sleeved Block Jersey (RRP £25.00) is a technical lightweight crew neck top and is available in the same colours as the Zip Jersey with the addition of a white trooper colour. The basic short-sleeved Tee (RRP £25.00) offers all the high performance requirements and is available in four colours; pewter, white, crimson and sky blue.

The long-sleeved (RRP £45.00) and short-sleeved (RRP £25.00) Jerseys are also included in the women's range. The midweight long-sleeved jersey has a half length zip neck fastening at the front and is available in trooper/pewter and glacier/pewter colours. The shortsleeved jersey, a lightweight version with a crew neck, is designed for higher levels of technical performance and comes in sound, glacier and white colours.

For hot weather the Sleeveless Jersey (RRP £20.00) and the Tank Top (RRP £30.00) offer simple styling for energetic sports.

The Sleeveless Jersey is available in three colours; sound, glacier and pewter. The duocolour Tank Top comes in glacier/pewter, pewter/trooper and sky blue/pewter.

All Helly Hansen's clothing and accessory ranges are available through good sports retailers and chandlers. For details of stockists:

www.hellyhansen.com



Funky gear

Imagine how useful a towel would be if it could turn into a robe. One that covered you while changing on the river bank but could also be opened out flat and used as a regular towel?

Designed in the UK, the Funkidry is ideal for everyone who gets wet! Great on holiday, at home, after a bath or after watersports. The towel/robe is for all ages, able bodied or disabled! Available in plain hooded and collared styles as well as fun characters for children including a pirate, mermaid, duck, dinosaur, frog and fairies.

More for you surfers, also available from Funkidry are UPF 50+ UV protective swim and sun wear. All fabrics are made in Australia and are tested by the stringent Australian standards (AS/NZS4399:1996). These products block 98% of the sun's damaging UVA and UVB. The range incorporates bikinis, swimming costumes, sarongs, tankinis, shorts and surf board shorts.

For more details see www.funkidry.co.uk or call 0870 777 4334 for a catalogue.



Waterproof barrier

SealSkinz is one of the UK's leading manufacturer of performance waterproof and breathable socks and gloves. The socks and gloves have been designed for all outdoor and leisure activities.

The technology

SealSkinz gloves and socks are manufactured using Porelle® hydrophillic membrane, P540, to provide the highest levels of waterproofness and breathability. The membrane is layered between the inner and outer sock or glove and laminated into place.

Mid-light socks

The Mid-light sock is calf length and provides 60% water vapour permeability with seamless technology for maximum comfort. They look and

feel bulky before use, however, when on the feet they are very comfortable and feel like any other thick winter sock. I used the sock in combination with a pair of Tevas and the sock did keep my feet very dry. The socks are also available in Long-light version that offers protection up to the knee.

Close fitting gloves

Before going on the river I thought I would test their water resistance by sinking my hands into a bucket of cold water with the gloves on. They didn't let a drop in – as tight as the proverbial fishes rear end. I think I need the next size up from the ones we were given for testing as they were just a little too tight on the hands.

Whilst paddling the gloves did their job extremely well. One slight improvement would be to use some type of latex seal on the opening as water sometimes did run down the wrist and part way into the glove.

Otherwise the gloves gave excellent waterproof protection and good dexterity using grip dots for a secure grip on the paddle in the wet. Both the gloves and socks are ideal for the canoeing environment especially in the winter. They provide a waterproof barrier against wind, rain, mud and water in all weathers.

www.sealskinz.com
Steve Humphreys



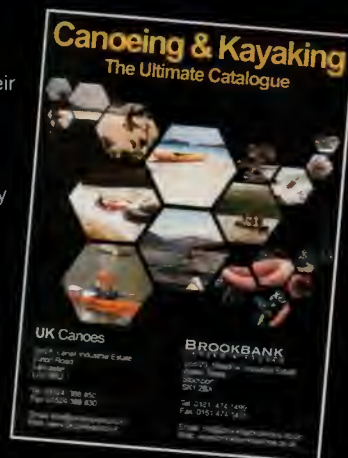
Brookbank brochure for 2004

Brookbank Canoes have brought out their new canoe and kayak brochure for 2004. It is probably the most comprehensive line up of boats and paddling gear that we have ever seen in one brochure.

As well as the vast array of products from many of the largest manufacturers in the business, there is a good degree of advice and pointers at the beginning of each section for the choice of canoes and kayaks. The design is basic with no thrills, however, the layout is clear and precise and the photography is crisp and well lit with each item having a good amount of descriptive text. There are also tables where you can compare the statistics of the boats alongside each other and size charts for clothing etc.

The catalogue is 56 x A4 colour pages and represents a considerable amount of investment on behalf of Brookbank and comes with a separate 22 page price guide. You can of course read the brochure and then buy the items from their on-line shop, which for me I always find easier and why I think Brookbank should be congratulated.

Peter Tranter



Something for the weekend?

