

THE OFFICIAL CANOEING MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

canoe

focus

12-04

No. 152

£2.00

East Coast Greenland

Bujagali Falls

Balkan's WW

Gibraltar Straits crossing

French open canoe & kayak WW

WIN a Jackson kayak

Plus all the usual features and...
Freestyle World Champs preview, wild water, freestyle
and slalom competitions, Youthfest 2004 and more...
8 pages of outdoor jobs



PHONE OR EMAIL NOW FOR YOUR **FREE** FULL COLOUR CANOEING & KAYAKING CATALOGUE

56 PAGES OF CANOES,
KAYAKS, CLOTHING,
KIT & ACCESSORIES
FROM ALL THE MAJOR
MANUFACTURERS.

PHONE OR EMAIL YOUR
CATALOGUE REQUEST TO
BROOKBANK. SEE BELOW
FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

Canoeing & Kayaking
The Ultimate Catalogue



OR CALL IN TO COLLECT YOUR COPY FROM BROOKBANK OR UK CANOES.

The UK's favourite online paddling store...

GetOutCanoeing.co.uk



Only 1 minute off J34 M6, next to the River Lune

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

UKCanoes 

Unit 8, Lansil Industrial Estate
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3PQ

Tel: 01524 388 850
Fax: 01524 388 830

Email: info@ukcanoes.co.uk
Web: www.ukcanoes.co.uk

BROOKBANK
CANOES & KAYAKS

Unit 23, Meadow Ind. Est.
Water Street
Stockport
SK1 2BX

Brookbank has
6000 sq.ft packed
full of boats & kit!!!

whitewater
open canoes
general purpose kayaks
inflatables
sit on tops

Call now for your
free 56 page
colour catalogue!



tel. 0161 474 1499
fax. 0161 474 1411

email: info@brookbankcanoes.co.uk
web: www.brookbankcanoes.co.uk

hires & demos

group discounts

interest free
credit

courses & trips

mail order

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

E-mail: info@bcu.org.uk
www.bcu.org.uk
ISBN 0953-010X

BCU Enquiries
Above address

President
Albert Woods

Chair
Brian Chapman

Chief Executive
Paul Owen

Annual Subscription Rates
UK inland: £19.00
Overseas: £24.50
Supplied free to BCU members

Annual Membership Rates
Life: £520.00
Adults: £29.00 basic
£35.00 comprehensive
Under 18's: £14.50 basic
£18.00 comprehensive
Family: £13.50 basic
£17.00 comprehensive

Publishing Contractors
2b Graphic Design
49 Greenfields, St. Ives,
Cams. PE27 5HB
Tel/Fax: (01480) 465081

E-mail: peter@canoefocus.co.uk
www.2bgraphicdesign.co.uk

Canoe Focus Enquiries
Above address

Editor

Peter Tranter
01480 465081

Assistant Editor
Debbie Colt

Advertising Sales
Anne Egan
01480 465081

Printed by
Warners, Bourne, Lincs

Magazine Design
Steve Clarke

Illustrations

Richard O' Donovan

Page Make-up by
2b Graphic Design

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

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

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

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

Contributors:

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

**Tamsin Phipps, Arturo Asquez,
Steve Gorman, Pete Keron,
Jez Oughton, Neil Newton Taylor,
Andy Holtham, Emily Wall, Ruth Holdway,
Peter Astles, David Bainbridge,
David Leathborough, Ruth Holdway,
Spike Green, Nobby Cranny,
Martin Rickard, Lesley Bown,
Stanford Ricketts, Alan Judge,
Tom Paterson, Vernon Bayliss,
Dave Leathborough, Howard Blackman,
Sue Hornby, and Mike Devlin.**

Front cover:

Slalom competitor at Youthfest 2004
Photo: Dave Leathborough

Email:

david@focused-on-adventure.com

Contents

5 Comment

6 News

12 Access

News round-up of the access campaign

14 Feature: Gibraltar

Gibraltar Straits sea kayak crossing

16 Feature: France

Open Canoeing in the central massive in France

18 Competition:

Wild water racing: Schofield claims World Cup bronze

20 Feature: The Nile

Big volume and huge monster holes

22 Competition:

The Nottingham Peak Challenge Final / British
Freestyle Championships and slalom

24 Competition:

Preview to the Freestyle World Champs in Australia

26 Feature: France

A white water trip out to the French Alps

28 Feature: England

A middle-aged housewife tries canoeing

30 Feature: Greenland

Sea kayaking expedition to Lake Fjord

32 Feature: Scotland

The inaugural Liquid Life Boater X event

34 Access

Local Access Forums

36 Feature: Bosnia Herzegovina

City centre white water in the Balkans

38 Youth: Youthfest 2004

Plus a canoe session for the 'Children from Chernobyl'

42 Letters

Your points of view

44 Member's classified

Second hand everything!

45 Classified section

Courses, accommodation, equipment, insurance and
vacancies in the canoe/kayak job market

56 Paddler's Gear

Reviews and news from Pesda Press, Helly Hansen,
Dagger, P&H, Pyranha, Robson and MBI Publishing

58 Events

Events to brighten the gloom of winter

59 Competition: Win a Jackson kayak

www.canoefocus.co.uk

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE CANOE FOCUS HAPPEN.

The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers, so don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. **Technical Information:** Contributions are acceptable in typed (double spaced) or preferably as a Microsoft Word file, which can be emailed to peter@canoefocus.co.uk, or mailed to 2b Graphic Design, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cams PE27 5HB. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and it's agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. Next Copy date is the **5th JAN 2005**. Material arriving after this date cannot be included in the **FEBRUARY 2005** issue. Canoe Focus encourages contributions of any nature but reserves the right to edit and condense to fill the space available and unless otherwise stated the publishers assume no responsibility for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the British Canoe Union, its committees or members. The printing of an advertisement in Canoe Focus does not necessarily mean that the British Canoe Union endorse the company, item or service advertised. All material in Canoe Focus is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. Reproduction without prior permission from the Editor is forbidden.



WAVESKI

PACK

RTM Slider
Yak Kougar
Ainsworth
Asymmetric
RRP £618.95
OFFER FROM £555



GUL WIND TOP

Breathable fabric, tape seams, front pocket, adjustable seals.
WAS £39.95

Special Offer
NOW £24.95



BOMBER SCUD SHORTS

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

NOW £29.95



GUL THROW LINE

20m, 8mm rope

Special Offer
£15.00



NOOKIE PADDLE BAG

£29.99



BEACH PACK

RTM Loco
Yak Kallista
TNP 1 piece Paddle
RRP £344.90
OFFER £305



PALM SIDEWINDER

Latex neck and wrist seals
Double waist seal
£169.95



PEAK NEOPRENE PANTS

3mm neoprene flatlock stitched - Full length
£33.00



BEAVER COMMANDO KNIFE

Special Offer
£10.95



DEMO BOATS AVAILABLE £20 PER DAY

STARTER PACK

Tek Sport Excess
Yak Kyu Deck
TNP 1 piece Paddle
RRP £353.90
OFFER £315



YAK KALISTA

Fully adjustable
Shoulder & side compression.
Zip entry
£39.95



PALM KEVLAR SOCKS

Neoprene sock with reinforced kevlar sole
£17.95



NOOKIE SOFTCORE

Thermal rash vest
£29.95



PREDATOR SIDECUT HELMET

£39.95



INTEREST FREE FINANCE AVAILABLE ON KAYAKS

YAK BOARD SHORTS

Neoprene inner short with a baggy waterproof outer
£44.95



SHREAD READY SUPER SCRAPPY

Removable ear protectors
Adjustable cradle for extreme fit
£69.95



WILDWATER COMPETITION

High Impact plastic shell
£26.00



PEAK STRETCH FLEECE

Special Offer
£15.00



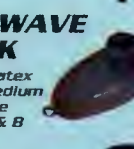
OPTIMUM TACTIX ELBOW PADS

Comfortable and durable, plastic forearm re-inforcement over EVA padding
ONLY £19.95



GUL SHOCKWAVE SPRAY DECK

Reinforced rim with latex underside, small - medium and large - extra large with deck sizes S, K & B
OFFER £39.95



PALM KEVLAR DECK

Kevlar reinforced rim with latex underside. The toughest out there
£69.95



RobinHood Watersports
www.roho.co.uk

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

YAK SCIRROCO DRY CAG

SPECIAL OFFER - NOW £49.95
Probably the cheapest twin seal dry cag on the market



YAK STYX

Dual design for adventure paddling and river play
WAS £79.95
NOW £65.00



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

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE 01924 444888

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

... A LIFE LESS > . ORDINARY

TOLLYMORE MOUNTAIN CENTRE

If you're looking for something different in your life then you've found it at the Tollymore Mountain Centre. Set in a superb wooded background with quick access to the County Down coast, we offer a wide range of courses and guiding to suit all levels of skills.

SCNI's National Outdoor Centre
Full range of skills, instructor and coaching courses
Sea and Surf safaris
West Coast island hopping
Guided expeditions to Europe and North America
Highly qualified coaches and instructors

LENDAL

SPORTS
CENTRE NORTHERN IRELAND
making sport happen for you

Tollymore Mountain Centre Briansford, Newcastle, Co. Down BT33 0PT
T. 028 4372 2158
E. admin@tollymoremc.com
W www.tollymoremc.com

• PYRANHA • PERCEPTION • DAGGER • WERNER

PADDLE SPORT

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

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

Group Buyers Package Deals
• BEST ADVICE • BEST PRICES • BEST SERVICE

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

Interest Free Credit
12 months to pay (details on request)

BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE COURSES
BCU 1-3 Star

WORLDWIDE MAIL ORDER
01926 640573

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

AINS WORTH • BUSHSPORT • PLAYBOATER

• PALM • NOOKIE • YAK • WILD WATER • PEAK • RIOT • OLD TOWN • GORILLA • NECKY • STREAMLYTE •

COMMENT

Paul Owen
Chief Executive

Access

"The BCU does absolutely nothing about Access, what has happened to the campaign, we want someone to take the lead" are cries that are far too frequently being targeted at those who are contributing greatly in this important area of our work. Sadly, it is a simple fact that progress is slow and that we must balance our campaigning and our public statements with trying to move forward in what is a very sensitive political area.

This is very frustrating to the paddling community, but it is a fact of every day life in the British system. We will only get the situation for canoeists improved by remaining engaged with government through continued, and, what they see as responsible negotiation. To do this the BCU must remain credible and reasonable. Clearly, this approach does not fit entirely with many canoeists who want to see immediate progress. As individuals you have a clear right to express that frustration, however, I do ask this question of some individuals: Are you serious about achieving a successful outcome or are you just using access as a vehicle to knock both the BCU and the other bodies involved? Simply, put we, the BCU are not in control of the timetable but we do seek to make progress towards the eventual goal of changing what we all see as a very unfair legal situation. To do this we must remain engaged with the political structure and we must continue to look at ways to improve our situation. All canoeists must show a united front as without this we may as well pack up with campaigning and just go for a paddle.

We will keep canoeists informed of any progress that we make and of any new developments. That said things simply will not change on a daily basis.

Some clear facts are now emerging, firstly, it is clear that government recognises that there is a problem, they in turn have made it clear that they are not prepared to consider legislation, without thoroughly exhausting other possibilities. There is no doubt that the government's view, and timescales differs immensely with ours. For the record even if government were in agreement with our proposals for legislation it would not happen straight away. Firstly, the Department for Food Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are already fully committed to introducing a law banning fox hunting; they would not deal with two areas of controversial legislation at once. Secondly, it is fairly clear that the government's focus in the new year will turn towards a general election.

That brings us to the possibility of a new government or if the government doesn't change the possibility of a new minister. This would be a shame as the current minister the Rt Hon. Alun Michael MP, has been and remains very supportive. Indeed, the establishment of Access to Water as an agenda item for Local Access Forums (LAFs) has been an important yet controversial step forward. The fact that he will not move to change the law is frustrating but does not mean that he is not supportive and that he does not recognise that a very real problem exists. It probably means that he also recognises the enormous complexity of the situation. Whilst simple to us I think we must also recognise just how high we are trying to set the bar.

Currently, there are just under 50,000 individual and club based members of the BCU, we are aware that there are many more paddlers who are not members and that approximately two million people go canoeing each year. However, the government and society in general will view our population in line with auditable governing body membership figures. Statistically in a country of 60 million, 50,000 is not that significant, sadly neither is two million. It is therefore important that we get our message over to as many areas of society as possible, people who possibly will never go canoeing but recognise the present inequalities in the situation. Yes, it is about raising and developing public awareness, it is about retaining the morale high ground, targeting other effected groups and obvious sympathisers. This is where our campaigning will largely be targeted over the forthcoming months.

The Revd Doug Caffyn has undertaken a very interesting piece of work, *"The Right of Navigation on Non-Tidal Rivers and the Common Law."* The BCU is currently funding the distribution of this work and seeking legal counsel's view of its standing. This will provide a proper basis for understanding its potential impact on the access situation and its value to the campaign.

Finally, Dee Days. The Dee Days protest were organised independently and completely outside of the BCU's structure. Why was this and why did it take so long for the BCU and WCA to come on board? When the idea of these days were first promoted, the BCU and WCA were engaged in delicate discussions in establishing and understanding the government's current thinking. It would have been totally inappropriate for the two bodies to have become engaged in organising such a protest, however, through the WCA the organisers were encouraged to make sure that the correct permissions from the police and the local highways department were put in place to ensure that the good name and credibility of canoeists would be maintained through a legal and peaceful protest. Since meeting with the government, the WCA on behalf of both organisations, maintained this liaison until these permissions were put in place. Then both organisations were able to support the protest in line with a joint statement issued by the two Chief Executives.

London 2012 unveils Olympic Games and Paralympic Games for the next generation

"London 2012 is extremely grateful for the wonderful support received from the BCU. They are one of our key partners together with the other governing bodies of sport and their input is invaluable as we continue in our quest to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games to London" – Sebastian Coe 19th November 2004

The blueprint for the London Olympic Games is based on extensive use of existing venues, rapid transport connections and state-of-the-art sporting facilities linked to sustainable community benefits. London's approach is outlined in the bid's Candidature File for the 2012 Olympic Games and includes the development of a new white water course for canoe slalom and use of the Eton Regatta Lake for the sprint racing.

London 2012 Chairman, Sebastian Coe went onto say: *"The London Games is a model for the next generation of athletes and for planning around the long-term needs of Olympic host cities and communities,"*

The Athletes Village planned for the Olympic Park will be the most spacious in Olympic history with 17,320 beds and an average 16 sqm floor space per athlete. The new Olympic Park will be served by ten rail lines – nine of which already exist – ferrying up to 240,000 spectators an hour from central London to the Olympic Park in just seven minutes in high speed shuttle trains departing at 15 second intervals as part of the Olympic Javelin system.

The File was unveiled at a special presentation in London that included a video message from the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who reinforced his government's commitment to staging an Olympic Games for the next generation.

"Hosting the Games in 2012 will encourage future generations of young people," the Prime Minister said. *"I believe that we can build a lasting legacy not just for our country, for sport in our country and for opportunities for young people, but also for the Olympic Movement."*

I strongly believe in London's 2012 Olympic and Paralympic bid. Sport matters hugely to this country. And when that passion is combined with London's excellent technical and legacy plans, I know we would make a great host city. The competition will be tough but the prize is certainly worth the effort."

The National Torch Trophy Awards

The Torch Trophy trust's objective is to support and promote the work of volunteers across all sports and outdoor activities throughout the UK. This year one of the awards went to Graham Lyons for his work in canoesport. Graham has been involved in canoeing since the 1960's when he was a founder member of Shrewsbury Canoe Club. He has also been very active coaching and has been at the forefront in coaching development for over two decades. Graham has also served on numerous working parties to develop specific areas of competence. Currently Graham is the BCU board director responsible for coaching.

BOA elections

Congratulations to our President Albert Woods who retained his position as Vice Chairman of the British Olympic Committee at the recent NOC elections. Albert will be joined as a Vice Chairman by Olympic 400m Hurdles Champion David Hemery.

And finally,

To everyone involved in canoesport, our members, fellow paddlers and our supporters, may I wish you a very happy Christmas and a New Year that brings us all greater access to our waterways.

Outdoor Active extends canoe range

Outdoor Active has been appointed UK distributor for Bell Canoe based in Minnesota, USA.

Included in the range are the Ocoee, the classic white water boat (Bell have taken over production of this boat from Dagger), the Yellowstone for those who miss the Dagger Legend 15, and the Flashfire and Wildfire, which are classic freestyle boats. Details of the full range of Bell canoes can be found on Bell's website on www.bellcanoe.com.

Outdoor Active will take delivery of a small batch of canoes, including demo boats, before Christmas, and a much larger batch early in 2005. They will also stock a huge range of open canoe accessories.

Says Richard Bennett, MD of Outdoor Active "We are very proud to be the UK distributor for two of the premium brands of North American open canoes, Bell and Wenonah. These are two ranges which sit beside each other very comfortably."

For more details contact Outdoor Active on 01454 261058 or email sales@outdooractive.ltd.uk



Thursday Freestyle Sporting inspirations

Markbirkbeck.com is now running a freestyle coaching session and competition every Thursday at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. The course will start on the 25th November '04 at 7pm and finish at 9pm. This will include one hour of coaching and one hour of competition. Cost is £5. This does not include the user fee, which you must pay yourself. No professional freestylers allowed! Please visit the website for more details www.markbirkbeck.com

More than a quarter of the population in England (26%) have been inspired by British medal-winning performances at the Olympic Games in Athens to play more sport or become more involved in sport in the near future. The research was carried out by Sport England and involved an omnibus survey* and interviews with eleven national governing bodies of sport. The key findings are:**

- More than one in ten (11%) of the public questioned since Athens claim to have been inspired by British success and are now involved in more sport;
- 15% say they are interested in doing more sport as a result of Team GB's success;
- 71% of the public say they enjoyed a 'feel good' factor as a result of British performances at the recent games.

Roger Draper, Chief Executive of Sport England, said; "This research confirms what we already believed, that major international sporting events have a significant impact on boosting the public's positive perceptions about sport. From the success achieved by our athletes at both the 2002

Commonwealth Games and again in Athens, we can clearly see the positive impact through people now taking up sport and others planning to do so in the near future."

The impact on levels of participation in sport would be even greater were London to win the bid to host the 2012 Games. This is according to the feedback received by Sport England from 11 of the governing bodies that represent leading Olympic sports**. Most of the sports that shone brightest for Britain at this year's Olympics believe that a successful London bid for the 2012 Games would have a major impact on the levels of future participation in their sport.

Medal-winning sports like cycling, badminton and canoeing - who between them captured over 25% of Britain's 30 medals in Athens - see a London Olympics doubling or even trebling the number of active participants across the country.

Every sport contacted by Sport England said they expect to enjoy a higher profile than before the Games. They also reported that during the period spanning the recent Olympics they have dealt with more enquiries from both the public and the media than ever before.

To Back the Bid register your support on www.london2012.com or text LONDON to 82012.

Conquering the impossible

Students on the Watersports National Certificate at Falmouth Marine School tackled one of the most impossible kayak crossings recently, when they embarked on a three day trip to Pembrokeshire in Wales.

The students planned the full trip, which included the crossing to South Bishop Lighthouse, over four months and discovered how the tide works, where the best access and egress points were, what possibilities were open to them and how to pack a sea kayak.

On arrival at St David's they were ready for the adventure to begin and got their first taste of big tides, paddling past the notorious Bitches tidal race and drifted down to Ramsey Sound camping on a beach for the night. The following morning they were all filled with anticipation about the journey ahead and set out to cross to South Bishop Lighthouse.

Student Ben Heavers commented on the trip. "Our tutors had told us about the crossing and we were worried we wouldn't be able to make it as the lighthouse catches the weather, waves and tide well and is six miles off shore and very exposed to land. But we all felt strong enough and luckily the weather was perfect and so we went for it. It took us two hours to complete the crossing to the magical spot and it was mind blowing to know that if we kayaked West, the next land we would come across would be the USA! Seeing the tide flow around the base of the rock as predicted with such power really showed what the sea can do".

The trip back was also amazing. The wind picked up from the South West and so gave the students challenging conditions from the side and behind. Ben continues, "I never would have thought I would be able to do anything like this, it was great to put the theory we had learnt in the classroom into practice".





Dagger
Europe



paddle **the ultimate** combination

touring



ocean



whitewater



paddler: andrew holcombe
image: jed weingarten

boats: daggereurope.com
gear: palmequipmenteurope.com

Terrific Turkey!

Adventure Whitewater has a big and bouncy paddling trip on the Coruh river in June 2005. This is a a kayak specific trip to make the most of the lower water levels ideal for river running and playboating.

Far from the traditional tourist resorts of the Mediterranean, in the picturesque North Eastern part of the country, lies the dramatic Coruh river. Flowing in the heart of the Kackar Mountain Range, this great class 3-4+ river epitomises the word action as you kayak and surf what is seemingly an endless roller-coaster ride. This is 120km of excellent whitewater... a great river for the advanced paddler or the adventurous intermediate with a solid roll.

For further information please contact Adventure Whitewater. Tel 0870 443 0240

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

Friendly police advice

I am a Police Youth Projects Officer for the West Yorkshire Police covering The Keighley and Shipley area of the Force. Since 1988 I have organised summer activity schemes for young people of the district. Keighley Police Activity Scheme is a registered charity and has always used sport and outdoor education as a tool to keep young people occupied during the summer and other school holiday periods.

Having received a grant from Bradford Council in 1988 to purchase a variety of outdoor equipment including kayaks the time had finally come to replace our worn and over used Perception Kayaks. (They have served us extremely well for 16 years)

In March I submitted an 'Awards For All' grant application to the Yorkshire and Humberside region of the National Lottery. This was for the maximum £5,000 allowed under this award. The application form was relatively easy to complete. The grant application was to fund replacement kayaks, helmets and paddles and purchase some climbing equipment. In May I was



notified that the monies has been approved and would be in the charities' accounts within two weeks.

I am pleased to say that we are now the owners of ten new Kayaks and climbing gear. I would like to thank the National lottery on behalf of the thousands of young people who will benefit from the equipment. To anyone thinking of applying get on with it, it was easy.

A bit more froth?

A brand new café concept has opened its doors in Betws-y-Coed offering outdoor action boys and girls not only the best in frothy cappuccino and latte coffees but adventure too. Café Active, located on the top floor of the Cotswold Rock Bottom store on the main high street, is the first ever Adventure Bureau Café.

Run along similar lines to the French Guides Bureau, you can simply drop in and book whatever adventure activity you fancy. No pre-planning, telephone calls, deposits. You can just arrive, book and then enjoy. Here, any decision making can be

done with a cup of something hot and frothy firmly in hand.

Explained Try Morris, a BCU Level 5 sea kayak coach, who co-founded Café active with husband Simon: "After spending time in New Zealand and seeing how easy it was there to access adventure sports we just really felt this was something missing in the UK. Café Active provides people with an easy way to get into the outdoors by taking all the stress out of your hands. All you need to do is arrive and we do the rest."

Both Trys and Simon are highly qualified outdoor instructors and coaches so know exactly what it's like to be damp, wet and cold and in search of a hot drink and somewhere that will let you in. Explained Simon: ■■■



GRUMMAN CANOES.

Keeping with Tradition

Using airframe technology Grumman produce ultra light canoes (from 44lbs/19kg) with unprecedented durability. Take a look at the new 12ft solo and 16ft square stern canoes this year.

AVONCRAFT
ROBERT VARDY LTD

12 West Burrowfield Ind. Est.
Welwyn Garden City Herts AL7 4TW
Tel: (01707) 330000 Fax: (01707) 333026
email: sales@avoncraft.co.uk
www.avoncraft.co.uk

"We really wanted to create a café for outdoor people. Somewhere they don't need to worry about coming if they are a bit damp and smelly or have got muddy boots.

Café Active can offer everything from coaststeering to sea kayaking to white water performance coaching to ensure there is everything for the discerning paddler and more. There is also an internet service, supported by Snowdonia Active and the only one in the nearby area, so you can even check on tides, surf and weather forecast before you head out.

