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# canoe

## focus

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

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**Annual Subscription Rate**

**UK inland:** £18.50

**Overseas:** £24.00

Supplied free to BCU members -

**Adults:** £28.00 basic

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**Under 18's:** £14.00 basic

£17.00 comprehensive

**Family:** £13.00 basic

£16.00 comprehensive

**Publishing Contractors**

2b Graphic Design  
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**Printed by**

Warners, Bourne, Lincs

**Magazine Design**

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**Illustrations**

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**Typesetting and  
Page Make-up by**

2b Graphic Design

**THE BCU VISION IS TO:**  
enable our members,  
partner organisations and  
the wider paddling  
community the best  
available opportunity to  
achieve their potential in all  
aspects of paddlesports

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

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

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

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

Tamsin Phipps, Ian Bowler,  
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Dave Manby, Allan Ellard, Glenn Eldridge,  
Dave Halsall, Sarah Easterbrook,  
Samantha Botting, Sue Hornby  
and Mike Devlin.

**Front cover:**

Andy Phillips paddling the Chenab.

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# COMMENT

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive

## Olympic Games

BRITISH OLYMPIC  
ASSOCIATION



The following canoeists will represent Team GB at the Olympic Games later this month:

### Sprint Racing

Women's K1 500m	Lucy Hardy
Men's K1 500m	Ian Wynne
Men's K1 1000m	Tim Brabants
Men's K2 1000m	Paul Darby-Dowman & Ian Wynne

### Canoe Slalom

Women's K1	Helen Reeves
Men's K1	Campbell Walsh
Men's C1	Stuart Macintosh
Men's C2	Stuart Bowman & Nick Smith

As we go to press we are still hopeful of gaining some further places in canoe slalom.

The Olympic Games are a unique experience for any athlete. It is a great honour and recognition of achievement to make the team. With five of our boats gaining medals at the equivalent of a world level in recent weeks, we look forward with optimism. On behalf of the BCU, I would like to wish all our Olympic competitors a successful games, I hope that they above all else enjoy the experience and that the event provides them with the opportunity to meet their own personal goals and expectations.

The journey towards legislation will certainly be hard and we must all ensure that we are very clear about the rights and wrongs of the current situation. We are not seeking access at the exclusion of all others but a fair and equitable share for all. We ask paddlers to stay within the law but it is now time for our voices to be heard. In particular our campaign must remain supportive of all effected by this inequitable situation whether they be members of the BCU or non-members. That said we would appeal to all non-members to help in the campaign and consider taking up membership to support this area of work.

## John Westlake

John Westlake and his wife Veronica are leaving England to live in Canada; they have been key BCU volunteers for many years. John, well known as the Regional Chair for the South West region has contributed to the organisation at every level including serving for several years on the BCU board. Veronica worked hard on the regional committee developing and editing the newsletter to a very high standard. They will be sorely missed, we wish them well in their new life.

### Membership Rates

Its that time of year again when we announce the BCU membership rates that will come into place from November 1st 2004.

Category of membership	£
Life	520.00
Adult Comprehensive	35.00
Adult Basic	29.00
Youth Comprehensive	18.00
Youth Basic	14.50
Family Comprehensive	17.00
Family Basic	13.50

## New staff

Welcome to new members of staff Robert Deacon and Lara Tipper. Robert joins the BCU as Director of Operations and Membership Services. He will focus on developing and enhancing a high level of membership service whilst, Lara will lead forward our work on Long Term Paddler Development.

## Access

The long awaited report into negotiating access agreements known, as "Brighton 2" has recently been made public. The report concludes that it is possible to achieve access to inland rivers by agreement and it goes on to suggest that agreements should be taken forward to implementation in the four trial areas that have been researched.

The expected cost of taking these four trial agreements through to implementation being £907,325 or £12,000 per kilometre.

It is hard to see how the report reaches this conclusion, which by and large merely proves that if you throw enough money at the issue it can be solved or at least moved. It does little to contribute to solving the access to inland rivers problem.

### So where do we go next:

From a BCU perspective we are in agreement with much of the report but not the conclusion. To us the report clearly demonstrates that access to the 96% of rivers mostly in private ownership can only be achieved through legislation. This must remain our long-term objective.

The organisation will continue to paddle under agreements where these are a positive benefit. However, we will look to our access team to focus in two key areas, in extending our support of the Rivers Access Campaign and in providing a River Information Service, advising paddlers of the current status of local rivers.



## BCU at Science Museum

At the end of June the BCU undertook an eight day display as part of the Science of Sport Exhibition at the Science Museum London. The display included an ergo challenge in which over 2,000 people – young and old alike took part. For the less active there was a static display depicting the evolution of design and materials with a 1950's Olympic style kayak (a Struer boat made from wood and canvas) compared to a 2004 style Olympic kayak in carbon Kevlar plus the evolution of paddles from wood to current designs like wing paddles. Also on show was a cut-a-way modern day plastic playboat.

For the more scientifically minded there was the opportunity to find out more about your paddling with some newly developed PaddleMonitor software which is being developed by Mike Phillip of Phillpette for use with a Lawler Paddling ergo. If you missed the display – it's still worth visiting the main exhibition - to find out more about the Science of Sport – log on to

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/sport](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/sport).

Thanks to our volunteers throughout the week and in particular for equipment to Marsport, John Griffiths, Pyranha, Mike Phillip, Westel CC, Royal CC, Lawler Eng.

### Win a Hula Sit on top Kayak

Paddle Sport are exhibiting at the Town & Country Show at the Stoneleigh Show Ground on August Bank Holiday weekend. We are being supported by Islander Kayaks, with a 'Win a Hula, Sit on Top Kayak', free draw competition over the weekend. Entry is free for all visitors to our stand. For more details contact Paddle Sport on 01926 640573 or websites: [www.paddlesport.co.uk](http://www.paddlesport.co.uk), [www.townandcountryfestival.org.uk](http://www.townandcountryfestival.org.uk), [www.islanderkayaks.com](http://www.islanderkayaks.com)

### 'Jacksons Tribute Night'

Paddle Sport at The Nene, Demo Night on August 20th. We are pleased to present the Jackson Five (Fun 1, Fun 2, Fun, Fun 4 and Super Fun Kayaks) plus KayakoJacko with special coaching sessions for the evening. They will offer freestyle coaching for beginners and intermediate paddlers at a very low price. Places must be booked through Paddle Sport so please call us to reserve your session as soon as possible – first come, first served for limited places! Please contact us at [jacksons@paddlesport.co.uk](mailto:jacksons@paddlesport.co.uk) or 01926 640573

### A first in Wales

Sport and recreation on Cardiff's freshwater Bay moves into a new phase with the start of work on a £620,000 centre to co-ordinate and develop water activities, assisted by a Sportlot grant via the Sports Council for Wales.

Channel View leisure centre will provide the base for expert tuition in canoeing, rowing and other activities as they come on stream. The Sportlot grant of £200,000 has been released from the Sports Council's National Lottery budget and will provide a 1,500-metre rowing course of international competition standard - the first in Wales. Sprint canoe racing will be possible on the new course.

Work on the activity centre includes a new slipway, car parking, trailer and boat storage space. Changing rooms, showers and tuition rooms will be available at Channel View.

It is planned to launch courses in September, initially in indoor, 'dry' rowing, moving on to 'taster' sessions in boats and canoes purchased by the harbour authority for beginners, intermediates and advanced groups.

The Harbour Authority has appointed two specialists to

help develop water sports: Mike Hnatiw, a former Commonwealth Games rower, who is working closely with the Welsh Amateur Rowing Association; and Ben Longhurst, who will promote recreational and competitive canoeing in conjunction with the Welsh Canoeing Association.

### Pyranha Deluxe

Pyranha have launched their new Deluxe range of boats aimed at the fleet / club users. Using already tried and tested designs the Ina Zone 232/242, G3 275 and the Acro 275 the range has a boat for any location and comes with a host of features like full plate footrests, adjustable backrests, ergonomic thigh grips as standard and is even available in two colour options (Yellow/Jaffa and Teal/Apple) With prices starting at £399 these boats will be a very useful and cost effective addition to any club or centre fleet as well as to the paddler who does not require the full WW features of the other boats in the range. To see any of the new Deluxe range pop in to your local Pyranha dealer.

### RNLI launch safety DVD



An interactive DVD released by the RNLI today aimed at kitesurfers, windsurfers and surf kayakers offers a wealth of up-to-the minute safety information for people taking part in these increasingly popular sports.

As part of the RNLI's programme of free safety advice for all sea users, the 40-minute Extreme Sea Safety Advice DVD is aimed at novices and professionals alike, and includes a host of extra features such as web links and kit guides.

Extreme watersports enthusiasts can become tired and vulnerable very quickly when things start to go wrong. Careful planning, carrying the right safety equipment and knowing your limits can keep you out of danger. Packed with tips and advice from experts in the field, the newly released DVD covers topics from selecting a beginners windsurfing rig through to recovery techniques in rough conditions. Free sea safety advice is available to all from the RNLI on 0800 328 0600 in the UK and 1800 789589 in the Republic of Ireland.

The DVD features leading extreme sports people including top kitesurfer Flash Austin, professional windsurfer Peter Hart and world surf kayak champion Simon Hammond. Each of them has a wealth of practical tips and straightforward safety advice to pass on to fellow enthusiasts from carrying handheld flares to practicing self-rescue techniques.

Rescues and safety awareness programmes are key parts of the RNLI's work. Signing up for the organisation's Offshore membership is one way to support the organisation's work. Designed for leisure sea users who are most likely to need the services of the RNLI, Offshore is recommended for everyone taking part in these potentially risky watersports.

To obtain your free copy of the Extreme Sea Safety Advice DVD call the RNLI on 0800 328 0600.



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## Scottish AS Watersports hosts the agents SW Canoe Show

Kari-Tek who manufacture and supply canoe trolleys, cradles, easy load roof rack system and canoe trailers are now also going to be agents in Scotland for Nigel Dennis Kayaks and Reed Chillcheater clothing. They are very excited about this very few people in Scotland have heard of NDK boats or Chillcheater. They are now on a mission to convert the Scots to the benefits! Kari-Tek have demo boats available for people to try out the boats in their local water if required and will carry stock of Chillcheater clothing.

October 2nd

The biggest canoeing event the SW has ever seen, just in time for the start of the winter season. Featuring all the brands and all the disciplines from White Water through to Sea and Surf! All the major kayaking manufacturers have signed up to exhibit, so we look forward to seeing the new products and the existing ranges from Pyranha, Palm/ Dagger, Yak, Perception, Nookie, Peak/ Riot, System X, Wavesport, Necky, Robson, P&H and others as they confirm their attendance.

### Other attractions include:

- A good selection of special deal goods, at show special prices!
- The 'Paddlers Pitch' where paddlers can hire a small pitch to sell their second-hand boats and kit from.
- Hog Roast.
- Evening Lecturers.
- Exhibits from all the local course providers and coaching bodies.
- Free Entry for all visitors.

Full details of the days programme and show layout check

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

### 'Paddlers Pitch' Details:

We will have 20 Pitches available on a first come first served basis where the public can sell their second-hand goods. Pitches will be sold for £3 a pitch and measure approximately 1.2m x 3.0m (enough to sell a boat from). Pitches are

available on a first come first served bases, must be booked in advance and paid for on the day in cash.

## Raleigh International launches new 'adventure'

'Raleigh Adventure' is a three week expedition designed to give time pressured travel enthusiasts a chance to taste the hidden wonders of the world without the hassle of having to plan it. Aimed at people over 23 years of age, the three week adventure incorporates the exciting challenges for which the charity is renowned and includes the chance to gain or further a PADI diving qualification.

The first Raleigh Adventure will take place in Borneo, Malaysia, and will run from the 16th October to 6th November 2004. The first 10 days of the 'Adventure' provide the opportunity to trek through magnificent rainforest and the chance to work with a local community on a development project. But it won't be all hard work. For the second phase of the adventure participants will head to the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park where they can relax for three days and take an introductory or advanced PADI diver qualification course. The final two days of the Raleigh Adventure will involve an exhilarating walk up the highest peak in South East Asia, Mount Kinabalu, to watch the sun rise. The adventurers will then transfer to a five star hotel where they can meet some of Borneo's famous orang-utans. The cost of this exciting opportunity is £1995.

For more information about how you can secure one of fifteen places visit the Raleigh International website: [www.raleigh.org.uk/specials/adventure.html](http://www.raleigh.org.uk/specials/adventure.html) or contact Richard Solly: [Richards@raleigh.org.uk](mailto:Richards@raleigh.org.uk) 0207 371 8585.

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## New Originz paddles brochure

Within you will find details of the complete comprehensive range, which illustrates the complete kayak market from lake to white water and recreation to full on expedition paddling. They even do a Quiklok split system on some models allowing you to take apart, adjust the length and feather of your paddles quickly and easily even with cold wet hands. For your copy of this great brochure please call Perception on 01825 765891 or visit [www.perception.co.uk](http://www.perception.co.uk)

PADDLES CATALOGUE

## Testing times

Everyone has been there at some stage. You want to get into sea kayaking but you do not own your own boat. Buying one is an expensive business and not something to do in a hurry. Well, here is the chance to paddle as many boats as you like... for free.

Sea kayak manufacturers, P&H have joined forces with North Wales retail and coaching specialists Surf-Lines to help aspirant sea kayakers discover this fast growing canoesport.

Now the UK's first test centre has been launched at the Surfines sea kayak school based in Llanberis, Snowdonia. The entire P&H fleet will be available for demonstration at Surf-Lines, where free lake sessions can be arranged so that you can get to grips with finding your favourite boat.

Get a group of six together and you can enjoy a weekend of sea kayaking adventures for the rock bottom bargain of £99 per head, including all instruction and equipment hire. You will receive two days of expert coaching in the capable hands of the Surfines team whose recent paddling adventures have taken them to locations as far and wide away as Alaska, Norway, Baja and New Zealand. Whatever your standard they can individually tailor your needs and abilities to ensure you have a day of excitement, relaxation and coastal exploration, rolled into one.

For more information contact Surf-Lines on 01286 879001 or e-mail [info@surf-lines.co.uk](mailto:info@surf-lines.co.uk) quoting Canoe Focus Reader Offer. If you don't have a group of six but still want to attend a weekend course contact them for a individual prices.



## DM photo competition

DM have joined up with Playboating magazine to find the best paddling photos we can. We're looking for awesome pictures of you or your friends paddling, and we've got a whole stack of prizes for the winners!

We've rounded up a panel of celebrity judges, including Shaun Baker, Heather Gunn (editor of Playboating Magazine and professional photographer), Ant Perkins from System X and, finally,

voters on the Desperate Measures website! After choosing the best of the submissions, the winners will be published in the next issue of Playboating and also win cool stuff.

### The categories are:

**River Running** – Win an HF Serpent buoyancy aid worth £129.99. Gnarly rapids, huge freewheels or just playing the river, we want the best shots of your best trips, at home or abroad.

**Playboating** – Win a Playboater Kevlar Workdeck, worth £70. Whether you're captured the fabled double helix or your mate's look of surprise as he throws his first cartwheel, freestylin' action's what we're after.

**Travel** – Win a Pyramid Ultimate First aid kit, including the Emergency Dental Module and the Sterile Needle Module, worth £57. This is the category for your most evocative memories. The shot may not even include a boat, but as long as it gets you in the mood for long days on the water and warm nights under canvas, you're in with a chance.

**Webshots** – Win a Desperate Measures Goody Bag! If you've got a picture in the wrong format or with a low resolution, give it a shot in the Webshots category. Whether you've taken it on your mobile phone or it's just a normal photo print, we'll put it in our online gallery and you may well win a big bag of fun, including paddling kit and videos! For more details about submissions log on to the Desperate measures website at [www.desperate-measures.co.uk](http://www.desperate-measures.co.uk)

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		<b>K80 Kayak Flat Left or Right</b>	£24.50
		<b>C100 Canoe All Round</b>	£32.50
Mid-Range		<b>C102 Canoe Dragon</b>	£32.50
		<b>K100 Kayak All Round</b>	£55
		<b>K100 Assy Kayak</b>	£60
Polo		<b>K103 Light Junior Kayak</b>	£45
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## New sea-kayaking tours

Exploring deserted beaches, close-up encounters with wildlife and a chance to spend an adventurous holiday in the fresh air are just some of the attractions on offer from a new business in Shetland. Sea Kayak Shetland, based at Bridge-End Outdoor Centre in Burra, has been set up by Tom Smith to offer sea-kayaking tours around some of Shetland's most beautiful coastline. The project is being assisted with an investment of £6,090 from Shetland Enterprise. The investment will include the purchase of four sea kayaks, as well as the necessary safety equipment. The company already has a website providing more details of the kayaking breaks at [www.seakayakshetland.co.uk](http://www.seakayakshetland.co.uk)



## First for both awards

Macclesfield CC turned out in force to receive a formal presentation from Sport Cheshire Sports Partnership and the BCU Youth Programme. Macclesfield are the first canoe club to attain both these awards in the NW region. The club has a proven track record of developing paddlesport in its many forms for young people ensuring quality delivery giving them the best possible start. The award gives recognition to all their hard work and the BCU Youth Programme congratulates them in their achievements. Well done to all members of the club.

**Pictured left to right:** Mark Hayes - Chairman, John Byrne Chief Executive Sport Cheshire, Len Hartley Paddlesport Development Office NW & Yorkshire, Brian Hamere Vice Chairman.

## Calling N. Irish paddlers!

Ten Minutes of your time could have a positive impact on Northern Ireland's canoeing Facilities – interested? Read on:

Currently there are approximately 242 sites used to access the water throughout Northern Ireland – most of these sites are known only to locals, as the Canoe Development Officer, it is part of my job to keep access to these sites open, encourage more people to use these sites and where possible to improve facilities at some of the key sites.

There are also plans to create up to seven canoe trails throughout the province on the following waterways:

The Bann (upper); The Bann (lower); The Blackwater; The Foyle System (Mourne/Strule etc); The Lagan; Lough Erne (Upper and Lower) and Strangford Lough

In order for Councils and potential funding bodies to commit money to the improvement of our facilities, there needs to be written evidence of the need for these facilities i.e. user numbers – at present there are no details anywhere with regards to this information and there is no better way to get this evidence than from you the paddler!

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of user numbers when it comes to seeking funding for potential projects and improved facilities.

**So please - log on to the CANI web site (member or not) go to the river survey and let us know where and when you paddled! Please feel free to contact me:**

**Office: 028 9030 3937 Mobile: 07793 640893 email:**

[matt@countrySIDEREcreation.com](mailto:matt@countrySIDEREcreation.com)

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©Jim Ottaway

## New canoe trailer

The Thurso based Pentland Canoe Club has taken delivery of a new canoe trailer. The trailer is to be used by the club to transport kayaks to various club venues including the Thurso swimming pool where it runs training sessions during the Winter. The trailer was purchased with support from: the Caithness Sports Council; UKAEA; RWE NUKEM; Babtie; NDSL and Forss Engineering. Simon Copsey commented "the purchase would not have been achievable without the generosity of the contributing local business and organisations. The trailer will be of benefit to all of the club members, especially the younger individuals who have no transport of their own."

**Pictured here are (left to right):** Fiona Bruce (UKAEA); Keith Blair (Babtie); Roger Saxon (Caithness Sports Council); Paul Stewart (Chairman, Pentland CC); Sam McKellar (NDSL); Ken Nicol (RWE NUKEM) and Simon Copsey (Project Co-ordinator, Pentland CC)



## New development group for canoeists in the South East of England

Whitewater Action Medway (WAM) is working to develop and improve facilities for all canoeists on the River Medway in Kent. WAM members participate in all disciplines of the sport and in conjunction with the British Canoe Union and Environment Agency are identifying opportunities to develop facilities and improve access for canoeists.