Manufactured in Ram-X resin for impact resistance and memory capacity (the ability to regain original shape after impact), the Pursuit DLX Sit-In is the newest addition to Pelican's line of kayaks.

Recreational kayaks are maybe not the sexiest boats in a company's range, more like the estate car of the kayaking world. They are generally big, heavy and can be a little cumbersome in the water. However, big can mean comfortable and cumbersome in the water can relate to predictability and sure footedness for people of average kayaking skill or beginners. The bonus with the Pursuit is that it is actually not that heavy. It weighs in at 45 lbs and that is light enough for me to handle on my own out of the water.

The Pursuit of course can carry quite a load. It is well suited for overnight trips unless you pack everything including the kitchen sink. There are fore and aft storage areas, one of which is for dry storage, which is a real bonus as it can accommodate a small tent and everything else I may need for a night in the wilds. Then the shock cords situated on the deck can be used for items you may want at hand and there is also a paddle holder.

Needless to say that if you intend to spend many hours in a kayak then comfort may be at your top of priorities. In this test I spent four hours in the kayak with one portage and it felt very comfortable with no back ache or numbness on my backside. Much of this is down to the well padded adjustable backrest, which for someone such as myself comes top of the list. All but the very largest of paddlers would fit into the cockpit and along with the adjustable backrest there are the adjustable foot braces to really get you comfortable.

Top speed is probably around 4mph and when really pushed the boat causes a noticeable wake from the bow, but this is a recreational boat after all! For someone wanting a stable kayak to explore grade one and two rivers it works very well. It is reasonably responsive, tracks well and due to its width is very stable and therefore a great boat for beginners to develop their skills; intermediate paddlers to practice edging, turns and so on, or people looking for a do-it-all hull.

This is a good quality and well built kayak and would highly recommend the kayak since it serves multiple functions. I would give it the thumbs up it as a first boat for anyone.

Mark Anderson

- Length: 11' 6" / 350 cm
- Width: 28" / 71 cm
- Weight: 45 lbs/20 kg
- Max. Capacity: 350 lbs/159 kg

For details of accessories and your nearest stockist please contact: **The Family Boat Shop on 07092-091575**

E-mail info@thefamilyboatshop.co.uk
www.thefamilyboatshop.co.uk

The Pelican Pursuit DLX



Head's up

Without your brain your body doesn't know what to do, so it's pretty good sense to keep your noggin in good shape. Regular sleep, potassium based foods, and drilling holes in your cranium are methods that have been tried and tested, but when it comes to paddling the best is a decent helmet.

The AP 5000 is the latest lid from Palm that comes all marked up with CE approval (don't go out without it kids). It has a hard wearing polypropylene shell that features a rubberised outer which looks and feels great, plus can still handle a sticker or two.

Inside protection duties are handled by a closed cell foam system that's fine-tuned with easily moveable Velcro pads. To keep it in place the AP 5000 has adjustable strapping both at the chin buckle and at the sides.

It comes in three sizes (xs/s,m/l,xl/xxl) and in three awesome colours – petrol blue, diesel red, and charcoal black. **Priced at £29.95 they are available from all Palm stockists. Call 01275 798 100 to find your local dealer. www.palm-equipment.co.uk**



BCU London and SE region ww training weekend

Holme Pierrepont: 31st July - 1st August

This weekend is open to all paddlers in the L&SE region as members of clubs or individuals. The slalom course is not suitable for absolute beginners but novices will be catered for by reducing the water flow in the mornings. The cost of the weekend is £12.00 for BCU members and £14.00 for non-members.

For details and application form please contact Geoff Orford Tel: 01737 766435 e-mail gro@ntlworld.com

2004 River Usk canoe race

Sunday 5th September

Start: Newbridge on Usk

Finish: Hanbury Arms Hotel, Caerleon

Distance: 7 miles

Start time: 12.00 hrs

Everyone welcome

For details contact:

Alan Baker

20, Larkfield Close,

Caerleon, S.Wales.

NP18 3EX

Tel: 01633 421629

E mail

baker@alval.freeserve.co.uk

Worcester and Wyre Forest Swanlong

12th September

This year is a week later than usual to try to avoid clashes with other events. Apologies for last year but due to unforeseen circumstances the event did not run as smoothly as usual, but thanks to marshals and Stourport rowing club for the use of their trailer we managed to get most paddlers to the finish by about 5pm. All details are the same as previous years but if any further information is required please contact me at shutch2@yahoo.com

Steve Hutchinson
Worcester Canoe Club

Irish Open Canoe Festival

27th - 29th August

Following the success of last years first Irish Open Canoe Symposium we are back again. Now is the time to start planning for what will be your best weekends paddling since you can remember. Whether you are new to the sport or a well-seasoned voyageur come along we have something to suit everyone (hence festival and not symposium).

Day trips, dawn paddle, voyageur trips and races, poling, sailing, navigation, camp craft, open fire cooking, paddle skills, assessments, play boating, slide shows and paddle making. Saturday evening will bring with it our infamous Bar-B-Q and slide show. That's not to mention great evenings with traditional music in a local hostelry.