This action café will also be providing a series of inspiring lectures from around the world. These will include the globe trotting adventures of BBC travel writer and photographer Steve Watkins on his latest book 'Unforgettable Things To Do Before You Die' and the Tasmanian She Devils, the record breaking all female sea kayak team, following their circumnavigation of the island.

For more information see www.cafeactive.co.uk

Blaze on!

Perception's Blaze is having a makeover. They will now encompass the Proline 600 outfitting which includes, padded adjustable seat, adjustable padded thigh braces, bulkhead footrest, forward adjusting ratchet backrest, bow and stern security bars and a drain plug. The Blazes incorporate all the features that you need in a kayak. It will run big rivers with ease still play with the performance of a freestyle kayak. All of this comes at the excellent price of £599.00

For more details on the complete Perception range give them a call on 01825 765891 or visit www.perception.co.uk



What's new at Woodmill



At last the waiting is over! One of the South Coast's favourite play spots is back in action.

After many months of closure pending a rebuild, the Woodmill Weir is once again in action. The engineers have now completed the work and the weir is ready for use by

kayakers and canoeists. Southampton City Council has overseen this work with input from Chris Hawksworth at the BCU. Public access to the weir is available from downstream, the best time to visit is around low water. Weir news will be displayed on the Woodmill website, please check it out before travelling to Southampton.

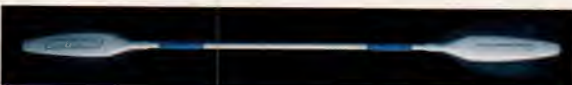
With the weir back in action, 2005 should see the return of Woodmill's popular White Water Rafting sessions and playboat training. Depending on the tide and rainfall the weir can be anything from a friendly wave suitable for relatively inexperienced white water beginners to a gnarly hole suitable only for very experienced paddlers. After very high rainfall, a re-circulating wave can form and extreme caution should be observed.

As well as the refurbished weir, Woodmill also has one of the best stocked canoe shops in the country, so why not visit for an afternoon's paddling combined with some retail therapy and don't forget the extensive demo fleet so you can try before you buy! The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday 9.00 – 5.00 and until 8pm on Thursdays. The shop will also open on Sundays when the weir is running.

In addition to the above, construction has started on a new changing room and classroom block for the outdoor centre. This will be a superb new facility providing much needed additional space for both school groups using the centre and for individuals participating in Woodmill's extensive range of courses.

For further information on Woodmill, its courses and the shop call 02380 555993, e-mail info@woodmill.co.uk or check out the website www.woodmill.co.uk

Seven2 paddles now available in Europe



Seven2 paddles are now available throughout Europe thanks to Norwegian company Adrenal. The paddles which are used by athletes

such as Steve Fisher (inventor of the helix) are now available for mail-order on www.seven2.com and will soon be hitting a store near you.

Seven2 have launched a new International store on their website. With secure online ordering and Fed-Ex air transit delivery they guarantee fast delivery with no delay at customs.

Seven2 are easily recognisable due to their revolutionary patented grip and shaft design. The grip provides control; comfort and alignment, whilst the shaft gives flex and power while staying ultra light. Add this to a durable high performance blade, and you are set for almost anything.

For more information contact: Seven2@adrenal.no

Ainsworth

Budget		C80 Canoe Junior	£19.50
		K80 Kayak Flat Left or Right	£24.50
		C100 Canoe All Round	£32.50
Mid-Range		C102 Canoe Dragon	£32.50
		K100 Kayak All Round	£55
		K100 Assy Kayak	£60
Polo		K103 Light Junior Kayak	£45
		K102 Polo	£70
		K104 Regular	£110
Professional Range		K104 Assy	£110
		K104 Side Kick	£120
		K106 Racing	£105
		K108 Sea Tour	£105

Tel: 0208 898 4839

www.ainsworthpaddles.net

Email: ainsworth.uk@virgin.net



Looking for a mellow kayaking trip in the Spring?

Adventure Whitewater has a class 2-3 Moroccan paddling adventure in the Atlas mountains. Together with sampling some exhilarating rapids, crystal clear water and magnificent mountain scenery, there will be a chance to surf from the famed Jimmy Hendrix Beach in Essaouira and enjoy the mystery of Marrakech. This is the perfect antidote for those wishing to shake off their winter coats and head south for some sun and river fun!

For further information contact Adventure Whitewater.
Tel 0870 443 0240

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

Splashing back with style

Organisers of Paddle 2004, The Scottish Canoe Association's two-day festival which took place in Perth on October 30 and 31, have hailed the event a complete success.

More than 1,200 visitors attended – the highest recorded number at the event - and exhibitors at the 33 trade stands described trading as brisk. Other attractions included a programme of speakers and presentations and 'Have A Go' sessions aimed at those who had never tried the sport before.

SCA President, Brian Chapman, said, "There was a real buzz about the hall and many people commented on the lively, friendly atmosphere. With no festival last year, we were determined to make this one a success. Exhibitors and visitors alike have told us we did just that and we're delighted to have put the festival firmly back on the calendar again as an annual event."

The presentations were well attended; indeed for some, there was only standing room. Topics included Canada to Alaska by sea kayak, coaching people with disability and an explanation of the new Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Following a recent trip to Greenland, Duncan Winning OBE,



Honourary President of the SCA, gave a presentation about the Inuit origins of modern recreational kayaks.

Highlighting the festival's theme that paddlesports are accessible for all, 'Have A Go' sessions were organised in the adjacent swimming pool. They proved to be very popular, attracting a whole range of participants with varying degrees of mobility and general fitness - from the under-10 year old's to over-50's.

Nelo Kayaks launched in the UK

Nelo Kayaks have announced the new distribution of their extensive sea kayak range into the UK. Following on from Nelo's large medal haul at the Athens Olympics, where eight medals were won in total using Nelo Kayaks, the kayak manufacturer launched its sea kayak range into the growing UK market.

Nelo Kayaks are known for their racing pedigree and their quality of manufacturing using the very latest composite materials and manufacturing techniques. A large purpose built factory and design studio allow kayaks to be constructed, rigged and finished in a totally controlled and bespoke environment.

With the large manufacturing capability available, Nelo

are able to offer sea kayaks to both individuals and to clubs at extremely competitive prices. Kayaks are built to order.

The sea kayak range is extensive with the availability of racing models through to beginner, recreational, touring and full expedition versions. All the models are constructed from glass fibre or carbon finish in any choice of hull or deck colour. The boats can be rigged according to individual requirements.

To view the whole range of Nelo Sea Kayaks visit: www.mar-kayaks.com or call 08700 777 575 or email: info@dcm.uk.com for your full colour brochure.

BCU supports Urban Escapes 2005

The BCU has become Urban Escape's newest support partner. Urban Escapes, organised by TJW Events, will cover a range of outdoor pursuits including canoeing and kayaking when it takes place at Lee Valley Showground (M25, J26) from 17-19th June 2005.

The aim is to encourage more people to try paddlesport by making it more accessible to the public. The BCU will work closely with the organiser, TJW Events, to promote Urban Escapes to its members and the public.

BCU planning and facilities manager, Chris Hawkesworth said: "The BCU is delighted to be one of Urban Escapes' support partners. Our aim is to help and inspire people to go canoeing. Working with the organisers of an outdoor event so close to London with the River Lee flowing alongside will give the public a wonderful opportunity to taste this water adventure."

Chris continued "It is proposed that the 2012 Olympic Canoe and Kayak White Water Course be sited in the Lea Valley. It is therefore highly appropriate that this show is situated at this important venue which has huge canoeing potential."

Companies and organisations are ensuring their presence at the event and anyone interested in taking part should contact Andrew Price on 01823 250930 or email andrew.price@tjw.co.uk.

Those interested in visiting Urban Escapes should watch out for ticket offers available from January. Full details can be found at www.urban-escapes.co.uk

More clubs gain Top Club and Club Mark Awards

Congratulations to Shropshire Paddlesport and Kingston Kayak Club who have recently been accredited for the BCU Top Club and Sport England Club Mark award. They join 11 other clubs to receive the award.

The Club Mark and Top Club awards recognise clubs that are safe, effective and child friendly and there are currently 69 BCU clubs and centres working towards the awards.

Full details of the awards and how to register are on the BCU web site www.bcu.org.uk/youth

Accredited Clubs include:

Tandridge Canoe Club
Elmbridge Canoe Club
Chelmsford Canoe Club
White Rose Canoe Club
Tamar Canoe Association
Halifax Canoe Club
Wey Kayak Club
Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club
Macclesfield and District Canoe Club
Wey Kayak Club
Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club
Shropshire Paddlesport
Leighton Buzzard Canoe Club



Sea kayaking on BBC2

'Tir is Teanga' is a BBC television programme looking at Highland place names, stories and relating them to OS map. Most programmes involve a walk with presenter Caillean Macleod who chats with a local. When the producers discovered that well known Gaelic singer Anne Martin was also a sea kayaking enthusiast, they took the opportunity to change the program format and have one episode based around a kayak trip at the north end of Skye.

'Whitewave: Skye's Outdoor Centre' provided kayaking support and back up, and with the help of a local fishing boat for the film crew a 'trip' between Uig and Scorebay was filmed over two days.

The pair discuss the local place names, and have 'the

craic' and there should be great shots of kayaking past the stack of Scudiburgh and into various caves, notably 'Uamh an Oir' the cave of gold. This cave has a great tale about monsters, a piper and a dog, and the theme of a song which Anne sings in the cave. As the cave is only accessible by kayak, it should be a unique piece of film for both kayak and music enthusiasts.

The programme is in Gaelic but will have sub-titles and is designed to be of interest to non-gaelic speakers.

The series begins on Thursday Jan 13th BBC2 and the sea kayaking trip is ear marked for the fourth programme but it may be worth checking. It will also be on Digital Channel 960.

SAS Hurley Classic

9-10 April 2005

Following last year's hugely successful event, the team of organisers are hard at it getting all the excitement packed up and ready for action. If you are a club, individual or group of friends the Classic will be the place to be on April the 9th and 10th.

What's on is like a dream ticket – All day weir action, packed cinema and lecture theatre. Major trade stands, shops and demo areas. BCU youth freestyle. A Pro ramp spectacular, and old skool hotdog contest plus the party to name just some of the on water and bank side activities.

The 1-2-3 you need:

1. To get onto www.hurleyclassic.com
2. To put a circle in your diary for 9/10/04.05
3. To prepare for a weekend to remember



Canoe polo website re-launched!

The BCU Canoe Polo Committee is proud to announce it's new bigger and better website, www.canoe polo.org.uk/. We hope that you will find information here that will help you to enjoy the sport of canoe polo, this will include; competition dates and results, refereeing details, write ups, polls an much more. The website along with email mailing lists are aiming to be the main communication mechanism for the committee, this will allow timely and prompt communications of polo related information to the polo community within Great Britain.

If you have any comments about the site please send them to

feedback@canoe polo.org.uk

James Hosken

Pelican® Anything else is just old hat! Is it time you upgraded to a Pelican?



Introducing RamXcel
Canoes with a new
rigid high performance
hull shape. Ram-X kayaks
are light, tough and manoeuvrable

GUARANTEED* MINIMUM £150
trade-in for any plastic Canadian canoe
that floats against any new Canadian
canoe. Also £80 trade in on any plastic
kayak against any Pelican Kayak. Offer
expired in March.

*See website for details.



Our premises are not open to the public

website: www.thefamilyboatshop.co.uk © 2004

E-mail info@thefamilyboatshop.co.uk or phone 07092-091575 for colour brochure and further details

Text 'canoe' to 83248 for stockists, specifications & prices - standard network charges apply

River Boxted (Stour) Suffolk Essex border

In view of the current Health and Safety legislation would canoeists using the facilities at Boxted Mill be aware that they do so entirely at their own risk. If people need to pass through the property please contact Lesley Quinlan Local River Advisor.

Cartoon courtesy of Andrew Quick



Typical UK access!

Positive meeting

The major piece of work by the University of Brighton on behalf of the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs DEFRA called 'Improving Access for Canoeing on Inland Waterways – A Study of the Feasibility of Access Agreements' was published in June 2004 and we have been awaiting the minister's response to its findings. The process of dealing with Government is often long winded and we have had to be patient in waiting for the response.

The meeting to discuss the findings was held on 20th

October with the Minister, Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, Minister of State Environment and Rural Affairs and Officials from the BCU/WCA, the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency and DEFRA. Gareth Thomas MP, who is a canoeist also attended.

The meeting was positive and it was recognised that there is a real issue with regard to access to inland rivers for canoeists and that there is much detail which requires further clarification.

Recognition was given to the fact that some

progress is achievable in the short term as a result of the "Brighton 2" study. However, the BCU/WCA emphasised the fact that canoeists must be involved in any work that is to take place. This is to achieve "buy in" and also to make sure that the real needs of canoeists are met without unnecessary expenditure which does not enhance the access to and use of the chosen rivers. It is likely that two of the four rivers highlighted in the Brighton study will be developed in the next few months this will be part of a greater access strategy.

DEFRA have agreed to revisit the findings of Brighton 1 and to consider the eight bullet points including the potential need for legislation which highlight possible ways forward:

1. Minor development of current planning policy and strategies
2. Targeted purchase of services and revised funding arrangements
3. Targeted acquisition of land and water rights
4. Voluntary agreements
5. Voluntary agreements with dedication
6. Compulsory access orders
7. A selective increase in statutory rights of navigation
8. Statutory rights of navigation to all major rivers, canals and water bodies

The recently published work by the Rev'd Douglas Caffyn 'The Right of Navigation on Non-Tidal Rivers and the Common Law' (see page 34) was highlighted and the issues it raises discussed. This will require considerable additional legal advice before it can be considered further.

Ways to resolve any differences with the Environment Agency, over access and the development of recreational use of the rivers were considered and a Strategic Planning Group to look at a way forward is being set up. The membership of the group will be from a variety of bodies including the BCU/WCA.

The Minister recognised that we have a democratic right to lobby and although he commented on the amount of work he had to undertake as a result of all the lobbying letters. (Thank you to everyone who took the time and made the effort to write... it does get us noticed and people do talk about the access issue) Other means of raising the profile of the campaign and widening the awareness of the access issue in the public domain are now required. He recognised that the Canoeing Lobby felt that the way in which to achieve sustainable access was through legislation and it still remained the ultimate goal. The Minister pointed out that this would not be achievable in the short to medium term and that the BCU would need considerably more public support if the aspiration was, indeed, ever to be met. However, on the way to achieving that goal there may well be other obtainable targets which will ease the access situation. These will need to be reviewed and tested. One on the ways forward that the Minister wanted to be considered was that of Voluntary Access Agreements. We will consider these alongside our other access work but, from experience, we pointed out that we have experienced insecurity over the sustainability of such arrangements.

Sustainability and security of agreements for greater access to water is critical if the BCU are going to be able to fulfil the commitment to a National Canoeing Development Plan over the next few years.

The work taking place within the Local Access Forums has recently been widened to include that of access to the water. The Minister wants feedback on how the LAFs are progressing with this new area of work.

The Countryside Agency has been asked to include access to water on future Agendas for the National Countryside Access Forum. In addition the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) have been asked to nominate a representative from the Water Recreation Division.

What next

We are now going to move to a more targeted campaign to gain support from more areas of society whilst at the same time continuing to work with government and its agencies to improve the situation for canoeists.

More access on page 34

Wanted

For the River Access Campaign we want to set up a more reactive and informative website which can take in to account a broader spectrum of paddlers for which access to our rivers would be valuable. The current site is visited by thousands of people but we need to be able to pass on information about access issues and access problems as and when they occur.

We need information on

- where access is difficult
- how you were treated
- suitable access points
- hazards put in our way even on rivers with access agreements
- the responses from your MP/town/councillors etc
- and comments about what is going on in the news
- what you are doing to support the campaign

Your news and views **do** count. They are important to us and we need to make ourselves heard and understood across all areas of society. Please send us photographs to support the campaign, particularly if these reflect the positive contribution we make to society, this would not only make the sight more interesting but would give pictorial proof of the benefits that our sport has to offer.

It is reckoned that the Right to Roam came about after 70 years of sustained effort. We are hoping to solve the access to water issue after a much shorter period of time. However, in order to move the campaign on we **must** keep up a sustained and united effort. It is only with mass support, particularly from non canoeists that we will have our voices heard.

The Rivers Access Campaign needs you!

RIVERS
ACCESS
CAMPAIGN

WWW.RIVERSACCESS.ORG

HIGHLAND CANOES

7 MYRTLEFIELD CENTRE
GRAMPIAN ROAD
AVIEMORE PH22 1RH

TEL/FAX 01479 810116

E-MAIL: info@highlandcanoes.co.uk
www.highlandcanoes.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

MON - SAT 10.00 - 5.30 (CLOSED WED & SUN)

CARLISLE CANOES

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

TEL/FAX 01228 531703

E-MAIL: info@carlislecanoes.co.uk
www.carlislecanoes.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

MON - SAT 9.30 - 5.30 (CLOSED SUN)

STIRLING CANOES

BLOCK 4 UNIT 2, MUNRO ROAD
SPRINGKERSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
STIRLING, FK7 7UU

TEL/FAX 01786 478820

E-MAIL: dave@stirlingcanoes.freemove.co.uk
www.stirlingcanoes.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

MON - SAT 10.00 - 5.30 (CLOSED SUN)

SUN & BANK HOLIDAYS BY ARRANGEMENT

THE NORTHS PREMIER KAYAK AND OPEN CANOE SPECIALIST

KAYAKS IN STOCK	INFLATABLES	OPEN CANADIAN CANOES IN STOCK	SIT ON TOPS	SEE KAYAKS IN STOCK
PYRANHA ESKIMO NECKY PRIJON RIOT DAGGER WAVESPORT LIQUID LOGIC PERCEPTION JACKSON BLISS STICK	GUMOTEX 	MAD RIVER PYRANHA MOBILE ADVENTURE OLD TOWN NOVACRAFT WE-NO-NAH	PERCEPTION OCEAN KAYAKS PYRANHA DAGGER RIOT	P&H PERCEPTION PRIJON PYRANHA DAGGER WILDERNESS SYSTEMS NECKY
PADDLES AND ACCESSORIES FROM ALL LEADING MANUFACTURERS				
VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR SPECIAL OFFERS : www.carlislecanoes.co.uk				
MAIL ORDER HOT LINE 0800 0747975 FREEPHONE				
SAME DAY DISPATCH				NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Sea kayaks & open canadian canoes for hire


UK Water Sports Ltd
are seeking dealers throughout the UK for our new range of sit on Catamaran Kayaks. For more information contact Dennis Boon at sales@britishwatersports.co.uk



And to see the full range of products, please visit, www.britishwatersports.co.uk

Kit Sale!

Annual Stocktake Clearance!



Kayaks
Canoes
Paddles
Cags
Decks
& More

Tel/Fax: 0845 456 9533
Order Online with Interest Free Credit!
www.canoekayaktrader.co.uk

No reasonable offer refused!



Feature
GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar Straits crossing

Four kayakers from Gibraltar had decided to cross the Straits of Gibraltar in order to collect money for Wireless for the Blind and GBC Open Day, and also to promote kayaking locally. Arturo Asquez, Norman Garcia, Sigurd Haveland and Nigel Jeffries had been planning this for the passed six months.



Finally the day to cross to Ceuta had come. It was midday when I phoned the Met office and to my disappointment he informed me that the winds were going to be strong easterly in the Straits for Saturday, not good. I phoned Nigel and we discussed the pros and cons. After a little consideration we thought of going to Ceuta and hoping for the best.

We met at 4 Dock. Norman had already arrived; kayaking as usual, while Sigurd had made his way across on the ferry from Algeciras. We started loading the kayaks onto yacht *Pickle of the Rock* and found it harder than we expected. Neil and Michael managed to get us away by 1730 and got us to Ceuta by 2030 accompanied by dolphins

for a good deal of the voyage.

Once in Ceuta we had to repair the sail, which had got stuck on the way there. While Neil and Michael undertook the repairs, the rest of us checked the kayaks and completed a few repairs ourselves. After that we had a quick shower and went to quench our thirst while discussing plans for the morning. We got back to *'Pickle'* at about 2345 to try and get our heads down. Not much chance of that with the adrenaline now pumping faster than usual.

I was awake at 0600 and by 0615 had phoned the Met man again. He checked the synopsis and informed me that it was going to be easterly force 5, doh! We had breakfast and decided to go for it.

By 0910 we had loaded the kayaks, checked everything twice and were afloat. I checked the time as we left Ceuta port, it was 0930, right on schedule. Before long we saw an Albatross flying around above us and scooping down to skim the surface of the waves with great elegance. Within half an hour we had to change course and paddle hard as the first of the many fast ferries went past leaving a massive wake.

We stopped at 1030 for a quick drink and looking at the GPS realised that we had covered more than a quarter of our journey. The sea wasn't too rough although we were battling with a beam wind. We set off and after dodging another couple of fast ferries, Nigel spotted a sunfish which came straight towards me and under my bows. We carried on paddling as the seas started becoming a bit choppier, nothing we hadn't paddled in



before. The only difference was that this time looking round there was no sight of land! By 1130 we decided not to stop for our scheduled break because we were in line with the middle of the traffic separation zone, so we carried on. I suddenly heard Norman shouting "Look, look" followed by Sigurd's screams of excitement "That's not a Sunfish, its fin is at least a foot and a half above the water." Nigel turned to me and said, "Two sharks". "Don't tell me until we reach Gibraltar" I said as I paddled with my hands well clear of the water. I must have been googly eyed for the



Main photo: Sunrise in the straits
Inset: Gibraltar



passed her bows. It made me feel really small, as this enormous ship carrying containers that looked like matchboxes passed so close to us.

We stopped for a little while for a much-deserved snack to eat. By 1215 we were just over a mile off Europa Point, the seas had picked up but by now we thought that we could arrive in less than hour. The wind decided to come back straight at us, which slowed us right down, but just before reaching the lighthouse we had a welcoming committee, a single dolphin. It leaped at least six foot above the water four times, as if it was jumping once for each of us. That gave us a much-needed boost of energy. From above the lighthouse we could hear screams and whistles where family and friends had decided to cheer us on. I must say that at this point we certainly appreciated it. The wind must have been at least a force 6 gusting 7 right in our face, spraying salt water into our eyes. All we could do was hunch down and paddle hard. We were travelling at less than one knot and couldn't even stop to drink. We passed the caves nearly an hour and a half later and still no let up in the wind. More friends and family had gathered along Sir Herbert Miles Road and were sounding their horns and cheering us on.

next few minutes. Soon after that, the seas seemed to calm down a little bit, but it didn't last long. We had already dodged a couple of tankers and we could see another one appearing in the distance, this one looked massive. We paddled hard to try and pass in front of her but it was getting closer a bit faster than expected. We carried on paddling and managed to get

Suddenly, as we passed Sandy Bay the winds seemed to die, and our strength seemed to reappear and before we knew it we had reached the reclamation at Eastern Beach where more people had congregated. We knew that there was going to be a bit of surf, so we checked our gear to make sure it was well secured before trying to land.

We all landed safely to a rapturous round of applause. I got a big hug from my daughter, who I could see jumping up and down as I surfed the final few metres. The four of us shook hands, we had done it, we had finally conquered the Straits!

Tangiers next!
Arturo Asquez

Thanks

Far left: The busy shipping lanes of the Straits

Left: Ready for the crossing in Ceuta port

Above: Stopping for a snack and a pee!

Above top right: Nearly home



Let me take this opportunity to thank WO Paul Stewart for the use of the *Pickle of the Rock*, Neil Holden and Michael Pizzarello for crewing it, all those people that helped us in any way, and last but not least, our families for putting up with all those hours of training.



Ali and Steve

I first tried paddling in 1986-7 when I worked for an adventure activity company called Quest, in Great Langdale, Cumbria. I remember it well as Coventry City won the FA Cup Final. I used to take clients climbing, sailing, windsurfing, mountain trekking, kayaking and canoeing. The sessions were not skills based, but all about having fun and making lots of noise. This usually meant getting wet which lost its appeal towards the middle of the season as Coniston water always seemed cold even when the sun shone.

My only other experience had been on a descent of the Tyne during a BCU rally where much to the delight of the crowds gathered at the various rapids, my partner and I spent a lot of time swimming down them followed closely by our boat and thunderous applause from the river bank. So to say open boating was not my favourite sport would be to underplay my feelings a little. That is until last summer half term.