The Environment Agency is planning changes to the weirs at Yalding that will directly and negatively affect one of the only moving water play spots in the area. However the planned changes also offer an opportunity for a canoeing feature to be constructed and our principal focus is the development of a 'pour-over' type play feature at Yalding. This will provide the first purpose designed facility for white water canoeing in the region. Other potential projects include developments at Allington, Sluice Weir and Teston.

WAM, a BCU Associate Member, is funded by donations from its membership and is seeking additional support and contributions.

WAM Chairman Adrian Coleman says "Currently canoeists must travel significant distances to find moving water facilities. It is a fact that the most populated area in the UK has the least number of facilities for canoeing. WAM aims to represent the interests of all canoeists and identify opportunities where facilities can be developed or improved."

**Further information can be obtained from [www.whitewateraction.co.uk](http://www.whitewateraction.co.uk) or by telephoning Adrian Coleman on 01795 426827.**

## Comfort camping

For camping in comfort check out the new Khyam "Freelander" Flexi-Dome tent. This new model for 2004 gives you a compact 2/3 person tent with an entrance porch that you can stand up inside. External Height; 180cm, Weight 10.6 kgs. For more details on the full range of Khyam Rapidex Tents please check our website, [www.paddlesport.co.uk](http://www.paddlesport.co.uk) or contact Paddle Sport Tel: 01926 640573 or [info@paddlesport.co.uk](mailto:info@paddlesport.co.uk)

## Free demo bonanza

On the weekend of the 11th and 12th of September (the Freestyle Selection Weekend), we've arranged for a free demo bonanza at Holme Pierrepont. For £2 (each day) you can paddle at the course on the sections not in use for the selection. This is most of the course as they will be using the top wave one day and the muncher the next. Also, your entire £2 goes toward the Freestyle Committees coffers, helping to foster and support the GB freestyle team.

On FREE demo will be the complete Jackson Kayak range, and for the first time you will be able to demo the Allstar alongside the complete Fun range. Also we will have the new Fluid Flirts there, from South Africa. If that's not enough, we'll also have a demo of the Dagger Juice river play craft and a prototype of Pyranhas new 1:4. All this alongside DM's already large demo fleet including Robson, Liquidlogic, Necky and Bliss-stick, we'll have extra demos from Pyranha and Dagger.



Kammo Korner will be pitched at the top of the course, proffering hot teas to anyone with a competitor or visitors bib, and we'll have all the customary comforts in the marquee, including DVD screen and PA system. For the Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club and those able to join us during the week, there will be free demo evenings also on the Wednesday and Thursday before. Look forward to seeing you there!

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

Cartoon courtesy of  
Andrew Quick



## Typical UK access!

www.countryside.gov.uk/  
WiderWelcome/  
Countryside\_Recreation/  
recreationalActivities/  
waterSports/improving  
\_access\_for\_canoeing  
\_on\_inland\_waters.asp

The long awaited report from Brighton University "A feasibility Study on improving access for canoeing by voluntary agreement" on behalf of DEFRA, was published at the end of May. In the meantime please read the documents for yourselves by clicking on the web address to the left and then contact your MP with your thoughts about it.

### Comments from paddlers already received are:

- These agreements can be difficult and expensive to negotiate.
- Why is there only 77kms of access being considered when there are over 65,000kms of rivers in England and Wales?
- Why has a phenomenal amount of money been spent on this research, which may only give us another 77kms to paddle on?
- Negotiated Access Agreements alone are unlikely to fully meet the demand and need for canoeable waters.
- This project has **equally** demonstrated the shortcomings in the negotiating process: particularly in terms of the way in which canoeists **are disadvantaged** by the prevailing patterns of land ownership and property rights.
- Funding to be focused on areas which will help increase participation to meet the Government's Game Plan targets. If supply does not already meet demand, how can we increase participation!
- Will these agreements be for BCU members only or for everybody?

### What is going on in Parliament?

The BCU are continually lobbying for support and to raise the awareness of the access issue and this is

particularly the case as far as our MPs are concerned. Parliamentary processes are highly complex but the BCU are there attending meetings, writing letters and talking to key people.

### Meeting with the Rt Hon. Alun Michael

The Chief Executives of both the BCU (Paul Owen) and the Welsh Canoe Association (Richard Harvey) have met with Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP, Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environmental Quality, to discuss the current situation. The Minister is very supportive of finding a solution to the problem, but he has no easy solutions. The BCU and WCA have continued to press for legislation, however, the Minister has warned that this is a complex area of law and that we will need to gain consensus and support from many organisations outside of canoeing.

The organisation plans to continue to develop support from key organisations and to further develop its proposals for legislation. This process will include public awareness campaigns and raising further awareness in Parliament including the possible use of further Early Day Motions, adjournment debates and the possibility of a Private Members Bill.

### What has your MP said about the access issue?

#### Have you written to your MP?

Many members have written to their MP and we are pleased with the responses that they have received. Please let us know, by letter or e mail if your MP is liable to support the cause for greater access. We need this information to look at how the whole campaign can move forward. It is important for us to know the areas of support or indeed the lack of support.

If you haven't written to your MP then please do so. Information on how to can be found on the website [www.riversaccess.org](http://www.riversaccess.org). If you have already written please keep up the MP's interest by letters and questions on how they feel about the reports findings etc. Don't forget to invite them along to a canoeing event. Keeping the issue alive in people's minds is important to get more support.

# Early Day Motions

This EDM in support of canoeing has come to our attention.

If one of these is your MP do contact them to thank them for their support and ask them to consider the access issue. A paper produced by the BCU in support of the campaign would be advantageous to send along as well as a letter. Visit the website [www.riversaccess.org](http://www.riversaccess.org) where there is downloadable version of the paper. If you do not have access to the internet telephone the BCU (0115 9821100) and we will send you the information.

The Devizes to Westminster is known as the "Canoeist's Everest" and hundreds of people from all over the country participate in it each year. They all need access to the waterways so that they can train for the event. For more information about this race visit [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk)

## Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon - 21st April 2004

### Sarah Teather - Primary Sponsor

That this House congratulates all who competed in the gruelling Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Marathon; further congratulates

Henry and Richard Hendron of the Richmond Canoe Club for winning this event which took place over the Easter weekend in a time of 18 hours, 34 minutes and 50 seconds; and further congratulates all who have participated in the 55 races in the past who have helped to raise many thousands of pounds for charity.

Sarah Teather; Nigel Evans; Stephen Pound; Julian Brazier; Derek Wyatt; Adrian Flook; Rudi Vis; Ann Cryer; Vincent Cable; James Gray; Andrew George; Alan Simpson; Alan Meale; Paul Tyler; Bob Spink; Nigel Jones; Jeremy Corbyn; Paul Marsden; Peter Bottomley; Adrian Bailey; Tom Brake; John Austin; John Barrett; Elyfn Llwyd.

### What is an EDM and why are they useful to us?

An Early Day Motion (EDM), is a notice of motion for which no day has been fixed for debate. The tabling of an EDM is a device to draw attention to an issue and to elicit support for it by inviting other MPs to add their signatures: an MP would not expect their EDM to be debated. MPs can also table amendments to existing EDMs.

EDMs, amendments and names of signatories are circulated in the Vote Bundle, the daily working papers of the House of Commons. EDMs can often attract a great deal of publicity, and many people regard them as a gauge of opinion. Although the majority of EDMs are never considered for debate, the group of EDMs known as 'prayers' may be debated. For more information visit <http://edm.ais.co.uk>

# Did you hear...

The one about the MP who was on an organised outing with a member of the BCU paddling legitimately on a tidal stretch of the River Wear when they were challenged by some estate workers saying that they had no access rights to paddle on the water? The organiser of the trip made known his details, name, address etc. The MP did not make his name known but had in fact had already previously written to the landowner commenting on the fact that access was available on that stretch of water! The trip organiser is now waiting to hear whether the matter will be pursued.

We could not have staged that if we had wanted to! It's a good example of what can happen even when there are access rights to the water.

At a reception to bring attention to the new Environment Agency initiatives, *Your Rivers for Life*, held at the House of Commons on 29 June 2004, a well-known Labour MP who promotes fishing was heard to say, "I do hope these initiatives are not a Trojan horse to let the canoeists in!"

He clearly does not realise that there is enough water around for all of us to pursue our interests and that canoeing and fishing can work side by side. The article in the last edition of *Canoe Focus* (June 2004) on the opening up of the Roman Lakes, is yet another example of the two sports living in harmony.

If in Scotland the angling and canoeing communities can pursue their sports together why can't they in England and Wales? The Scottish National Heritage in conjunction with Sport Scotland have actually produced two leaflets, one for anglers and one for Canoeists, advising them on how to support the others activity. [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

It is opinions and comments like that of the outspoken MP that will hinder progress. The campaign has talked to many anglers (many of whom are also canoeists) who support the Rivers Access campaign and feel that it is time for old opinions to be put to rest and for us all to move forward together.

## Joint statement on the publication of the report

**This joint statement has been produced by the BCU and the WCA as an initial response to the publication of the report 'A feasibility study on improving access for canoeing by voluntary agreement' which The Countryside Agency has recently published.**

The Countryside Agency has now published the consultants report, entitled 'A feasibility study on improving access for canoeing by voluntary agreement'.

In general the BCU and WCA considers that this new report; is comprehensive, is of high quality and is a fair representation of the difficult and complex situation that exists exclusively in England and Wales.

We were pleased that the consultants' earlier report 'Water-Based Sport and Recreation: the facts' highlighted the appalling deficiency in access to inland waterways. It confirmed that the public couldn't gain access to over 96% of rivers. The new report details the many obstacles preventing access to water and the development of further opportunities for canoeing. We consider it has clearly established that negotiated access agreements do not tackle the root cause of the problem, and they do not offer a realistic solution to the large-scale problems of access to and along water for water-based sport and recreation in England and Wales. This has been a long stated position extolled by the BCU and WCA.

However, we are disappointed that despite providing evidence to the contrary, the report concludes that negotiations 'might be appropriate as an alternative to a

statutory right of access to all waters as proposed by the British Canoe Union'.

We acknowledge that the Government has not as yet reached its own conclusion on the report.

The report has dealt exclusively with four subject rivers and has made proposals to pursue access agreements in these study areas to generate a possible 77 kilometres of access. It indicates that there is no assurance of success with these schemes, and indicates that further expenditure of nearly £12,000 per kilometre will be needed. We believe that this is clearly not sustainable when applied to the 65,000 kilometres of rivers still to be addressed in England and Wales.

The BCU and WCA believes that this money could be better spent on promoting and delivering legislation to remove the legal barriers that will have to be addressed at some time on behalf of all water sports. This situation is unique to England and Wales.

These barriers to access continue to be a problem and are of growing concern for the sport and recreation of canoeing. We have sought to contain the frustration in canoeing circles levelled at the BCU and WCA together with public bodies at the continued failure to make progress. Despite this internal pressure we have given every possible support to the two consultancy reports in order to allow them to reach independent findings. This action has been vindicated by the value of the reports.

We do not consider that the conclusions offer a solution to the problem that goes anywhere near meeting canoeing's needs and the BCU and WCA feel free to actively pursue alternative courses of action, including the promotion of the necessary new legislation.

The BCU and WCA looks forward to continued discussions with the Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP, Minister for the Environment and Rural Affairs to discuss the report and possible ways forward.

Signed  
Paul Owen  
Chief Executive  
British Canoe Union

Richard Harvey  
Acting Chief Executive  
Welsh Canoe Association

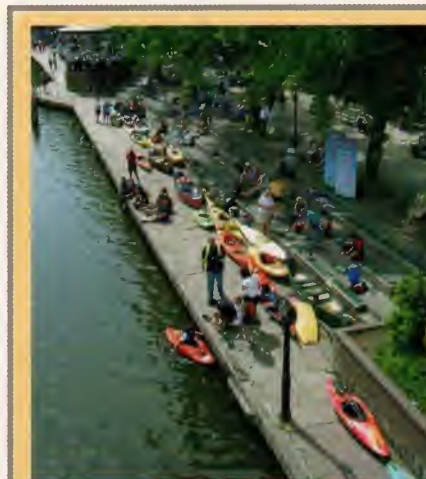


### Access changes West Midlands Region

Local river advisor for the Wye in England - (Hay to Symonds Yat).

### South West Region.

Local river advisor for the following waters :  
Gloucester to Sharpness canal. Stroudwater canal. Thames and Severn Canal. River Frome (Gloucester). Coastal access advisor for the River Severn (from Tewkesbury to the new bridge - English banks). John Westlake is emigrating and passing these roles to: Steve Phillips - 1 Knights Way, Newent, GL18 1QJ. e-mail: [steve@sandmphilipps.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve@sandmphilipps.fsnet.co.uk)  
John would like to thank all those who have contacted him over the years and wish them good paddling.



## Access mass paddle

**A glorious sunrise heralded the start of the mass paddle from Farndon to Chester. Paddlers of all ages took part including the mayor from the Peninsula CC area. A couple of participants actually parked at Chester and paddled up to the start in time to meet everyone else getting on the water. The paddlers reached Chester where banners had**



**been hung from the Chain Bridge proclaiming the message of the Access problem. Thanks to Rosie Driver and her team who along with Peninsula CC organised the mass paddle.**



# Caithness cruising

**My eyes gradually became accustomed to the semi darkness. My kayak pitched gently in the swell and the voices of my companions were no more. I ventured further into the chasm. The stench of the seabirds eased and my stomach calmed itself. It was returning to some form of normality from the copious pints of Orkney Gold consumed the previous night. Amazing... the cave just keeps on going and going... ! A flicker of light from a head torch bounced off the walls to my side. I was no longer alone and real cave exploration began. I turned my kayak around to see if natural light penetrated this eerie setting but alas no.**

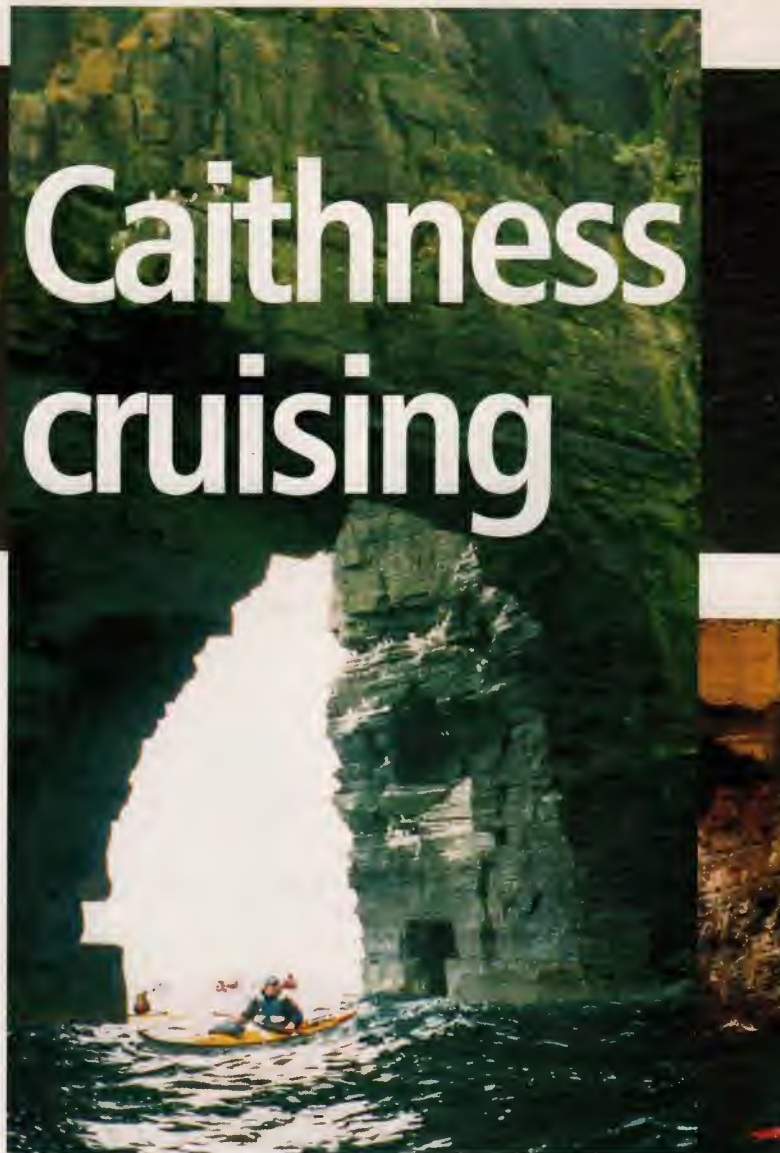
Caithness has a long coastline of red sandstone like its neighbour Orkney. It's been worked by the sea into magnificent cliffs numerous stacks, and sharp, deep inlets known as geos. Broad, sweeping sandy beaches backed by sand-dunes litter the east and north coast. Our intended weekend exploration was to focus on the east coast with fishing industry relics, burial cairns and cliff top brochs to be our gems. The highlight for me turned out to be the amazing caves that litter the length of the coastline.

Blazing sunshine caught me out and meant most of us were overdressed for the occasion. Shades and factor 25 sun bloc was applied. Or was that an accurate hit by a low flying bird! "Somewhere up there's a lighthouse," I was reliably informed. I stretched my neck and figured I must have missed it. Cliff hugging was the order of the morning. So close so as not to miss anything and to keep in some shade! Honest, it was a real scorcher. Ken had so far planned the weather to perfection.

I was treated to an incredible array of impressive arches, stacks such as Ulbster, zawns and caves. They were just awesome, mind-blowing. Some of the caves seemed to have been symmetrically carved out with great precision. Others were so large we could paddle over a dozen kayaks in, turn around and exit without a bump !

Lunch was late, very late. My stomach had been sounding out for a good hour before we turned into a small cove hemmed in by steep cliffs. Our merry group hauled out our kayaks into the shade and I immediately searched for a suitable sunny spot. Local information was gleaned that some rather unique steps were to be found which were remnants of an old herring fishing station. I grabbed my lunch bag and headed for a nearby promontory. Whalligoe Steps, all 365 give or take a few, had been used by fisherwomen to carry laden creels up and over the cliff face and then six miles onwards to the markets in Wick. Today, they still wind up the cliff face and at least one of our band returned red faced claiming to have reached the top. I perched myself overlooking the cliff watching the fluffy cormorant chicks. The whole cliff face was moving, teeming with birds. Adults returning to feed their chicks precariously perched on twig platforms made my lunch spot highly entertaining.

Back on the water we departed close to a cliff top trickle and gorgeous aquamarine water. No sooner had we got underway when more caves appeared and our group helped themselves to more. Head counting in this caving business was a nightmare. How many went in? How many came

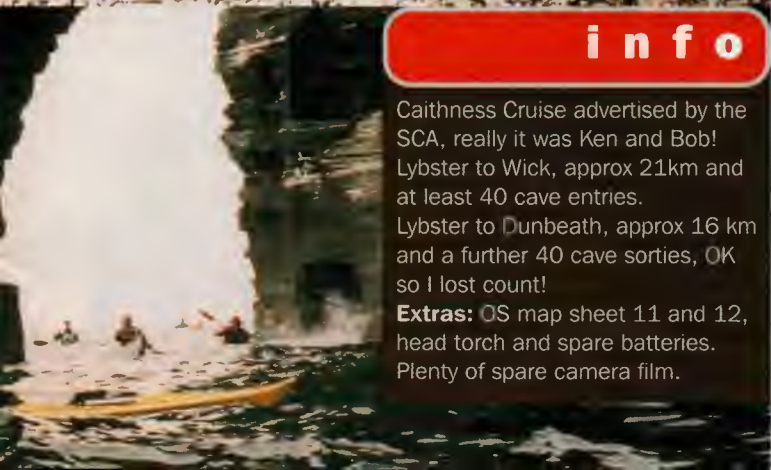


out? What about the other exit or rather exits and the link passages? Yes, the picture was indeed somewhat confusing. Bob and Ken seemed to have it all in hand... or so I thought!