It will cost £30 to attend one day or if you would like to attend the whole weekend it will cost you £50. Boat and equipment hire is £15 per day. Attendance to the Bar-B-Q and slideshow is £5.00 (unless attending the whole weekend). Camping is available in the forest park and beyond that there are a multitude of guest houses, bed and breakfasts and hotels in the local area. If you need further assistance with this please contact Mourne Activity Breaks on 00 44 28 4377 0715 or email info@mourneactivitybreaks.com. If you would like more information or if you would like to book now then check out our website - www.mountainandwater.com or call us on 00 44 28 4377 0715 or email info@mountainandwater.com

To compliment this year's festival we will be running a five day open canoe expedition on the Shannon-Erne waterway from the 30th August - 3rd September. Discounts are available to those attending both the festival and the Shannon-Erne trip. Please contact us for further details.

Welsh Canoe Symposium

Supported by the WCA, 1st - 3rd October

This is the great canoe event of 2004. Its aim is to create an event that brings together people of all levels of experience and ability. The coaches who assist in the running of workshops give their time for free. Because of this the Symposium represents incredible value for money.

- **Workshops** : Improving Technique, Moving Water Technique, Canoe Sailing, Canoes on the Sea, Open Water Rescues, Playboating, White Water Doubles, Poling and a chance to paddle the Tryweryn to Bala. Our aim will be to give the widest range of workshops on each day. We may even have access to a section of the Dee.
- **Venue**: Glan Llyn Centre on the Shore of Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake). Access to the water is from the centre. All meals on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday are included in the price.
- North American Guest Coach
- There are options for accommodation or camping.

For further information: E-MAIL glanllyn@urdd.org.

Tel: 01678 541000

The Bitches

2nd - 3rd October

Working in partnership with TYF and Falmouth Marine School. All kayakers, far and wide - The Bitches Soul Festival is bad and it's back. www.bitchesfestival.com. Get ready for the party of a lifetime. All day playing and all night partying, what a way to spend your weekend. You have the chance to shred at the Bitches in the morning and go kayak surfing or surfing in the afternoon, all leading up to a stupendous party.

This festival is not just for kayakers, there will be the chance to watch both kayakers and surfers and the chance to 'have a go' yourself. If you don't want to go on the water there will be plenty of things to keep you occupied until the party begins!

Freestyle ducks!

9th - 10th October

Fancy winning a complete boat and kit package for yourself or your club? All you have to do is sell more of the BCU Freestyle committee's Great Duck Race tickets and you could. The very nice people at Pyranha, Nookie and Peak UK have donated four complete packages including boat, paddles and clothing. Two of the packages will go to the canoe club that sells the most tickets with the runners up receiving a single package. There is also a complete package for the individual who sells the most tickets. That's over £3'500 of prizes up for grabs.

The BCU Freestyle committee are holding the duck race on the weekend of the British Freestyle Championships, held at Holme Pierrepont on 9th/10th October this year. The aim is to raise funds to help send the Great Britain Freestyle team to Australia to compete at the World Championships in January.

The ducks cost £2 each and it is hoped to race 10,000 down the Slalom course at HPP. The winner will receive a cash prize of £1,000 and there are many other prizes to be had including a state of the art mobile phone and a weekend break for two. Tickets will soon be going out to individual clubs and every BCU member will receive some tickets to sell in the next copy of *Canoe Focus* magazine. Tickets are also available from team paddlers and the Freestyle committee members who will be promoting the race at various events throughout the year.



2005 Great Britain freestyle kayaking team selection

The 2005 World Freestyle Championships is to be held on the 18th - 30th January 2005 at Penrith, Australia. Selection for those wishing to represent Great Britain will take place on:

10th September 2004 Tryweryn, Bala (Not Squirt)

11th September 2004 Home Pierrepont, Nottingham

12th September 2004 Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

using a different feature

Best two results from the three events will count, with the exception of Squirt where both will count. In the event of a tie the result from the third event will be used. If there is still a tie then the highest single run score will from the three events will be used. Anyone wanting to enter selection should complete the entry form available at UKFreestyle.com and send it along with a cheque for £30 per category made payable to 'BCU Freestyle Committee' along with proof of membership of BCU, WCA, SCA, or CANI to Chris McMurray, 19 Quayside Close, Turneys Quay, Nottingham NG2 3BP. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 1st September 2004. No entries after this date will be accepted



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Email: info@perception.co.uk

www.perception.co.uk

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Just because you want a tandem doesn't mean you have to settle for a barge. At 13-feet the 130T is easy to get from car-top to water. Once on the water it's, well, a Tarpon — smooth, stable, capable, and comfortable with adjustable back rests. Experience the difference at a Wilderness Systems dealer near you.



STANDARD EQUIPMENT: CONTOURED SEATS, ADJUSTABLE BACK RESTS, TWO STORAGE WELLS WITH BUNGIES, AND TWO DAY HATCHES. RUDDER OPTIONAL.

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