I normally take a group out to Morocco, Tunisia, Greece or some such exotic destination mountain biking, trekking etc, however, this year I found it hard to get enough year 9 and 10 students to commit to the trip and so at the last minute decided to change countries and activities, choosing a two centre adventure holiday in France. Having worked there before I tried to book a small group in to the PGL site at Embrum which holds many great memories for me from the summer and winter of 1987. However, this rightly popular destination was solidly booked up.

As co-ordinator of Outdoor-Pursuits I receive many brochures and flyers from various companies, one such flyer was from Acorn adventure. It offered a two centre holiday, the Med and the Ardeche, for a very much reduced price. After gaining permission from the headmaster and the governors I set about trying to whip up some interest amongst the students. The Med part of the experience is one that I wish to forget as it involved lots of shouting, silly games and another school who seemed intent on causing as much disruption to our Trent group as possible. However the Ardeche half of the trip was great fun and has awakened my interest in Open boat canoeing.

The activities that were on offer included climbing, river trekking, archery and a two day descent of the Ardeche river with an over night bivvy thrown in for good measure. I had taken my family along and as they were below the minimum eight years of age, Acorn insisted on my signing a letter that the very sensible site manager produced saying that 'I agreed to take full responsibility for Tom (7) and Pippa (5) during the descent'. On this understanding I was then given what all the adventure companies call a 'Canadian Canoe' which has the same handling characteristics of a not very manoeuvrable barge. The river leaders and crew were very professional and made the trip a memorable one, not only because of the river, but, also by managing to leave some of the food behind at the start. The Ardeche gorge is a most spectacular place to be if a little spoilt by the hundreds of other people that descend it at the same time. The students had a great time which in turn meant that I and my family did. It also showed me the possibilities for introducing this activity to Trent.

When I returned I set about finding out about the various craft that are available and happened upon Lindsay Williams and the 'Canadian Canoe Company' based in Garrigill, Alston, Cumbria. He imports the full range of 'Nova Craft Canoes' directly from Canada. Lindsay proved to be

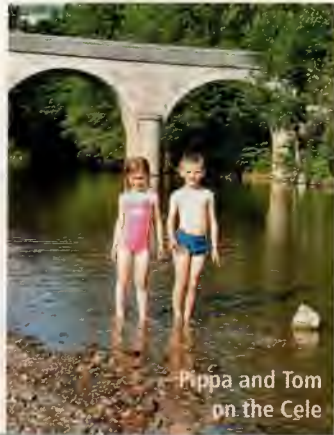
Five rivers, two families one s



very helpful and informative and was prepared to offer a little training prior to me purchasing a number of boats for Trent and myself. He encouraged me to take part in a number of courses on Ullswater and the River Tyne to try some of the many boats he had on offer and to pass on some basic skills. After buying four boats for Trent and one for myself I then started to gain as much experience as possible before our own family trip to France.

Alternate years, I organise and plan expeditions for sixth form students to places such as Bolivia, Peru and India. However, this summer I had only a one week adventure training camp to the Lake District and a wedding; so had a lot of time to fill during the summer holidays. When I broached the subject of a canoeing trip for four weeks to the central massive in France, my wife was a little sceptical at first but was soon won around to the idea and so we started organising the camping, canoeing equipment and making plans in earnest. Armed with a river guide 'White Water Massif Central, Fluffy's guide to the friendly rivers of Southern France', a seventeen foot prospector canoe and some camping kit and a Sea Cat ferry ticket we set off to France. Our first river was the Cele as this seemed, from the write up in our guide, to be a very good introductory river, which it proved to be. We had decided not to take bikes and so I

O ummer



Left, above and below: stunning villages and plenty of rapids



planned to do the shuttle runs, literally running. This was a great idea on paper but in the heat of the midday sun proved to be very hard work, with the longest run being some 17km with quite a few hills in very hot sunshine. The Cele has many fantastic campsites next to the river and even though we arrived during the peak holiday time we had no problem finding places to camp on our four day descent. The French have a much more laid back approach to paddlers than we do here, with little in the way of restrictions, and in fact many friendly fishermen along the banks of all the rivers. Although we started the holiday on our own it did not take long before we found a like minded family, The Miligans, a family of six from Cumbria, and so we joined forces with them. After the



Cele we headed on to the Tarn Gorge which was far more crowded but every bit as pretty as the previous river. The rapids were a little harder and saw us have our first family 'un-planned' swim. Again the campsites were on the river bank and we had no problem booking into them. After five days of canoeing and camping down the Tarn we headed south to what was the most technical river of the trip, l'Orb. I decided to do the top section on my own whilst Ali, Tom and Pippa did a little relaxing by the river next to our campsite. It was a very exciting section up to grade III in places but not too difficult. After this we headed for l'Herault and finally the Allier, both of which were very entertaining. The rivers we paddled were very clean with many swimming holes to relax in, lots of fish, (Tom catching his first ever), and great fun. We met lots of very friendly people both British and French and visited some of the less touristy parts of this little visited part of France. In all we descended some 200km of river ranging from flat to grade III moving water. The idea of heading off with everything you need for a few days in the bottom of your boat is very appealing to me and is something that I will endeavour to promote now that I am back at Trent. I hope that one day we will gain the same access rights to our rivers as the French. It would be great to be able to canoe camp on the River Derwent, one of our local rivers, without being shouted at by fishermen or running the risk of prosecution. ●

Steve Gorman

info

Steve Gorman
I started at Trent College in September 2001 after spending six months travelling through Asia with my young family. Pippa had her second birthday in Sri Lanka and Tom his fourth in China. I started Teaching Design & Technology and ICT at Trent as well as having the title of master In-charge of Expeditions. This year it was decided to make me Co-ordinator of Outdoor Pursuits which is an area that is growing within the College and is an area that I would like to see developed much further, possibly becoming part of the main sports curriculum for all year groups. At present I hold the Winter Mountain Leader award (WML) and Mountaineering Instructor Award (MIA) and so am able to run national governing body training courses. I am hoping to gain my Mountaineering Instructors Certificate (MIC) this winter which will be the end of a very long road for me. I am also actively pursuing British Canoe Union (BCU) coaching awards level 3 in both Open boat and Kayak.

Overall results:**K1 Women**

Michala Strndova, CZE 1st
 Jessica Oughton 17th
 Dee Paterson 21st
 Zoe Betteridge 22nd

K1 Men

Kamil Mruzek, CZE 1st
 Jonnie Schofield 6th
 Peter Keron 28th
 Richard Forbes 34th
 Jamie Christie 36th
 Simon Wright 38th
 Stuart Simpson 40th
 Oly Wickham 42nd
 Nigel Jones 58th
 Calum Urquhart 62nd

C1 Men

Tomislav Hohnjec, CRO 1st
 Andy Hamilton 21st

C2

Vala / Slucik, SVK 1st
 Peart / Warne 19th

Schofield claims GB's first senior kayak medal for ten years



Jonnie Schofield added to his growing trophy cabinet this year by taking 3rd place at the Bovec Sprint on the river Soca in Slovenia. This is Jonnie's first Wild Water Racing World Cup medal and team GB celebrated energetically their first kayak medal since Ian Tordoff's bronze at Bala in 1994. Currently Britain's top racer, Jonnie was characteristically understated by being "very pleased" with his performance on the powerful course as it contributed to an overall World Cup position of 6th place.



This year's competition of six races was held in three venues, Bovec for races one and two, Karlovy Vary in the Czech republic for races three and four and Muotatahl in Switzerland for the final two events. On the sprint course of the Tepla at Karlovy Vary Peter Keron produced an astounding 15th place to boost his ranking, a result which secured the current British Classic Champion the status of second GB man in 28th overall. Solihull's finest, Richard Forbes also performed to gain an overall ranking of 34th with sprint expert Jamie Christie building on his awesome 22nd place at the Garmisch World



Championships two weeks earlier to secure 36th place. Stuart Simpson from Scotland competing in his first World Cup came in ranked 40th overall and has demonstrated that the transfer from slalom to wild water can be achieved with good results. Nigel Jones' return to wild water belied better performances as he succumbed to a mystery illness in Switzerland which left him hospitalised for eight days and unable to compete ending up in 58th place. Calum Urquhart, a doctor from Inverness also joined the trip and gained a credible 62nd place by competing in the final two events.

In the Women's class 15 year old Jessica Oughton has showed her potential by claiming 17th in her first senior tour which was capped with a brilliant 11th place in the Muota sprint. Due to heavy rain, flood conditions on the river meant that the course had to be changed as it was unsafe and she showed her talent by coping with this better than many of the other competitors. For the Canadian style canoeists, the C2 pairing of Dave Peart and Slade Warne finished 19th in their first tour and in the C1 class Andy Hamilton claimed 21st position to re-inforce his status as top British racer currently.

The team would like to thank the support staff and management of Jamie Christie, Helen Christie, Sarah Wright, Stuart Smith and Jez Oughton for their support, organisation and driving skills throughout the three week trip. ●

Story: Pete Keron. Photos: Jez Oughton

info

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





**"Safe
Fun
Learning"**

Isle of Man based Sea Kayaking Specialists

- BCU Qualified Guides & Coaches
- Expeditions
- BCU Courses & Coaching
- Using The Best Equipment

Norway Expedition 2005

Including Kayaking, Hiking, Climbing, Glacier Walking

Adventure Week 2005

Sea based adventure week and festival, incorporating IOM Annual Sea Kayaking Symposium.

Also opportunity to try Rock Climbing on the sea cliffs, Coaststeering, Sailing and Diving or Snorkelling.

Check our website for full details and updates of events and expeditions.

www.adventurousexperiences.com

Tel. (01624) 843034

Mobile. (07624) 406655

**LOOKING FOR
A NEW KAYAK
THIS CHRISTMAS?**



**MASTER TG
NEW**



£399

INA ZONE



£399

G3



£399

ACRO BAT



£399

S6



£499

S8



£499

**TO GET ONE IN YOUR STOCKING
POP IN TO YOUR LOCAL
PYRANHA DEALER**

www.pyranha.com

WIPEOUT
THE WATERSPORTS SHOP
www.wipeoutwatersports.co.uk
Canoe & Kayak Shop
7 Park Hill, Swallownest
Sheffield
S26 4UN
Tel: 0114 2695757
Tel or Fax: 0114 2692739
Tues - Sat 9.30 till 6.00
Contract prices for clubs, centres and schools
jaskie@wipeoutwatersports.co.uk
New! On-line Shop!!

F O C U S



BIG volume and monster holes

Just a few kilometres after the source of the White Nile you come across the first major rapid of the so called 'day one section'. The White Nile is already very big, and instead of having just the one rapid, like you find on most rivers in the world, it splits into no less than seven channels which makes nine great grade 4 and grade 5 drops.

In my time staying at Speke Camp, which is right at the falls, I came to think of this little place as the Tryweryn or Holme Pierrepont of Africa. Ok, just to put you straight it is nothing like those two places for lots of reasons, not just for the warm water and hot weather. However, a pleasantly short amble of about five hundred metres will put you back at the put in. Or if your finished for the day just go twenty metres to the bar! This means that even if there are no trips or other kayakers around to arrange transport with, then you can still do some great boating. It also leads to not having a good excuse to not go boating. Can't miss the transport, forget your deck or, it being the Nile, the good old "it's just too cold to go boating"!

Sounds just too good to be true eh? Well yes there are a few downsides that I haven't mentioned yet. Some of the rapids are quite hard and the hard ones are the ones you can't see from the safety of the bar. In fact looking at them at all requires hours of walking (well stumbling normally) around in the jungle trying very hard not to step on anything that



Top: A misty morning
Middle: Neil at 'The Hump'
Bottom: Benno in 'The Brick yard'

slithers. Taking a machete might help, but not that much.

But it's big volume which means nice big fluffy waves and huge monster holes that flush. Just make sure that you don't go in a little hole they tend not to be so forgiving!

As to the rapids here's a short description to wet your appetites going from river right to left:

Ribcage – Grade 4: Short and sweet just don't go into Ribcage island which is a twisted tangles mass of tree roots.

The Hump – Grade 4: Looks way harder than it is. Run from the middle right but not too far, as it kicks right, or you will end up in the eddy of death on the right hand side under the trees! Running straight over the hump is shallow and not to be recommended.

Bujagali Falls – Grade 4: A big wide drop. The easy line is down the far right. Looks really good in photos.

The Dark side – Grade 4: Variation to Bujagali Falls. Bit tricky to see the window before you get to the edge but then not so bad as it looks.

Indicator Rock: How to check the water level, some people kayak over it but only if they don't have to buy their own boats because the rocks are sharp and the water only just covers it when the back wave is good.



Steve at Bujagali

and HUGE S: Bujagali Falls

The bar



Tyler on a Bujagali backwave

'Round the Back' rapids

The Following are all 'Round the Back' rapids requiring local knowledge if you don't want to go down the wrong rapid by mistake (which is a lot easier than you would think). They are also places where it is unadvisable to swim as rescue is not as straight forward as it looks.

Brick yard – Grade 4+: Consists of two drops separated by a hundred metres of fast water. Top drop looks like certain death but is in fact very straight forward as long as you get the line right. Can be inspected by not more than two people at a time due to small eddy and bank space. The bottom is more of a rapid than a drop and is very shallow, not a place to be rolling. Nice waves and holes though.

Widow Maker – Grade 5: Like the name a scary rapid. The entrance is technical and fast. Then there is a small island where you can eddy out to re-orientate yourself and get a few good lung fulls of air before hitting the biggest wave I have ever seen on a river before. Hit it right and it's a slide over and into the calmer waters below. Hit it wrong and you'll be doing countless ends in the two holes behind.

Escape Hatch – Grade 5: Although the name is not as bad you have to run the entrance rapid of widow maker river right and then hang a left turn before or after the little island. Then watch out for pourovers sneakily hidden behind waves. If you get to the island with a view to running widow maker and then decide not to, then you can 'escape' down this easier side.

Blade Runner – Grade 4+: One of the more straight forward rapids of the bunch however this must be first run with an person who knows the

line down as you can't scout it until you have run it! I wish that I had listened to that piece of advice! That combined with the fact that there is a huge hole just up stream and lots of them in the rapid makes this one you want to be on line for. Generally run on far river left - to left of middle - back to left. From all rapids ferry glide as hard as possible towards river right to get back to the bar for beers and stories.

Bujagali Falls is a place not just for river runners but also for play boaters. There are three play waves on the river right between Rib cage and Bujagali falls, one of which can be floodlit for evening surfing when the river is at its highest. Then there is also the back wave which is a great easy play wave with no crowds. To get back from the back wave either you can: paddle back up stream, run/walk over indicator rock, run one of the back rapids or walk across one of the islands. The walk is also a bit tricky so go with somebody the first time, so as not to get lost in the jungle.

I had a great time when I was there in the Autumn; water levels are constant the whole year round and the weather is pretty much always hot or rainy. As the playboating is out of this world I took my Riot Air 45 with me, which ripped it up on the amazing play waves of day one and day two. However it was a bit slow for tackling a rapid called 'Itanda', one of the real big grade 5 rapids further downstream. As most boaters who go there will end up running some hard stuff maybe a super small boat isn't such a good idea but rather something a bit bigger. Next time I'll be taking a Riot turbo as it's a bit more of a all-rounder. ●

Neil Newton Taylor - Rescue 3 international instructor

www.swiftwaterrescue.at

Photos: Andy Holtham and thanks to PeakUK



Chinook at Bujagali

i n f o

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

Nottingham Peak Challenge Winners

Men: Adam Norfolk
Women: Lynsey Evans
Junior Men: Rick Longley
Junior Women: Jenny Chrimes
C1: Dan Goddard
Master: Tim Ward

Overall Challenge Winners

Men: Adam Norfolk
Women: Greer McKenzie
Junior Men: Ross Montandon
Junior Women: Jenny Chrimes
C1: Ollie Castle
Master: Tim Ward

British Champions

Men: Edd Smith
Women: Lynsey Evans
Junior Men: Edd Smith
Junior Women: Jenny Chrimes
C1: Stu Morris
OC1: James Weir
 Check out www.peakuk.com for images and full results.

The Nottingham Peak Challenge British Freestyle Champs

The final round of the Peak Challenge and British Freestyle Championships was held at Nottingham over the 9th and 10th October. Despite the freezing cold, over 130 paddlers turned out to test themselves against the three challenge disciplines and to see who was number one for freestyle in the UK.

The weekend kicked off with the infamous, mass start downriver race. Athletes had to dodge rowers as they crossed the regatta lake, paddled up the pools and then charged down the course as fast as their little playboats could go. First off were the men, then in a second race the women and C1ers. Carnage ensued as people ran over the hill in a rush to get a good launch spot across the pools. Allan Ellard in his big H3 stormed his way across the line, winning the men's, whilst Lynsey Evans was the fastest from the women's fleet. Dan Goddard narrowly beat Colin Radmore in the C1 race, and they both went on to overtake the tail end of the first race, as would be expected of elite slalom paddlers in their slalom boats!

The action continued with the Men's Freestyle prelims in the new looping pool hole. Pete and the crew have been working on this in preparation for the 2006 European Championships, and it's definitely got potential. The aim of the game was mainly cartwheels, splits and spins. Loops were attempted, but not many scored. The top 15 went through to the next round on the Sunday. During the day all the new boats from Riot were available to paddle, and many people were seen practising for the slalom.

The extreme slalom was the last event of the day and ran from the top of the course to the pyramid pool. The first obstacle was a 'hit me' board on the top wave which meant a loop. This was interesting until Rick Longley looped over it, ripping it down. The course then included a snake, a cartwheel and some more tight and tricky gates. Adam Norfolk zipped his way through the gates to take top spot, with Lynsey Evans winning again in the Ladies. In the C1, it was Colin Radmore who took the victory. After the energetic day on the Trent, food



was provided, then Leon and Adhesive, two great Derbyshire bands rocked the night away at the rugby club.

Sunday morning came, and the C1ers took to the water to show people how to do it with style. There were enough C1ers to merit heats, with the top five going through to the finals. The most impressive display was from Dan and Colin in their long boats getting ends and splits. The Ladies' heats were up next with the top ten going through to semis.

Around noon, the UK Freestyle duck race was held. Some 2,000 ducks were set off down the course, to raise money for the British Team going to Australia. This was a sight to behold but the squirt event was even more so, being held in the looping pool whilst the ducks came through! There were quite a few squirts styling around including the European Champ Ben White and the ladies World Champ, Deb O'Keefe, all the way from the USA. The dazzling display was won by James Reeves, combining fluidity with variety.

The British Champs C1 final was first to go and Stu Morris won with the highest score of the whole event 225 points. The OC1s then took to the hole. There were six of them and in the final round James Weir showed experience still counts; to take the victory. In the ladies' final, Jutta Kaiser from Germany dominated impressively with her supercool superclean cartwheels; Lynsey Evans came second and took the National title.

The junior men's final was made up of the top five Juniors from the prelims. Edd Smith continued his top form with a precise display to win, and Jon Best came second. The Men were up last, and really made the most of the feature. Despite winning the heats, Dicky Chrimes was knocked out in the first round of the final. Jeff Grainger paddled well, finishing second, but couldn't beat Edd Smith who was absolutely flying, making it a nice double victory. Jon Best, after paddling in the Junior final finished third with Paul Shep, who was getting big entry



llenge Final /

loops, in fourth place.

All that was left was the prize giving, with paddles, helmets, goodies and a Peak Team sponsorship for top Junior Ross Montandon. With that the Challenge this year ended. Only to be bigger and even better next year, see you there!

Thanks to everyone who helped out, especially Richard and Molly for making the trophies, Steve Golds for the music and sound system, Dave for sorting all the judging, Matt for all the computer scoring and all the Event Sponsors: Peak UK, Riot, Sue's Canoes, Teva, Aquapac, Robson, Sweet, Predator Helmets, Kayak Session, Playboating, the National Watersports Centre, Burdock, Soul Boater and World Class Slalom for help with building the hole. ●

David Bainbridge.

Pics: Peak UK. David Leathborough



Paul McConkey Premier/Div 1 slalom 18-19th September

Olympic paddlers, Campbell Walsh and Stuart McIntosh, proved to be on top form at the Paul McConkey slalom on the 18th and 19th September at Holme Pierrepont white water course.

Campbell Walsh won the Paul McConkey trophy as winner of the premier division K1M, whilst Stuart McIntosh won the Martin Hedges trophy as winner of the C1 class.

The impressive McConkey trophy is awarded in memory of the British team paddler who was tragically killed in a road accident in December 1986. At the height of his career, Paul won the World Team Championships with Richard Fox and Jim Dolan at Merano, Italy in 1983. Friends and colleagues from

Marston Palmer Ltd, for whom Paul worked, created the trophy using a variety of different metal-work techniques. The premier division event was run on the same format as the Olympics with a semi final and final. Campbell Walsh from CR Cats won the final with a comfortable margin paddling an aggregate time of 177.65. Richard Hounslow from Rasdex came second with 180.77, whilst David Backhouse

host club, Stafford and Stone CC with a time of 192.08. In the Canadian doubles event, the Roden brothers, also from Stafford and Stone CC easily won after their competitors, Wells and Davenport from Manchester picked up 62 seconds in penalties.

World Class Potential chief coach, Andy Maddock was disappointed not to compete as the event clashed with his wedding that afternoon. However this did not stop him from being a forerunner paddler, demonstrating the course, in the morning and from winning the judges event before rushing off to the ceremony.

The Sunday saw the division one race as well as the semi finals and finals of the premier race. In the men's class just over a second separated the top three results. Anton Lippek from Warrington CC had a winning time of 104.10, Robert Holdway from Stafford and Stone CC was a fraction of a second behind him with a time of 104.31 whilst Paul Ramsdale from ISG paddlers came third with a time of 105.33.

In the lady's class the three top paddlers were all in the junior 16 category. Hannah Burgess from Kingston KC won with a respectable time of 123.18, Fiona Farrow from Llandysul Paddler CC came second with a time of 129.38 and Alice Spencer from Salisbury CC came third with 131.82.

The top three Canadian singles paddlers were also all juniors. Gareth Wilson, from ISG Paddlers, won the event with a time of 114.93, Keith Bright from Matlock CC came second with a time of 120.97 and Gregg Pitt from Stafford and Stone came third with a time of 120.97.

Organised by Stafford and Stone Canoe Club.

Story: Ruth Holdway

Photo: Mike Green

info

For more information on slalom refer to the BCU website on

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



C2 Winners:
Oz and Bert Roden



McConkey family giving out the trophy

from Volmolense KC came third with 181.83.

In the lady's class, CR Cats paddlers were again dominant. Fiona Pennie won with a time of 199.49 and Kimberley Walsh, Campbell's sister, came second with 204.28. In the Canadian singles class, Stuart McIntosh, an Arrowcraft paddler, won comfortably with 188.98, followed by Dan Goddard from the



C1 Winner: Stu McIntosh



Lady's K1 Winner:
Fiona Pennie



K1 Winner:
Campbell Walsh

Young blood and ex

Team GB for the 2005 Australia World Championship

Men's K1

Edd Smith
Richard Chrimes
Matt Cooke
Jon Best
Jeff Grainger
(Reserve.
Adam Devitt-Spooner)

Women's K1

Lysney Evans
Fiona 'Flea' Jarvie
Rosie Cripps
(res. Emily Wall)

C1 Unisex

Stu Morris
Lee Pyke
(res. James Wannacott)

Junior Men's K1

James Bebbington
Alan Ward
Richard 'rodeo rick'
Longley
(res. Sevan Artoonian)

Junior Women's K1

Jen Chrimes
Jak Alder
(res. Flic Meares)

OC1 Unisex

James Weir
Jamie Burbeck
(res. David Bainbridge)

Squirt Mens

Ben White
Chris Jones
James Reeves
(res. Adam White)

Squirt Womens

Molly Mckenzie

Freestyle Kayak World Championships Penrith, Australia

With the 2005 Freestyle Kayak World Championships looming, the Great Britain Team has been out training hard. The event is being held over the 26th-30th January on the main wave at the artificial whitewater course in Penrith near Sydney, Australia.