I followed Neil into one cave expecting a rebuff from an imminent headwall but again it went onwards. I glanced around to see others following like sheep. Folk just don't want to miss out. This time the cave narrowed and our retreat was like reversing down a gun barrel. Twisting and contorting this way and that to avoid jutting out rocks and other kayaks was the required advanced manoeuvre. Thanks to some shared knowledge and a keen set of eyes, not mine, a link passage was detected that took us sideways. Even with a double kink in the passage the sheep followed ! Each of us nervously checking each others mental state with short bursts of helpful advice. The swell lifted us up and down this way and that and after what seemed like ages we finally emerged. Streaks of bright sunlight and blue sky greeted our exit. Pretty much alone again, our group went around the bluff where we were immediately dive bombed by a gaggle of nervous nesting seabirds.

The cliffs were ablaze with rows and rows of razorbills, cormorants and kittiwakes as I was reliably informed. I just loved the wee "Fat Boys," sorry





**info**

Caithness Cruise advertised by the SCA, really it was Ken and Bob! Lybster to Wick, approx 21km and at least 40 cave entries. Lybster to Dunbeath, approx 16 km and a further 40 cave sorties, OK so I lost count!  
**Extras:** OS map sheet 11 and 12, head torch and spare batteries. Plenty of spare camera film.

puffins, screaming in at sea level trying to take me out! The rapid flapping of wings as they dived off their perches and landed inches away from my kayak. Here, they either dived immediately or attempted a further amusing wing flapping take off. The sheer numbers of all these puffins, razorbills, kittiwakes and cormorants was intimidating yet exciting. They were all heckling me and threatening to unbalance my wee boat. I felt they were making their point quite forcefully as to who was in the way!

As we finally approached Wick the wind and waves picked up. I clung in to be under the cliffs and steered clear of the numerous reefs. A huge disconnected bit of the cliff known locally as the Brough was almost missed by the lead group. It's got a long tunnel that runs its whole length. It provided shelter from the elements. It was a shame my camera ran out of film. Guess I'll just have to return! Old Wick Castle, a 12th century tower was passed high up on the cliff.

To finish a super day, we rounded South Head and ended up surfing in through the Outer Harbour into Wick Bay. Sunday was much the same as Saturday with the added sea fret. Lunch at Latheronwheel harbour was extremely sociable and sunny. More local paddlers had joined us on the water and we'd all somehow matured into "proper cavers" overnight!

**Ian Bowler**

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**Being a symposium virgin, I really didn't know what I was in for when I pitched my tent at Beauvelande campsite in Jersey over half term. I had this idea that most sea kayakers are generally old men with big beards, so it would probably entail a lot of long paddles with little else going on. I was wrong... very wrong.**

A symposium, as far as I can tell, is where an odd, multi-national bunch of sea kayakers come together and participate in paddling related activities such as long sea journeys, lobster fishing, cliff jumping and drinking. It was truly international – there were French, Germans, Spanish, the Londoners, plenty of English, Dutch, Scottish, New Yorkers and Andy from Pennsylvania.

The Echrehous loomed out the low cloud after a two hour paddle on the first day. This is a big reef inbetween Jersey and France, with tiny houses built on some parts. It's a bizarre place, at high spring tides the houses appear to be floating on the water. Walking through the houses we were surprised to see an old woman drinking champagne by herself. She was staying out there for five weeks and had to conserve water, as there is no water supply other than rainfall, so drank champagne instead. Why not? It is a place full of tall stories, legend and true history that is just as interesting as either of the former. Bullet holes can be seen in the buildings where they had been strafed by the Luftwaffe. In the late 18th century the two rival political parties in Jersey would seize opposition supporters and take them on day trips to the Echrehous to stop them voting.

Even after the first day some bizarre characters began to emerge. The German contingent consisted of Freya (aka 'The Mad Bitch Queen From Hell'), Mrs Ultravan, 'Woman of Darkness') and her partner Bernard (aka 'Mr Ultravan'). They turned up in what was dubbed by the Londoners as the Ultravan. It was a massive camper van the size of a Guernsey bus. It had two bathrooms, a kitchen, living area and other widely speculated upon features. Freya herself put fear into the hearts of even the bravest men.



She was tall, dark, only ever wore black PVC and could lift her boat (which she had named 'Lady of the Heaven's Hell') onto the roof of her Ultravan single-handed. Making small talk with Freya was equally scary, 'Did you have a nice morning?' I innocently asked, 'Ja. We find nice beach and we go swimming.' Pause. 'Naked'. As in Guernsey, Jersey has a strong cliff jumping tradition and many of the best jumps are most easily reached by kayaks. Due to a boat shortage, I ended up paddling a

'double-spud' (double kayak which is as streamlined as a potato) with Phillippe, a mad French guy. Overcoming severe communication difficulties, we eventually managed to get going in a straight line and even surfed over some rocks. Ditching the boats were able to do some seriously nerve racking jumping (up to 25-30 ft!) and any hesitant jumpers (like myself) were eventually persuaded by a mixture of encouragement and abuse to go for it.

Other memorable characters included the Shadwell Community Centre crew from London. Antoine, Jan and Will inhabited the mega tent, which was so big you could park a car in it, big enough for enormous amounts of food and dangerous amounts of alcohol. Their main mission was to breathe life into the older folk by blasting them with hard-core techno beats every day. Unfortunately this had the result of wearing down their car battery playing music, so it had to be bump started the rest of the week.

Thursday evening saw about ten of us paddling into an awe-inspiring sunset to sleep under the stars and a full moon in Sark. For the novelty and adrenaline factor most decided to camp on the bike shed roof at the edge of the harbour wall. Not a campsite for sleepwalkers. The Londoners succeeded in making everyone jealous by cooking a mushroom risotto with fresh parmesan. The chilled out atmosphere was very apparent when John appeared from one of the tunnels drinking beer for breakfast. Quality.

When the time came to leave, Condor predictably being four hours late, I had plenty of time to reflect on what had been a surprising and entertaining week. In conclusion, not all sea kayakers have beards, although Kevin does, and far from being boring it was almost impossible to find a sane mind amongst them. With this in mind I have already begun thinking about next year, when the location switches to the craggy island of Skye in Scotland. ●

**Helena Robinson**



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**My uncle Len always claimed it was his original idea to get a boat, (even a canoe) to paddle from Devizes to London. In those early years after the war, Len ran a fish and chip shop in Devizes opposite “Waddy’s” brewery. In his spare time he would play billiards with his cronies including the local scout master in whom the idea took root and eventually blossomed into the Devizes to Westminster canoe race. At that time (1945) the canal was virtually derelict with some pounds dry and lock gates rotting on their hinges. But it was a wonderful adventure playground for us kids.**

Forty five years later two of ‘us kids’ were approaching retirement and looking for some “Last of the Summer Wine” adventure. It was Bill who acquired “Moonraker” (a double kayak). As owner he elected himself captain and sat in the rear seat where I could never know if he was paddling or not. The “Kennet & Avon” had now been fully restored and we thought it only right that our first trip should be to fulfil my uncle’s dream, setting off from Devizes wharf to canoe to London. I had never canoed before and this introduction nearly killed me. I remember reaching Teddington weir, my body aching so much that it took me half an hour before I could even stand! Continuing past Tower Bridge we eventually reached the Isle of Dogs, where we came ashore across deep banks of evil smelling mud. It was low tide and I don’t like to think what that mud consisted of. It had been a wonderful trip despite these drawbacks and we determined that the next year we would attempt Devizes to Avonmouth thus completing coast to coast. O.K., we were cheating by only canoeing downstream but at our age I think that was allowable. Maybe the idea of coast to coast could be introduced as an extension to the Devizes/Westminster? It would certainly sort the men from the boys!

Following these two trips we decided that we would attempt to canoe a different river each year until old age finally overtook us. Obviously “Old Father Thames” would be first. Starting at Cricklade (where it is little more than a brook) we found it too shallow for our combined weight of 29 stone and I had to get out and let Bill bump down the rapids on his own. At Sonning “Moonraker” was stolen! We had padlocked it to Sonning bridge while we went to arrange B&B at a nearby pub but someone had obviously cut the chain while we were away. It was eventually found beside the tent of some drunken teenage campers (minus one paddle) They, of course, denied all knowledge of how it got there but I enjoyed being a passenger to Henley to buy a new paddle.

In 1993 we decided to try the “biggy”. At 220 miles, the Severn is the longest river in Britain and we were to canoe from Llanidloes in mid Wales to Sharpness on the Bristol Channel (with its water the colour of chocolate). The first day we were rolled six times between Llanidloes and Newtown, losing all our gear, my wallet, glasses and another paddle! It

**I remember reaching Teddington weir, my body aching so much that it took me half an hour before I could even stand!**



Roger in ‘Moon Daisy’ landing the Great Ouse at Earith



Cricklade on the River Thames. Too shallow for our combined weight of 29 stones!

was April and desperately cold. At Newtown we decided to cheat and transfer temporarily to the Montgomery canal until the Severn became less spiteful.

We cheated again at Gloucester and canoed the Sharpness canal rather than face the tidal rigours of the Bristol Channel. The next year “Moonraker” gave up the ghost having been badly knocked about on the Severn and its back almost broken. It had developed a rather kinky twist in its hull. We were canoeing the Trent and had got to Rugely from Stoke.

I bought my own canoe. A beautiful plywood Granta double kayak which I christened Moon Daisy after my favourite wild flower. Bill decided he’d had enough and gave up canoeing in favour of a camping van. I continued the Trent solo down to the sea lock at Cromwell.

# on a bus pass



Below sea level between March and Outwell



River Trent at Alrewas



Roger and Bill at Sharpness Docks having canoed from Llanidloes in mid Wales



Roger almost crippled at Teddington having canoed from Devizes

rarely see another soul and the experience is sublime. Approaching Denver Sluice, however, the peace and tranquillity is often shattered by Tornado jets screaming overhead from nearby Coningsby. I then canoed the Nene (pronounced Nen by the locals) and also the Middle levels to Nordelph where you are actually below sea level for a while. It was at Peterborough that I made an exhibition of myself by losing my paddle overboard. I was taking a photo of Peterborough cathedral and accidentally knocked my camera causing the batteries to fall out into the bottom of the boat. While I was scrabbling for these the paddle fell over just out of reach! These things always seem to happen where there is a large audience of passers by to laugh at your misfortune.

The following year most of my time was taken up sailing when I crewed in the "Tall ships race" from Nova Scotia to Amsterdam. However, I did manage to borrow a kayak whilst in Canada to canoe part of the mighty Shubenacadie, one of Nova Scotia's principle rivers. The 'Shuby' flows into the Bay of Fundy with its formidable 50ft tidal range, the highest in the world. The locals claim that it is the only river in the world where you can go white water rafting... upstream!

Returning to the fens, I next canoed the Witham from Lincoln to Boston. It rained solidly the whole time and was certainly the most miserable canoe trip I've ever done. The pubs are all closed at midday and, after Bardney it is embanked in a straight line to Boston. It was a relief to see the ghostly shape of the Boston stump slowly appear out of the gloom while the rain poured down.

The most recent rivers have been the Welland and the Stratford Avon, both very beautiful in their different ways. You may notice that I am attempting progressively shorter rivers as I get older. I'm now down to no more than 12 miles a day but still enjoying it. Uncle Len would have approved. Are there any other geriatric paddlers out there (with or without bus passes) or have I got the field to myself? ●

**Roger Swift and Bill Dowse**

In 1996 I finally retired from my job as an air traffic controller at London but found I seemed to have even less spare time for my canoeing and sailing activities than I had while working. It was a relief to get away from all those wretched aeroplanes, and Hey, I was eligible for a bus pass (though I've never claimed it)! I was reserve crew for the "Round the World yacht rally" and was called on to sail the Indian Ocean leg from Malaysia so had little time for canoeing that year although I did manage a short trip on the Yorkshire Ouse from Linton to the tidal lock into the Humber at Naburn.

It was 1997 when I developed a fascination with the fens. I was canoeing the Great Ouse which is a lovely river particularly after Huntingdon with those huge East Anglian skies stretching from horizon to horizon and reflected in the still water around you. In the fen country you

Huge East Anglian skies stretching from horizon to horizon and reflected in the still water around you

# Canoe champions d

For more information on open canoeing refer to the BCU website on [www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/opencanoeing.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/opencanoeing.html)

**Holding onto their canoe champion status gained last year, the Audi Team paddled their way to victory up the 10.5 mile-long Lake Windermere in an impressive 1hr 40mins and 50secs. They knew then that they'd be back for more in next year's Wooden Spoon Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge.**

The team, comprising of Nick Mitchell, Neil Blackman and Nigel Stevenson, were first of 29 teams to the finish line in the canoe section of one of Britain's toughest tests of endurance.

The 29 teams of three – each supported by a driver in a vehicle supplied by Ford – included people with very diverse occupations including doctors, company directors, a psychiatrist, a scientist, an architect, a farmer, plumbers, builders and a fireman, among others, but all with one common goal – to raise vital funds for Wooden Spoon to help disadvantaged and disabled children and young people up and down the country.

The still and perfect waters were broken as the flag went down and 72 eager competitors dug in with their paddles and set off for the 10.5 mile journey down Lake Windermere to their waiting bicycles. After completing this section of the challenge, they faced a 27 mile cycle over Wrynose and Hard Knott Pass – including gradients of 1:3 to contend with – before battling the 3,208 feet high Scafell Pike on foot.

The Audi team completing this section in the fastest time of all the competitors came as no surprise. Nigel is a very capable canoeist who has been highly ranked in various championships. Neil is a former World Championship Bronze medalist for whom canoeing is a passion, which he shares with his wife Wendy. His canoeing experiences date back to his school days, where he was first given the opportunity to take part in the sport at secondary school. Neil said: "I loved canoeing from the moment I got into a canoe, and knew instantly it was my ambition to pursue as a sport."

After joining the RAF, Neil was introduced to British team canoeists such as John Anderson, Geoff Foster and Roger Mannering and was lucky enough to be taken under their wing. He was selected for the British team in 1989, which he remained until 1996.

Neil's passion for wild water racing still remains strong and he still trains hard and often at Soar Valley Canoe Club in



The winning canoe team:  
Neil Blackman, Nick Mitchell and  
Nigel Stevenson

Leicester. These days he has become more involved in marathon canoeing which lends itself well to Lakeland Challenge training. Wendy, a past editor of *Canoe Focus*, works for the British Canoe Union's World Class Performance Department, working closely with the Olympic team, so canoeing is a big part of both their lives.

Neil said: "Last year's challenge was tough – physically and mentally. The constant driving rain made for a difficult time in all sections of the challenge – visibility was poor and it was particularly difficult to navigate on the mountain section.

"This year was fantastic. We couldn't have hoped for better weather. The water was still and glassy. Canoeing is at its best when the conditions are like that – it's really enjoyable."

It was tough on the cycling section when the fork broke on Nigel's bike and he had to be driven to the next section. Nick and Neil were overtaken by four teams, but managed to make the time up on the mountain where they were rejoined by Nigel. They came in second place but were disappointed that the time couldn't be officially logged because Nigel hadn't completed the cycle section.

Neil said: "I'll definitely be back next year. I would recommend it to everybody. It's a great challenge – well-organised and a joy to be part of."

The Audi team had the benefit of having taken part in the challenge before, and knew what lay before them. They also recalled the torrential rain that showed no mercy to them last year, so were glad that the sun and fairly cloudless skies indicated that this year's Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge was going to be a dry one.

Challenge veterans Chris and Tony Sweeney and friend James Symonds – all of Wigan-based Pro-Mil Engineering team – were the fastest to complete the challenge again. They beat their time of last year – 7 hrs, 9 mins and 10 secs – completing the challenge in 6 hrs, 24 mins and 53 secs. This amazing result was despite problems along the way



# o it again

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The hard work put in by the teams

this year raised funds exceeding those of previous years, with the final sum raised at the eighth Wooden Spoon Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge being £166,104.

The cycling section of the challenge seems to hit the hardest. Setting off from Low Wray bound for Wasdale Head, few manage to complete this section without getting off to push their bikes up the steepest passes. Setting off from Wasdale Head the teams climb, walk or stagger up Scafell Pike – and finish with an eight mile dash to the finish line through the Langdale Valley. And one the other side of the finish line a Body Factor massage team are waiting to sooth aching limbs.

And from the first team to across the finish line to the last team that stagger across exhausted some five hours later – the awaiting crowd are raucous in their applause for these amazing people. Everyone's a winner in the challenge – but there is always one real winner – Wooden Spoon. ●

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# Great Britain wins bronze medal at slalom junior worlds

For more information on slalom refer to the BCU website on [www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html)

**The GB Junior slalom team travelled to Lofer in search of World Championship success. The event was crammed into two days of hot competition from 3-4th July.**

**The GB team consisted of:**

**K1M** – Andrew Marshall, Edward Kay and Nathan Stevenson;

**K1W** – Lizzie Neave, Julie Bright and Heather Caesar;

**C1** – Mark Harrison, Toby Scott and Dan Buggy.

There were 35 nations represented with 169 athletes, some from developing countries such as South Africa, the Lebanon, Uzbekistan etc.

There were 79 mens' kayaks entered with 40 to qualify, with things much tighter in the Womens and C1 classes with only 30 to qualify from 45 entries .

The Great Britain girls were the only ones to bring a medal home. They grabbed the bronze as the hot French team bid 'adieu' to their chances after a 50 second penalty in the first team run. Well done Julie, Heather and Lizzie!

**There were some other performances of note in the individual classes.**

Award for run of the day must go to Ed Kay from Aberdeen, competing in the men's kayak class. After a nervous qualification (36th), Ed was a transformed paddler on final's day on Sunday. On quite a technical course with low water levels, Ed

found the confidence and skill to nail the S move at the top with style, control the slide into gate 15 and was looking great on the water until gate 21 – an upstream where he was given a very tight judging call of two second penalty as he then cruised to the finish. It looked like a very marginal decision but that's sport! Ed's great run gave him a final position of 17th. It would have been 13th if things had gone our way.

Congratulations also go to Lizzie Neave - the only athlete to make final (top 10). She paddled well in the semi-final to hold 9th place ahead of German Dorothee Utz. In her final run her slide and glide to gate 15 on river right didn't quite operate to plan and, unsure of whether the judges would call a 50 on her (as they did on the same gate with Andy Marshall in qualification) she had a paddle back. Lizzie finished in 10th place

Dan Buggy had two good runs in qualification to finish in 17th place. Andy Marshall's championship aspirations were blown away when he was given a 50 second penalty on gate 15. Again it was a tight decision for the judges but it was clear they were not going to give the benefit of the doubt to the paddler. A protest didn't change their minds. But Andy's run time was right on medal pace and he will be motivated now for the European Championships in Krakow in September

As for the overall competition results, as Don Raspin said "it really is a case of Uber Alles" in relation to Germany. They continued to dominate the event. Alexander Grimm and Julia Schornburg upgraded their bronze medals from the 2003 Europeans to world gold and Martin Unger stepped out of Timo Wirsching's C1 shadow to win the gold medal. There was no World Championship title awarded to the C2 as only two continents had entered... (maybe the Germans will 'encourage' the Australians or Kiwis to come along in two years time!) but again the Germans filled slots one and two.

It was good to see some GB support there. Thanks to Ed Kays mum, Sally Neave, John Sturgess and the Bright family and the Raspins for coming to the event. ●



GB slalom team



Ed Kay



Ladies K1 slalom team

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The first regional special need tour took place on the 13th June on the River Severn, Arley – Bewdley a four mile stretch of tranquil placid water.

Approx 40 special needs paddlers took part from as far away as Cheshire and Oxford mostly paddling open canoes although we did have a couple of fully laden Bellboats as well.