Float boat

For those who are unsure, a float boat freestyle competition involves each paddler performing moves on a feature, such as a wave or hole, for 45 seconds. Every 180° degree rotation the paddler moves through they score a point, either 1 point for a flat to 45° elevation, 2 points for 45° to 75° and 4 point for the boat being between 75° and completely vertical. These are all added together to obtain your technical score. The paddler is also judged on the moves they perform, e.g. cartwheel, blunt, loop, and the more difficult the move, the higher variety score you get. Now here's the science bit. The technical score is multiplied by the variety hopefully giving you a world's winning total.

Squirt boat

The squirt boat event involves way more maths but has similar principles to the float boat event. A paddler has a 60 second ride where they score points for the different moves they perform giving a technical score; this is added to a style score. A score is also given for the depth of a mystery move (where the whole boat and possibly the paddler goes under the water) performed. The technical and style score is then multiplied to give the final score.

The main wave at Sydney will provide us with great entertainment this year, with a huge variety of moves being possible, unlike previous World Championships, where the competition turned cartwheel-tastic. We should be seeing aerial front and back loops, space godzillas, and phonics monkeys just to name a few. The squirt event is being held at a different site on the whitewater course, this too should provide a vast amount of moves and deep mysteries.



Edd Smith. Below: Jen Chrimes



Richard 'rodeo rick' Longley

The paddlers were chosen for the competition from the three selection events held at Tryweryn, North Wales and Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. These have provided us with some serious talent. The 27 strong team has a lot of

young blood especially with Edd Smith and Jon Best making the team in their first year as seniors. We also have some seasoned paddlers who have a very good chance of bringing home the medals, such as Flea Jarvie who placed fourth at the last World Champions in Graz 2003, James Weir in the OC1 who has been in

more finals than I can mention and 2004 European Champions: Ben White and Jen Chrimes. An additional two people placing behind the team and reserve slots from each

We should be seeing aerial front and back loops, space godzillas, and phonics monkeys just to name a few.

experience head south

Thanks for the help

The team has also had the help of many other people, such as coaches Cheesy, Johnny Pearson and Mark Birkbeck, the parents and partners of paddlers who act as camera people and taxis etc, Hoopla at Current Trends who lets us invade to watch the video footage and make a mess and Stu at Fishi Business for the team kit. A big thanks to them and everyone else who has helped out. Australia 2005 looks like we could be in store for the GB Team best ever results. A massive good luck to everyone going out there. Check out the UK Freestyle Committee's website for news on the team, there will be regular posts during the event to keep everyone back home updated of the latest. www.ukfreestyle.com



Richard Chrimes



Adam Devitt-Spoor



Sevan Artoonian



Jeff Grainger

category have been invited to attend the team training weekend to form a training squad. This is in the hope that with more people receiving the specialist competition coaching they need, Great Britain will be winning even more in the future.

Integral parts of the team, who don't often get noticed, are the team manager, assistant and coach. Manager Dave 'hippy' Newport and his beautiful assistant Terry Best are in their second year of job. Without them it is unlikely, especially knowing your average playboater, that anyone would make it to the internationals. Dave is well equipped for the job having been involved in paddling for 20 years and coaching for 13 of these. His job is to organise the team at training weekends and events and doing all the behind the scenes work. Terry is assistant team manager and acts as Dave's memory, when not entertaining the ladies, he does all the jobs that no one else likes to do, such as the paperwork and kicking paddlers up the backside when they need it.

New to the team is our head coach Pete Caterall. As a leading coach at Plas-y-Brenin, the National Mountain Centre and having been paddling for 21 years, Pete is perfect for the role. He was thrown in at the deep end, having just joined the team, at the European Championships back in June where his support and advice to the paddlers was instrumental in helping Team GB to return with five medals, including two gold, making them the most successful team in the competition.

Between these three gents, they have been responsible for organising some superb training weekends. The jam-packed two days normally involve paddling session on specific moves or runs with video feedback and coaching, competitions, talks from various specialists, such as all-round-judging-legend Muppet, sports psychologists and nutritionists and everyone's favourite: fitness training. One of Pete's sadistic new initiatives is to incorporate a different type of fitness task at each weekend in the hope that the paddlers will do them again in their own training. As well as providing awesome coaching, Pete and Dave successfully emphasise the importance of being an athlete. The team still has fun, but they try to teach that you will not win without training and considering all aspects of being a competition paddler. With this in mind they have provided education on mental preparation, run planning to maximise your score and diet. Their goal is for the paddlers to be the best they can be. These weekends help to build a team spirit so when they travel abroad they are a force to reckon with. ●

Emily Wall

Photos: Russ Daniells, Jim Edmondson and Dave Baker



Jon Best



James Bebbington



"I really don't that's a good

"No really, you don't want to do that...!" The email conversation went along these lines back and forth, until I was overruled by the 'safety officer'.

Hull University Canoe Club had got in touch asking me to guide a trip out to the French Alps. "We want to go to the Argentiere area in late May, but you should know that we're not a strong group." I tried to persuade them (or rather the student unions safety officer) that Argentiere is not the venue for a weak team of paddlers, especially in the early season when the rivers are high.

A look at the guidebook does make this area seem appropriate for intermediate groups, but I think the reality is somewhat different. There appear to be plenty of 'easy' (sort of up to grade 3+) runs. To me though these runs seem somehow harder than grade 3 runs at home – the water is faster, shallower, there are fewer eddies (on some), the rapids are longer (by a long way) and generally speaking they are difficult rivers to lead/run in a 'safe' way.

"Why don't you go to Provence to start, then when everyone's up to speed head to Argentiere?" Provence is somewhere that I had little experience of (having only paddled the Verdon gorge). However, when I was working as the safety officer at Hull University several years ago, the then safety officer at Salford University used to rave about Provence – beautiful turquoise water, sensible water levels and grades, pool drop rapids, hot and sunny, white limestone gorges, etc. "LET'S GO THERE!"

I was overruled by the non-paddling safety officer for reasons that defeat me still.

Anyway the point of this article is to try to persuade groups containing 'weak' paddlers that are heading out to France to go first to Provence, then maybe to Argentiere.

info

Once again I would like to thank Pyranha, Werner, Hf, Playboater and Suzy/Green Slime throwbags for having faith in me.

Spike Green is a freelance Level 5 coach and is available to guide, coach, and advise.

01691 772748 or
spikegreen@btopenworld.com

I've run similar trips before. One year I took a Hull University group first to Slovenia to warm-up on the rivers there, before heading over to Austria for more serious big water fun and games. By going to a less well known venue first, you keep the 'good' paddlers happy - as they get to explore new rivers, the weak paddlers get a build up of confidence prior to heading to the more full on, well known destinations for a mixture of fun and fear depending on your ability. Right so, 23rd May we head off for Argentiere. Not very surprisingly the rivers are pretty big. With the 'strong' paddlers we set off to have a run down the slalom course at Argentiere – ooops. We eventually get the boats back and re-group.



Wide eyes and "What grade is that!" type comments.

The next day, we run the whole group from Argentiere to St Clement (Gd.2). All the weaker paddlers are absolutely terrified and want go home. The stronger paddlers love the section down to Embrun.

Day 2, we decide to go and investigate the lower Guil to see if the line is clear enough for the whole group (the lower Guil being the easiest of the smaller rivers (as far as I know)). It wasn't.

"Why don't we go to Provence?"

Three hours drive took us to Castellane. We chose the first campsite we found near the centre of town – you may think to check others out first! As you pull into the town centre, turn right (towards the Verdon gorge), the campsite is 100m on the left – handy for shops, bars etc. was our thinking. Unfortunately the campsite (called after Frederick Mistral – famous for his wind problem) was full of dead Dutch people, those that weren't dead were in waiting. Average age of the other (www.unhappy) campers, about 90 and all a beautiful lobster pink. In our nine days there, not one of them left the shade of their cavernous caravan awnings. Their entire holiday was spent scowling at us as we dared to be under 50 in their sight. Now you might think – "Hang on, a group of students in a wrinklies campsite?" And have some sympathy for the poor put upon from the flatlands. Students – all drunk, noisy, rude... Not a bit of it. HUCC were respectful, polite and quiet. Anyway, this rather long paragraph is

think idea!"



merely a warning – find a campsite for the living!

Castellane is a great place, got everything you could need. Including loads of raft companies that are happy to suggest rivers and generally help (especially 'Aboard' who speak excellent English). However we got all our info from Slimes Alps guide and from a bit of driving around.

Day one: Verdon. Pont Clos to St Andre. We split this into two runs. The upper grade 3 takes a fabulous gorge section full of play and interest. The lower grade 2 easy open water (sadly lacking in 'coaching' sites for our weaker paddlers). All visible on the drive in.

Day two: Verdon. Colmars to Pont Clos. Same as yesterday, split into two sections. The upper grade 3, the lower grade 2+. Very continuous, quite difficult to lead as a result – especially if you've got group members who haven't learnt how to break out yet!

Day three: Vars. Guillames – road junction (D902/N202). We did this as an exploratory trip with the stronger paddlers whilst the novices had a rest day. What we found were two sections (again) the lower section was extremely pleasant, open grade 2, nice, simple and continuous. The upper section goes through the Daluis gorge – brilliant or probably better than that! One of the best gorges anywhere – ever! grade 3 – go to France specifically to do it.

Day four: Vars. So good we had to do it again. This time taking relevant group members on relevant bits.

Day five: Vars. From the get out for the above section to Entrevaux. Easy

grade 3 which we took the whole group down. At the get out we found one of the few places where we could do some coaching work, everywhere else was too continuous. There is more river below Entrevaux at a similar grade – I would recommend you take a drive down it first.

Day six: Verdon. Allos to Colmar. Grade 4. Excellent run, continuous. The hard stuff arrives suddenly, watch out for trees and the sneaky drop in Colmars.

Day seven: Verdon: Castellane to Pont Sublime. Again we ran this as two sections. The upper 6km is a pleasant grade 1-2, ideal for teaching novices. The lower is grade 2-3, with one drop of 4. Ideally we would have run this section on our first day here, as it is one of the few places we found where it was possible to do some coaching work for the novices. However the sections below Castellane all need a release from the dam – which we didn't get until this day. The scenery on this section is breathtaking.

What I haven't mentioned yet is the play wave 100m from the campsite... fabulous! Friendly locals (mostly raft guides), friendly wave, deep, warm(ish), good feeder eddies, etc.

There are other rivers in the area – ask a raft company.

The Verdon gorge – should you be tempted is really full on, it does go underground, it is inescapable, it is very long. I did it in very low water and it was a great adventure – grade 3 boating in a grade 6 environment. With anything other than a trickle going down it, it is hardcore during which you paddle round a corner into a dead end, from where there is little chance of escape other than a sump dive that will... er, be bad! – unless of course you know where to get out before the dead end.

If I were to run the trip again... I would perhaps try to find a campsite/base a little further north (perhaps Colmars?) to reduce the driving – unless the Castellane dam was due to release, then I would want to be camped within walking distance of the Castellane playwave!

So if you've got a group who want to go to the Alps try Provence as a warm-up. If Provence sounds a bit much, try warming up in the Ardeche area first then move to Provence!

Should any Student groups read this – there's the BCU Scotland trip Easter '05 (looking at river leadership skills in the UK) and the BCU Alpine leadership trip '05, based in Argentiere (because everyone goes there!). ●

Spike Green

Two out of three



Funny old game, love. What Mike really wanted was a blonde tv weather girl with a passion for canoeing and what he got was me, a middle aged housewife with a passion for the arts. Ever the optimist, he set about converting me.

When he first mentioned it, I explained why I would never be a canoeist, i.e. too old, too lazy, too scared, can barely swim, no co-ordination, always bunked off games at school, motion sickness, vertigo, don't want to do it.

So he went crafty on me, and proposed a romantic walk on the local hill. I'd lived in the village more than 10 years and been on the hill maybe five times.

Mike: "Look, Lesley, isn't it lovely?"

Me: "Trees, sky, grass. Can we go now?"

Nothing if not persistent, Mike spent all that summer trying to get me fitter. Many people have tried this in the past, but no one ever thought of downright lies before. E.g. what Mike calls "a nice shady stroll through some trees" turned out to be the top of the Mendips on the hottest day of the year.

Next he suggested a trip on the Wye in an open canoe. I wasn't too worried, because I knew he'd taken some friends and their disabled child and they'd really enjoyed it. Ha. Friends clearly all had cast iron stomachs for a start. Took me about ten minutes to get into the boat (thought at one stage I'd probably spend the rest of my life with one foot in the boat and one on the bank) and after that I found that the only way to avoid throwing up was to focus sternly on the horizon.

Mike: "Look, Lesley, water, ducks, small children in nappies paddling canoes.

Me: "Shut up and take me home.

Next, my son wanted to give it a try, so I went along to make sure Mike wasn't too hard on the poor lad. Son managed reasonably well in Mike's canoe (on the Wye again) and somehow they persuaded me to try it. Starting with a multiple spin that wouldn't have disgraced Torvill and Dean, I then found myself drifting helplessly away from them completely unable to get back, while Mike and son stood on the bank.

Me: Help help!

Mike: "What's that she's saying?"

Son: "Fancy a beer Mike?"

Nothing happened until the next summer (I've come to really enjoy winter, it's so peaceful and free of canoeing), when he got me onto a local river. I said I'd only do it if we went very early on a Sunday when no one was looking. As we pulled into the car park a coach followed us in, blocking the exit. It was picking up a troupe of about 50 Brownies off to

Top: mike finds this a bit on the tame side.

Right: Lesley finds this far too exciting



camp, all being seen off by their parents, all fascinated by the mad lady struggling into a crash hat and buoyancy aid.

Obviously I lived to tell the tale, despite the scary conditions – pond weed, hordes of vicious Hell's Ducks and a swimming dog. More important, it's confirmed my suspicion that he is utterly mad.

Me: "Mike, you're bonkers, plus I am completely hopeless at this."

Mike: "I dunno, you're quite good at turning the paddle."

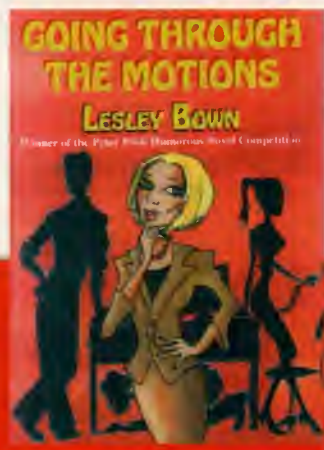
That's alright then, if I ever need a trick to do at parties, I can demonstrate how good I am at turning the paddle.

The next step was to improve my swimming so that I wouldn't be quite so frightened of falling in. The trouble with swimming is I do twenty strokes and then I'm bored and I want to get out and read a book. Can anyone tell me what my brain is supposed to amuse itself with while my body is busy? I asked Mike, but he says his brain has always been perfectly happy doing nothing. I tried going to the pool with a friend, but all we did was tread water and talk. I can tread water really well now, and I wouldn't mind falling out of a canoe, as long as I could land in a swimming pool with a lifeguard on duty.

Time, I think for a bit of lateral thinking. I can buy some blonde hairdye, and the LEA is running a course called Understanding The Weather. Two out of three can't be bad. ●

Lesley Bown

Leslie has written a comic novel entitled 'Going through the motions'. It is a light read that has canoeing crucial to the plot. It is available from bookshops or mail order 01869 322552 or 01275 856127



PROSPECTOR...



BCU Member Benefits

You can now benefit from a range of health and fitness benefits that have been negotiated exclusively for BCU members.

The following three companies have formed a three-way partnership to offer a range of fantastic discounts that add hundreds of pounds of extra value to your annual membership.

- Concept 2 - manufacturers of the world's leading rowing machine
- Cyclex Fitness - suppliers of high quality home fitness equipment
- CV Fitness - one of the UK's leading commercial fitness companies

To take advantage of the discounts, all you need to do is visit their websites with your BCU number close at hand and log in to the Member Benefits section.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Concept 2	0115 945 5522	www.concept2.co.uk
Cyclex Fitness	0845 600 3406	www.cyclex-fitness.com
CV Fitness	0115 981 6500	www.cvfitness.com



The **WENONAH PROSPECTOR**. Classic and versatile design. Easy to handle. Very stable and predictable

RING TO ARRANGE A DEMO.

...FROM THE UK'S OPEN CANOE SPECIALISTS

AND NOW

Try the Bell experience. A superb range of **BELL** canoes including the acclaimed OCOEE.

Demo boats available from December.

RING FOR DETAILS



PLUS

All the canoe accessories you need.

Outdoor ACTIVE

www.outdoor-active.com

E sales@outdooractive.ltd.uk

T **01454 261058**

Damery Works, Woodford, Berkeley, Glos GL13 9JR

HAYLING TRAILERS

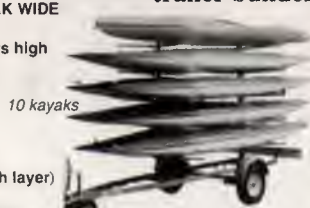
Established 1983

The UK's canoe & kayak specialist trailer builder



4 kayaks with 2 GRP boxes

THE TWO KAYAK WIDE TRAILERS
From 1 - 5 layers high
(2 - 10 kayaks)



10 kayaks

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



2 1/2 Layers and mesh box

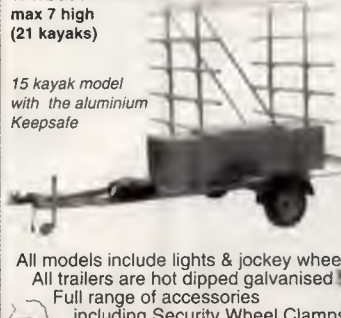
The 6 trailers shown here are just a few of the options available. Each trailer is built to suit the customers requirements. Full details in the brochure



3 layer - Open box, drop tail & PVC cover

THREE KAYAK WIDE TRAILER
max 7 high
(21 kayaks)

15 kayak model with the aluminium Keepsafe



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

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



optional GRP 'Gearbox'

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

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

For free brochure price list & friendly professional service

Call 023 92 464176

Fax 023 92 463069

email haylingtrailers@btclick.com



VISA

254A Havant Road Hayling Island Hampshire PO11 0LW

Expedition to Lake East Coast Greenland – S

Having already visited the site of the 1930/31 Arctic Air Route Expedition in 2000, Pete Jones and I then made an attempt in 2002 to paddle north from Angmagssalik to Lake Fjord (Tugtulik) and find the site of Gino Watkin's second expeditions base and the area where he died whilst hunting seals.

That year we were stopped 30 miles short of our goal by very thick ice. This summer we went back accompanied by Jeremy Phelps who had been with us in 2000.

There is a real problem in this area with polar bears and my paranoia on the last trip meant we now had two sawn off 12 gauge shot guns capable of firing solid rifled slugs. Having done my homework the flight out with these was not a problem and they were left in Greenland at the end of our trip. This year we also took a satellite phone, which enabled us on two occasions to phone Nigel at the ASSC for weather updates. It also meant if delayed by the ice we could let folk know we were safe - but would be late back for work.

The flight into Kulusuk showed plenty of ice out to sea, which would keep the swell down, while the inland passages looked reasonably open

and our only feasible option to get north. All our food and equipment for four weeks was taken out on the flights. The kayaks, NDK Greenlanders, were already in Greenland.

Initial slow progress and the need to drag the kayaks with our waist tow lines over the densely packed ice soon led to more open water and we started making some good distance. Having paddled much of this route in 2002 we knew some great places to head for and camp.

Should the weather turn really bad we had also located several hunters' cabins; these were put to good use on the return leg.

The normal settled sunny weather was not to be found this year and we experienced some very strong winds and lots of rain, making the paddling very cold, even in a dry suit and fibre piles. Our hands suffered the most; although pogies kept them warm, the skin became water logged and very prune like.

Our need to keep our weight down had led me to experiment with a tent donated by TreckLite. It was a modified Hex three flysheet with a valance, lots of storm guys and used three sections of a Lendal padlock paddle for its pole. Although it met our requirements in every way it did let in quite a few mosquitoes and black flies and I will have to do some further work to correct this before our next trip.

The three of us however had plenty of room to sleep and cook when the weather was bad and stayed dry and comfortable. This tent was also chosen because we could make a quick get away under the valance if visited by a bear.

Whenever possible we would stop and cook a hot lunch of pasta although a few times the bugs kept us on the water. There were also several occasions when we had bad weather and were unable to land all day and had to just keep going.

We all found the history of the area fascinating and took every

Slow progress when the ice closed in



info

Reliable equipment is all important, our recommendations after three trips to this area are: 4 season down sleeping bag, new gortex biv bag, Thermo rest, MSR XJK 2 - dogs knob, Buffalo gear for spares and on land, dry suits with pee zips and gortex socks, Lowe alpine hats, Lendal padlock 4 piece paddles, a good bug proof tent, GPS, Oats 50 Simple * 2 for breakfast, good thick wetsuit boots with good tread, waist tow lines for ice travel, barometer watch and your full allowance of duty free - for Dram o'clock time.

Jerry paddling through the ice



Lake Fjord Summer 2004



practical opportunity to stop and explore the many old Inuit campsites and long abandoned houses. Like other areas in the arctic, graves consist of a pile of rocks built up over the bodies. We found many of these sites, which brought home the hardships of living off the land in such an inhospitable environment.

Eventually we reached our furthest point from the last trip and were on new ground for a couple of days before paddling into Lake Fjord. For a time it was extremely foggy and we used Pete's GPS to back up my map work.

Paddling into Lake Fjord felt very strange and emotional, we went up the branch fjord to the glacier where Watkins was drowned, his body was never recovered. Later we looked for the memorial cross on the headland and discovered it had been knocked down by years of winter storms. Jeremy is a site engineer and did a good job supervising us labourers, who soon had the cross resurrected and secure, hopefully for years to come.

As the evening drew in, the weather further deteriorated and a storm started to blow up so we paddled to the head of the fjord to look for any signs of Gino's base camp and hut.

We put the tent up in the rain next to the hut site which was easy to find and clearly identifiable as their base. Mooching about we found the foundations and floor, a lot of wood, bits of roofing felt, piles of nails, broken glass, tin cans and spent rifle cases.

The next morning I also found the remains of an old wooden boat high up on the beach buried by storms under piles of stones.

Although very chuffed at having reached our goal we were in a remote and committing location and with worsening weather decided it would be wise to head out the following day for a safer coastline.

The paddle out of Lake Fjord, past Ailsa Island and then on to Hells Corner went better than we expected. A following wind and sea pushed us

along at a rate of knots and we soon started to relax and enjoy the ride, surfing between the ice while trying to avoid the clapotis, which for some reason I didn't expect to get off the ice. Our route from here took us back under a further 16 miles of cliffs and we were unable to land until we reached a very dilapidated and dirty hunter's cabin at Sartermit on Stor Island.

On our way up we had bivied out rather than use the hut, which was in a real state, now we piled in, kicked the rubbish out and got the MSR central heating going.

Pete was in a bad way as his dry suit was leaking badly and he had been wet most of the day. Dram o'clock came early that evening as we snuggled down into our sleeping bags and cooked an extra big meal.

No let up in the weather meant an enforced rest day. Later we had our first proper wash in over two weeks and were able to get some clothes dried out a bit.

Heading off the next day gave us a chance to see the area we had missed in the fog and again produced a 25 mile day which was this time finished off with trout cooked in tin foil on the fire.

Our route back took several days longer and included a couple more rest days. Again we had bad weather and enforced long days with no stops.

On one occasion we elected to push on to a hut. Pete's by now 'wetsuit' was making him so cold, we decided to land on the wrong side of a peninsular, walk 300 yards to the hut and get in the warm quickly and then portage the kayaks the following day, which then became a rest day.

Towards the end of the trip we had a day, where early on, we got split up in the ice and lost track of one another. The ice was moving and closing all the time and we were constantly altering our course to find a way through, often we would get split up, however, here the tide was also



books

Recommended reading for anyone unfamiliar with Gino Watkins

Gino Watkins by J M Scott – Hodder and Stoughton

Northern Lights by F Spencer Chapman

Those Greenland Days by Martin Lindsey

Watkin's Last Expedition by F Spencer Chapman

very strong and everything changed very quickly.

After the obvious actions were taken to relocate I decided to paddle on to our intended campsite, after all I had the tent and the stove and the others knew where they were going. After a paddle of 16 miles they were not there. I pitched the tent on a visible headland and waited. Just before the allotted time was up and I was going to head back out to look for them, they came into sight amongst the ice. I joined them, all of us relieved no one had come to any harm.

Before returning home time was spent in Angmagssalik with members of the kayak club, which we had helped establish in 2000.

Once again we had a fantastic trip, seen old friends and made many more. ●

Martin Rickard. Photo's by various team members.

Expedition members – Martin Rickard, Peter Jones and Jeremy Phelps.



t h a n k s

Thanks go to our sponsors without their support this expedition would not have been possible: Gareth Burnell, Richard Watkins, Nigel Dennis ASSC, Lendal, Kokatat, Nookie Xtreme, Palm, TreckLite Tents, McMurdo, and the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund. A mention must also go to Mike Devlin who more than 20 years ago lent me his copy of Watkin's Last Expedition and got me interested in sea kayaking, cheers Mick, I must let you have it back some day. Peter and I are now planning our next expedition on the east coast of Greenland from Scoresbysund to Kulusuk any potential sponsors should contact martinrickard@shetland.biblio.net

Liquid lifers

With a full field in both the men's and women's classes, the inaugural Liquid Life Boater X event held in Perthshire on September 11 was a cracking event and as more than one competitor agreed, exactly what Scottish paddling needed.

BBQ's were the order of the day at the Red Bull registration tent on the Friday evening prior to the racing, and a fantastic party ensued.

The eight o'clock start got rid of any fuzzy heads and the 500m course through class 3 and 4 white water presented some tricky sections. The finish line was just below the two-tier waterfall, which was not to be taken lightly and many positions were won or lost by getting it right or wrong. Zig and zag also proved a handful with a range of potential lines leading paddlers off target and creating enough carnage to keep the camera men happy and the safety crew occupied.

Scottish and Southern generously turned on the taps up to 384cfs as four kayakers per heat cranked their way down the course at five-minute intervals. To make the finals one had to succeed through four heats, coming in the top two to qualify for the next round.



Cam Allen



Bridget Thomas

The crowd loved the action, not only from the kayakers, but also from local raft companies spilling unsuspecting punters into the safe waters below the waterfall.

Bridget Thomas took first place in the woman's after she had performed consistently throughout her heats. Jennifer Berry and Sara

Howard finished out of their kayaks, costing them positions and allowing Claire Scott 2nd place after becoming pinned in zig and zag.

Cam Allan just saw off Iain Carey in the men's final, with Iain probably being faster but Cam's age and guile earning him that vital 1-second lead. Stan Ricketts placed third ahead of Matt Simpson in fourth.

Prize giving was like Christmas had come early, with generous donations from Teva, Kayak Session Magazine, Water by Nature, Kayak the Zambezi, PeakUK, Lomo wetsuits, Carlisle Canoes and Tiso. But that wasn't the end of it! Ask anyone at the party about the energy in Castles Menzies that night as 180 people boogied to the sound of Gaelic rock performed by the Jimi McRae Band. All in all Liquid Life was a competition with a difference. Well organised and with an incredibly friendly atmosphere amongst the competitors, it's well worth looking out for this one next year. ●

**Stanford Ricketts
Liquid Life Festival, 28-29th May
2005. Details at www.liquidlife.co.uk**

Yak Adventure Equipment

TRIBOON Breathable **RMR400** Durable

CELSIUS

Twin neck
Trilaminate
dry cag



NITRA

Neoprene neck
Trilaminate
dry cag



KHAMSIN

Trilaminate
breathable
dry trousers



yak-paddling.com
adventure equipment

Crewsaver House, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1AQ United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 23 9252 8621 Fax: +44 (0) 23 9251 0905
Yak is a registered trade mark of Cosalt Plc

AVAILABLE NOW!

Yak
2004-2005
Brochure



* SERVICING & REPAIRS * FAST TURNAROUND * COMPETITIVE PRICES *

Rubberman Drysuits & Seal Replacement Services

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

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

RUBBERMAN

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



FYNE BOAT KITS

10 models from open boats to sea kayaks.
Build in as little as a week. The kits contain all that is needed
including pre-cut joints & panels, epoxy & manuals to make a
strong boat to be proud of.



www.fyneboatkits.com
Tel: 01539 444300 Fax: 01539 447662
email: info@fyneboatkits.com

WHITEWATER The Canoe Centre



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

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

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

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

www.wwtcc.com

Local Access Forums and the National Countryside Forum

Cartoon courtesy of Andrew Quick



Typical UK access!

The October issue of *Canoe Focus* featured a letter from Rt Hon. Alun Michael, Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environment Quality to Local Access Forums (LAF's). The letter directed LAF's to give further consideration to the role of forums in advising on wider forms of access outside the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, and include access to water. Efforts by the BCU to have access to water

from the Minister, their attention will now extend to access to and along water.

Membership of the forums is a balance between different interests to provide a range of views to advise and influence how the highway authority and the Countryside Agency perform their executive functions.

LAF's seek to recruit people with an interest in the countryside and who can bring knowledge or experience from a cross section of areas that include health promotion, health and safety, education, land management and now water recreation. It is preferable to be able to contribute in more than one of these areas.

Members are appointed as individuals representing interests and not organisations for terms between one and three years. Out of pocket expenses are reimbursed for attending four or five meetings each year and these may be held in the evening. A forum consists of 17 to a statutory limit of 22 people. Meetings are open to the public and questions can be taken from the floor, and in some instances protocol requires them to be submitted in advance.

Based on local authority and National Park boundaries, many of the 80 or more LAF's in England will have suitable paddling waters for discussion. DEFRA have identified the need for forums to liaise and where waterways cross LAF boundaries this will be important point when considering linear access.

If you wish to assist with LAF's by either attending as an observer or seeking membership please contact your Regional Access Officer or the Access Office at access@bcu.org.uk.

The National Countryside Access Forum (NCAF) for England has also adopted a remit for access to and along water. This follows representations to the Countryside Agency and DEFRA by the BCU and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) in the wake of the Minister's letter to LAF's.

At the last NCAF meeting on 2nd November the CCPR were asked to nominate a further representative for water recreation. The CCPR also gained membership of the National Access Forum for Wales earlier this year. Through affiliation to the CCPR the BCU now has representation at the English and Welsh National Access Forums.

included in the CRoW Bill in its passage through Parliament were unsuccessful.

The BCU is engaging LAF's by way of paddlers attending forums as observers or members and local authorities contacting the Access office for nominations. LAF's are a challenging additional tranche of work for local access teams who would welcome assistance; and to provide some information on the role and responsibilities of forums that space and a print deadline did not allow with the previous issue of *Canoe Focus*.

All local Highway Authorities and National Park Authorities are required by Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to establish a Local Access Forum and as such are statutory advisory bodies. The forums have no decision making powers and provide strategic advice on the improvement of public access to lands for the purposes of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the LAF area; and other matters as may be considered appropriate.

Forums generally give advice on two main topics:

- Implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to the countryside
- Improvement of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

They are expected to develop a constructive, innovative and inclusive approach to this work and following the letter

**RIVERS
ACCESS
CAMPAIGN**
www.riversaccess.org

The right of navigation on non-tidal rivers and the common law

A major new piece of work has been researched and published by the Rev'd Douglas Caffyn. Doug, a former Chairman of the Access Management Committee, has produced the paper based on a thesis submitted to the University of Kent for the degree of Master of Laws.

This is a summary of the report:-

The preface to an Act of 1472 stated, "Whereas, by the laudable Statute of Magna Carta, among other things... was made for the great wealth of all this land, in avoiding the straitness of all rivers, so that ships and boats might have in them their large and free passage."

The paper reviews the evidence that prior to 1830 there was a generally acted public right of navigation on all rivers which were

physically navigable. The wording of River Navigation Acts are examined and are shown not to be inconsistent with this interpretation of the law.

In 1830 H.W. Woolrych claimed that all non-tidal rivers are private unless a public right of navigation has been established by statute, long use or dedication. The errors in his text are examined and it is argued that subsequent commentators have followed his misconceptions. Four leading cases from the 19th and 20th centuries are then considered.

In the paper it is shown that the public right has not been lost but that there always has been, and there continues to be, a public right of navigation on all non-tidal rivers which are naturally physically navigable by small boats.

The BCU intend to use the paper as part of the case for greater access and are seeking further legal advice. The paper has already been given to DEFRA and the Environment Agency who are currently reviewing the paper with great interest.

For information on how to obtain copies of the paper please contact Info@riversaccess.org

More information about the passage of the paper in next edition of *Canoe Focus* and on www.riversaccess.org

Surf Life Saving Champs

Saunton Sands Surf Life Saving Club retained the SuperClub Trophy for 2004. The National Championships (4/5th September 2004) held at Fistral Beach, Newquay saw the club win the trophy with some memorable results. Qualifying for the single ski event proved difficult with early casualties from Glen Eldridge (Crantock) and Tim Widdershoven (Portreath) - The top two ranked paddlers were knocked out during the heats and semis. Saunton had qualified three singles for Sunday's final including Club Captain Mark Ressel and Peter Maycock.

Finals day on the Sunday started with fog, but by mid morning the beach was baked in fine sunshine. First off was the double ski final.

Maycock and Ressel edged home in a close exciting race ahead of Tim Widdershoven and Ben Widdershoven (Portreath) - names which you may recognise from the sprint regattas at Holme Pierrepont. This was Marks fourth doubles title. Two gained with Ian Timbrell in the 90s. The women's doubles final produce a fine win for Jacksons Bay. Saunton's women partnership of Kelly and Tracy Davey held a fantastic wave to finish. Straight after was the singles final. The surf had dropped but was still testing. Mark Ressel had a great start and reached the three turning cans ahead of the field. Negotiating the surf Mark gained a wide margin and crossed the line a clear winner. His surf skills over the years and a successful season in kayak racing contributed to an awesome win. Persuading him to train in a sprint kayak in the past two years gave him the confidence to pick up his first singles title in 14 years of surf life saving. Two seasons of narrow seconds to Welsh paddler Garrod Thomas (Aberavon) made Mark more determined than ever!

For more information on surf ski racing contact
plormz@btinternet.com



Kent Canoe Services
Superstore
2,000 Sq. feet

showroom full of boats and kit.
 Contract Prices for Scouts,
 Guides, Sea Cadets, Centres

B.C.U approved Canoe School.

Ring: (01732) 886688
 Surf: www.thecanoeshop.co.uk
 for directions and opening times
 New House Farm, Kemsing Road, Wrotham,
 Kent TN15 7BU



WOODMILL CANOE SHOP & OUTDOOR CENTRE

Kayak and canoe programmes for beginners, through to advanced and coach courses.

Multi activity courses for groups and individuals including our exciting high ropes.

Sea Kayak expeditions

Well stocked shop with a huge demo fleet of over 200 boats

Group and club discount available

WOODMILL OUTDOOR CENTRE

Woodmill Lane, Swaythling, Southampton SO18 2JR

Tel 023 8055 5993 Fax 023 8055 6641

www.woodmill.co.uk Email Info@woodmill.co.uk



01384 446 057

jobs@acornadventure.co.uk
www.jobs-acorn.co.uk



We are running an Ardeche specialised training course for:

Level 3 canoe and kayak (trained / assessed)
 Level 2 canoe and kayak (trained / assessed)
 3* canoe and kayak

Canoe and kayak experienced

We also run post season training courses as well as free transport to and from the centre.

Interested call the recruitment department on 01384 446 057 or e-mail us on jobs@acornadventure.co.uk



City centre white in the Balkans

I've never been anywhere like Mostar before. Mostar is a city in Bosnia Herzegovina which during the Balkan's war from 1991-95 was devastated. Almost every building bears scars from the hostilities, where bullet holes and shell bursts are evident everywhere. However, with the opening of the new Stari Most bridge, to replace the one destroyed in the conflict, on 23rd July 2004, there is a large amount of regeneration of the city.

In the centre of the east side there is a restaurant with a sign above it stating 'kajakaski klub neretva mostar' – Mostar Kayak Club, Neretva River. Their facilities are the most diverse for any kayak club I've ever seen anywhere. They have a gym and amongst the usual weights machines and benches is an air compressor for filling their diving cylinders or inflating their raft. They also told us of their micro light aircraft. One of the members broke both legs due to a bad landing during 2003!

The diversity does not end there. The eclectic collection of boats is very wide. There are quite a few Dagger boats, some Sauvage, Rainbow, Perception, Pyranha and several brands I had never heard of. They have slalom boats, white water racers, general purpose plastic and some canoes. There were very few playboats.

Paddlesport in Mostar has its challenges. They cannot buy gear in Bosnia Herzegovina so a new boat or paddle might cost them a couple of days drive to Germany and back. There is also the insult of sewage outfalls into such a beautiful river. However, they paddle on despite this. Not all the paddlers were wearing buoyancy aids or helmets. Safety in Mostar is not the same as the UK. I counted seven motorcycle crash helmets in two weeks.

The generation of hydroelectric power upstream means that water levels change hugely, rapidly and unpredictably. This gives rise to white water in a city centre without weirs!

The beach where we launched from was on a bend in the river at the bottom of a steep flight of stairs. The first thing that was evident was the sheer power of the current. The klub said it was the lowest they had ever seen the water levels. We paddled upstream from here. If you have ever wanted to find out if you can eddy hop this is the place to do it.

The first section of rapids we came to was a grade 2/3. It was excellent for breaking in/out. There were several challenging sections to this rapid. The worst that I could see happening was a long cold swim.

We then moved on to a rapid that I had viewed from the bridge above it. I knew it looked big but the actual size close up was breath taking. I rated it as a grade 4. The kajakaski klub got stuck into it straight away. It really was a leap of faith in terms of your boat and paddling ability. I would recommend that you are at least 4 Star, it would not go far wrong as a new river for working up to 5 Star.

This rapid was immense. It dwarfed anything I've been on in Wales and most of the white water in Scotland. It's not for the faint hearted and your own boat is recommended. I did not get close enough to find out what was holding and what was loose. I could only just touch the



Stari Most Bridge being re-built



water



footplate of a Dagger Outburst I was paddling. The plate was wedged down and wouldn't come any closer, so it was that or nothing. I wasn't taking any risks with the big water because of this reason and only went as far as felt comfortable. On its plus side the length and volume coped very well with everything I did with it.

On the way back down stream we revisited the first rapids. Opposite the get on was a grade 2+. This was entertaining due to the changing flow of the recirculation of eddies, it kept us on our toes. I have never seen a river where it happens as pronounced as here.

From there we took the opportunity to paddle further downstream to look at the new Stari Most Bridge. The new bridge is being made from the same stone by Turkish workmen, the same as the original. The bridge is impressive. Young men from the city used to and probably will still dive from it to prove themselves!

There was then a short series of ferry glides and eddy hops to get back to the stony beach where we disembarked.

The section of the Neretva in Mostar is not the only part to look at. Upstream there is white water rafting with some of the most spectacular sites I have ever had the privilege to see.

All in all it was an amazing experience and we cannot thank the Kajakaski Klub Neretva Mostar enough for letting us have this opportunity.

●
Tom Paterson and Vernon Bayliss

YOUTHFEST 2004



Above and right: Ian showing off his bronze Olympic medal and showing a youngster the ropes



Below: The bellboat launch pad

Returning to the National Watersports Centre Holme Pierrepont for 2004 the BCU Youthfest attracted over 400 participants to a day of fun and action supported by two of our Olympic paddlers hot from Athens.

“What a fantastic event – said one of the team leaders – “we’ve been able to participate in so many different types of paddlesport – you can’t have a better day than this!” This reflected the overall reaction to the events from everyone.

There was lots to do all day but we’ll start with...

The National Bellboat Championships

They also gave the thumbs up to Ian Wynne who presented the prizes and spent time chatting to the paddlers and parents. Ian won a bronze medal in the Men’s K1 500m sprint race and the young paddlers were thrilled to see for real an Olympic medal – in fact one paddler announced that she wanted to be in the GB team for the Olympics in 2012!

On the main regatta lake there were some fierce battles fought by teams from schools, scout groups and BCU clubs and centres. The Under 11’s had to battle against a strong head wind – with the medals going to Melbourne Cubs, a scratch team ‘Allsorts’ and Shropshire Paddlesport. Local Nottingham school Robert Miles, in their first taste of Paddlesport, made great progress to win the Minor Final. In the Under 14 class, team Leicester were clear winners from Melex Cubs and Banbury and District, whilst in the Under 16 an exciting final resulted in Northampton Raiders getting a nose in front of St Patrick’s School from Stockton and 1st Callow Cubs who came third.



— FUNtastic!



Above: Stuart Bowman signing autographs

Black Paddlepower award

Congratulations to Danielle Johnson of Kingston Kayak Club in Hull who has just been awarded her Black Paddlepower Award. Danielle has worked hard to achieve this highest award in the Paddlepower Challenge and proved her love of the sport by the sheer range and variety of her activities which include slalom, polo, racing, and white water touring. She also has been helping her club run summer activities for other young people. Danielle received a special Olympic t-shirt and badge from the British Olympic Foundation from Olympic bronze medallist Ian Wynne during the Youthfest event.

So what else was there to do?

First of all there was the Diamond slalom challenge with over 100 young paddlers going for awards coached by top GB coaches and Olympic C2 slalom paddler Stuart Bowman.

Then there was the sprint and marathon racing, with opportunities to gain personal performance awards in the Lightning time trial and two mini marathons in open canoes led by ex Olympian and World Champion Steven Train.

You could then go on to a Freestyle coaching session with Kayako Jacko and ex GB team paddler Matt Tidy to try some cartwheel spins.

If you weren't dizzy by then – there was the Polo Golden shot to try your skills for the ultimate penalty shoot out drama and if you hadn't been in enough different boats by now, well there was a 'come and try' supported by Desperate Measures.

Finally, for those wanting to stay dry; well there was a 100 metres ergo paddling challenge and the chance to go for gold again!

If you missed this great event then keep a look out on the web and these pages for 2005 Youthfest!

For more pictures and results of this years event go to

- www.bcu.org.uk/youth/youthfest.html

Thanks to all the many helpers and supporters in particular to Kingston Kayak Club, Stuart Briggs, team Finland, Kayako Jacko, Desperate Measures team, Friends of Allonby, Shropshire Paddlesport, Palm/Dagger, Peak, British Olympic Foundation.

Photos: Dave Leathborough

Email:

david@focused-on-adventure.com



Hasler Finals 2004 Lightning Race

This years Hasler Finals were at Nottingham on Sunday 3rd October. The racecourse was two 1600m laps of the regatta lake at the National Watersports Centre. The weather forecast had predicted a day of driving wind and rain, however on this occasion the forecasters were proved wrong. The conditions were just right for racing, not too cold and not much wind either.

The young racers took up their starting positions, showing good boat skills, as they backed into the start pontoon, ready for the off. The U12 boys were first away followed two minutes later by the U12 girls, and then the U10s were off. At the first turn in the U12 Boys, Mark Clive from Gailey had already secured a good lead from Albert Hicks after an impressive start and led all the way home. Albert, from Norwich, racing for the first time as an U12, maintained good technique to win a silver medal. Robert Jefferies from Pennine, came in bronze medal position just a head of Adam Mattison from Pangbourne.

Meanwhile the Girls from Runcorn landed a clean sweep with Jenny Illidge in gold, Lauren Marnell in silver and Amy Robinson in bronze. A clear demonstration of girlpower from Runcorn. Not to be outdone, Kara Bradbeer from Kirkcaldy, in the U10's race came home in second place overall and was first placed girl and took gold. At the front of the Boys U10 race Jack Osbourne from Leighton Buzzard finish in gold, Jack Childerstone in silver and Matthew Jefferies in bronze.

The overall team prize was won by the girls from Runcorn.

Well done to all the young racers, parents and coaches involved.

Howard Blackman, East Midlands PDO

Perception Wavehopper Challenge Finals 2004

The finals of the series took place at the Nene White Water Centre, Northampton. Entries were extremely high with almost 100 young people from all parts of England taking part. The number of entries has been building up during the season, with everything still to play in the final.

The course started in the pump pool and after 15 seconds of chop, the drop into the pool looms large, the a shot on the left with the bow pointing right was the chosen route for many. The course then becomes more

technical with a series of tight 'S' bends, leading to the final long bend into the finish. A total distance of 200m of challenging wet fun.

The racers set off at one minute intervals with two runs allowed with the best run counting. The crowds of parents, coaches and fellow racers encouraged and applauded all the racers down the course. A team from Soar Valley and Shropshire Paddlesport provided the necessary safety support.

Shropshire Paddlesport, who were the favourites, won the team series prize for the third year running which was a new Wavehopper, sponsored by Perception. Leighton Buzzard who had a battle all season long with Shropshire, are new to Wild Water Racing and finished runner's up, with Meridian in third place.

A big thank you to Perception for continuing to support the development of Wild Water Racing. Thanks also to Gary Denton and his team from the Nene WWC, Soar Valley Canoe Club and of course all the competitors and their supporters. Next season the series takes a big step forward and will be fully incorporated into the Wild Water Racing Calendar, keep upto date with developments visit www.wildwater.org.uk

Perception Wavehopper Challenge Series for 2005

Yet again the Wavehopper Challenge Series for 2005 got off to a flying start at the Tyne Tour, Hexham on November 6th. Nineteen youngsters from the N.E. Region's clubs had coaching sessions with Mike Mason (WWR Youth Team coach) and Nigel Timmins (CDO) before heading off up to the south Tyne starting point for their timed two mile runs down to Hexham. As the water was pretty choppy, the youngsters raced down in groups of four or five with an adult tailing each group. Several even went back up again for a (fun) paddle down! As well as the presentations made for the day's event, David Robe of Blyth KC was presented with a belated silver medal for his overall results at the Nene Perception Finals (under 14 boys). Well done, Dave! Dave also had best overall time at the Tyne Tour event. Thanks to everyone who made this such a successful and happy day!

On the Sunday there was a short ten gate Slalom course for both juniors and adults to test their skills on set up by Don Raspin of Tees KC. Once again this was well supported by young paddlers and plans are afoot for events in 2005, so watch your club notice board and the region's web site www.bcu.org.uk/northern for future events.

Don't miss out.

Bobby E. Timperley, PDO N.E. Region

Euro 2004 England 7: Belarus 14

After the success of last year's event I decided to run a canoe session for the 'Children from Chernobyl' in Belarus. I was fortunate enough to of had some feedback from my article about last year's session published in *Canoe Focus*. I was contacted by a level 2 coach, Stephen Lamb and by Susie Montgomery who enjoys paddling and speaks Russian. I was also offered help from Geordie, a local fireman, who does more than his fair share for good causes. I also enlisted the help of two local instructors, Emma and Kate and the session was booked.

With the session plan agreed, seven helpers and two bags of doughnuts waited for the children to arrive. Fourteen children turned up wide-eyed and full of energy, speaking away in Russian. This is where our secret weapon Susie came in. We kitted the children out and before long we were all on the water in Portland Harbour. The children picked up the skills very quickly considering that they had never seen the sea before it was amazing. The adults were willing to make fools of them selves to help the children feel relaxed. (Although this did come rather easily to Geordie). And we



did lose count how many times Stephen rolled his boat, which the children enjoyed. Emma and Kate ran a very fun packed session getting the children in and out of their boats with ease. The children were very willing to learn and were keen to try any of the weird and wonderful things asked of them. After a mass sinking the session came to an end. The boats were emptied and a welcome cup of soup and coffee was had. This was the end of another fantastic evening for the children, which was topped off with the presentation of a 'beanie hat' each, very kindly donated by YAK.

I would like to thank Kate and Emma who ran a great session after an already long day's teaching and Geordie, who once the session finished had a night shift to do. Then there was Susi and her husband Andy, who travelled from London to help and had the long journey home to look forward to, and finally Stephen who travelled from Reading to help and then travelled onto Truro for a meeting the next day.

I would like to thank YAK for the generous donation of 14 'beanie hats'. This was a very practical gift, as the children would be going back home with a hard winter ahead of them.