The weather was extremely hot which made the day more enjoyable and all seemed to enjoy the event.

The support and help from the various coaches and clubs from the region who gave up their time and efforts free of charge was extremely welcome, so a special thankyou to all concerned from the BCU WM regional committee.

Will we do it again next year, it looks like we might and hopefully we will have even more people with special needs on the water.

Thanks to you all for making the event a worthwhile experience.

**Dave Bateman, WM RTO**



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## The Squad Athletes:

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**Men's K1  
500m:**  
Ian Wynne

**Men's K2  
1,000m:**  
Ian Wynne/Paul  
Darby-Dowman

# Sprint racing Olympic athletes

**On Saturday 22nd May, at the Senior European Championships in Poznan, Poland, Ian Wynne and Paul Darby-Dowman raced in an exciting K2 1000m final to secure their place in the Olympic Games in Athens. In a race that was lead by the Spanish, the British boys, tagged onto the Norwegian boat of Larsen and Fjeldheim, to grind out a great result that brought them the bronze medal and that precious Olympic place.**

It was all smiles from Paul Darby-Dowman and a hatted Ian Wynne as the boys got out of the boat as they realised they had just taken some great scalps. This will now be Paul's third Olympic Games (making his debut at the tender age of 18 in Atlanta) and Ian's second.

Meanwhile, Tim Brabants showed his continued good form by winning a silver medal in the K1 1000m race, which was won by Norwegian Eric Larsen. Tim, who has been dominant in the UK K1 1,000m for the last four years, looks in top form and is looking forward to his competition in Athens.

Final day of the second round Olympic qualification and European Championships and Ian Wynne followed up his great bronze medal and Olympic qualification in the K2

1000m with a stunning race in the K1 500. This brought him the guarantee of another Olympic appearance, and a silver European Championship medal.

This was a great effort, in a race where Ian had not the best of starts but gradually worked his way back into contention and saw him crossing the line on the boat-tail of the Hungarian legend, Atos Verecki. Ian is truly a genuine medal contender, come 28th August at 8:30am in Schinias, Greece. ●



**Ben Brown**  
Junior Men K1  
GOLD

**Tara Nutt**  
Junior Women K1  
GOLD

**Tom Daniels**  
Junior Men K1  
BRONZE

**Hayleigh Mason**  
Junior Women K1  
BRONZE

**Ben Brown/Tom Daniels**  
Junior Men K2  
GOLD

**Andy Daniels/  
Michael Owen**  
Junior Men K2  
SILVER

**David Enoch**  
1 July 2004

## Juniors triumph in Marathon World Cup I

**Six medals at largest World Cup for years**  
The Dordogne region of France is the venue for the 2006 Marathon World Championships and so this year the first World Cup was held there to test the course.

The GB juniors are the current World Team Champions and they confirmed their premier status with a host of outstanding performances. Ben Brown, the reigning Junior World Champion, again beat all the field to take the gold medal from Solberg of Norway with Tom Daniels just a minute back winning the sprint for third place.

The junior women were not to be outdone. Three boats, Tara Nutt, Hayleigh Mason and the German Heike Guber, soon established themselves as a lead group but there was never much doubt that Tara was going to win her first major marathon title. A below par Hayleigh finished just 27 seconds down in third place and Louisa Sawers finished 9th.

The second day was for K2 racing. Brown and Daniels teamed up and were clearly strong contenders. The other GB boat was Tom's younger brother Andy racing with Michael Owen in their first full marathon international. After the first lap the lead group was six strong including both British boats. Ben and Tom got away with the Norwegians on the last lap but with 3km

to go the Norwegians capsized leaving the GB crew as clear winners. Andy and Michael completed a GB 1-2 by outsprinting the French crew to take the silver medal.

Our junior women crew of Harriet Farish and Celia Gillbe were just unable to hang onto the lead group when the break was made in their race and finished 4th.

With performances like this we can look forward to the World Championships in Bergen at the end of July.

## Rough water in Portugal

The second Marathon World Cup was held at Crestuma in Portugal during June. Crestuma is on the tidal part of the River Duoro at Oporto, near the coast. The racing this year was as hard as ever although conditions were not as rough as in some years. GB entered four senior K1s and three senior K2s.

K1 racing was on the Saturday when conditions were at their worst. The rough water skills of De Nijs (NED) enabled him to outsprint Konsgaard of Denmark, who had taken the silver medal in France, to win the race. Steve Baker was the only GB Mens K1 to finish in a slightly disappointing 12th place.

Nicky Taylor in her first senior K1 international coped serenely with the conditions in the women's race which saw the Norwegian World medallist, Fjeldheim, capsize and take a long swim. She paddled much of the race on her own, finishing 5th.

Best result of the weekend was from the Enoch brothers

Matt and Paul in the men's K2 race.

They made the lead group off the start but when this split after 4km they ended in the second group with the Swedes, Portuguese and Dutch. They paddled most of the race in this group and in closest finish of the weekend came in on the wash of the Swedes and just held off the Portuguese to take 8th place, just three and a half minutes down on the Hungarian winners. ●







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## The Squad Athletes:



**Men's K1:**  
Campbell Walsh



**Ladies' K1:**  
Helen Reeves



**Men's C1:**  
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**Physio:**  
Margie Olds

**From the 13th to 29th August the Olympic Games are back! Does it really happen every four years? Seems to come around mighty fast but Sydney is long gone. The Olympics have gone back to their roots, to Athens, the venue of the first modern Olympics in 1896.**

Of course, canoe slalom didn't happen back then but this is the fourth games in a row for the sport. With Beijing 2008 and the 2012 bid (hopefully London), canoe slalom racing is now a permanent fixture of the Olympic Games programme.

### Team GB

To reach national team level and compete for Great Britain is, in itself, a fantastic achievement, but those that are selected for 'Team GB' form an elite group. At Athens there will be just under 300 competitors representing Great Britain, and five of those are regulars down at Holme Pierrepont.

### Olympic Team Selection.

Olympic places were allocated on the results of the 2003 World Champs at Augsburg and the April 2004 World Cup in Athens. Great Britain qualified one boat per category, but we had our own points system to "put the faces on the places".

Silver medal winner from Sydney, Paul Ratcliffe, will not be in Athens. He lost his place to the young Scot, Campbell Walsh, who exploded into form this year, taking silver at Athens and Seu, the first two World Cup races of 2004. In the ladies' class, Helen Reeves left herself a tough task and needed to medal at the Seu World Cup. The stress worked wonders for she blitzed the field to win. Her gold medal also being her ticket to Athens! There were tears....!

### What about a medal?

Team GB will be without Steve Redgrave and Jonathon Edwards, so what chance does the nation have of any medals? Gareth Marriott and Paul Ratcliffe have both collected a Silver. Gareth in C1 at Barcelona '92 and Paul in MK1 at Sydney. But can canoe slalom put itself in the national eye by getting a Gold?

### Ladies and gentlemen, place your bets...

We are fielding a truly world class team, with Campbell picking up two World Cup silver medals already this year. His electric technique and current World Cup ranking of number one is not too shabby! Helen, Junior World Champion in 1996 showed her true potential by winning the second World cup race this year. Nick and Stu missed Bronze in Sydney by only half a second and finished 4th at the Athens world cup in April. Stu McIntosh, winner of numerous World Cup medals in recent years, is primed and ready for the big one.

### The Athens Whitewater Stadium

Firstly, get Holme Pierrepont totally out of your mind and think nice big, bouncy Alpine river! The facility is a purpose built fully pumped complex, running five pumps to allow 20 cumecs to create some fantastic rapids. It's a concrete and rock main channel that is enhanced by moveable plastic obstacles. This system allows for easy 'tweaking', and over the recent months the quality of the whitewater features is now truly superb. The rapids are fast, powerful and continuous with three good drops and numerous stoppers and big waves. The Greeks wanted some of the Olympic venues to be showpieces. We were lucky enough that canoe slalom was one, for this venue is the best of its kind in the world. Your eyes are not deceiving you; there is an aqueduct after the start, which the course then bends around to finish under.

# 2004 Athens O Canoe slalom racing



## So what make

### Stuart McIntosh on ales and Australia:

"Having met my fiancée, Melissa, whilst preparing for the Olympics in Sydney, I have since spent much time down under. Although the Australian culture includes standing around the BBQ drinking beer, I couldn't give a XXXX for any of it, so am looking forward to after the Games when I'll mostly be drinking Shepherd Neame Brewery 300 year old celebration ale, to make up for lost time. We have a beautiful 16 month old son, Byron, who helps me wake up for training 6am sharp every day. The Olympics will not be the only highlight of my year, for Melissa and I will be getting married in Australia in November".



# Olympic Games

## – know your team!



### Helen Reeves on shopping:

"It's a dream come true to be going to the Olympics! Loads of new clothes and goodies is very exciting. I have a terrible soft spot for shopping, especially for shoes and my latest is a pair of yellow sandals with bows on. With all this new Olympic sportswear I will have a good excuse to go out and buy numerous trendy clothes to balance out my wardrobe! I suspended my photography studies to focus on my training, but have become increasingly interested in interior design, since renovating my house last autumn".



For more information on slalom refer to the BCU website on [www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html)

## Do they tick?

### Campbell Walsh on Einstein and Scotland:

"One of my idols happens to be Albert Einstein. Having studied his work as part of my degree, the man has caused me many a sleepless night! How can a pair of twins set off separately in spaceships, at different speeds, arrive home together, and one then appears 20 years older than the other? I'm a Scot born and bred and I look forward to returning to Grandtully on the River Tay each year for the Scottish Champs to meet up with all the old faces. I love canoeing – surfing waves and whipping round upstream gates with just my head in the gate is brilliant! I'm very proud to be part of Team GB and I'm looking forward to what I think will be a great three weeks".



### Stuart Bowman on bikes and babies:

"I suppose I should start with babies because my wife, Ann-Marie, is expecting our first at the end of July. It's going to be a bit hectic because it's only a couple of weeks before the Olympics. I can catch up on nappy changing and sleepless nights when I get back! As for motorbikes, I must call myself a Honda man, last bikes being a VFR 750, Fireblade and now CBR 600. Can't wait until September so I can do some track days. I'm really looking forward to the whole Olympic experience. It will be nice to have a bit of a break afterwards and enjoy a bit of time at home and a relaxing holiday to Cornwall with my new family".

### Nick Smith on music and allotments:

"Don't think allotments are just for old men. A while spent digging is good for the soul! I'm looking forward to harvesting my tomatoes, courgettes, spuds and leeks. There's a pumpkin growing competition going on with the two Stu's but I reckon I should have them OK. I like to space-rock with Julian Cope, get lost with Beck and Syd Barrett, chill with Air and Nick Drake, and grunge around with The Pixies and Butthole Surfers. Music is the best and helps you out with so many different emotions".





For more information on canoe polo refer to the BCU website on [www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/canoepolo.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/canoepolo.html)

### You can still donate

Although the competition has now been and gone, you can still make a donation to Cancer Challenge. All proceeds of the event will be divided 60% to Cancer Research UK, 20% to Cancer Bacup and 20% to the North Staffordshire Chemotherapy Unit where Ruth is having her treatment. You can see how much the event raised on [www.cancerchallenge.org.uk](http://www.cancerchallenge.org.uk) and either donate online or send a cheque payable to 'Cancer Challenge' to Ruth Holdway, Sunnyside Cottage, Stone Rd, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST4 8NF. Thank you to all who have supported the event.

# Cancer Challenge 24-hour

**Anyone who has ever dismissed university canoe clubs should have been at the Cancer Challenge 24-hour canoe polo event. Not only did members from York University Canoe Club help organise what many have said was one of the best-organised canoeing festivals; university paddlers, along with hundreds of other canoeists from all over the country helped to raise £15,000 for cancer charities.**

Canoeists not only raised so much money, together we set a record for Britain, possibly the world, for the longest continuous canoe polo match involving the greatest number of players. 220 paddlers took to the pitch at Hatfield Water Park on 28th-29th May as part of the 24-hour Cancer Challenge Canoe Polo event.

The 24 hours of canoe polo ran like clockwork. In order to keep the game going continuously, two teams of five players were constantly substituted every half hour. Players had signed up on our website and were given playing times. At the allocated time they were given all the kit and a bib, specially printed by Desperate Measures, and moved onto the pitch as a player came off. Rob Ferrer (a York computer science graduate) of Ferrer Consulting had computerised the whole event and could record exactly how long each player was on the pitch, how many hours each referee put in and how many goals each person scored. This was also linked to the computer on reception which registered exactly who was there and how much sponsorship they had raised. So much organisation had gone into the weekend that it could have almost run itself without the main organisers being there.

There was a lovely atmosphere at the event; there was no serious competition but enough team rivalry to keep the event alive. This was not just for the dedicated canoe polo players as the top GB teams were unfortunately out of the country at

Essen, Germany. Most people who took part either played on a casual basis or had no canoe polo experience. A crash course in the game proved to be very popular and a useful introduction to the basic rules. Three canoeists who appreciated the tuition were Kevin, Scott and Nic from Potteries Paddlers, all new to canoe polo, who thought they would "start at the top with a world record." As Kevin said: "It was a great day and all for an excellent cause. While everybody was great I must give a special thanks to Simon Cubbon and Dan 'Bungie' Oldfield who instructed us in the art of canoe polo before we 'commenced battle'. It was an excellently organised event."

Much of the event organisation was the hard work of Dave Hepworth of Leeds. Despite all the hard work and lack of sleep he believes that the event was worthwhile and a 100 per cent success. "Cancer Challenge has proven that canoe sport can play a valuable role, it does not have to be for the minority with politics getting in the way, it should be for everyone and anyone, knowing no boundaries - a truly international and inspirational sport." Feedback from the event has been very positive and we have agreed to hold a similar event in two year's time. Dave added: "Next time let's take this forward and make Cancer Challenge a sport-changing contribution and not just another event. How? By not going the route of other paddle festivals. Stuff the



# canoe polo

commercialism and hard core competition, big love and fun is where it's at."

As planning for the event had gathered momentum, it soon became something of a paddling festival. It was wonderful to look along the waterfront and see so many boats of practically every discipline. On the first pitch there was the crash course in canoe polo, next pitch along was the match game and referees. Then there was a prototype play wave (not exactly the four cumecs promised) but somewhere to try out the fleet of latest demo boats from Desperate Measures. If you were new to the sport, there were come-and-try-it sessions. Or if you fancied a very different shaped boat and a bit of speed there was a wavehopper challenge or a sprint race organised by Viv Kendrick. Finally there were several BCU star tests and canoe safety tests being run over the weekend by Esther Mathews. There was even a slalom course put up on the Sunday but I don't think anyone had the energy left to try it out.

On the bank there was a village fete atmosphere. Desperate Measures had a chill out Kamo Korner with relaxing tunes playing practically throughout the night, an endless supply of tea, paddling videos on a plasma screen and trade stall. The homemade cake stall was very popular, as were the free Mr Kipling cakes given out during the night. If you had any money left there was a tombolla, a splat-the-rat competition and a bouncy castle.

One father of three competitors, Graeme Brautigam said: "I can honestly say that this event was the best run I have been to. It was smooth, efficient and flawless; the organisers are a credit to York University and the sport. The teamwork, team spirit and professionalism was evident throughout the weekend, and even when they were all tired near the end, the buzz was still there."

When it came to counting down to the final whistle, I became quite emotional. After all this hard work, it was nearly over. There was much cheering for the red team, only forty goals or so to make up! The final score was 229 to the Desperate Measures red team and 272 to the Circa Antics yellow team. I doubt whether any other canoe polo match has had such a high score. Curly Barker, chairman of the BCU canoe polo committee was there to verify the time and conclude the momentous match. Curly has confirmed that we have set a BCU record and we are now hoping to get it verified by Guinness as a World Record. We may have our work cut out in two year's time as we have already been challenged by Singapore.

Prize giving was a marathon in itself with over 100 prizes to draw. The emphasis of the main prizes was to reward those who had raised the most sponsorship. Most competitors raised much more than the minimum of £10 for adults and £5 for under-18s. The prize for the adult who raised the most sponsorship went to Chris Barlow of York for raising £500. The junior prize went to Mark Proctor of Stafford & Stone CC for raising £91. The team prize, a set of Peak polo buoyancy aids, went to London University for raising a collective £669.

Cancer Challenge was the inspiration of my boyfriend after I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, a type of lymphatic cancer, just before Christmas. Since I was banned from canoeing for the year I did not want to be lying in bed, feeling sorry for myself so we set about raising as much money as possible for cancer charities as a way of saying thank you. Money raised from the event will be split between three cancer charities – 60 per cent to Cancer Research UK, 20 per cent to Cancer Bacup and 20 per cent to University Hospital North Staffordshire Chemotherapy Unit where I am having my treatment.

Prizes also went to Kayleigh Robertson for refereeing the longest, 4hours 38 minutes. Sarah Wilshaw played the longest with 175 minutes whilst the male prize went to Leigh Getting for playing 162 minutes. The best goal scorers of the event were Dave Hirst (male senior) with 20, Cas Slater (female senior) with 10, sister Heather Slater (female junior) with 7 and Nick Harris (male junior) with 2. Not everybody came away with a prize, but I think everyone came away with happy, positive memories.

Not only did we want to raise a lot of money, we wanted to make sure that everyone who came really enjoyed themselves. For those with any energy left there was a well-earned party for competitors and organisers, DJ'd by Paul 'Cheesy' Robertson and Ollie Castle. Thank you to Purple Penguin for the lighting and PeakUK for the PA.

By 2006 I shall be back in a boat and able to take part, but for many people, young and old, cancer will be a worrying part of life. I think I have proved that life can go on when you have cancer. Hopefully this event, and any future events, will contribute to making cancer a less scary disease. Thank you to all who took part – I hope you are as proud as I am for raising so much money.

The challenge attracted over 60 corporate sponsors and support included free use of the event site and services provided such as catering, lighting, printing and website design as well as numerous raffle prizes. ●

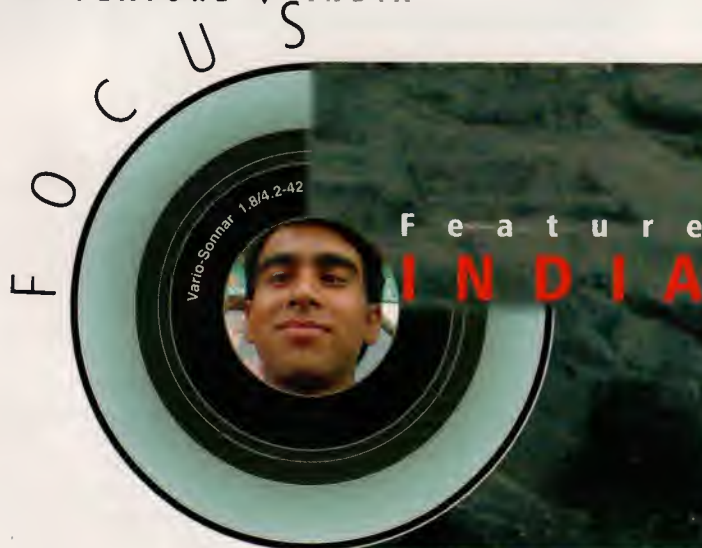


## A big, big thanks

This event would not have happened without the support of hundreds of canoeists, York University Canoe Club, Ferrer Consulting, Hatfield Water Park and the many sponsors from the canoe trade. I would especially like to thank Desperate Measures for all their support on the day and for providing the bibs, balls and bumpers, Nomad for printing the T-shirts, Peak for providing the team sponsorship prize, Pyro for making the silver referee's prize and to all the following for providing raffle prizes: Double Dutch, Palm, Brookbank, Madyaker, Kayak Session, JJ Rafting, The Activity Pub Company, Wipeout, Splashout, AS Watersports, Perception, Un-sponsored, Robinhood Watersports, Clyde's Polo Kit Supplies, Canoeist, Looner, Gene17, Dave Brown Designs, and Reed as well as the numerous other corporate sponsors.

[www.cancerchallenge.org.uk](http://www.cancerchallenge.org.uk) has more information on the event, more photographs and details of how you can still donate.

For more information contact Ruth Holdway: 07815 768360 or [ruth@cancerchallenge.org.uk](mailto:ruth@cancerchallenge.org.uk)



# A remote experience

**Our mission had been on hold for a number of years because of the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the normal unstable situation in Kashmir. Then, word came from a friend in Jammu that things were relatively calm, so the job was on! Once the whole team was gathered in Manali, Himachal Pradesh, we hired a jeep along with Prakesh to drive it, loaded the five boats and headed north over the Rotang Pass towards the Chenab Valley. Our aim: to descend the 290 kms of the Chenab River and its tributary, the Bharga, down to Kistware. (Kistware was the starting point of a raft expedition lead by Ken Warren in 1988.)**

The Rotang La (Pass) is the first of four passes on the road north to Leh in Ladhak. This trade route through the Great Himalayan Ranges crosses four 4-5000 meter passes between numerous 6000+ metre peaks and takes you into the Himalayan Rain Shadow. As you travel north, the landscape changes from the lush alpine forests surrounding Manali to the arid moonscape of Ladhak. The Chenab river source is the glaciers surrounding the second pass, the Baralarcha La. The two rivers that form the Chenab start their journeys as the Bharga and Chandra.

On the descent from the Rotang La our first views of the Chandra confirmed that we had hit the low water window we wanted: it was running low and clear, around 30-40 cumecs. Eight years ago we had seen this at summer flows, probably around a very scary 300 cumecs. Following the Chandra downstream we reached Tandi and the confluence with the Bhaga. By the time we reached Keylong we could see the Bhaga. Everyone was on edge and my tales of thumping cataracts I had seen last time had not helped, but the Bhaga was also running very low, which was great news. But we had escaped the bustle of Delhi, done the bus journey to Manali: it was like heaven to be amongst desolate peaks with only river sounds in the air. We found a hotel and planned our approach to the river for the following day: we would head up to Darcha in the morning, where the melted glacial streams become the Bharga, scouting on the way up and maybe even start our descent. This was to be the style for the rest of our journey, researching the next destination, work out how to get there, get to that point and then work out the next bit from there. In India, especially in more remote areas this is the way to explore as you can find the information available rather vague. Often several different versions of the same story leads you to take an average, which may or may not work out.

We started our journey at Gemur where the braids combined. Here the river had amassed 20-30 Cumecs and was winding through tight bedrock and boulder rapids; sweet and not too challenging. Eventually things got steeper and more intense and, as the gorge deepened, the road strayed off up the mountainside but it was still read and run fun. The most dangerous point was when we passed rock blasting; they managed to shower some rocks down just as we passed below - fortunately no one was hit.

Just above Keylong we came to a bedrock gorge we had spotted on the



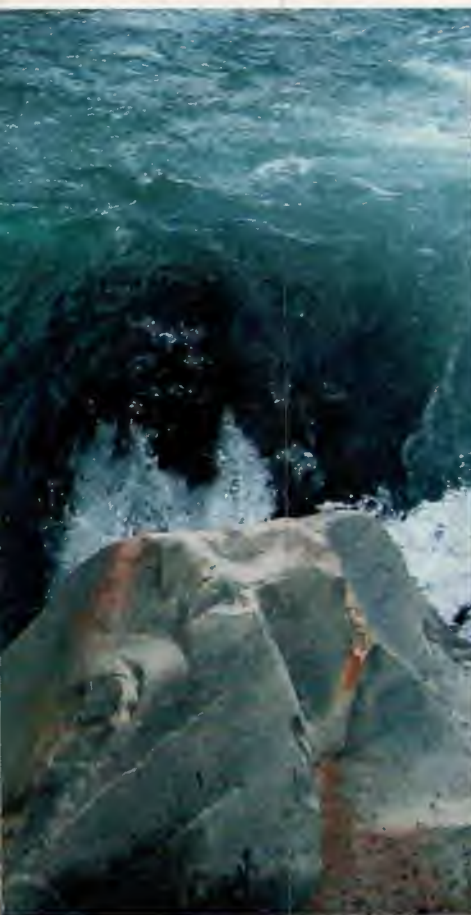
Above: Andy Phillips  
Upper right: Dull Hasti Dam project  
Below right: Benjarmin Hjort

drive up, a few runnable drops and an easy portage around a 15m deep narrow bedrock slot of doom. Passing Keylong more narrow bedrock gorges, dark and slimy, eventually delivered us to Tandi just before sunset. We met Prakesh at the bridge, stashed the boats in a teahouse and headed back to the luxury of the guest house in Keylong.

#### **Oct 22nd. Tandi to Udaipour**

On the morning of the second day of paddling we woke to a blue bird sky with sun creeping over the mountains warming the valley. After breakfast and a few interviews with officialdom we headed down to Tandi and the first section of the combined Bhaga and Chandra rivers, the Chenab proper. With more than double the flow and damn cold, those of us who brought gloves or pogies were pretty happy with the decision. A few harder rapids kept us on our toes and eventually lead us to a new bridge and a tea house. It would be rude not to stop, so we stopped for a quick cuppa despite the 20 km still to paddle to get to the planned destination for that day.

As we descended the Chenab, we were heading towards the Kashmir border and the section of valley that we had less than our normal lack of information about. The river wound through the arid landscape presenting us with wide and open, boulder-garden rapids, but then squeezing together through a remarkable bedrock slots, the inner sanctum of a river bed. We



had chosen this window between summer and winter aiming to find the lowest water levels and an environment we could still survive in. In the summer the river would be running at more than 3-400 cumecs; it was now under 100 and this revealed the absolute bottom of the valley. At times the bedrock sculptures would pinch the mighty Chenab to just a few meters wide. In winter the river would be frozen

The further downstream we progressed the smaller the villages became, the further the road strayed away from the river and the more our Prakesh was depending on our walkie-talkie radios. We would collect as much information as we could from the villages, and so sometimes we could set a rendezvous for Prakesh, other times we proceeded on faith and hoped he would work out where we were. We had downloaded sections of topo map from the Internet, but there was a misalignment. At Udaipour we discovered we had a large section of map missing. This presented us with unknown territory, not that that really made much difference as the contours on the maps we had were 500ft. intervals, so the actual shape and gradient of the river bed was impossible to work out.

By the time we neared Killar the river had really gone up a gear, long sections of gorge were strewn with huge boulders and filled with debris from rock falls. This was now a 'real' expedition. On a few occasions we thought we might get caught out in the dark, but after a few hard pushes the

rendezvous bridges always came into sight and Prakesh would find us and whisk us off to some crazy village for shelter and food.

#### **Day 6. Oct 25th. Rest day**

Exhausted we decided to drive down the valley to the Jamu Kashmir Boarder. Jumping in the jeep we were in Prakesh's world, a sketchy road etched into eroding mountainsides with a terminal drops to the river below. Perched on a ledge 1000ft up from the river scouting is always fun as you know if it looks hard from up there it is bound to be worse down below. At the border we found a couple of guards looking pretty bored; this was not the premium location they had hoped to be assigned to. Over a cup of tea we explained our aim and they assured us we could just pop up from the river when we passed to check through the border.

From this point down we opted for over-nighting on the river as the road was now further from the river and there were fewer villages for accommodation. This meant loaded boats, carrying sleeping bags, thermo-rests, food, pots and pans. Fortunately we had dropped into an alpine area and so there was plenty of wood to cook and warm by. The river nights were calm, peaceful and magical, far away from the bustle of India. Nights of playing cards, reliving stories of exciting lines of the day and good solid sleep: However you never

turn down an opportunity to meet the locals and we ended up alternating: one night on river, the next in a village.

By the time we reached Padyanha we had spent two nights on the river, passed the town of Galabghar and our GPS said we were only around 50kms or so from Kistware. Everyone was getting tired but the constant game of gorge paddling was keeping everyone on their toes. Things were going well; then one rapid got the better of us. We all headed into the guts of a rapid, working out the line on the way down but there was a huge hungry hole at the bottom waiting for lunch. Benji disappeared over the brink just making it through, Andy and I headed far right and made it but looked round to see Trent get a perfect line into the pit of doom. He was taking a right-royal beating but doing well then Mike came flying over the lip and bounced off the top of him and escaped. He pulled the plug and we fished out the pieces below.

#### **Day 11. Oct 30th.**

##### **Padyanha to dam project and gorge of doom**

After a cultural night in Padyanha we conjured up a cunning plan. We would tackle the next 5kms with empty boats; we had scouted this section from our hike out and noted there were five large rapids then it flattened out. Local information said that things should stay calm as far as the access

road just above the Dull Hasti Dam project. At the Dam we would pick up our overnight gear then drop into the last gorge, we might make it through to Kistware in one day or we might not, either way we would be prepared.

We approach the dam site and the inlet tower loomed, a huge concrete structure with a grated chasm where the river will eventually flow. Then as we drifted towards the dam wall it was apparent the project was nearing completion, we had hoped to just paddle on by but the 30m vertical concrete walls prevented further progress. Dam workers helped us rope our boats to the road above, then security announced we were in a restricted area and would have to leave. Waving our makeshift permits around and a bit of a chat changed their tone, soon they were proud to meet us and we were there and directed back to the river below the dam. Unfortunately Prakesh was not there with our over night gear and they did not want us hanging around, so we gambled on making it through to Kistware, just 15 kms downstream. This decision was based on the dam engineers saying that the river would present no further problems once beyond the one large rapid just below the dam. Now if the engineers didn't know what the geography was like who did?

Instead we were presented with numerous large rapids. Darkness loomed. Mike and I were heading down a large rapid when we spotted a plume of spray in the distance. Scouting confirmed that we were in trouble; a terminal rapid with polished vertical walls all round. After some sketchy climbing we found a portage route to get round the drop, but downstream was nightmare gorge boating. In the distance stood 200m polished vertical walls narrowing to about 15 - 20m wide and an ominous mist arising from a horizon line. Beyond, the gorge walls continued, so even if we could get past the rapid below us we would be sat above a terminal looking horizon with no option to scout or portage and probably no way to get back. We were running out of options, it was getting dark, we had no food, no sleeping gear and would have to back track 5 km on a high cliff trail back to the Dam site and the only realistic route around the gorge.

#### Day 12. Oct 31st.

##### Overnight village - hike out - bus to Kistware

As darkness approached and we were about to gather large amounts of wood to build a fire for the night we spotted a small house on the hillside not far away. Crossing the river we headed to the house, hoping we might be able to find food and shelter for the night. A smiley chap directed us up the hill, saying there was a larger house better able to offer shelter there. We gathered our gear and headed off into the darkness. We reached the house: inside women and children hid behind the bared windows - to them we were like aliens dropping in from Mars. Soon a few men returned from working the fields; they too looked quite confused. Eventually one man arrived who had seen us that morning passing the dam. We gestured that the river was too dangerous, we had no food or sleeping gear and were completely shattered.

That night was one of those special experiences you can only find in a remote place like this and one that gives you faith in the human race. The family invited us in, warmed us by a fire and shared their food. We had only basic communication, their dialect and our little Urdu failing to match. After an amazing feed of rice with milk, sugar and chapatti's they laid out a floor blanket, lined us up in a row and tucked us in with the best house blankets. There we were in the middle of the gorge of doom looked after by a family we could not converse with, warm, fed and sheltered for the night.

In the morning we were keen to get going, we had a 4 km hike ahead of us back to the trail and then on to the dam road. From the dam we could get a bus to Kistware where we would call it a day. Beaten by the last 15kms, but after all we had encountered this did not matter.



This day became quite amusing. When we eventually reached the dam site road, the security chief was amazed to see us and concerned for our safety. He explained that this area was hard-core militant zone and it was his responsibility to get us out unscathed. A security truck carried us out of the valley and out of his jurisdiction. On our arrival to Kistware the military went bananas! Not only were they astonished to find us on the door step, but were amazed

that we had got there without them knowing. Kistware is in the heart of Kashmir Militant area, we were shown pictures of rebels that had been caught or killed in action. Just a few days before there had been a bomb in the bus station and during our gorge descent there had been four militants killed in nearby villages. We could understand the military's concern when five foreigners turn up unannounced wearing bright orange target vests. Fortunately the militants are more interested in attacking the army than knocking off foreigners maybe they don't want the wrath of George Bush on their case. But for us, we definitely felt more vulnerable surrounded by gun wielding military. The Army sent us on our way back to Manali with an armed escort. Two cars and a truck with a 20mm machine gun mounted on the roof. The highway was teeming with military on the move, every km there would be a gun placement and random guards patrolling the streets of small villages.

Eventually we made it to Manali. We had completed the Chenab from as high as possible to just about where the 1988 Raft expedition had started. About 180 kms, ten river days and many adventures along the way. We understand this was not a full first descent as a group paddled parts of the Bharga and Russel Kelly has soloed the Chenab from Tandi to near Killar. That must have been one hell of a trip and our hats are off to him! ●

**Dave Manby and Allan Ellard**

## info



#### Photographer:

Mike Abbott, NZ

#### Communication:

Andy Phillips, UK

#### Photographer:

Trent Garnham, NZ

#### Video:

Benjamin Hjort,  
Norway

#### Driver:

Prakesh, India

#### Sponsors:

Pyranha, Robson, Teva,  
HF, MSR, Macpac, BCU  
Expedition Committee

**Name:** Chenab / known  
as the Chandra-Bhaga

**Location:** Himachal  
Pradesh/Northern  
India/Asia

#### Trip Date:

16th Oct-5th Nov 2003



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# LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

Please send letters either by email to [peter@canoeofocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoeofocus.co.uk) or post to:

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

## Partner in crime

My Step-dad was a long standing member of the BCU in the North West (Roy Hitchings). He is now living out in Spain, but is pining to get in contact with his former partner in crime. His name is Roy Sheriff, and it would make his day to track him down. If anyone has any form of information as to his whereabouts, if they could contact me (Chris), at [chebdon76@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chebdon76@yahoo.co.uk).

## "Faith Restored"

The story strikes a familiar note. Our teenage son had a similar experience last year. Having saved his Christmas and birthday money, worked hard stacking shelves in the supermarket and anything else he could do to get his hands on a few pounds he managed to scrape enough money together to buy a Pyranha Sub 7. For the August Bank Holiday, he went with his friends from Newgale in Pembrokeshire to try it out on the surf. His kayak, (and his dad's paddle) were stolen from the camp site there. Our son also needs his "Faith Restoring". If you have been offered or have bought a yellow Sub 7 with a manufacturer's ID marking XJBARJEEH102 we would love to hear who from.

**Stephanie M. Smith**  
Tel. 01597 823165  
[alan@rainbow97.fslife.co.uk](mailto:alan@rainbow97.fslife.co.uk)

## Thanks for the memories

I have been reading the "Early days of canoe surfing in the UK" articles, by Oliver and Bill, with great interest as I had had the privilege of joining them at some of those events in the mid 60's.

I particularly remember one occasion when we joined up with the Lifeguards to investigate the effectiveness of kayaks to help with surf rescuing. This occasion taught me a lot about the behaviour of surf and survival techniques in surf situations.

Another occasion when the surf was really big, I believe it was Oliver who persuaded me to take out one of the "Eskimo" kayaks so that he could do some filming. After battling out through the enormous surf I was finally dumped by a wave which I swear was 20ft. I finally found which way was up and survived. This boosted my confidence and I went on to have a great time doing loops and double loops and anything else the surf threw at me.

I retired from active canoeing, mainly slalom, later in the 60's to bring up a family but I have now been active again for some 10 years now enjoying my surfing and white water with the Midland Canoe Club. Thanks for the memories.

**Keith Tillen**

*The "Early days of canoe surfing in the UK" will be returning in the October edition. ed*

## Internet scam

The scam works like this. You receive payment in the form of a banker's draft. If you are trusting you may assume this is good and make the outgoing payment forthwith. More fool you. But if you are more careful you wait the five working days until the bank confirms the payment has cleared; at this point you believe you must be in the clear - a banker's draft and confirmation that it has cleared - and make the outgoing payment.

Later it emerges the bankers draft is a forgery.

Then at least one UK bank... I cannot speak for the others... turns round and says that the draft had not really cleared, but in allowing you to withdraw funds after five days they were exercising their discretion to allow you to draw against uncleared funds on overdraft terms, which they say is what they have done, and they debit your account with the amount on the draft that they previously said had cleared.

And that's how it works. an optimistic youngster, a forged draft and almost criminally complicit UK banking. My son got caught on a car sale that way.

## Hexham Canoe Club

Having been in sport for at least half of my adult life (currently in my early 50s) both able bodied and disabled (as the result of a rock climbing accident resulting in paraplegia from the waist), some of which was in different sporting activities. I found it a refreshing change when I joined HCC.

From the outset I was welcomed into the club with open arms and found everyone to be very friendly and full of enthusiasm to help me in whichever way they could, from taking my canoe off the top of the car and taking it to the waters edge. Even down to the well-timed offering of a hot drink when inevitably I fell into the river (which was quite frequent) after performing sometimes the most mundane manoeuvre.

Also the times that certain individuals have put themselves out to perform these tasks and guided me down river from

Hayden bridge in sometimes what seemed at the time (to me) quite swollen river conditions and the encouragement these people have given me, so that now I am venturing out with my brother on more adventurous river trips as my confidence builds.

For all the help that I have received to date I thank all those concerned (you all know who you are), as without their help I would not be the Paddler that I am at the moment.

I look forward to the rest of the time that I will be with the club (hopefully many years to come) and hope to be passing my 2 star and 3 star grading in the near future, and anyone who tells you that disabled people are discriminated against then I would suggest that they should join Hexham Canoe Club and they will find this untrue, as I feel privileged to be part of the club as they are a shining example. I hope to pass on anything that I have learned to any new members to the club.

Since this was printed in the club magazine I have passed my 2 Star and currently training for my 3 Star. I would also like to thank the Plas Brenin Mountain Centre where I took my 1 Star test and found the staff there very encouraging.

**Bob Martin, Sunderland**

## Words of tribute

May I add a few words of tribute, following the sad news of Drew's death? I was with a group on the sea off Anglesey when a pod of ferocious-looking paddlers passed by. "Whey Hey" called Drew, "we don't look the part here; we don't have long beards and look like Vikings!"

How did he introduce this late-comer to white water at Tryweryn? None of the chiding I've suffered from many coaches - just quiet encouragement, "catch hold of my boat and we'll run the rapid together". Result - no more fear.

He had one distinct mannerism that I have adopted as coach. He would sit at the top of a rapid, or in a bouncy seaway with his hands folded peacefully, waiting for the group. I have met so many paddlers who opted for his groups at Plas. I wish his family peaceful memories; he will not be forgotten by this distinctly un-Viking like character.

**Peter G. Chadd, South Wales**

## A big thank you

I go to the small canoe club of Narberth in south west Wales and last year we decided to follow the trend and develop a canoe polo team. As our knowledge of polo wasn't that great (we knew it involved a ball, goals and face guards) and so we thought that instead of waiting until we'd got all the equipment before we found out the rules etc we'd try and get ahead of the game and get to know the sport while waiting for the funding to be sorted out. All I can say is that I was truly amazed by the enthusiastic and helpful repose we received from the polo fraternity. So really this letter is just to say a big thank you to all those that have helped us, to Howie for offering to pop down and give us some tips (we might still take you up on the offer!) and especially to Jonathan Walder for among other things sending us the polo year book and coaching folder (which for those who haven't seen it it's a great resource and well worth getting a copy). As a club we've now managed to secure a funding bid so now it's out to the shops! Many thanks once again

**Bob Walker, Narberth Canoe Club**

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# Gold Coast Gold



**For the second year in a row competitors of the Gold Coast Gold held in North Devon were greeted with sun drench golden sands and clear blue skies. The annual event has been growing steadily in size attracting such big name sponsors as Intel (makers of that marvellous little chip that we couldn't live without) and the South West Water board.**

For those not familiar with ocean racing, competitors race on enclosed hull racing ski's, craft which originated from the sport of surf life saving where competitors race in the ocean in anything from flat to eight foot surf around a marked course that is roughly 1,000m, depending on the size of the surf. Ocean racing stemmed from the need of these competitors to challenge themselves against others and more importantly pit their skills against Hughie (surf god) in ever longer events from one and half hours up to four to seven days!