If you would like any more information or would like to contribute towards the cost of hiring the canoe equipment for next year's session, or just to know more about the 'Children of Chernobyl' charity that brings the children over every year, then please contact me at mr@cranny.fslife.co.uk I am already looking forward to next years session. ●

Nobby Cranny



BEAR CREEK ADVENTURE

**Worcestershire's biggest
canoe & kayak store**

**Come & talk to people who are
experienced & qualified in
paddlesport.**

- Open canoe buoyancy blocks
- Mail order available
- Contract prices for groups, centres, clubs etc.
- Large stocked show area
- Demo & boat hire
- Local water to demo boats

BCU, beginners, intermediate & advanced courses
available
Please call for our 2004-2005 training programme

Just 10
minutes from
junction 5 of
the M5

**E-mail: info@BearCreekAdventure.co.uk
www.BearCreekAdventure.co.uk**

Tel/fax: 0870 050 8203

- Open canoe specialist
- White water kayaks
- Recreation kayaks
- Sit on tops
- Accessories
- Buoyancy aids
- Kayak & open canoe paddles
- Junior range

**Unit 1B, Hobden Hall Ind. Est.
Shaw Lane, Stoke Prior
Bromsgrove
B60 4DU**

Monday- Friday: 9am - 5pm
Saturday: 9.30am - 4pm
Closed Sundays & Bank Holiday weekends



**WCA Centre of Expertise
Sea Kayaking & Freestyle**

Improve your paddling with TYF in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and access to first class sea & surf kayaking; or visit the Bitches! Beginners to experts and the full range BCU coaching courses.



**01437 721611
play@tyf.com
www.tyf.com**



DELTA

www.delta-sportswear.com

Southwater Watersports Centre

26 Station Road ~ Southwater
Horsham
West Sussex RH13 9UD

Six Acre Lake Fully Stocked Shop ~ 100 Boats Available
Full Training Facilities ~ BCU Recognised Centre

Sales ♦ **Full Demo Fleet** ♦ **& Hire**

**Necky Boats
In stock Now!**



White Water ♦ Touring ♦ Open Canoes ♦ Sit-On-Tops

www.ukkayaking.co.uk ☎ 01403 732389 ACT

association
of canoeists

Please send letters
by email to
peter@canoeocus.co.uk
or post to:

LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

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

Thank-you

I'm just writing to say thank you to Reading Canoe Club. When I rang up on a Friday, asking if we could use their launching facilities the very next day, they couldn't have been more willing to help. It helped our Thames outing go very smoothly. When we arrived for the shuttle we were shown how to open the gate, and when we pulled in, six hours later, another member even took time out from his race preparations to offer our group showers and coffee - an unexpected bonus. I think JJ and Kerrie wanted to take him back with us... but he had a race in Nottingham to go to. So, many thanks Reading Canoe Club! If you're ever on the south coast.

Gideon Reade,
Adur Canoe Club, Sussex

Smash and grabbed

My group paddled the Exe from Bolham to Bickleigh Mill the other weekend (Saturday 6th November). We parked our vehicles at Bickleigh Mill in the car park through the archway. Unfortunately, on our return, we found that our minibus had been broken into. The thieves took seven people's bags including mobile phones, trainers, walking boots, spare paddling kit, coats, dry clothes and even our Ginsters pasties! This was a very sour end to what was otherwise an excellent river paddle. The thieves had tried to force entry to other paddlers' vehicles, but without success, however they had caused scratches and damage to door locks and window seals. We reported the incident to the police and left our details at Bickleigh Mill itself. If you're running the Exe and parking at Bickleigh Mill, I would recommend you park your vehicles in the more public areas of the site.

Monty Smedley
BCU L3 Coach

Professional job, professional wage!

I am writing in response to letter *re: greedy instructors*. I am one of those so called greedy instructors who get paid for coaching paddlesports, and was quite offended by the letter. Teachers, social and youth workers who all contribute to the development of children get paid, so why can't I? I started in the industry 10 years ago on a very low wage of £40 a week (hardly greedy!) and have worked my way up the coaching system and have introduced thousands of youngsters to canoeing. If it wasn't for my wage I would not have been able to go on courses and assessments to improve and continue my work.

I respect everything that the Scout Association does for paddlesports but if it wasn't for people such as myself, following my passion into a profession, there would be far less people introduced to the sport altogether. I don't know of any other professional who would work for free and I am glad that finally the valuable work done by coaches is being reflected in their salary.

Caz Goodall

Access is a matter for negotiation - not our right!

I was interested to read Ian Brackley's letter (River access is our right) in the last edition of *Canoe Focus*, in which he advocates "mass trespass" as a way of achieving better river access. Mr. Brackley takes particular issue with regard to access to the river Dee. Although I do not know the river well, I assume the major objection to canoe access on the part of the riparian owners is the possible impact on salmon fishing (in common with many other rivers where canoe access is restricted or prohibited).

Those in favour of direct action would do well to remember that for many riparian owners, salmon fishing accounts for a huge percentage of their earnings - a single day's fishing on a prime beat costing many thousands of pounds. As salmon are notoriously elusive and easily spooked I for one can understand the effect just one canoeist would have on a well stocked salmon river, no matter how cautiously he or she paddled.

Parallels are often drawn with the United States where canoeists and anglers seem to coexist quite happily - there are however notable differences.

Firstly, from my observation most Canadians and North Americans have at the very least a good appreciation of etiquette when it comes to the avoidance of conflict with anglers - mostly I think because the majority fish themselves.

Secondly, in the States, anglers and canoeists have financial parity in as much that both pay fairly nominal costs in return for access to the rivers (let's not forget how much salmon anglers pay to fish in contrast to how much canoeist pay to access rivers here in the UK).

Thirdly, fish stocks are far more abundant and the populous per river mile much less over there than over here - which overall is more conducive to good intersport relations.

Lastly, many anglers in the States fish from canoes which joins the two sports literally at the hip - something I have a lot of experience in as I am one of a growing band of paddle anglers in the UK.

I am not suggesting that anglers are faultless - I myself have encountered some very bad blood between anglers and canoeists on rivers where access is open, mostly resulting

from the 'multiple trip wire' approach that a lot of anglers seem to adopt when canoes hove in to view.

I have also seen canoeists deliberately splashing through well prepared swims - very clearly enjoying the disruption they have caused. It is my fear that any act of mass trespass or civil disobedience will degenerate into violence, as occurred recently in Westminster. It will certainly do nothing to promote canoeing in a good light or persuade riparian owners to open their arms to canoeists - quite the reverse in fact.

There are options though, trial access for limited numbers at the owners discretion is one - a strategy which (as ever) depends on the etiquette of the few to safeguard the sport of the many. Another would be to show the potential canoes have for reaching hither to inaccessible angling locations, increasing opportunities to earn and softening attitudes to canoes per-se.

Finally, canoeists could form their own syndicates and 'buy out' the anglers - how many would pay £50 for a day's paddling though? Quite a common fee to fish a river for the day.

John Thornhill

Good products and excellent service

Here's a tale that I would like to pass onto others, as I feel that good products and excellent service should be rewarded.

Whilst attempting to remove the hatch fittings on my superb two year old Pyranha Orca kayak for routine maintenance (i.e. polishing the stainless!), I found that some of the little rubber protectors came away from the internal brass fittings. There are sixteen of these inside the hull, holding the hatches in place.

Living in Nottingham I decided to ring the local branch of the company, P&H in Derbyshire. I spoke to a nice lady on the phone by the name of Pat who said that it would be best to contact Pyranha direct for those items, but if I needed them urgently a member of staff was travelling to Cheshire the following day and could bring them back with him!

I then rang and spoke to an equally pleasant lady called Anita at the Pyranha factory in Cheshire who suggested I send an emailed picture of the part for identification (this was incidentally at 5.00pm).

By 6.00pm there was a message on my answer phone saying "yes" the parts were in stock and better still she would post them to me directly. Sure enough by return of first class post the sixteen parts arrived and free of charge!

So a big thank you to the staff of P&H and Pyranha for your help and service. Anybody who may be considering buying a canoe or kayak could do a lot worse than to buy British, I doubt if I would have got the same level of after sales service from a manufacturer on the other side of the globe!

Andrew Hallsworth

Experience (Vs) qualification

Having read through many articles over the last couple of years, I have noticed a somewhat common trend that identifies junior coaches as being totally inexperienced and in some cases irresponsible on the water.

I feel that this opinion is a very sweeping statement and indeed feel that it is ridiculous to identify junior coaches as being potential hazards on the water. In my experience over the last few years I feel it is fair to say that sadly irresponsibility is not isolated to those with fewer years of experience.

Indeed this year in particular, having spent some time at a local club I have been shocked and disturbed by the attitude and irresponsibility of senior instructors (level 3-4) who should clearly know better. Junior coaches may not have as many years experience but in all fairness may well therefore have a far more proactive view to safety in and out of the water due to the more recent emphasis on qualifications.

The attitude of some of the senior instructors who I have met has been very blasé, and they stand by the viewpoint that they have not had problems in the past so they are unlikely to have them in the future. This seems outrageously and is the sort of attitude, which causes accidents and damages the BCU's reputation and all those who work under its name.

It is important to remember that a number of individuals who possess the coaching qualification teach on a part time basis under very controlled circumstances e.g swimming pools/lakes. For individuals like this they may only need to hold the level 1-2 qualification to be able to do the job despite having many years of experience in coaching. This I feel highlights the fact that even lower graded coaches can be of a high quality and well experienced within the strict boundaries of their qualification. It is worth remembering that these coaches will be the future of the BCU and it is important that individuals do not feel stigmatised by negative press and comments regarding the junior coaching awards.

In closing, it is not the level of qualification you hold that will make you a fantastic coach it is the combination of experience, enthusiasm, attitude and approachability that determines your success and the ability to convey the wonderful benefits that this sport has to offer to those you teach.

Peter Bell



EZ-Dock Pontoon Systems

**“The First Dock of Its Kind
– The Last Dock You’ll
Ever Need”**

For full details contact:

Wave Seven Marine Ltd

0845 1080420

Email: sales@wseven.com



Wave Seven Marine Ltd

WATERSIDE VENUE MAIL ORDER
CONTRACT SERVICES GROUP PACKAGE DEALS

TEL: 01922 479279

100% Washable

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

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

FOUR SEASONS

- Raft
- Canoe
- Kayak
- Climb
- Camp

- White Water Course
- Retail Shop
- Cafe

Approved Centre

Teesside White Water Centre

Tel: 01642 678000

Please send adverts either by email to peter@canoeofocus.co.uk
or by post with BCU membership number to: Canoe Focus
Members Classified, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB.

ADVERTS CANNOT BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE.

For Sale

12 x Pyranha master 2's. excellent beginner boats, well looked after. £150 each, £600 for 6 or £1100 for 12. Worcester area contact Charles on 07973 336743

Books: We are clearing our remaining secondhand canoe books including authors such as Stephens, Olson, Hamerton, Patterson, Pulling, Byde and Davis. For a 4 page list (with some vaguely related topics) please send an SAE marked 'Books' to Davis, 9 Gt. Burrow Rise, Northam EX39 1TB

Canoe Trailer. 8 Kayaks and paddle cage plus spare tyre. Chesterfield £85. Phil 01246 629094

Dagger Infrared. Good condition, full white-water spec. Colour: red/orange/yellow. Excellent all-round boat for small-medium paddler. £250 ono. Based in Bristol but could probably meet at Hurley, HPP etc. Contact Nick on 07976 892990 or nick_jedlie@hotmail.com

Dagger Showdown: £300. Good condition. Bomber Gear backrest. Tel: 01434 605118 (North East England) or e-mail cankaytravel@hotmail.com

Dagger super Ego, good condition £275 West Yorkshire area. Tel 07866 282131

Esquimo Kendo. Full w/w spec, air bags, blue; little used so exceptionally good condition. Plus Lendal Mania carbon shaft splits. £200. 01434 602225 or stevechaplinsbtinternet.com

Esquimo Kendo, white water spec, airbag, very good condition. £250 Tel 01709-543770

Esquimo Spud, Red, Hardly used, Full foot rest and Air bags - £200 ono Ford Transit (Standard roof) set of Thule roofbars - £30 Peugeot 205 (3 door) set of Thule roofbars (£90 new & used only twice) - £30 Contact: Steve G Thames Valley area: Can deliver locally Tel: 07968 562972 email: g.gumdrops@dsl.pipex.com

Esquimo Xeno, Green, air bags, padded out a great play the river boat. £200. Gill dry suit, medium, front zip, with latex socks. brand new £200. Contact Richie on 07906 185438 or Canoerichie@aol.com

Freefall LT whitewater kayak, multi coloured (red-black-blue), with spray deck. Well used but in good condition £180. Tel. Sam 07766 192 413 or email simonjamesgreg@hotmail.com (West Yorkshire)

Folding Kayak, K2, Pouch, excellent condition, c/w spraydeck, £350. Sheffield, South Yorkshire 0114 243 1930 07748 445288

Inuk. Brand new. Unused. Overstern rudder. White/white £975. T: 01258 861816

Kayak Savage Maniac Blue/Black Playboat Good Condition. Airbags. Padded seat and back rest. Chesterfield £275 Phil 01246 629094

Liquid Logic Session. Very good condition, in yellow. Always stored in Garage. East Anglia. £300 contact Will Email: w_j_riley@hotmail.com Phone: 01986 896870

Marathon C2 sit and switch. Very fast boat ideal for D/W. VGC. £480. Stable K2 ideal for first timers to D/W or novices VGC £490. Sprint C1 to new narrow ICF specs. £350. Jura sea touring double kayak. 6.70m long 3x hatches and Stainless rudder £680. Contact George on 0115 9142610 or g.w.oliver@ntlworld.com

Marathon boat trailer. 4 V shaped Slats. Owned by scout group, sale must reach £100.00. jpeg available on request. Grimbsy area. Mrs Pett 01472 597689

McNulty Harrier Hawk canoe approximately 13' long in black/pink metallic flake colour. Hardly used, no damage bar a few scratches. Integral seat but no footrests or paddle. Need space, reasonable offer accepted, Bexleyheath, Kent area. Phone 020 8306 8529 or e-mail kathdel24@ntlworld.com

Mad River Explorer 16' Canoe - Fully Kited out for expeditioning. (Used for 5* assessment and level 5 Coach) excellent condition. Sale due to emigration. (Lancashire, can deliver) £800. Cal David 07740 393231

Madyaker Paddle very good condition, 190, £95, Tel 01709 543770

Maga Tico Lite surf kayak (yellow hull, purple/yellow deck) with colour matching Mega surf paddle & spray dack. Top condition, hardly used £350. Tel. Sam 07766 192 413

MEGA UFO Predator surf kayak, vgc, black and white with red gunwale seam, carbon hull, footrest, competition seat, £470 ono. Telephone Ian on 07885 457966 or e-mail ian.smith2@virgin.net.

Mobile Adventure 16 foot Ranger Canoe 2002. Used only for Lakeside Paddling. VGC £380ono. Located at Windermere. Contact: email: gareth.field@lakesideymca.co.uk

Necky Chronic almost new VGC, Lime Green, garaged £600 ono Can travel all London Wiers. Contact Darryl or 07834 383381 (Evenings) or kaykaholic21@aol.com. Can send pictures if required

Necky Switch Play Boat, good condition, 2.25m long 186lt volume. £260 Telephone 01670 734802 Nordkapp sea paddle. Cranked shaft, carbon blade, RH, 220cm. £90. 01434 602225 or stevechaplinsbtinternet.com

Old Town Discovery Scout open canoe. Three webbing seats, Yak buoyancy bags front and rear, canoe couches (2), paddles (4) Ekla portage trolley. All as new, only used 4 times. £600 ono Contact Paul on 01548 580139 (S.Devon)

Ottersports Junior Kayak. Professionally made from the famous ottersports kit. A straight-running stable kayak, adj. Footrest, vgc. Condition 360 cms x 60 cms. £100. Contact John or Mary 01273 472760 E.Sussex.

Perception amp + kit. Good condition with the normal scratches. It also comes with paddles, spraydeck, buoyancy aid, and bag. Reason for sale: Grown too big to fit in it. £300. the colour is orange and red mix. London twickenham. If you are interested please e-mail me at fatko1@hotmail.com and I can send pics. Ring me on 07811 292024 (after 4:30pm during the week)

Perception Dancer XT. Good kayak for beginners and with the extra large cockpit easy get out of. Hardly used. £150.00. Tel Barry on 01484 304776.

Prijon Excursion Touring Double Red £650 Excellent Condition, 6 months old, fitted with Prijon Rudder Mike 01823 283695

Prijon Kodiak Expedition - sea kayak in red with 2 hatches, 6 months old good condition with Palm Tour spraydeck £650 ono Contact Colin 0777 805 4013 email csands@ra.rockwell.com (Somerset)

Prijon Yukon Expedition red touring kayak for sale. VGC includes paddle and splashdeck. £450 ono - 01886 889197 (Worcs).

Puma, overstern with seats and footrests suitable for Exe Descent. No dings, perfect condition for its age. £200 Steve Bennett (0117) 9659608

Pyranha Acro 270 whitewater/surf/play kayak (purple), with spray deck. Good condition. £180 Tel. Sam 07766 192 413 or email simonjamesgreg@hotmail.com (West Yorkshire)

Pyranha Creek 280. Red in good condition full white water spec, stored inside when not in use. £200 contact John Breen on Mobile 07968060027 E-mail Breeno61@hotmail.com

Pyranha Creek 280 in good condition excellent progression or intermediate white water boat very forgiving. full foot plate and will chuck in Ainsworth K100 right hand paddles £220. tel Andy on 07876 336723 nottinghamshire.

Pyranha Creek 280 Sport, good condition, 2.80 m long, full plate foot stop. well fitted out. Makes and excellent touring/safety boat £210. Telephone 01670 734802

Pyranha H2's. 255, 1 orange & 1 blue. only paddled on flat water and pool use. £350 ono each. Contact Alan on 07855155597 or e-mail aw@wingfields.org

Pyranha Microbat 230 six months old and still has warranty. Excellent condition, hardly used. Ratchet backrest, full plate footrest, storage for peli case. £420 ONO. Wavesport 12

Good condition, yellow, comes with all the tips. FAT 2 system making it easily adjustable, foam footrest. £370 ono. Nookie 25m throwbag, never used just carried £20. 5:10 Hydraulic shoes brand new £20. Endless river Buoyancy Aid. Red with chest harness and front pocket, good condition £30 paulbailiss@hotmail.com 07916 162185

Pyranha razor. Good beginner/intermediate boat, Red, yellow and black. Located in Norwich - transport not available £200 including neoprene spraydeck. If anyone is interested they can get in touch with me at s.vittery@uea.ac.uk.

Pyranha S6F 192. Orange. New Sept. 04. Only used on Holme Pierpoint for 1 month. Excellent cond. £600. (cost new £779) Handles superbly. Genuine reason for sale. Phone Ross 01530 224277 (Leics) or email petermontandon@gmail.com

Pyranha S6 200. Very Good Condition. Yellow with Blue Markings. £475.00 Merseyside Area. Contact greg on 07776 215 363 or gregmcsucker@hotmail.com

Pyranha S6 190, less than 1 year old; full WW spec, mottled green, almost new condition. Reduced to £400 ono. 0161 292 2427. mike_corrin@uk.ibm.com. Stockport (nr Manchester).

Pyranha s6x in good condition and its a year and a half old. 450 pounds, Any questions / enquiries contact Esther on 07840 185804 who is situated in Leeds

Pyranha Flow 300 - Yellow, backrest full plate foot rest, air bags. Surface scratches, but very solid and not much usage. Good allround boat, stored under cover. £220. Contact Colin 01902 563701 or Email dm004g2738@blueyonder.co.uk

Riot Boogie surf boat. Yellow with red flash. As new condition, seen little use, spare fins. £350 ono. Based in Essex but can deliver. Phone Richard on 07768334561.

Riot Dominatrix 47. Purple. £225 ono Contact Andy 01777 705424 (Nottinghamshire).

Riot Glide Peak deck, brand new never used £35, Tel 01709 543770

Riot Trickster. as new condition, yellow, only ever used for surfing. spare fins £350 ono. Essex area. Can deliver. Phone Richard on 07768 334561

Riot Trickster with power seat, surf fins & airbags. Red/Black. Really good condition. £350 ono. Orange/Red Perception Method Air with airbags. Pretty good condition, small dent in the nose. £300 ono. Contact 0114 2687345, Sheffield.

ROBSON NRG, freestyle kayak, 1 Yr old, good condition, Yellow and Red, Reading area, £350. Please contact Dave on 07980 989236 or canoe_god@hotmail.com

Slalom K1, Prijon Becker. Excellent condition, top construction, hardly used. Very light and strong, good design. Bright yellow! Move forces reluctant sale. Can include carbon slalom paddles. £500 ono for the pair. Near London but can deliver to HPP or similar distance. Tel: 07810 892 638, or 01483 755 729 evenings. email tim.hines@virgin.net

Spud good condition £250 contact ian on e-mail at ianfisherbcc@hotmail.com

Seylor Inflatable SVX200 K2 Grey £250 Good Condition Mike 01823 283695; 07976 077349 mike_southway@moores.co.uk

Surf kayak, Mega Vanquish. High performance with 3 fins. Standard construction, fully fitted with back rest & foot pegs. Red & black marbled colour, good condition. Picture available e-mail sue.holland@tesco.net or tel. 01994 484 520, Carmarthen area.

Folding Thule upperarms. £10. Located Sheffield. Call Bob on 07764 149004

Thule roof bars TH762 + footpack TH750 + fitting kit, locks etc. Suit Honda HRV. Good condition £30. Prefer local pick up, can post at buyers expense. Located Sheffield. Call Bob on 07764 149004.

Topo, red outside, black inside. Well used for a year, stored inside unused for past two years. Good condition. £300. Email me on neil.hopkinson@ntlworld.com (Camsb).

Topolino Duo £525 ono. Contact Tim 02476 672584 or tim.spencer10@ntlworld.com

Transformer 2, good condition. orange. 18 months old and was an ex wavesport team boat. £400 ono plus peak top deck. perfect condition, £100 ono sell both for £450 ono email: monkeyman7x@yahoo.co.uk

VW Campervan Roofrack. Fully adjustable roofrack to fit Volkswagon Campervan with high top or similar sized vehicle. Fully padded and adjustable in height and width and comes with additional J-bars attached. Perfect for carrying kayaks (at least 5 of them), windsurfers, and surf boards. In excellent condition as hardly ever been used and now stored inside. £100 ono. Contact Chris 01733 241006 or 07950 057240 or chris_burnham@rocketmail.com

Wavesport 2 Kayak - Full whitewater spec, Blue multi art, excellent condition. Sale due to emigration. (Lancashire, can deliver) £800. Cal David 07740 393231

Werner Sidekicks. Colour-White. Cost- £120. Contact Jon in Devon on 01626 833988

WWR K1 Mission Race Boat - Mission Double Duct Slight orange and KC Glitter deck. Carbon Kevlar Hull. Very solid Double Dutch's top construction, new is £980. Excellent race boat £700 Nigel Jones 07739693041 nigel.jones@ntu.ac.uk

Wanted

2 red Pyranha creeks in red, Lancashire area contact dave on 07710773523

12 kayaks suitable for center use in particular for children. Complete with paddles and trailer would be ideal! Will consider anything and prepared to collect from anywhere in the uk. We are flexible on price depending on what is available. If you can help please call on 01548 561036/ 07970 383680 or e-mail phil@wayaheadworld.com.

Bell ringers wanted! Are there any bell ringers out there who are also canoeists? Do you fancy paddling out to Lundy for a weekend to ring the bells at St Helen's Church on Lundy? If so, please contact me by e-mail: peter.midwood@lakesideymca.co.uk or phone: 07970 590 275.

Dagger G-Ride 6.5 please call/text Loz on 07763735787 or email sieu031b@rdg.ac.uk

Grumman aluminium open canoe. Tel: 01337 840659 e-mail: woody24@taylorfrans.net

Inazone 232, ww spec. Contact Dave on mobile 07708 062761

Mirage K2, lightweight construction, reasonable condition. sbest@facademodelling.com

Old Playboat, to get started in the sport. spent all my cash on kit! for around £100 please telephone 01639 632477 South Wales.