Nothing quite so daunting for race goers of the Gold Coast Gold this year although, conditions certainly gave a few a bit of a surprise. Marathon legend Simon Dark found the beguiling conditions on the day a lot harder than anticipated, "Although it was flat I found coping with the chop a little difficult instead of helping me go faster I felt as though they were slowing me down, but you certainly couldn't ask for more blue skies and beautiful water, it makes quite a change from grinding up and down a canal somewhere for a marathon race".



Simon wasn't the only one crossing over to this relatively new sport that has reached these shores. In total a third of the field consisted of current or ex-kayak paddlers looking for something a little out of the ordinary. Glenn Eldridge recently part of the World Class Performance programme involved with the Great British K4 had this to say "It's a fantastic sport, it can be very exhilarating when your out in the ocean chasing eight foot swells, the speeds that you can reach when going down one of those

monster can be mind blowing". "although conditions out there today were significantly smaller it was a good test of your skills. Because there was no prevailing wind due to the circuit type nature of the course you really had to try and get the most out getting very bit of lift from the chop"

The event was eventually won in a time of one hour and ten minutes by Glenn closely followed by National Surf Ski Champion Mark Resell and ex-international paddler Peter Maycock, Simon Dark came in fifth place. Watch this space in future issues of Canoe focus for a more in depth look at the sport and for a run down of a new exciting series that is due to start next year. For further info about races and craft please contact Glenn Eldridge at [glenneldridge@yahoo.com](mailto:glenneldridge@yahoo.com)





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## New PDO for Southern region



James with Pangbourne CC

I have just been appointed as Paddlesports development officer for the Southern region and the first question has got to be what am I going to do for you? I am here as I understand it to support clubs to become better and more active through more events and more access to existing support networks. That means more going on and more fun.

I am 30 years old with two boys and lots of boats, my main canoeing discipline at present is flat water racing but I have a

wide range of interests including white water and sea paddling. I have been lucky enough to paddle abroad in France, Spain and to race in Argentina. I paddle with Woodmill canoe club in Southampton on the River Itchen.

I have a background in Outdoor centres and have worked all over the country including in the Scottish islands between Mull and Jura with no electricity and no phone. More recently I have been based in South Hampshire working for several of the local centres and collages. I am looking forward to meeting many of you and helping with the region.

**James Hives can be contacted by email on [James@bcu.org.uk](mailto:James@bcu.org.uk) or phone 07834 583 369**

## Paddlefest Liverpool

In partnership with Mersey River Festival, the 2nd annual Paddlefest Liverpool event took place at Queens Dock Liverpool at the end of June. In spite of poor weather young people from clubs and youth groups in the region enjoyed a

variety of paddlesport events. These included canoe polo – Diamond slalom – sprint – bellboat races – come and try and the Ergo challenge.

Some very good results were attained both by individuals and teams, which was all the more impressive as a lot of young people were trying out new aspects of paddlesport for the very first time. As PDO for the NW region I would like to offer a big vote of thanks to the following: Friends of Allonby CC for the main organisation of the event, Merseysport and their staff for hosting the event, all those clubs involved in overseeing individual events and the Mersey River Festival Committee for their support and resources. Looking forward to next year's event.

**Len Hartley PDO Northwest**

## North East - "Talent Day 2004"

Were you one of the lucky individuals who took advantage of a day's top coaching at the Tees White Water Centre? Freestyle was headed up by Dennis Newman of Kayakojacko fame supported by Austen Floyd, ex freestyle team manager. To quote one participant Mei Ling of Coquet CC: "I personally really enjoyed doing the freestyle and I think I have gained a lot from it especially more confidence going down white water and rolling".

The polo section, headed up by British team player Caroline Bell and Neil Cranston had spectators all day at the 'warming up' pool and there was an occasional flash of Wavehoppers led by Nigel Timmins CDO on the river and down the course. After registration, the sprint/marathon participants moved up river to operate out of Castlegate Quays with local coach Brian Graham.

Beautiful weather made this an unforgettable day for coaches, helpers, participants and spectators. If you missed it this time, keep your 'peepers' open for future events!

**Bobby E. Timperley, BCU PDO N.E. Region**

## Junior Cornish county canoe champion



Emma Pearce, aged 15, from St Austell in Cornwall, who is a junior member of Fowey River Canoe Club, has recently been named ACCP Junior Champion for the second year in succession. Emma was presented with her trophy by Simon Hammond, the current World Surf Kayak Champion, and the BCU's PDO for Cornwall, earlier in the year.

Emma has been paddling since very young, starting in an old fiberglass slalom boat, off one of the local beaches playing on small waves, then progressing to racing kayaks. Emma has also recently been awarded with the BCU Cadet Leader Award and is a Junior Sports Leader, enjoying coaching in many different activities.

The ACCP championships consist of a range of different events. These include white water

time trials in kayak and open canoe, kayak surfing, sprint, marathons and an open water sea kayak race. Emma is currently 2nd overall in this year's ACCP championships after the first event of the year - a white water race on the upper Tamar. Her brother Ryan is leading.

Have you tried slalom – it's great fun for all the family – as can be seen by this picture. For details of where to go contact your local PDO or go to the slalom web site on [www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/disciplines/slalom.html)



## Pyranha Lightning Sprint Cup Series

63 young paddlers took to the water at Nottingham for the third regatta of the series on July 4th. The programme included the usual 1,000m race, fun bellboat races and 500m sprints –plus in addition a Junior K2 race and gym session on the Saturday. With 34 new Hody Junior K2's just arrived as part of the BCU Junior Placid water Development Project we can look forward to many more K2's races in the future. The event was also the national championships – special congratulations to our 2004 Lightning National Champions - Cieron Brereton of Richmond for U10 and Ryan Wilkinshaw of Bishop's Stortford for U12. Full results can be found on the Lightning web site – [www.lightnings.co.uk](http://www.lightnings.co.uk). Next regatta September 5th.



## Paddlepower – what has it got to offer?

Last month we featured two young paddlers, Iain and Eilish, who have been awarded the Black Paddlepower Award. Here is what they said about the scheme.

Iain: "This scheme has helped me, as a paddler, realise that one sport can have many interesting branches of it. It has encouraged me to try different things, to see which branch of the sport I like best. I have made many new friends at my own club and at events I have been to."

Eilish: "I have had lots of fun since I started canoeing when I was seven. I have made friends at the canoe club and at events I have been to. I liked doing paddlepower because it gets you to try out different things... like marathon, slalom and polo and see which you like best. I haven't tried out all of the boats in the booklet because I'm not big enough yet! I can look back in my log book to when I started canoeing to see how well I am doing".

What do you think about Paddlepower? What do you like – what don't you like. Let us know your views – for the top ten answers we will send you a signed poster of our paddlers representing canoeing at the Olympic games this month. For more information about paddlepower contact [Mandy@bcu.org.uk](mailto:Mandy@bcu.org.uk) or log on to [www.bcu.org.uk/youth/paddlepower.html](http://www.bcu.org.uk/youth/paddlepower.html)



## 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 Slaloming... freestyling... Lightning & canoe racing... For details & entry forms contact BCU Young Peoples Programme, email: [youth@bcu.org.uk](mailto:youth@bcu.org.uk) (0115 982 4220)



**As the rest of the team dozed in the sun waiting for Jim and Grant to run the shuttle at the end of the trip, I sat thinking over the last few days. As a group we had made quite a few mistakes, suffered no disasters, but had learnt a heck of a lot about ourselves and about journeying by canoe.**

We had travelled to the north of Scotland in May primarily to get a view of the annular eclipse of the sun that was to happen in the far north west, but also to paddle in an area of Scotland that most of us had not been to before. Jim had an Ordnance Survey one inch map of the area, and we could see that by linking lochs together we could form a journey that should not be too taxing, return us almost to the base camp, but take in some wild scenery. There might be some portages but they did not look much, we were all fit and should be able to overcome all obstacles that might be placed in our way.

#### **First mistake; in using an old map**

Collectively, we had travelled extensively in the UK, Europe, Africa and North America, and had a lot of experience with canoe camping, having undertaken a number of trips together.

#### **Second mistake; we were a little complacent**

At base camp the morning of the trip departure arrived, and having decided that we would only paddle a few kilometres before setting up camp we adopted a leisurely packing routine.

#### **Third mistake; packing takes longer than you think**

Time marched on and it was not until noon that we finally got away from camp to first drop a vehicle at the finish of the trip, and then drive to the start of the journey. More time was eaten up but by mid-afternoon we were at last on the water and paddling through some great Scottish scenery.

The map showed we had an easy run into the next loch, but reality proved different as we encountered a section of waterway that contained a series of drops and a spectacular waterfall. An unexpected portage this early on during a hot afternoon was a little chastening, but the sun was shining; Hey Ho.

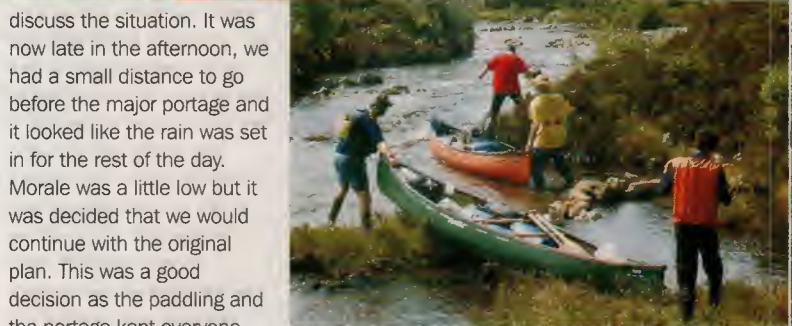
The whole team worked well and with a little lining thrown in we were soon on our way again. We had to paddle the full length of this next loch before crossing an area of land to gain access into another large loch, on the shore of which we had decided to camp.

While we stopped for a very belated lunch there was a change in the weather conditions and the warm sunny day turned into a windy day, and once on the water into a very windy day. The group of three canoes was quickly split as the crews fought to travel into the teeth of the wind.

**Fourth mistake;** if a boat had been blown over they were effectively on their own and potentially could have had a long cold swim.

**Fifth mistake;** was all the gear sufficiently fastened to the canoes to stop it being lost?

The wind brought driving rain and we stopped to put on waterproofs and



discuss the situation. It was now late in the afternoon, we had a small distance to go before the major portage and it looked like the rain was set in for the rest of the day. Morale was a little low but it was decided that we would continue with the original plan. This was a good decision as the paddling and the portage kept everyone focused with a goal that we knew we could achieve.

At the portage we knew that we would have to lift the canoes and gear over 200 metres vertically, but we had not bargained for the thigh deep heather, bogs, and such a circuitous route. The rain forced us to wear waterproofs and we were quickly hot and sweaty, however we were working well as a team and morale was raised to a high level. Everyone was in good humour even when we realised that on reading the map we had not counted for the distance we would have to travel overland. Even after a gruelling three trips we were still some distance from the next bit of water on which to float the boats. The stream we had planned to line



# Somewhere in Scotland



down was a rocky trickle, but we found that the canoes towed easily over the high heather.

**Sixth mistake;** when you are used to using 1:25,000 maps stepping up to 1 inch maps needs a little getting used to.

Finally we came to the water. The rain had stopped and we all had a mouthful of

whisky to celebrate the two events. We paddled to the campsite in the still of the dusk and reached it after the light had all but gone. Setting up camp was a routine matter but it was well after midnight before we had a plate of hot food to eat; it had been a long day. We had learned a lot from our experience but sitting around the campfire that night we did not appreciate how much we had learned.

The rest of the trip was full of great scenery, interesting portaging and sunshine. We also were lucky enough to witness the annular eclipse that occurred in the far north west of Scotland. ●

**Dave Halsall**



**s a y c h e e s e**

Dave Halsall was allowed to paddle with Grant Cox, Paul Lethebee, Jim Davis, James Halsall and Emily Halsall.

# School's out!

## Dagger RPM School Edition

The Dagger RPM School Edition is one of a new range of kayaks aimed at schools and clubs to provide an introduction for beginners using modern well-used kayak designs.

It therefore goes without saying that these boats will be the very first kayaks for many people and so it makes sense not to scare the living daylight out of them and use a well trusted design to ease them on their way. The RPM has been Dagger's all-time best selling boat for sound reasons. Its versatility allows paddlers of all levels to enjoy rivers of all types.

The RPM excels for those who just want to do basic play moves like front surfs and stern squirts, but prefer a boat with a lot of stability and ease of rolling. The RPM has good hull speed and stability approaching that of a flat hulled boat. It is a boat that plays well and is comfortable enough to



## Dagger Dynamo

The Dagger Dynamo is the latest addition to Dagger's children range. It is primarily designed to introduce children to river running and playboating and so therefore it has a nice forgiving hull.

Designed as an all-purpose, performance kayak, the Dynamo is great for most types of paddling on the sea, in surf, flat and white water.

The short hull makes it easy to roll and proves to be very comfortable, and a good river runner as well. It is both easy to handle and forgiving, making it ideal as a first kayak for children or very small adults through to the intermediate paddler.

It is very stable and quite easy to roll. On a boat such as this which will probably be used by many children it is important to foot rests that are easy to adjust and the Dynamo's are.

The Dynamo is fitted with fixed buoyancy in the bow and stern, a drain plug, grab handles and adjustable foot pegs. For the price it is good value and an excellent first boat for any small paddler.

It goes without saying that it is a manageable light weight for the smaller paddler.

**Mark Anderson and Peter Tranter**

paddle all day long. The one unstable part is the stern. It is flat and low volume, so if you lean back, it does have a tendency to unintentionally squirt and the bigger you are the more it will do so.

The displacement hull will also reduce the fun for aggressive beginners, who are looking to complete advanced moves such as flat spins, cartwheels, etc. They would have to move on to something else like the Dagger Outlaw.

However, we are digressing and this after all is aimed at beginners, so for many, the RPM would be perfect boat – stable and forgiving

### Technical specs

#### Dagger RPM

Length: 272cm  
Width: 84cm  
Weight: 18kg  
Volume: 227 litres  
Paddler weight range:  
9st. 120lb - 12st. 21lb  
Cost: £325.00

#### Dagger Dynamo

Length: 224cm  
Width: 54cm  
Weight: 13.6kg  
Volume: 170litre  
Paddler weight range:  
4st. 10lb - 10st. 3lb  
Cost: £299.00



# DEMO BONANZA



**DESPERATE MEASURES** will be supporting two exciting events in September with free demos and our customary hospitality. Kammo Korner will be pitched at the top of the course, proffering hot teas to anyone with a competitor or visitors bib, as well as housing the PA system and DVD theatre.

On FREE demo will be the complete Jackson Kayak range, and for the first time you will be able to demo the Allstar alongside the complete Fun range. Also we will have the new Fluid Flirts from South Africa. If that's not enough, we'll also have a demo of the Dagger Juice river play craft and a prototype of Pyranha's new I:4. All this alongside DM's already large demo fleet including Robson, Liquidlogic, Necky and Riot, we'll have extra demos from Pyranha and Dagger.

## 11&12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER HOLME PIERREPONT

During the Freestyle Selection Weekend we've arranged for a free demo bonanza at Holme Pierrepont. For £2 (each day) you can paddle at the course on the sections not in use for the selection. Your entry fee goes to the Freestyle Committees coffers, helping to foster and support the GB freestyle team.

## 25&26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER NENE WHITEWATER CENTRE

During the Mighty Nene Freestyle we'll have the same extended demo fleet along. This event is ideal for newcomers to freestyle, with a Boater X, Squirt Event, evening Barn Dance and Novice Freestyle in the smaller Pool C hole.



# DESPERATE MEASURES



**NEW** Online Gallery  
**NEW** Private Sales

# Dry and warm

## Dry Zone® T-Shirt



Lowe Alpine have been one of the front runners in the world of technical t-shirts for many years now and this year they have enhanced that reputation with the new Dry Zone® range. Lowe Alpine tackles the problem of comfort and perspiration by building in the dry zones around where the body sweats most during exercise. These areas are across the chest, upper back and armpits with the Dry Zone® technology allowing moisture to escape faster from these zones. These seamlessly integrated areas of fabric with a more open knit work very efficiently, allowing the body to stay dry for increased comfort. The comfort is enhanced with the flatlocked seams which come into their own when wearing tight fitting buoyancy aids,

while stretch in the fabric gives good mobility for any type of paddle stroke. It is also a very stylish T-shirt with the logo knitted into the fabric in a very subtle manner and close fit. With its non-absorbent, ultra quick drying qualities - this is one for the athletic summer kayaker who likes to look cool and stay dry.

## Warm Zone® Top

The Warm Zone® idea comes from the Dry Zone®, which places thinner higher wicking areas of fabric next to the bodies warm areas and reverse it so that you get extra insulation where you need it and the "Warm Zone Isolation" warms those body parts such as back of the neck, kidney region, elbows and wrists that become cold more quickly. Where as the Dry Zone® T-shirt is for hot climates and summer use, the Warm Zone® is for colder areas and winter use. It also has a reversible design, which is claimed to be 25% warmer with the block pattern on the inside. The varying levels of insulation are seamlessly woven into the garment giving warmth where you need it most. Weight is kept to a minimum.

Generous four-way stretch allows a close performance fit with good mobility and movement, plus the slimmed down forearm sections prevents water from trickling down the inside of the arm. A high collar and venting chest zip make it even warmer for winter climates and the close fit is ideal for use as a base layer. The close fit is excellent for fast-moving water if you really don't want lots of bulky clothing.



## Having a cackle

Cackle TV Productions brings you the first ever sea kayaking action video - shot on location in Russia, Greenland, California, Florida, Georgia, the San Juan Islands and the tidal races of Wales. Starring Nigel Foster, Nigel Dennis, Greenland Kayak champion Malligiq Padilla, Chris Duff, and more. Expedition footage includes two women who took a novice Russian paddler 650km up the remote coast of Kamchatka where they were arrested by soldiers on a tank, shared beaches with brown bears and encountered a six foot surf.

"This is the Sea" is produced by professional camerawoman/director Justine Curgenvin who has credits on BBC, National Geographic and Sky. Justine films from the thick of the action, with a waterproof minicam system fixed onto her kayak, giving never-before-seen action shots. Watch the paddlers eyes bulge and hear them scream with excitement!



## Two for one

1. Smooth face for maximum evaporation and cooling through the spread of perspiration over a large area.
2. Honeycomb face for dry comfort in cooler conditions and when used as a base layer.

According to the Paramo literature - I am a 'cool dude'. Thanks very much but they are not referring to my lifestyle, which is very uncool, but the fact that when I exercise I 'run cold' and therefore need to keep moisture away from the body. With the CAMBIA reversible T-shirt - I have the very item to keep me comfortable.

In my case I wear the honeycombe side next to my skin. This honeycombe design directs the moisture away from my skin therefore allowing me to stay dry because the honeycomb pattern traps more air close to the skin. There are also 'hot bods' who need to retain moisture to maintain their body temperature. In their case, the T-shirt is turned inside out so the smooth face of the shirt keeps the moisture close to the skin where the extra surface area wicks more effectively to maintain body temperature. The value to anyone concerned with watersports is its lightweight construction and the ability to rapidly dry itself out.

On top of that is the neat design of the shirt which is very clever by never giving away the fact that at times it is inside out, whichever way that would be! It is easy to carry and quick to wash and dry and the stretchiness of the Parameta T fabric gives total freedom of movement.

The CAMBIA T-shirt come in two different colours, navy and slate, in women or men's short or long sleeve, or unisex long sleeves and is available at selected outdoor sports shops priced from £25.

Overall, an excellent all-in-one solution and ideal base layer for warmer climates that will not disappoint.

[www.paramo.co.uk](http://www.paramo.co.uk)  
Tony Cornwell



## Kayak Surfing

Author: Mattos, Bill  
 ISBN: 0-9547061-0-2  
 Price: £15-99  
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A modern guide to kayak surfing by one of the leading exponents of the sport, aimed both at expert kayakers and those considering taking it up. Stunning photos from pioneering surf sessions all over the world. The book covers basic principles of surfing, surfing etiquette, advanced technique, and the psychology and philosophy of ocean wave-riding.



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Author: Walsh, David  
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 Price: £19-99  
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Oiledin is a detailed guide to almost every Irish offshore island. The guide is comprehensive, describing over 300 islands, big and small, far out to sea and close in by the shore, inhabited and uninhabited. Oiledin tells it as it is, rock by rock, good and bad, pleasant and otherwise. It concentrates on landings and access generally, then adds information on camping, drinking water, tides, history, climbing, birds, whales, dolphins, legends or anything else of interest.

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**Ace Voyager 445** - Touring & Sea Kayak. Banana Yellow, not many miles, inc split paddle and rear hatch cover. £250. Tel Dave on 01733 223532 / 07748 301782 or email to dave@eyerunners.co.uk  
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**Boats for sale: 3 rotobats plus spraydecks and paddles and 3 aquabats plus spraydecks and paddles.** These boats have only been used for pool use and are in good condition. Price of £110 per boat & equipment (negotiable). Telephone 0191 4176221 Steve Knaggs 5673652 Phil Wayman Email Philwayman@aol.com  
**Canoe trailer**. Suitable for 4 open boats (or sea kayaks) with equipment basket. Length 3.90m. Width 1.80m. Wheels 4.80 x 8. Complete with lighting board and spare wheel. Chester area. Picture available. Price £250. Contact Peter on E-Mail: deva.canoecub@virgin.net

**Cedar Strip Canadian Open Canoe**, mcnulty Seaglass, lovely boat but lack of storage for sale. Would suit an enthusiast £500 ono. Phone:- 01434 684559/07768 825344

**Citreon Xsara row bar** original 30 pounds call james 01732 789400, 07974 412932 james.reid@orange.net (Kent)

**Citreon Xsara tow bar** 70 pounds call james 01732 789400, 07974 412932 James.reid@orange.net (Kent)

**Dag Ska**, 2002 French Kayak Playboat in Red/Yellow, full spec, few scratches and only used occasionally. £200 contact Rufus on 01242 762793 or E-mail: mr.mcreagrey@btinternet.com.

**Dagger Bayou 2** double recreational kayak plus two paddles. Colour - Blue/White. Excellent condition (as new) 12 months old but only used a couple of times. Price: £580 ono. Telephone: 01249 650823 email: kevinanpier@yahoo.com

**Dagger Dynamo**. Excellent condition, suit 8-12 year old. One year old £300 list price. Offers on £150. Wiltshire-can deliver(within reason). Contact John Mulholland on 07703 234253

**Dagger Graident**, ideal creeking boat for those wanting to paddle bigger waters or for those who teach, this kayak is very stable and responsive on all waters. £300.00 o.n.o. Contact Lee, E-mail: lsroberts@tiscali.co.uk

**Dagger King Pin 3** 2.450 nearly new-excellent kayak play boat. Dagger GT 4500 nearly new-excellent river runner kayak. Dagger After Shock OC1 - fully outfitted £450 - excellent OC1 play boat. Dagger Caption OC2 - fully outfitted £500 - only ww 2 person open canoe on market - can be used solo. Dagger Legend 15ft - fully outfitted £850 - one of the best multi use traditional open canoes about. I can meet at Tryweryn, Holme pier point, Nene ww. Inquiries to: Ian Duffy Jan.duffy@nwhc.ac.uk 07866-367697 01827-285725

**Dagger Ocoee Copy**, Used Once (yes Once), RoyaleX Construction. Fully fitted with Airbags, High Straps, adjustable Pedestal, Knee Pads & adjustable Toe Blocks. Over £1,100 of boat. Mint Condition. Sales Price £650 ono.

**Dagger RPM** - black and white, with airbags. Good for easy-intermediate whitewater. Reasonable condition. Newbury. 07979857975

**Dagger Super Ego**. Playboat for the larger paddler. Reasonable condition. Offers around £325. Based in Sheffield. Can make HPP contact: bob-chapman@lneone.net

**Dry Cag** - Large purple Yak Dry Cag for sale. Good condition including latex seals on cuffs and neck. £50

**Eskimo Kendo Evolution** - Full ww spec, yellow/black graphics, excellent Condition, airbags, excellent boat for beginners/big water. £325 Mark 07734221236 / 01904704131 / pooly59@hotmail.com.

**Eskimo Nano** - £275 yellow, Perception Jib - £295 yellow/red, Dagger Dynamo - £295 multi-coloured, eurokays Sunbeam - £175 mauve. Kayak trailer - £395. Also, loads of adult/children's quality kit for sale including Ainsworth paddles, helmets, caps, pfd, wet-suits (Long Johns), gloves etc. Family's gear all clean & well looked after. Full list available on request by Fax or email. Phone 01692 581867 (eves) or 07887 895625 (Norfolk).

**Eskimo Salto**. Green, 1 year old, good condition. Only used on the river a couple of times, used mainly for coaching on the flat. Comes with air bags for front and back. Injury forces sale, £450ono call matt on 01527 541239 or E-mail at matt\_baldock@hotmail.com

**Eskimo Topolino Duo** good condition stored under cover £650 ono Perception Wavehopper good condition stored under cover £330 ono Contact Alex mckee (Southampton): Work Tel. 02380 319014; Home tel. 02380 488550; e-mail: alex.mckee@solent.ac.uk

**Eurokayak axis**. Immaculate condition, only surf and pool use. Excellent fun boat. Hip pads and footblock included. Red base paint/multicoloured. £220 ono. Bideford area (north devon) contact gareth cross 01237 424981 or 07989 084997 email garethcross@hotmail.com or

pixieshouse@lundyview.fsnet.co.uk  
**K1 Cougar Gaybo**, red, very good condition, £200ono, contact Jimmy House on 07837 861182.

**Klepper** - Aerius folding kayak - 2 for sale 2 seater £500 good condition £1000. Very good condition. Ripon N Yorks 01765 604071 01748 833614 Richmond John Bull.

**Liquidlogic Session**. Blue. Can deliver to Holme Pierpoint £250 0115 9289185 or 07989 621145  
**Liquid Logic Session playboat**. Very good condition, in yellow. Always stored in Garage only £350 w\_j\_riley@hotmail.com 01986 896870

**Islander Expedition sea kayak**, white with orange deck. Fitted with retractable rudder, pump, and recessed deck compass. £100 ono. Please contact Philip on 020 8460 5471. (Bromley, South London).

**Liquidlogic Pop, Orange**; Superficial scratches; no dents, cracks or holes. £400 Live in NW Scotland. 01520 744 366 or Angus.Robins1@btopenworld.com  
**Madjacker Paddles** - red and yellow blades, very strong, set at 60 degrees. £60 Mark 07734221236 / 01904704131 / pooly59@hotmail.com.

**Mega UFO Prowler surf kayak**. Absolutely pristine, unmarked condition. Green marble diolen deck, red trim, white carbon kevlar hull. If you want a surf kayak, this beautiful boat is the best. Absolute bargain at £550, no hagglers please. Telephone Loughborough (01509) 268008 or email steve@julieswin.com

**Melody Open Canoe** by Mobile Adventure. 15 foot 2 seater. Green plastic hull. Little used and garage stored from new. £425 including 2 paddles. Contact Paul on 01474 833071 (Kent) or email pj.paddler@btinternet.com

**Microbat 230**, yellow/orange, 18months old, vgc, no leaks, full ww spec, good river/creek/beginner £350 tel. Rob 0783 012 6114 wombat\_rob3@hotmail.com, N.Wales

**Nigel Dennis Romany Sea Kayak**, yellow fibre-glass 3 hatched hull. Excellent handling and in good condition. Paddle and nylon spray-deck included. £600 ono. Contact Steve on 01778 342359

**Nipper child's kayak**. White with red trim, in excellent condition, 9' 2" x 20", would suit 7-11 year old, spraydeck and 2 paddles. £75. 5 Bucks. Call 01494 436800 or email kjf@apsley.co.uk for more details and small jpg picture.

**Nigel Dennis Romany Sea Kayak**, Yellow fibre-glass hull. A 7 foot 3 manoeuvrable kayak with 3 hatches and covers, plus paddle. Good condition £600 ono Phone steve 01778 342359

**Old Town Sport 15** transom canoe, nearly new, plus Honda 2hp outboard (2006 EPA type with neutral gear), hardly used. Paddle, row or motor. Very stable and surprisingly quick. Great family, fishing or safety boat. Cost new over £1200. Yours for £900 the lot. 01745 583764 or email john.hutch@dial.pipex.com. Abergele, North Wales

**Old Town Discovery Scout** 16ft cross link, ash seats and thwarts. Ideal for lakes and/or white water. £400.

**Old Town Discovery 158** Open Canoe with accessories. Excellent condition, 2 years old but only used 3-4 times. Good recreational / family canoe. Bargain at £300. Details and offers 01603 487139 (after 6pm) e-mail simon.sian@maculimited.net

**Old Town Discovery 174** Open Canoe Excellent condition, little use, 18 months old, Old Town paddles. £500 onvo 01752) 260393 (Plymouth)

**Open Canadian, 17'**, fibre/glass, mahogany trim, northern prospector, not much used, vgc. £300. - 4 trailer built for canoe, 200 kathgreen@yahoo.com/W.Yorks

**Open Canoe** 14ft plywood stitch and tape, ash trim. Very stable, handles well, ideal for beginners boat. £200. Photos on request or come and see. Both stored inside. Contact: Fred Horner, Tel: 01943 465492

**Open Canoe**, Mobile Adventure, Peace River Cruiser 17 ft, two seats, very good condition, little used £350. Stored under cover. Possible delivery call 01903 520 406 evening

**Palmquser extreme spraydeck** - rota 3 deck size, large waist £50. Kjc@uk2.net 0787 668 1489. Reading nr. Hurley

**P&H Sirius M Sea Kayak**. Excellent condition and fully expedition rigged. Yellow deck with white hull. Will consider offers in the region of £800. Ring Andy on 07711640223.

**P&H Tourer 2**, two seat kayaks looking for a good home free if you can collect plus a few paddles. Ade Harris 01697 320408 (Cumbria), adeharris@hotmail.com.

**Perception full tilt**. 12 months old, great condition. Orange and yellow, £350. Contact Michael on 07950 151003. (Nr Sheffield)

**Perception Kiwi 2** tandem kayak. £225 onvo. Tim Spencer on 02476 672584 or tim.spencer10@ntlworld.com

**Perception Method Air**, great river runner, green and yellow, good condition, £300 call Chris on 07973410268

**Perception Method Air**. It is a good all-rounder and can surf, play and run rivers with ease. Itavell! It is in good condition with no major scratches. It comes with adjustable immersion research backrest and adjustable full-plate footrests. This is a great boat at £375. Contact Jack Moxon on 01246 411824 after 6pm please.

**Perception Method Air**. An excellent boat for river running, rodeo paddling, surfing. (good all-rounder). Good condition.No dents or major scratches just the

usual surface stuff.Kept indoors. A very comfy boat even for long periods. It has an adjustable back-rest and foot-rest. Based in bangor wales. Selling because need the money. £375 ono Tim eeue41@bangor.ac.uk 07739638727

**Perception Mirage** general purpose kayak. Yellow Mirage in sound condition despite some battle scars. WW spec plus airbags, spraydeck and Kobe paddle. £95. 5 Bucks. Call 01494 436800 or email kjf@apsley.co.uk for more details.

**Perception Reflex Plastic Slalom Boat**, good condition £70 Andy Pumphrey 0777937 1393

**Perception Spin Play boat**. Very good condition. One year old. Only used in pool through out winter. £280 ono. 0208 421 3105 (Watford) or mail Pete at peter.east@henkel.co.uk

**Plywood expedition sea kayak**. Excellent condition. 17' x 22". Rudder, compass, pump, bulkheads, lines and elastics. Paddle and spraydecks. Modified Ken Littleyke design. £575. 5 Bucks. Call 01494 436800 or email kjf@apsley.co.uk for more details and small jpg pictures.

**Prion Odyssey** with rudder, good condition £550 ono. Contact Alex mckee (Southampton): Work Tel. 02380 319014; Home tel. 02380 488550; e-mail: alex.mckee@solent.ac.uk

**Prozone 225**, good condition, red/black, offers in region of 770. Please Contact Beth Healey on 01432 840409 for further details.

**Pyranha ex demo** kayaks. S6190, S6200, S8225, S8235, I3221, I3222, H3245 All £550. I3 223 £525. Inaz 242 Sport, G3 275 Sport, £375. Span Fly £700 all kayaks have been used for demonstration purposes only in swimming pools and are like new. Pickering N Yorks. 07867 903928.

**Pyranha G3 kayak**, used for 1 season, 1 owner, full WW spec, airbags, Intermediate, WW & surf playboat. Incl schlegel paddle & spraydeck £550 the lot. Kjc@uk2.net 0787 668 1489. Reading nr. Hurley.

**Pyranha I:3 222**. Excellent condition, synchro outfitting, Red/Orange £480. Contact Paul (Leeds) 01132 361850, mob 07790 615850

**Pyranha Inazone 240**. VGC, little used. Red/Yellow. Good play/river runner. New Slalom boat for sale. £250. Wiltshire area. Ian 01373 827076.

**Pyranha marathon C2** 17'6" X 25" A1 condition.Fitted kneeling thwarts,original seats included.Roylex. £300.00 Tel:-Eric 01427 628419 or email :- Colonel2@btopenworld.com

**Pyranha Micro Bat 230**. Well used but very sound. Full WW spec. Blue £180 Contact Paul (Leeds) 01132 361850, mob 07790 615850

**Pyranha Mountain 300** White Water spec kayak. Good condition with usual scratches, stored in garage. Includes hip pads. £220 ono. Collect from Liverpool or North Wales. Call 07801 787305 or email markh1961@yahoo.co.uk

**Pyranha Prospector** low line open canoe in green, fitted with one wood web seat and yoke, extra seat available. Very good condition, buyer to collect from Derby. Tel 07050 383698 or email andy@Hydroactive.org £500.

**Pyranha S235** full white water spec, green, only 1 year old and little used. Genuine reason for sale, £450. Phone 07796 238113.

**Pyranha Stunt Bat**, Good condition, Air bags, Quick sale £100, Will take to Piere Point. Email towneytowney@hotmail.com

**Pyranha Sub 7 one ball**. Very good condition - in yellow. Always stored in Garage only £350 w\_j\_riley@hotmail.com 01986 896870

**Pyranha Sub 7 1 ball**, green. New fittings eg back seat and ratchet straps, excellent condition. Perfect playboat or river runner. £400 ono Call Claire 07720 715890

**Pyranha S6** 190 reluctantly for sale. Just over a year old and in good condition. Wicked first play boat in colours Jaffa/yellow. Also, Pyranha H2 245 for sale. Exceptional condition. Only used 3 times. Perfect coaching boat and surfs well. Yellow/blue. Offers for both. Matt on 07833302061 Midlands

**Riot Glide**, full carbon kevlar composite construction, with power seat, used only on surf good transition boat for white water to surf, faster than plastic with familiar characteristics to plastic version, have to part due to relocation/lack of space, £250 ono liam\_mcc\_@hotmail.com or 07813 836654 could meet half way for delivery

**Riot Prankster**. Yellow, full WW spec. £350ono. 07932 684705. Carl

**Riot Tekno** in great condition. Superhero red with all the usuals and a pair of fins. £400 contact andy on andrew.nalty@gmail.com or 07752875458

**Riot rotob 52** latest river/playboat from riot. New riot outfitting and option for 4 fins. Bought new in may, only used once, therefore as new condition. Based in north west near chester, can travel to meet. Save almost £200 on new - bargain £540. Tel. Home 0151 645 5235 mob 07702 81 71 52

**Roof bars to fit Saab or Vauxhall** (models with gutters in roof): £40. Roof bars to fit any vehicle with gutters: £40. Both Thule quality. 01745 583764 or email john.hutch@dial.pipex.com. Abergele, North Wales

**Sea Kayak, Valley Nordkapp HM** (modified hull fixed skeg) Red colour. Full expedition fittings, including deck lines, elastics, back rest, fitted deck Pump and strum box, adjustable footrest, watertight compartments front and rear with rubber deck hatches, Compass housing, towing line and offered complete with Lendal Nordkapp 222 cm sea paddle carbon shaft and wooden blades together with double seal Wild Water spray deck. A treasured possession all kept in v.g.c. And reluctant sale £900 o.n.o. Telephone 0116 2919027.

**Sea Kayak P&H Odin Dawntrader** Derek Hutchinson Design. Very Good Condition Fast Expedition Boat. £800 or offers for a quick sale. Contact Tracey or Simon 01946 862957 Western Lake District.

**Sea King Pro Built**, Large Hatches, foam seat, decklines etc. Blue Fade Deck, Yellow Hull. Only used 3 sleeps £650 ono Bala WWR C1 Good Condition £300 ono Tel: 0151 343 0228 Mob 0771 3024943

**Sirius mf sea kayak**. 6 years old, fibreglass, 2 hatches, skeg, classic boat, great condition £850 Aberdeenshire 01330 844409 bmr@ifib.co.uk

**Slalom Kayak retro** by Radical Moves, all carbon with Italian seat. Good condition with new spray deck stored indoors only £110 Cheshire Tel 07795 264348

**Topolino spud**, red, v good condition, river airbag. £400.00, contact kev 07949323365 or e-mail, pitsy67@aol.com (hampshire)

**Tow bar**. Witter PFC1A New, never fitted with instructions to fit Peugeot Boxer, Fiat Ducato & Citroen Relay from 1994. Cost £99.00 sell for £45.00. glos area 01594 823153 Evenings

**Vango Equinox TSB 600** very large tunnel tent. Sleeps 8 (or more) in two separate end sleeping areas. Central area great for sitting, drinking and telling tall canoeing tales late into the night (the stopper was how big?!). Contact Tim on 02476 672584 or 07801 259376 or tim.spencer10@ntlworld.com

**Waterproof APS camera**, Canon IXUS X1, very good condition, £60 call Chris on 07973410268

**Wave sport ace 4.7** good condition black/blue 2years old suit the smaller paddler £375 o.n.o tel 07752618429(Mark) or popey123456789@yahoo.com EAST SUSSEX

**Wavesport Evo**, as new condition, yellow,air bags, full fittings, suit smaller paddler,stored inside,Chester area £375, Tel 01244 350787 oremail amarsland1@aol.com

**Wavesport XXX** - orange/yellow - ace condition - £295 Stubby - orange/blue - excellent river boat - £185 Spud - yellow - A1 condition (mainly used on flat water) - £225 Raider Surf Ski - white - small ding otherwise A1 condition - £125 Photos available Errol 07967 972 022 errol.francis@tiscali.co.uk

**Werner Sidekick Paddle** 196cm, 60 degree feather, Mango coloured blade hardly used and in excellent condition £150 ono. Contact Greg 07776 215 363 NW Region

**Wild One**, all round plastic kayak, made in Cornwall, very user friendly, with full plate footrest, deck lines etc. Excellent condition £180. Tel 01793 812708 (North Wiltshire)

**WWR K1 Mission Practice Boat** - Lime Green Double Dutch Very Solid and hard wearing arimid/kevlar Mission, with action patch, 1 small repair at front, but still got very good shape. Well used but very good £350 ono Nigel Jones 07739693041 nigel.jones@ntu.ac.uk

**WWR K1 Mission Race Boat**: Mission Double Dutch Slight orange and KC Glitter deck. Carbon Kevlar Hull. Very solid Double Dutch top construction, new is £980. There are a few back end taps and a few scratches, but excellent race boat £700 Nigel Jones 07739693041 nigel.jones@ntu.ac.uk

**Wanted**

**Dagger redline** or rpm/ pyranha arabcot 270. Im in Scotland just outside Glasgow so something local would be great Willag\_mac@yahoo.com 07966 486 740

**Eskimo Diablo** in good condition please call or text Max on 07733327779

**Larger sized beginner** looking for a kayak up to £300. WW mainly, Midlands preferred but will travel for the right boat @ the right price Email kennycylegg69@hotmail.com or text/phone 07976 663024

**Light weight WWR** with large seat for marathon/training use. Contact Susan Templeton (Southampton) 02380456001 or 07771746909

**Mobile Adventure Melody / Pyranha Prospector** in good condition. Cornwall. Please phone Debbie on 01637 88 10 66

**Pyranha Micro Bat 230** White water spec, preferably around £200 - £300, any colour in good condition. Hereford area, but can travel to a certain degree. Contact Andy - andyp@wbs.uk.com - Mob - 07974 645 132

**Reasonable condition plastic boats** by Scout Group will pay up to 150 (Kent)

**Varying boats needed** from beginners boats to more experienced boats! Call james 01732 789400, 07974 412932 james.reid@orange.net (Kent)

**Riot Hammer** - any considered, preferably the original 97 model. Dan Stobart 01895 623 378 email dan@helenstobart.freemove.co.uk

**Sit on surf kayak** for beginner in South London call Richard 07973 288 498

**Sit on top two person kayak** wanted such as Ocean Kayak Malibu 2 or similar. Will collect. Please contact Daren on 07801756729.