Old Town pack open canoe wanted. Reasonable condition. South Eastern or Southern England preferred. Please contact Paul Jenkins on 01474 833071 or e-mail pj.paddler@btinternet.com

Open boat for ww grade 2/3, preferably with air bags and paddles. For university canoe club use. Up to £400. Please contact Durham University Canoe Club 07814 714217 or canoe.club@durham.ac.uk

Pyranha ROB ROY in good condition (old title 14ft 5in long, yellow plastic, not new brown Kiwi-like tub). Yorkshire region but willing to travel couple hundred miles for good specimen address: notsuh@ukonline.co.uk

Lost:

Esquimo Kendo, black with white markings on the front and back on Ettrick Water leading into the River Tweed on 24/10/04. Reward given. Call me on 07833 642131.

Pyranha S6X 225, red/orange, lost on the Dee (Llangollen) on 22nd October. Tel: 0151-727-0837 or 07795 362931 ask for Jason. Reward offered.

Pyranha i3 223 Yellow & Dagger RPM Max Blue + Streamlyte paddle on Saturday 23rd October River Grwyne, a trib of the Usk. Last seen heading for Aberavenny! Rewards and free beer! Contact Tim 02476 672584 or tim.spencer10@ntlworld.com

Stolen

Stolen from side of house in Plymouth teal blue Pyranha Pilot Sea Kayak. Kayak has non standard fittings including rudder system operating off keepers and single piece thigh brace from Necky Sparc. All deck fittings are black and was stolen without the hatch covers. If you come across my kayak or anyone tries to sell it to you please contact Robyn on 07798 703899, email robync.haines@virgin.net.

mepal outdoor centre

Near Ely, Cambridgeshire

VERY SPECIAL multiskilled Instructors needed for 2005 to work with a wide variety of client groups. **TWO NGBs** preferred, but trainees are welcome. Minimum age 18.

Lead Instructor post available for a L3 Canoe (or kayak) coach.

Interview day on 5th January

Email david@mepal.co.uk for job description and application form or look on our website: www.mepal.co.uk




Adventurous Activities

Aged 16 + with no experience?
Ask about the new Foundation Course in Adventurous Activities

Aged 17 + with some experience?
Try the Adventurous Activity Instructor Course (AAI)

For professionals in the industry:
update your skills on the Professional Instructor Programme (PIPs)
Full time from November - February

Foundation Degree in Adventure Education Management
Full and part-time options available

For more information contact
Tel: **01579 372233**
Email: stoke.enquiries@duchy.ac.uk
Web: www.duchy.ac.uk

Saturday Advice Morning - 15 January 2005

Part of The CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP College Mission "Creating opportunities for all through high quality education and training."




EAST BARNBY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

A residential centre running Open Canoe and Kayak, Sea and Surf courses at all levels

Weekend courses from £85 and 7 day guided expeditions from £450. All inclusive of full board and lodging, equipment hire and fully qualified instruction

COURSES FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2005

Weekend paddlesport courses next year will include:

22-24 April	Level 2 Coach, Kayak or Canoe, Training or Assessment
22-24 April	Guided Sea Kayak around the Farne Islands
20-22 May	Introduction to Flat Water Canoeing and Kayaking
20-22 May	Introduction to Sea and Surf Kayaking
10-12 June	Introduction to Scottish Whitewater Canoeing and Kayaking
24-26 June	Intermediate Sea and Surf Kayaking
8-10 July	BCU 4 Star Sea Kayak Training and/or Assessment

Sea Kayak Expeditions

6-13 May	Open Canoe the Wild Lochs of Scotland
14-21 May	Sea Kayak the West Coast of Scotland
28 May-4 June	Sea Kayak the West Coast of Ireland
8-13 August	Norway, Skerries and Fjords by Sea Kayak

For a brochure and details of all courses contact us at **E.B.O.E.C.**, East Barnby, Whitby, N. Yorks, YO21 3SA
Phone: 01947 893333
Email: les@northyorks.outdoored.co.uk




Graduate Apprentice Programme in Outdoor Education and Development Training

- Are you a Graduate looking for a career in Outdoor Education or Development Training?
- Would you like to receive free training together with a subsistence grant?
- Do you want to make yourself more employable?

St. Martins College Ambleside, in partnership with leading providers within Cumbria is offering a programme to graduates seeking to develop careers in Outdoor Education and Development Training.

By the end of the programme Graduate Apprentices will have developed the skills, experience, qualifications and knowledge to operate effectively with the Outdoor Education and Development Training sector. Programmes last between six to ten months.

It costs nothing to apply or take part. All Graduate Apprentices will receive a subsistence grant whilst on the programme together with a free training package.

Organisations taking part in the Graduate Apprentice Programme include: Castle Head Field Centre, Brathay Hall Trust, Howtown Outdoor Centre, Lakeside YMCA National Centre, Calvert Trust Keswick, Bendrigg Lodge, Patterdale Hall and others.

Graduate Apprentice Programmes start between January to March 2005. For further information email Jon Owen: j.owen@ucsm.ac.uk or tel: 015394 30354 (email preferred)



Adventure Whitewater

Inspirational journeys throughout the world

Turkey, Nepal, Peru, Bolivia,
New Zealand, India, Tibet,
Chile, Morocco, Sri Lanka,
Ladakh & the Zambezi.

Private group trips a speciality.



Tel: 0870 443 0240

Email: info@adventure-whitewater.com

Visit: www.adventure-whitewater.com



www.boulderadventures.co.uk

Bryn Du Mountain Centre Llanberis, North Wales. tel: 01286 870556

www.Salamandertours.com

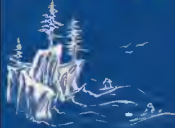
10 day traditional canoeing adventures/mini expeditions in Southern Africa

Tel 07906 099741

info@salamandertours.co.za

SEA KAYAK ATLANTIC CANADA

TOURS - COURSES - RENTALS



Have breakfast at home in Britain and supper the same day on a coastal island off Nova Scotia. We're that close! Discover our deserted offshore islands, the Cape Breton highlands and whales, Newfoundland fjords and icebergs, and the highest tides on earth in the Bay of Fundy. Our 24th year Coastal Adventures PO Box 773 Tangier, NS Canada B0J 3H0 info@coastaladventures.com www.coastaladventures.com



WOODMILL CANOE SHOP & OUTDOOR CENTRE

Kayak and canoe programmes for beginners, through to advanced and coach courses.

Multi activity courses for groups and individuals including our exciting high ropes.

Sea Kayak expeditions

Well stocked shop with a huge demo fleet of over 200 boats

Group and club discount available

WOODMILL OUTDOOR CENTRE

Woodmill Lane, Swaythling, Southampton SO18 2JR

Tel 023 8055 5993 Fax 023 8055 6641

www.woodmill.co.uk Email Info@woodmill.co.uk



Woodhill Road, Bury, Lancs BL8 1DA

Tel: 0161-7649649

E-mail: burrs@activitycentre.freeserve.co.uk

A fantastic bunkhouse, ideally situated in the north west for watersports on the River Irwell, available onsite facilities include:

- Fully heated bunkhouse with drying room - self catered £8 p.p.p.n.
- Bed and breakfast or fully catered available on request.
- Superb canoeing available with a Grade 2/3 river onsite.
- Floodlit training pool.
- Day visitors more than welcome.
- Changing and café facilities available.
- Instructors available on request

The College of West Anglia

Is the only Centre of Vocational Excellence for Outdoor Activities in the UK.

Diploma in Outdoor Activities - internationally recognised full-time, intensive 28 week course for mature students. **Multi-activity Instructors Certificate** - 30 week full-time course for 16-19 year olds.

Both courses with the college are recognised by MLTB, BCU, RYA, REC & BOF and cover training/assessment in a range of NGB awards. Four days per week are spent on practical sessions throughout the UK and abroad.

Subjects include;

Mountain Leadership	Climbing	Sailing
Kayaking	Canoeing	Orienteering
Winter Mountaineering	Associated theory	

New Course; Access to Outdoor Education with Environmental Studies. A 36 week full time course with modules including Development of Outdoor Education, Philosophy & Values, Environmental Interpretation, Planning & Delivery and Ecology. Opportunities for ML, SPA, BCU Level 2/3 coach, BOF Level 2 and first aid training & assessment.

For further details contact student support on 01553 761144 ext 2271



The College of West Anglia



COME CANOE AT SLENINGFORD

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

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

SLENINGFORD WATERMILL CARAVAN PARK
NORTH STAINLEY, RIPON, N. YORKSHIRE, HG4 3HQ
Tel: 01765 635201



inspire

consulting and coaching

www.inspirecc.co.uk

Canoe and Kayak Courses Winter 2005

Course	Dates	Discipline
4 star training and assessment	15 & 16/01/05 26 & 27/02/05	Kayak Canoe
BCU White Water Safety and rescue	5 & 6/02/05	Kayak/canoe
Level 3 training	22 & 23/01/05	Kayak
Level 3 assessment	8 & 9/01/05 12 & 13/02/05	Canoe Kayak

inspire offers a range of BCU courses - please visit our website, www.inspirecc.co.uk for the full list of courses available or contact us to check availability and prices.

Tel: 01989 762099 E-mail: paul@inspirecc.co.uk

Practical, jargon free

First Aid Training

for remote area activities.



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

telfax 0771 4094029 www.mediact.net

Sea Kayak MILOS

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

- Guided day-trips, B&B.
- Around the island expeditions.

www.seakayakgreece.com

SEA KAYAK CHILE and PATAGONIA



Isolated areas, virgin rainforest, huge waterfalls, marine wildlife, volcanoes and natural hot springs, intense cultural experience and small groups. Trips for beginners and experienced paddlers. (our trips can be combined with Trekking in Torres del Paine)


www.yakexpediciones.cl

Coleg Powys Brecon LD3 9SR
Llandrindod LD1 5SE
Newtown SY16 4HU

'The College for the Community'

OUTDOOR EDUCATION
HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA
HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GLAMORGAN



A two year course in Outdoor Education covering the knowledge and skills needed in the outdoor industry. The course is set in the Brecon Beacons National Park and has immediate access to mountains, rivers, caves and open water. The college has its own outdoor education base and emphasis is placed upon national governing body awards and industrial experience.

For further details please contact Sian Bourton
Tel: 01874 625252 ext. 401

Best for the West Highlands.
Inchree Holiday Centre, Onich,
Fort William PH33 6SE
Chalets, hostel, bunkhouse,
bistro, pub, drying rooms.
Tel/fax: 01855 821287
www.inchreecentre.co.uk
Email: info@inchreecentre.co.uk

THE VENTURE CENTRE

Isle of Man based Self Catering Bunkhouse. Ideal for sea kayakers and outdoor enthusiasts

Tel: 01624 814240
Contact@adventure-centre.co.uk

SHETLAND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND. Stacks, cliffs, caves, arches, wildlife, all at 60 degrees north. Day trips, expeditions, self-catering packages.
www.seakayakshetland.co.uk

Excellent hostel/bunkhouse

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

tel: 01248 853024
www.lakehouseholidays.com

BALA NORTH WALES

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

Accommodation suitable for groups & individuals. Fully heated, hot showers, separate ladies & gents, drying room.
Sleeps up to 26-1x2-1x4-1x6 1x8 & 1x6 self-contained bunkroom.
£9.00 pppn.
For Brochure and booking information contact:
Jane & Guy Williams on:
Tel: 01678 520738
Visit www.balabunkhouse.co.uk

GLAN - Y - BORTH

Nestles on the banks of the River Conway in the heart of Snowdonia.
Ranging from 2-8 berth Bungalows.
20 fully equipped Self Catering Bungalows.
Offers home from home comfort.

Please Phone Bill
01492 641543

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

ACCOMMODATION

Keswick Independent Hostel
River Greta access across road. 52 beds in dorms, linen included, central heating, hot showers, 10 mins walk to town centre.
Instruction available.
Groups or Individuals;
£10/person/night
www.vividevents.co.uk
017687 75351

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

To ADVERTISE
01480 465081

INSURANCE

N. W. BROWN
INSURANCE BROKERS

Insurance available for:
◆ Canoes & Equipment
◆ Activity Travel
◆ Activity Centres
◆ Personal Accident

For details contact us at:-
Richmond House
16-20 Regent Street
Cambridge
CB2 1DB
Tel: 01223 357131
Fax: 01223 353705
Email: canoe@nwbrown.co.uk
Web: www.nwbrown.co.uk/canoe

EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

JOEL WATERSPORTS

Holt Fleet,
Nr Worcester, WR6 6NW.

Tel: (01905) 455311
Fax: 08707 400258

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

For all your Kayaking & Canoeing requirements

Large and wide range of stock
Discounted prices call for details

Friendly Expert Advice
Speedy Mail Order Service
Colour brochures available




Located off A4133, adjacent to river bridge

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

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

waterproof, breathable tough



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

To ADVERTISE
01480 465081

FIBREGLASS
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

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

LOWEST UK PRICES
Free Catalogue Next Day delivery
Tel 01209 822200



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

SITUATIONS VACANT



waterland

Instructors for 2005 Season at Waterland Outdoor Pursuits

Waterland are based in the heart of the Cotswold Waterpark, between Cirencester and Swindon. We work with a variety of groups from schools to the corporate market and provide holiday programmes too. We are an AALA, BCU and RYA approved centre and currently working towards Investors in People award.

We are looking for Coach Level 2 instructors in kayaking. If you have either sailing, windsurfing or archery instructor qualifications that will be a bonus. Powerboat Level 2 (RYA) certificates would be an added advantage. Training in some fields will be provided. Start times from March 2005, to work through to October 2005. These are non residential posts.

Our website is www.ukwatersports.co.uk for further information. Email to jo@ukwatersports.co.uk your application form (from website) or c.v. Alternatively call on 01285 861202 to discuss your application.



Trainee Instructors required for summer season

Late February - September 2005
Accommodation available

For further details e mail c.v. to contact@adventure-centre.co.uk

Phone Simon on 01624 814240 Fax 01624 815615
or write to The Venture Centre
Maughold Isle of Man IM7 1 AW



Summer Adventure

Needed for Schools Adventure Programme;
▶ BCU Level 2 Instructors
▶ RYA Qualified Instructors
▶ Repls/Chefs and Support Staff

Work in
France, Spain
or Cornwall



▶ Telephone 01872 272767
▶ Email jobs@tjm.co.uk
▶ Apply on line www.tjm.co.uk/jobs

▶ By Post
tjm travel,
40 lemon Street
Truro TR1 2NS



TAIN ADVENTURE CENTRE BALLYOONAN, OMEATH, CO LOUTH IRELAND

Instructor's required for 2005 season, for a busy multi-activity centre providing a wide range of activities to schools, youth groups and universities throughout Ireland and the UK.

NGB qualifications required. (BCU, inland, surf, sea and open qualifications can be done on site.)
kayaking, climbing, sailing, safety boat handling, archery etc.

Tel 00(353)429375385 Fax 00(353)429375417
E-mail tainhol@eircom.net www.tainadventure.net

SITUATIONS VACANT

MULTI ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED @ UKSA

The UKSA is a leading provider of schools and groups watersports activities and instructor training. UKSA require multi disciplined instructors for the 2005 summer season. Dinghy, Windsurfing and Kayaking instructor qualifications required.

Please apply in writing or forward CV's to
Personnel Department, UKSA, Arctic Road, West
Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7PQ Tel: 01983 294941

Thames Young Mariners

We are looking for Instructors from 22 March to October 2004, both long & short-term contracts. Applicants should have broad experience and preferably either BCU Level 2 Coach Kayak and/or RYA Sailing Instructor qualifications. We are also looking for Lead Instructors who should hold either BCU Level 3 Coach Kayak or RYA Senior Instructor.

Benefits include:

- Free Accommodation
- 38 hour week or time off in lieu
- Salary £228 to £260 per week
- Excellent training / qualification opportunities.
- Wide range of sessions, not just tasters!
- Extensive range of equipment and activities on land and water.
- For paddlers, close to Thames weirs.
- For sailors, close to Queen Mary's and Datchet.

For more information and an application form contact
TYM on: Tel: 020 8940 5550

E-mail: tym.enquiries@surreycc.gov.uk



STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Upminster, Essex

Vacancies for 2005 season Instructing staff

required for a busy multi activity centre that provides for a wide range of clients.

All activities are within 130 acre site with 3 lakes. Close to London

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

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

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

Or email: stubbersac@aol.com

Charity No. 1080941

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

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

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

vacancies for kayak instructors, support staff & catering crew



Seasonal employment opportunities to join a team of dedicated and respected staff in France and the UK.

We have vacancies for kayak instructors, support staff and catering crew at our five watersports activity centres.

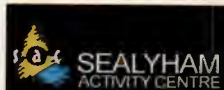
For an employment pack, please contact the HR Team.



tel: 0870 777 0541

email: personnel@rockleywatersports.com

web: www.rockleywatersports.com



Season Vacancies

2005

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

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

Applicants should hold at least 1 (but all qualifications will be considered) qualifications from any of the following organisations:

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

Please send CV to Alec Williams.

Sealyham Activity Centre, Wolfscastle,
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
SA62 5NJ
Tel: 01348 840763 Fax: 01348 841919
www.sealyham.com



ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
AALA
LICENSING AUTHORITY
Tel: 01222 755715



Outdoor Education Service

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERVICE

Permanent Senior Instructor Post
(£14,846 - £20,074 inc allowances)

Temporary Instructors (£9,109 – £13,115

- Posts available from January 2005.
- National Governing Body experience/qualifications required in Outdoor Activities essential.
- Board and accommodation available whilst at work for temporary posts.
- 37 hour week including one evening duty for instructors and one overnight duty for Senior Instructor.
- Generous paid holidays.
- Opportunities for further training and professional development.

Contact Shugborough OEC, Shugborough,
Stafford, ST17 0XA (01889 881357) for
application pack or email
ewart.gardner@staffordshire.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Looking for the best Training & Working Adventure?

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

Robinwood offers:

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

For further details:

bestjob@robinwood.co.uk

Tel 01706 814 554

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



VACANCIES FOR 2005

Fourth Dimension Ltd is a small privately owned organisation. Vacancies exist from April to October based in South East England for:

- Multi-Activity Instructors
- Head of Water Activities (Kayak & Open: flatwater)
- Kayak & Canoe Instructors
- Freelance Providers
- 6 Month Training Course leading to NVQ level 2 in Activity Leadership, NGB awards and comprehensive in house assessments
- Catering provider/s urgently sought
- Accommodation can be provided

Fourth Dimension Ltd (staffing), 13 Eskbank Avenue,
Brighton, BN1 8SL www.4thdimension.co.uk
Email info@4thdimension.co.uk



ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
AALA
LICENSING AUTHORITY
Tel: 01222 755715



The National Water Sports Centre Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

A great opportunity to become a Team Member within our Instructing/Coaching Team

We are recruiting for the following positions for the 2005 season: Chief Instructor, Kayaking/Sailing Instructors, Water Ski Cableway Operators and White Water Raft Guides. Vacancies are also available for Team Members within our Accommodation & Catering and Events Departments.

Benefits include competitive rates of pay, use of the Centres Water Sports Facilities, NGB and personal development training opportunities, discounted meals, uniform, specialist clothing and away days.

Sports offered at the Centre include Sailing, White Water Rafting, Canoeing, Water Skiing, Kayaking, Powerboating, Bell Boating and Raft building.

We are looking for Team Members who are able to offer the skills and abilities required to work at a National Centre.

For further information or if you have any other queries please email recruitment@nationalwatersportsevents.co.uk or call **0115 982 1212** for an interactive CD Rom and information pack.

Over 120 Team Members are employed at Holme Pierrepont each year.

The National Water Sports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham NG12 2LU



Managed by Leisure Connection Ltd
on behalf of Sport England



SITUATIONS VACANT

LEAD INSTRUCTORS, FULL TIME AND SEASONAL. FREELANCE INSTRUCTORS
We need help with our rivers!

We have a number of centres based in Northumberland and provide outdoor education courses and adventurous activities to a wide range of clients. Activities include canoe and kayak river trips, sea kayaking, sailing, climbing and problem solving. We require instructors with a range of national governing body and leadership qualifications to start this Autumn/Winter on long and short contracts.

Educational experience or full driving licence with D1 entitlement an advantage.

Comprehensive training available.

Remuneration dependant upon experience and qualifications.

Full board accommodation available.



For more information please contact
The Outdoor Trust on 01668 213289
Or Email your CV to:
j.wilson@outdoortrust.co.uk
Or check us out at www.outdoortrust.co.uk



We are a multi-activity boating centre situated on the River Thames near Marlow and Hurley weirs. We are seeking staff for the 2005 season either

for the full period or on a short term basis between April to the end of September.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

Competitive salary plus food & accommodation

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

For further information including application form contact Martin Plain at:

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

ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL**Activity Instructors**

Work in Cornwall
FULL TRAINING IN ALL
N.G.B.'s PRIOR TO AND DURING THE SEASON 2005
TEL: 0870 7775111
www.adventure.uk.com email : tracy@adventure.uk.com

**ICC Activity Centre**

The ICC is based on a ship, permanently moored in the stunning Salcombe Estuary. Our floating base provides the perfect setting for our sailing school and activity centre.

Instructors

We are seeking experienced and enthusiastic Open Canoe Coaches with qualifications or experience in Dinghy Sailing.

Positions also available in our bar, housekeeping and catering departments.

For more details contact: Recruitment, ICC, 28 Island Street, Salcombe, Devon TQ8 8DP Tel:01548 531176
e-mail: info@icc-salcombe.co.uk
website: www.icc-salcombe.co.uk

SITUATIONS VACANT

**North West Child Care****Outdoor pursuit instructors/ Care workers**

Salary from £13,104 -£17,499+(S.I £420pm)
20 days holiday per annum

We are opening an Outdoor pursuits project working with young people presenting challenging behaviour.

Experienced and qualified instructors required, child care experience preferred but not essential.

In addition to being a team player you will be enthusiastic, self motivated and committed.

Relief and part time staff also required

For further information please call
Geoff Jenkinson on 01253 640 683
or 07930 314762

BE PART OF HISTORY

2005 is our centenary year and we require hardworking, multi-talented instructors to complete our team. In addition to NGB awards you will need a flexible approach, good humour and be committed to developing your skills and career prospects.

For an application package send a CV & covering letter to Graeme Chapman, Newlands

Adventure Centre, Stair, Keswick, Cumbria. CA12 5UF
email -

jobs@activity-centre.com
Web -

www.activity-centre.com

**KENT CANOE SERVICES SUPERSTORE**

"LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST'S FINEST CANOE STORE"
B.C.U APPROVED CANOE SCHOOL

New House Farm, Kemsing Road, Wrotham,
Kent TN15 7BU Tel/fax: (01732) 886688

Kent Canoe Services, a leading canoe/kayak retailer in the UK, require a sales person to support the further development of the business. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the shop, including looking after customers, handling correspondence, telephone calls, emails, stock control and shop displays. You will also from time to time, be responsible for collecting boats and equipment from our suppliers for which a vehicle is supplied (2.5TDI VW Transporter).

The successful candidate will have good interpersonal skills with a broad knowledge of kayaking and canoeing. You will be hard working and self motivated, with the ability to work on your own and as part of a team.

In return we offer a good basic salary of £14,750 p.a. plus generous commission structure, plus company vehicle.

Please apply in writing to Grant Scamell giving full details of your qualifications/career to date, and a short letter explaining why you feel you would enjoy and be successful working with us.

If you would like to have an informal chat about the position on offer, please feel free to give us a ring on the above number.

THE CHILDREN ARE READY... Are You?

Have the time of your life
with NST

www.nstjobs.co.uk

APPLY ONLINE OR CALL ON
01253 503011



www.mendipoutdoorpursuits.co.uk

Mendip Outdoor Pursuits provides a
variety of activities for young people, adults and
business

We require **qualified instructors** for 2005
Long and short term contracts are available.

Applicants should have two **NGB** awards and
a clean driving licence, although others may be
considered



Canoeing
Kayaking
Bridge Building
Rock Climbing

Mountain Biking
Rope Climbing
Team Building

Water Skiing
Windsurfing
Sailing

Est. 1987

**MENDIP
OUTDOOR
PURSUITS**
01934 820518 tel.
01934 820518 fax.
www.mendipoutdoorpursuits.co.uk email.

Contact Dan Thorne

Outdoor Instructors

Looking for Adventure?