**Topolino Duo**. Must be in good condition. Distance no object.e-mail lledhall@aol.com tel 01690 750214

**Lost**

**2 blue schlegel open canoe paddles** on Derwent water in the lake District. Charity organisation would like them back if found. Lost on 28/6/04. If any details please contact me on 07812 981564 or Marcus.iving@endeavour.org.uk

**Found**

**At Fernilee on the River Tweed** on 20th June a Sleeping Bag and Shoes in polythene bag. To claim contact Tom on 01592 758908.

**Stolen**

Holme Pierpoint - Sprint Regatta. June 5th 2004 - a 35 year old plastic water container 2-3 litre placed next to a van in top car park. Info John Bull 01765 604071.



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


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# Students are heroes for BBC documentary

Four Duchy College students took part in a BBC documentary which shed new light on the story of the 'Cockleshell Heroes'. Adventurous Activities students Scott Johnston (Year 2), and Year 1 students Tom Thorpe, Ryan Ainsworth and Rob Edwards paddled up the Tamar in kayaks which were exact replicas of the originals used in a daring World War II mission. Ten marines paddled their 'cockles' for four nights up the Gironde River estuary to Bordeaux docks, where they blew up German ships by attaching limpet mines.

Programme maker Tom Keene had discovered from documents in the Public Records Office at Kew that another team of British saboteurs from the Special Operations Executive had been parachuted into France and were at the docks, about to plant bombs, when the cockleshell heroes struck. The organisers of both missions shared the same office and had ordered bombs from the same place, but were unaware of the other team's plans. Had Mountbatten known about the land mission he might never have agreed to the daring river raid and the eight who were drowned or shot by Germans might have survived.



The four Duchy students were used to reconstruct the scene on the river, with staff member Gary Peverill present as Safety Officer. The location was the Tamar above Halton Quay on the stormiest, coldest and windiest day of the year. They started at Weir Quay, paddled upstream with the tide and were filmed in the reeds above Halton Quay, the expedition starting at 2pm and going on into the darkness of the evening.

Tom Keene of Longbow Productions Limited said: "The students were brilliant. They entered into it with a real will. We needed to have canoeists who knew what they were doing and they were very competent and uncomplaining. The pictures looked authentic. A marine friend thought we had used marines and Terry Sparks, one of the sons of the actual cockleshell heroes, thought the scene looked real." ●

# Raleigh puts kayakers through their paces

In its search for kayak expedition leaders, Raleigh International, the youth development charity, will be running a kayak development weekend for kayak enthusiasts on 11-12th September. Raleigh has joined forces with internationally renowned paddlers John Ramwell and Nigel Dennis to run the course at the Anglesey Sea and Surf Centre.

The course is designed to help enthusiasts with some experience to develop their skills in the water. Every participant will leave with a personal development plan, learning points and the prospect of further training. Participants will also have the chance to be considered as expedition leaders in Chile.

Richard Solly, manager of the volunteer staff recruitment team at Raleigh International, comments: "Regardless of an individual's experience, taking part in highly specialised kayaking training with two of the best in the field is a fantastic chance for anyone who loves water sports and adventure. What's more, participants will have the chance to consider joining a Raleigh International expedition as a leader. Anyone who has attained a certain standard and has a passion for sport and adventure is likely to inspire young people to follow in their footsteps – exactly the skills we are looking for."

Raleigh International is currently recruiting for expedition staff over the age of 25 to lead expedition adventures on three month expeditions throughout 2004 and 2005. For more information about the training, becoming an expedition leader and other volunteer staff opportunities contact [staff@raleigh.org.uk](mailto:staff@raleigh.org.uk) or call 0207 371 8585.





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For more info contact +44 (0)20 7371 8585

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Further details are available from Teresa James, email; [teresa.james@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.james@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01480 813853

For an application forms please ring Grafham Water Centre, Perry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0BX on (01480 810521)

Closing date for applications for this position 18th August.

Interviews will be held during the w/b 30th August

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



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- **Multi Activity Instructors:** to be based at either centres. Experience and / or qualifications essential

**INTERESTED?...Don't just sit there...  
Get in touch with**

Rachel Allen, Barnabas Adventure, Carroty Wood, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9QX.

01732 363995

[rachel@barnabas.org.uk](mailto:rachel@barnabas.org.uk)

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**01694 724488**  
www.corvedalecare.net



# Landsker

Child Care

## Landsker Child Care

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Previous experience not required for some posts. All applicants must be over 21. Contact Margaret Wilkins 01437 711143 for an application form



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Worcestershire Outdoor Education Service comprises of 3 centres offering exceptional outdoor experiences to a range of clients. This autumn we are recruiting 4 MODERN APPRENTICES to work, train and gain qualifications as part of our highly successful team. If you are young, enthusiastic and extremely motivated to work in the outdoors please get in touch.

Phone Sue Keen on 01684 574546 or email [SKeen@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:SKeen@worcestershire.gov.uk)

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F O C U S

Feature  
NORWAY

Just a few B

**Just a few big bouncy waves! Dave and I were getting excited. Right next to our campsite was a pale blue river, fast flowing, exciting but not too huge to be scary. We drove further down the river, more bouncy waves... "We'll just have a look over this bridge," Oh! The bouncy waves had all of a sudden turned into a grade five weir followed immediately by a gnarly rapid. Welcome to Norway.**

We knew Norway had plenty to offer those at the extreme end of the sport, plenty to satisfy those who liked throwing themselves off huge waterfalls. We also knew there was ample recreational paddling on the beautiful fjords and coastline. What we didn't know was how much paddling there was for average grade 3/4 paddlers who like their excitement but have quite a comfortable safety margin. After all, we were off to Norway for a holiday.

Norway made a refreshing change after the familiar rivers of the European Alps. OK the beer isn't as cheap and your kit doesn't dry so fast in the sun, but Norway makes up for that by being an even bigger adventure playground that isn't overrun by Brits. The 1989 translated guidebook leaves a lot to the imagination, with entries along the lines of 'pretty grade 2-4, make sure you get out before the grade 6 - it has proved fatal.' There is still plenty of adventure in finding new rivers and scouting them for yourself. With so much rain and glacier melt, wherever you turned there was a river. It was up to you whether you wanted to run it.

Grasping the scale of things was something we never overcame. Because the mountains tower so high and the fjords stretch into the distance, some of the rivers at the bottom of the valley seemed to be quite docile. The power of the first river we paddled, the Aurlandselvi flowing into Aurland on the west coast, took us quite by surprise. It was only grade two but from the road it looked as tame as Symond's Yat on a summer's day. From the first breakout, it was obvious the current was a little bit stronger. It was a good warm up with plenty of wooden stanchions put in making wonderful breakouts. It would have made a great slalom training site - apart from the fishermen. We were surprised to be greeted by the usually friendly Norwegians with the finger. Maybe fishermen are an international breed. Later, we realised why they were so hostile. We'd just paddled one of the best sea-trout rivers in the country on the last day of the season!

On our whistle-stop 2,600-mile tour of Southern Norway we noticed a common theme to Norwegian rivers: they were either massive with a one



in three gradient; or they were a gentle touring river, ideal for an open canoe on a sunny day; or occasionally they were a mixture of the two: flat for miles, a big rapid then flat for miles, possibly with a lake in between. This proved to be quite inconsiderate, especially since there were just the two of us and it would have been a long walk back. Since there were so many scenic views to take in, walks to do and photographs to capture we didn't find time to discover our perfect river in the West. It was time to





# IG bouncy waves!



far left: Ruth on Kannesteinen Rock  
Above: Dave on the Lågen  
Below: The get-off of Lågen  
Right: 30 seconds of fun near Turlidfossen  
Top right: Ruth at Turlidfossen



leave the soggy coast and head inland to the famous river Sjoa.

The Sjoa is Norway's equivalent of L'Argentiere or the Rabioux of the French Alps. Several raft companies are based there and is the self-proclaimed river centre of the country. Despite the locals insisting there was no water, we were delighted with how continuous the grade three play section was. Huge bouncy wave trains all the way, linking wonderfully named rapids such as The Golf Stream where apparently a Norwegian pulled over to see the first raft trip in Norway, he was so excited that he forgot to put the handbrake on and his VW Golf slipped into the river. Another rapid was called the Chinaman's Hat as the hole is so deep that if you go through it you will go down to China. We met up with some of the instructors from the Sjoa Kayak Camp and Dave had the rare privilege of being the only male amongst four female paddlers.

The next day we spent the morning on the Sjoa slalom site. It was empty! The bank is lined with beautiful decking and is very civilised. Again the speed of the water took us by surprise but great fun was had. Imagine if this were in Britain, on a Sunday morning the concrete ditch of HPP would have been heaving with paddlers who had all paid extortionate amounts for the pleasure. We did another river in the area, the Lågen to its confluence with the Sjoa, which was just brilliant fun. Each river I did in Norway superseded the last as being the biggest water I'd ever paddled. Although short, the wide flat river above gave no clue of the huge wave trains that were to follow. The

best bit was knowing that there were no nasty rocks or holes to dodge and that if the worst came to the worst it was flat at the bottom.

Reluctantly we left the Sjoa and headed south. This proved to be a bit of a disappointment. Several of the rivers we'd marked down to look at turned out to have been damned or there was not enough water for them in September. Out of desperation at not finding a river, we stopped at a couple rapids, which looked quite easy, but a bit of a laugh. At Evje, just north of Kristainsand, there is a rafting centre that runs down one of the big rapids on the Ottra, which would have been a poor relation to the Sjoa run. However we found a deserted similar rapid on the other side of the wide river. From the road it looks nothing but, as photos show, a paddler looks quite insignificant in the great big waves. It was certainly an adrenaline kick.

Inadvertently we'd saved the best till last. The guidebook described the 200 metres of rapids on the Mandalselva just north of Mandal as "may provide some adrenaline stimulation." They weren't wrong! The fast little shoots seen from above looked very different on the water when faced with a horizon line and the rest of the river metres below. Whoosh! Down the ramp and straight over the waves and stoppers at the bottom. What an adrenaline rush and this was only the small one. We waved to our Norwegian two-man audience who clearly thought we were mad. Now for the big one. The acceleration down the wave was so fast that it felt that your stomach was still at the top of an Alton Towers ride. I broke out to find Dave in an opposite eddy with eyes on beanstalks. By leaning back in his playboat to avoid burying in the pile, he had back-looped and had taken off clear of the water. We were both bouncing around long after getting out. What a wonderful way to finish our Norwegian adventure. ●

**Ruth Holdway**  
**Photos: David Hepworth**



## info

Shortly after returning from Norway, Ruth was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, a form of lymphatic cancer. Although she expects to make a full recovery, instead of staying at home moaning about being unable to canoe for the year, she and her boyfriend, Dave Hepworth, decided to organise a 24-hour canoe polo fundraising competition with the help of York University Canoe Club. See page 28.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Consultative Meeting of ERDT-East will be held on Monday 22nd November in the club room at the University Athletics Ground, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, 7.30pm for a prompt 8.00pm start. Bar available. Agenda items, apologies and requests for maps to: Minute Secretary, 27, Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NX. 01223 311715, [FamilyBlock@aol.com](mailto:FamilyBlock@aol.com)

## Kanumesse trade fair

The Kanumesse is an international trade fair for the canoe business. Manufacturers, from Germany as well as from overseas, will be there and show their latest equipment for the coming season.

**Location:** Sports Centre Rohrdorf: "Turner Hölzl" Rohrdorf is a small village located in southern Germany (Bavaria), next to the motorway Munich-Salzburg. Rohrdorf is very close to Rosenheim, where the local manufacturers and distributors Prijon and Blue & White will have their in-house shows.

**Date:** September 23-26th  
**Visitors:** Trade Fair - approved trade visitors only. Full details at [www.kanumesse.de](http://www.kanumesse.de)

## Kayaking competition

Negotiations with Scottish and Southern Energy have been finalised and the organisers of the Liquid Life festival can now confirm September 11th as the date for a white water kayaking event on the River Tummel in Perthshire, Scotland. The main event, with a special release of water, will be the head to head sprint through a class III/IV section of river. The finish line will be below the 7m two-tier waterfall on Loch Faskally. For further information and entries, please email [info@liquidlife.co.uk](mailto:info@liquidlife.co.uk)

## First Irish Surf Symposium

4-5th September

Tollymore Mountain Centre is Northern Ireland's National Centre. Tollymore, in conjunction with The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland Surf Committee are organising a surf symposium followed by a surf-coaching week.

Based on the west coast of Ireland in Bundoran; one of Europe's premier surf locations. In 2003 the Donegal/Sligo area hosted the world Surf Kayak championships.

**Programme:** Come & Try It, Intermediate & Advanced Skills coaching, rescues, getting the best out of your glass boat, freestyle in the surf, slide shows, range of demo boats, music and craic etc.

Staffed by the UK and Ireland's top Surf Kayak Coaches  
**Coaching week:** The symposium will be followed by a coaching week on which a full range of training and assessment courses will be available, course fee available on application.

- 4 star training/assessment and 5 star training/assessment
- Level 3 Coach training/assessment, level 5 Coach assessment.

**Cost:** £80 half board. **Accommodation:** Donegal Adventure Centre. For full details and a booking form please contact **Tollymore Mountain Centre on 028 437 22158 or email [admin@tollymoremc.com](mailto:admin@tollymoremc.com) or visit our web site [www.tollymore.com](http://www.tollymore.com)**

## Southampton Boat Show

10-19th September - Mayflower Park

This year's show, in association with the Daily Telegraph, has 20% more exhibition space than last year's show, and now covers a massive 29.6 acres.

It sees the opening of a brand new area, Solent Park, which will host the Honda Formula 4-stroke racing finals over the first weekend of the show. As usual the show will have its famous purpose built show marina, the largest in Europe, with 2 kms of pontoons and over 900 boats to enjoy.

Visitors inspired to take a holiday on the water can also check out the wide range of sailing holidays and water sport breaks available in the UK and abroad, and for the fashion conscious there are plenty of shopping opportunities to ensure you're decked-out in the latest styles

**Call 0870 060 0246 to book your tickets in advance or visit [www.southamptonboatshow.com](http://www.southamptonboatshow.com)**

## Nene freestyle

25-26th September - Nene WW Centre

Freestyle event, novice event, boater X, squirt event and a barn dance. Fantastic prizes, including cash, kit and sponsorship deals. Party and camping on site will be included in the entry fee. Come along and bring lots of friends, especially newcomers, as there are cool kit prizes to be won in the novice freestyle. The novice event will be held in a smaller hole (Pool C), so don't worry you don't have to go into the main hole! We will be taking online entries that will entitle you to a cheaper entry price. Watch the website for more details. **Visit the website: [www.mightynene.co.uk](http://www.mightynene.co.uk) for more information.**

## BCU Lifeguards

National Championships 2004

25-26th September - Upton Warren

BCU Lifeguards National Championships are open to all with all events being based around the Canoe Safety Test, Assistant Lifeguard and Aquatic First Aid awards.

Upton Warren is located centrally in the country and is

close to major road systems, just two minutes from the M5. Upton Warren's facilities are ideal for hosting National Championships, with varied water locations and excellent shore side facilities including bunkhouse accommodation, campsite space and plenty of parking.

Championships 2004 will follow the format of previous years with skills events taking place on Saturday and unknown incidents on Sunday.

There are trophies for various categories including:-

Overall trophy, Saturday skills trophy, Sunday unknown incidents trophy, open trophy (non lifeguard clubs), junior trophy (U18), ladies trophy, veterans trophy, best new club.

Teams will consist of three persons, and you will need to provide your own judge/marshall and casualty. No specialist equipment is required, all you need is basic canoeing equipment. There are also Iron man and Diamond Lady competitions, involving a paddle, swim and run.

If you would like further details, please contact: **Damian Lockie, 18 Drake Avenue, Chickerell, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 4NA [www.bculifeguards.com](http://www.bculifeguards.com) [info@bculifeguards.com](mailto:info@bculifeguards.com)**

## The Welsh Open Canoe Symposium

1st-3rd October. Supported by: WCA and Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn

This is one of the great canoe events of 2004. We are alternating with the Scottish and English Symposiums 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, open water rescues, playboating, white water doubles, poling and a chance to paddle the Tryweryn to Bala. Both the River Vymwy and the Mawddach Estuary are within reach. Our aim will be to give the widest range of workshops on each day. We may visit the Mile End Mill site on the Dee at Llangollen

**Venue:** National centre for the youth of Wales

**North American Guest:** to be finalised

**Saturday Evening:** Will include a slide show and lectures.

There will be a band and bar.

**Price:** We are offering three/four options:

1. Full accommodation. £92 per person.
2. Camping including all meals. £58 for the weekend.
3. Camping self catering. £46 for the weekend including a meal on Saturday evening
4. Day visitor with Saturday evening meal £36

Under 18 's taking part in the activities must be accompanied by parents. All correspondence and booking to: e-mail [glanllyn@urdd.org](mailto:glanllyn@urdd.org)

## Daily Telegraph Adventure Travel & Sports Show

London Olympia, 14-16th January 2005

If you've ever wanted to raft the white waters of the world or simply walk along trails less travelled, wanted to trail blaze across Africa or just move quietly among different people in new places, have the desire to make history or only rediscover it, then leave the tourist trail and discover the UK's biggest adventure travel event.

Canoe Focus readers are being offered an extra special discount, entitling them to £3 off door price for adults (i.e. £7), £1.50 off child (£5.50) and save £9 off family (£25) when booked in advance. Add £1.50 postage and packing per order. Valid until 31 October only. Readers should call the hotline on 0870 060 0199 and quote "Canoe Focus Autumn offer" or go to [www.adventureshow.co.uk](http://www.adventureshow.co.uk) for online ticketing.

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