Join a friendly, enthusiastic team at an expanding, high quality
centre in coastal west Wales for an April to November Season.
Excellent working conditions.

Applications available from www.llain.com/download,
e-mail llain@btopenworld.com

or write to: **The Centre Manager, Llain Activity Centre,
Llanarth, Ceredigion, SA470PZ.**



Join us in spring 2005 at our dynamic centre in the Lake
District. Be part of a team of experienced and enthusiastic multi
activity instructors delivering Outdoor Education and Personal
Development programmes to school and youth groups.
Contracts start from 7th March to 30th September 2005.

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

Institute of Outdoor Learning accreditation preferred.

For further details and application form contact:

Seasonal Staff Co-ordinator,
Lakeside YMCA National Centre
Newby Bridge, Cumbria LA12 8BD
Email sylva@lakesideymca.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 212810



Want more than just a job?

We are looking for vibrant, energetic people
to work as **canoe and kayak instructors** at our
UK, French and Spanish centres in 2005.

We offer full-board accommodation, a
competitive weekly wage and excellent
training and qualification opportunities.

Applications from all levels of BCU
coaches and trainees are welcome.
If you are a competent paddler but
don't yet hold any awards, we can
train and assess you at one of our
BCU approved centres.

If you want to get paid for doing
something you love and call some of
Europe's most prized paddling locations
home, then **get in touch now.**



www.pgl.co.uk/people
email: pglpeople@pgl.co.uk
call: 0870 401 4411

Positions available from February 2005 onwards

GRAFHAM water centre

Senior Instructors, Instructor and Trainees

Grafham Water Centre is a wonderful site on the shores
of one of Britain's finest reservoirs. The residential centre
offers activity courses for schools and youth groups. It is
open all year round and contracts will vary in length. For
2005 and beyond we require enthusiastic staff who are
able to deliver programmes of exciting and educationally valid
activities for schools, youth groups and individuals.

Activities include Sailing, Windsurfing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing,
Climbing and Abseiling, Archery, High and Low Ropes Courses,
Mountain Biking and Team Building. NGB qualifications are required
but training is given. This could be the opportunity of a lifetime,
whether you are looking for a full time career in the outdoors,
experience of working with young people or just enjoy a challenge.

Salaries for Instructors are £207.30 per week plus accommodation
and meals.

Catering staff are also required.

For further information and an application form, please ring
Christina Butler at Grafham Water Centre, Perry,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28
0BX on (01480) 810521
www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Making equality a reality



Haven Banks OEC requires NGB qualified staff for 2005

This busy, non residential, multi activity centre based in
Exeter offers activities to all ages and abilities.
A social and motivated staff team are offered a training
package along with their contract.

**Please contact Ben Hedden, Centre Manager on
01392 434668**

Activity Instructors



To apply visit
www.girlguiding.org.uk
 email: hr@girlguiding.org.uk
 or call 020 7592 1892



Girlguiding UK

We are looking for motivated, pro-active instructors to deliver our 2005 Activity Programme at our centres across the UK.

You should hold at least one of the following:
 BCU Level 2 Training, SPA Training or GNAS Leader Award.

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

Charity no. 306016



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Eaton Vale Activity Centre Ltd

(Reg Charity 1073816)

is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic

Senior Instructor

- the post is permanent and full time but a flexible working policy will be required and an annual hours system will be adopted
- be a holder of British Canoe Union level 2 Coach, or above, qualification.
- these qualifications are also desirable
 SPA (Single Pitch Award) or relevant experience
 GNAS archery qualification
 NSRA (National Small - Bore Rifle Association Diploma)
 and if not already held, the person appointed must be prepared to work towards gaining.

The job is to lead and coordinate outdoor activities, routine maintenance of equipment and property and site security. Experience and knowledge of youth/children's work is essential.

Salary: £13,500 pa

For an application pack write, or email:

The Secretary, Eaton Vale Activity Centre, Eaton Vale, Church Lane, Eaton, Norwich Norfolk NR20 4ND or email:

office@eatonvale.co.uk stating your full postal address.

visit www.eatonvale.co.uk

Closing Date: 14 January 2005 Interview date: 29 January 2005

INSTRUCTOR/CAREWORKERS

CC/RCWI/1 Full time permanent positions

£12,500 - £15,000

Corvedale Care is one of the most respected Child Care organisations in the UK directing outdoor education as a means of raising young people's self esteem.

You could be working in a South Shropshire or Midlands children's home with all the resources of an Outdoor Education Centre. We are currently expanding our staff team and can offer the following:

- Free NVQ III and IV Care training
- The broadest available AALA Licence
- Training towards National Governing Bodies Awards
- 2 day on - 4 day off rota
- Extensive career opportunities



For an application pack contact Head Office, quoting appropriate reference number on

01694 724488

www.corvedalecare.net

All applicants must be over 21 years of age, hold a full driving licence and will be police checked.

Regional Market Development Executives Watersports Equipment

Full or Part Time - From Home

Acoloca Ltd is the newly incorporated name of the successful "Family Boat Shop" which has made Pelican Canoes the first choice for many buyers and is now developing the market for Pelican Kayaks, Dinghies and Pedal Boats. Other manufacturer's brands are in the pipeline. Our strategy is to actively support local retailers where they effectively represent our brands and to provide a professional retail service in areas where this is not the case. We're now looking for field representatives.

Candidate will need to be enthusiastic about all kinds of watersports and outdoor leisure, be confident and enjoy talking. Working mostly from home, this job will entail irregular hours including evening and weekends, telephone work, lifting, demonstrating and a significant amount of driving, occasionally using the company van. Some nights away working at exhibitions should be anticipated.

You will need a reasonably reliable car with a roof rack for which a mileage allowance will be paid. Salary will not be an issue for the right candidates with profit share, equity participation and board membership achievable within two years.

In the first instance please email in confidence a summary of your career to date, an explanation of why you think this



ACOLOCA
INVESTMENTS

job is right for you, the hours you would like to work, the territory you are willing to cover and your earning requirements to

lawrence.spiller@acoloca.com

SCOTLAND

Instructors and Trainee Instructors required

From mid March to October 2005. Possible full time posts also available. Residential schools to non residential adults. Activities include white water rafting grades 2 to 5, high ropes course, climbing, gorge ascents, archery, mountain biking, hillwalking, environmental sessions, orienteering and duckying. Full training, assessments and NGB qualifications are offered to the right people. Food and accommodation provided. Any candidate with SPA, GNAS, CYCLE LEADER OR KAYAKING/RAFTING QUALIFICATIONS will be considered first. Good river skills will be very advantageous.

Call **01887 820298** for application forms and details.

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

Telephone: 01887 820298

E-mail:

info@dunollyadventures.co.uk

www.dunollyadventures.co.uk



3 Instructors Required to Start March 2005

- Minimum qualifications : SPA; Level 2 Kayak
- Desirable qualifications : Walking Award; D1 Entitlement

"Fantastic opportunity to work in an expanding centre situated on the edge of Dartmoor"

Send your CV + a copy of certificates to:

Application@CRSAdventures.com

OR: The Coach House, RDCP, Holne Park, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 7NP



See more vacancies and register at

www.hertsdirect.org/jobs**Herts Young Mariners Base, Cheshunt
Seasonal Outdoor Education Youth Worker****£7.43 - £8.32 per hour depending on qualifications & experience****Full time instructors for varying periods between March and October and also part time and sessional workers for evenings and weekends**

The Youth Service requires Outdoor Activity Instructors to support the wide programme of Outdoor Education on offer to young people. Although located at Herts Young Mariners Base in the first instance, opportunity may arise to work at other locations in the county and on visits to Derbyshire and Snowdonia etc. Minimum Requirement is one national governing body qualification.

For further information please contact the Head of Centre on 01992 628403.

Apply now online at: www.hertsdirect.org/jobs or telephone for an application pack on 0845 6014834 anytime quoting Ref: 1970332.

**Closing date: 29.12.04.
Interview date: 21.01.04 or
22.01.04.**

We are an equal opportunities employer



delphi
ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

Opportunities in Ireland

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

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

Visit our website at: www.delphiadventureholidays.ie

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

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

Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre Seasonal Instructors for 2005 season

Kayaking, Sailing, Windsurfing and Climbing Instructors required for a rural non-residential centre to the West of London

Contracts available from March until October

Pay from £200 to £260pw + bonuses depending on experience and qualifications

Onsite accommodation available

Please send a CV to Neil Maddock neil@hoac.fsnet.co.uk or HOAC, Dews Lane, Harvil Road, Harefield, Middx UB9 6JN
Visit our website at www.hoac.net Charity No. 1012242

Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre

Hesley Wood is a 134 acre woodland site near Sheffield.

We require a team of highly motivated outdoor enthusiasts to deliver adventurous activity sessions during our 2005 season (March to October).

Including: Archery, Aerial Runway, Off Road BMX, Boulderling, Climbing, Buggies, Kayaking, Low Ropes, Swimming Pool, Orienteering, Tyrolean Traverse and Team Building.

One or more of the following will be considered an advantage, though is not essential, as comprehensive in-house training will be given.

SPA Training/assessment, BCU L1K, GNAS and RLSS/NARS Pool Lifeguard/Attendant.



Please send CV, with a Covering Letter, to:

**The Site Manager
Hesley Wood Activity Centre
White Lane
Chapelton
Sheffield S35 2YH**

Activity Staff Barnabas Adventure

Barnabas Adventure is a Christian Charity and requires all its staff to be willing to share their faith with groups and other staff members through their lifestyle, words and actions. They are currently looking for:

- **Activities Manager:** Based at Carrot Wood in Kent, min quals. SPA, BELA & L2K or OC.
- **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, Carrot Wood, Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9QX.

01732 363995

rachel@barnabas.org.uk



ACHILL OEC is a multi-activity residential centre based on the west coast of Ireland

Currently we require

Full and Part Time Instructors

For the 2005 season (Feb. - Nov.)

Applicants should be highly motivated and have experience working with people of various ages

Two NGB. Qualifications essential

Summer ML, S.P.A., L2 Kayak or Canoe, Windsurf L1, Level 1 Surf coach, Archery Leader, along with current First Aid

Closing date 21 Jan.

Application with C.V. to

Achill outdoor education centre

Cashel,

Achill Island,

Co. Mayo

Ireland

www.achilloutdoor.com

E-mail: info@achilloutdoor.com

Tel.0035398 47253

Fax. 003539847304

Calvert Trust

• K I E L D E R •

'Challenging disability through outdoor adventure'
www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder

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

We require experienced permanent and/or seasonal Activity Staff for our continuing development. The ideal candidate will be over 18, have worked in the outdoor environment before and have at least one of the following qualifications:

- RYA Dinghy Instructor
- BCU Level 2 Open Canoe
- SPA assessment
- A D1 endorsement on your driving license

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

In return we can provide an ever changing and challenging work environment; fantastic guests; and a very competitive pay package.

Pay scale is £10000 - £17000 + 20 days holiday + pension scheme dependent on experience and qualifications. We have accommodation on site if required. Seasonal staff requirement is March/April to October 2005

Contact activities@calvert-kielder.com or phone 01434 250 232 for application pack.
 Closing date January 7th 2005

Arnfield Care Ltd

Instructors/Care Workers Wanted



arnfield care

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

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

Please contact Paul Booker 01457 860200



CO. WICKLOW VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre based in Co. Wicklow, Ireland

Instructors Required for 2005 season at busy Outdoor Centre

March-October

Competitive Salary 16,546 - 34,730 Euros p.a. plus qualification allowance plus weekend / night allowance. Accommodation provided (no deductions). For full application details contact : Centre Manager

Tel. 00 353 59 6481002/6481747

e mail info@baltinglassoec.com www.baltinglassoec.com

01384 446 057

jobs@acornadventure.co.uk

www.jobs-acorn.co.uk



Acorn Adventure is the leading provider in Adventure holidays. We offer excellent packages including free travel to our centres in Europe, plus free training and opportunities for gaining NGB's.

We have centres in the UK, France, Spain and Italy. Contracts available from April to September.

Get in touch

Recruitment Department on 01384 446057 or e-mail on jobs@acornadventure.co.uk

WANTED PADDLERS

Instructors Required 2005 Season onwards

Working in a vibrant cliff top residential centre with a diverse client base, situated on the North Cornish Coast

- ★ Broad range of activities in spectacular locations.
- ★ Relaxed but professional approach essential for providing high quality customer driven programmes.



Applicants require at least 2 NGB Awards and a driving license. Please send CV to Rob Bird, Outdoor Adventure, Atlantic Court, Widemouth Bay, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 0EJ
www.outdooradventure.co.uk 01288 361312

Working for the future of Canoeing

The British Canoe Union (BCU) has the responsibility for the development of Canoeing in the United Kingdom.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE COACH – SPRINT RACING

World Class Performance

It is now 7 years since the World Class Performance Programme was launched as a Lottery Funded Programme to assist our most talented sports people and teams in achieving consistent success in significant international competition and events.

British Canoeing is a successful Olympic sport with 3 Olympic Medals at the Athens Games in the year 2004. The British Canoe Union is now looking to capitalise on this success.

The British Canoe Union

The British Canoe Union is the United Kingdom's Governing Body for the sport and recreation of canoeing and kayaking. It is a full member of the International Canoe Federation and has sole responsibility for international affairs.

The National Performance Coach – Sprint Racing

Will be responsible for the preparation and implementation of training programmes for World Class Programme athletes, and will manage a team of professional full time staff.

Applicants for this post will require a proven medal winning background at World/Olympic level, with a minimum of three years experience as a national or international coach and should hold national coaching qualifications consummate with this position. The post will be based in the United Kingdom.

Register of Interest

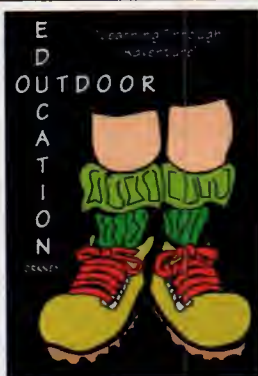
Please register your interest in this post by 1 December 2004, by sending your CV to:

John Anderson, BCU Performance Director, The Elms, National Water Sports Centre, Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, NG12 2LU or by E-mail to john.anderson@gbcanoeing.org.uk.

Further details of the post will not be released until 13 December 2004 and will only be sent to those registering an interest.

This post is funded by the World Class UK Sports Council Performance Programme.





WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK IN AN UNSPOILT NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ?

EVER WISHED YOU COULD PADDLE ON CLEAR OPEN WATER WITH STUNNING ISLAND VIEWS ?

CAN YOU WORK AS PART OF A SMALL BUT DYNAMIC TEAM ?

IF THE ANSWER TO THE ABOVE IS 'YES'.....

WE HAVE THE PERFECT JOB FOR YOU ?

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for qualified instructors to work in the Orkney Islands from April 2005 - October 2005.

We offer an established Outdoor Education Programme for local schools in an exciting range of locations including: a new (2004) purpose built outdoor centre on the impressive island of Hoy, a centre on the Orkney mainland and the Outer Islands of Orkney.

A highly competitive salary package includes interview expenses, in-house training, travel to/from Orkney, staff clothing, accom./food.

Successful applicants will possess the minimum level of qualifications: **A current First Aid Certificate. (H.S.E.), Single Pitch Award, W.G.L.A. or Summer M.L., Coach L. 2/3 Canoe / Kayak (sea), G.N.A.S. Archery Leader, A Full Driving License (pref. D1)**

Instruction of water/land based expeditions, environmental studies and living within a small community would be an advantage.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 11th February 2005**. To obtain an application pack or further details, please contact:

Laura Cromarty, Education Department, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1NY, (01856) 873535 or email chris.jex@orkney.gov.uk



Splash Works Watersport Employment Agency

Splashworks is London's and the surrounding areas only watersport employment agency. We are looking for enthusiastic, keen reliable kayaking and sailing instructors of all qualifications to work in watersport centres across London and the surrounding areas.

For more information speak to Alan on 07731535334 or email me at splashworks_london@yahoo.com

Trade

South West

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

Northern Ireland

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

West Midlands

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

Wiltshire

For excellent customer service and great prices
www.canoesplus.co.uk
for all your paddling needs
Dagger Discounts and free delivery
Prijon for scout groups and centres
Ocean Kayak tel 01225 761517 email
Old Town sales@canoesplus.co.uk
Coleman
Hiko
Grunman

Somerset

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

West Sussex

SOUTHWATER WATERSPORTS CENTRE
26 Station Road, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9UD
For all your watersports needs! Canoes, Kayaks, plus all Accessories
01403 732389
www.ukkayaking.co.uk
www.southwatersports.co.uk (Training)

Essex

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

Greater London

CANOE RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDING GREEN SLIME THROWBAGS
 MAIL ORDER SERVICE AVAILABLE
CONTACT: SUZY, 2 VICTORIA CLOSE, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY, KT8 9SQ
TEL/FAX: 0208 941 2714

Ainsworth

Sales & Marketing Opportunity Salary ca £25K with (OTE £35K)

A unique vacancy exists for a Sales & Marketing person to be involved in launching a new range of Canoe & Kayak Paddles and a revolutionary new helmet that incorporates style and performance second to none.

The position will service world wide sales of an established customer base and assist at international trade shows to support the distribution network.

The candidate requires good communication skills for product promotion including developing effective advertising by use of the web site and direct customer contact.

A self motivated individual with bags of energy and commitment to water sports would be an ideal person to join our team.

Operating from the Twickenham office, experience in a similar role would be an advantage.

Apply in writing to...
Ainsworth

76 The Green, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5AG

www.ainsworthpaddles.net

Scottish White Water

Author: Scottish Canoe Association

ISBN (Paperback): 0-9547061-1-0

Price (Paperback): £15-95

The completely revised second edition includes 42 new river descriptions and details of automated river gauges accessible via the Internet.

One of the most notable achievements of the first edition is that it inspired many people to get out there, off the beaten track and paddle something new. In an age where park and play is becoming ever more popular, it's been great to see paddlers once again seeking out the wilderness experience that is such an important part of what makes paddling special.

Published in 2001, the first edition sold out very quickly raising money for the access fund, with people writing in with corrections, comments, suggestions and new descriptions for the second edition. Once again, all proceeds from this guide will go towards the SCA access fund, and if you buy direct from the SCA, even more of your money will go towards promoting and improving access in Scotland.

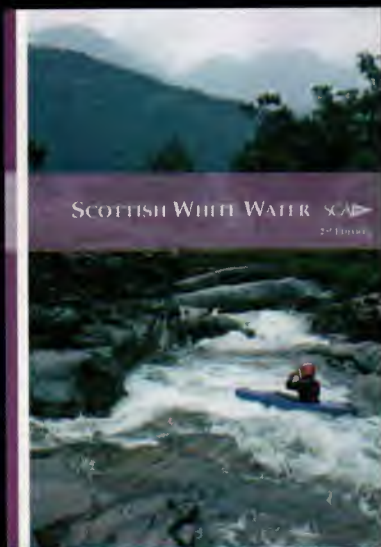
In this edition, there is more information on all those tantalising runs mentioned in the first. Also included are two completely new sections and a total of 42 new rivers. This book encourages you to push your boundaries, go somewhere new and discover what those less well-known runs have to offer. For those who like the unknown, there's still more out there waiting to be explored, so it's not too late to make your mark and see your name in print next time around!

The second edition also updates paddlers on the access legislation that came into force in Scotland in the autumn of 2004. This tells you more about the threat that our wonderful rivers face from new hydro-electric developments and gives information about the water levels website developed by the SCA to help paddlers find out which rivers are at a good level.

An excellent book that will inspire paddlers to try new things, go new places and come back full of the wonder of Scottish white water.

Pesda Press 01248 602287

www.pesdapress.com



Dagger's crazy snakes

Coming into Europe will be the Crazy 88's and the Mamba models. Both white water products are new designs aimed at play and river respectively. The Crazy will be in two sizes and will jump, crank, and pop as much as any freestyler could ever want. The Mamba comes in three sizes and is an excellent platform for UK rivers, coaching, and in the case of the big one - expeditions.



The Mamba, described in marketing speak as "a great little runner. Goes well on big volume rivers, and jumps well on creeks - can handle a bit of a load".

Or put another way: A riverboat in three sizes with plenty of volume. Featuring a planning hull providing quick acceleration and good forward speed. Smoothed rocker for efficient boofing, chine'd rails to maximise edge control - which are softened to the tail to prevent tripping. Performance fit seating with Dagger's new welded runner system, lightweight and easily to adjusted outfitting. Excellent safety features such as the volume adjustable footplate and multiple security bars.

Mamba 7.5, 8.0, and 8.5 - £799 available now

3 is the magic number

Dagger have announced that they are now producing all three sizes of the G-Force in the UK - the 5.9, 6.1, and 6.3 'Performance' range are in stores now at £499.

Credited as being one of the best all-round short boat designs - great for ends, big airs, and huge loops, the G-force Performance is a brilliant boat if you are just getting into playboating or are already an expert. The Gboats feature adjustable seats and thigh braces, adjustable backbands, front and rear foams with hull stiffeners, and foam foot blocks and hip pads. All in a lightweight package in kiwi or orange. Dagger are also offering a chunky Camouflage version for all you guerrillas out there - for £50 more, you can now get desert, jungle or urban colours depending on your surrounds - dog tags not included!

Call Dagger Europe on 01275 798 100

www.dagger europe.com for your local stockist.

Syncro 5 outfitting

Pyranha have continued to improve their Syncro outfitting system with some Computer Aided Design (CAD) programming and the latest in advanced injection moulding technology.

The complete system now incorporates one tool adjustment with the introduction of M6 pozi-drive screws through out all mountings. CAD designed injection moulded washers, with independent rubber 'O' ring seals, improve the watertight integrity of the hull and a completely new 'Hooker' Thighgrip unit, (also CAD designed and injection moulded), further improves the comfort and control within the system.

With this advanced design and technology, Syncro 5 saves an average of 1kg off the weight of a kayak. With hitting big air on the play list and walking in a part of many a creek run, this is all set to make a big difference within the Pyranha whitewater range.

To find your local dealer check out

www.pyranha.com



New Capella 163 and Capella 160

The composite Capella is the mainstay of the P&H range and it has all the design characteristics expected of a classic British sea kayak. The original polyethylene Capella also changed paddlers views of what a plastic sea kayak could offer and narrowed the performance gap between the polyethylene and composite ranges.

New for 2005 these iconic designs are available in two new small sizes, the composite '163' and plastic '160'. Constructions and features honed in P&H's near 40 years history, combined with this design's confidence inspiring handling and versatility, have made the Capella family a worldwide favourite. This extra size further extends the range of paddlers who can experience this level of British designed and manufactured performance.

Capella 163:

Length 495cm (16'3") Width 56cm (22") Weight 22.5kg (49.5lbs)

Capella 160:

Length 495cm (16'3") Width 56cm (22") Weight 23.5kg (51.7lbs)



New composite kayak outfitting

As part of P&H's ongoing development of British designed sea kayaks, they have launched new ergonomic outfitting across the popular composite range.

Featuring a vac-moulded seat unit, fitted seat pad and ratchet adjustable padded backrest. This new outfitting has been extensively tested in the harshest waters the British Isles can create, and is specifically engineered to work within composite designs.

From true expedition designs like the Quest and the Bahiya to the popular family of composite Capellas, this new outfitting raises the bar once again in British composite sea kayak design.

To find your local dealer check out www.phseakayaks.com

The armerlite revolution is here

Robson have produced the world's first one-piece Thermo-Composite kayak, using revolutionary armerlite technology. Engineered for the extreme, the fibre reinforced plastic boasts according to Robson, incredible attributes over traditional kayaks: stronger, lighter, improved performance and manoeuvrability, easier handling and extreme impact resistancy.

Developed by Stu Morris for Robson, the first armerlite kayak to enter production is the Prodigy creek boat, designed and shaped by Basti Striebel, which will be available in the summer of 2005.

www.armerlite.com



The World of Whitewater Kayaking

Author: Charlie Munsey

ISBN 0-7603-1962-6

Price (Paperback): £9.99

In this book, one of the top young photographic talents on today's whitewater scene, shares a broad selection of images from his portfolio, taking readers from the Himilayas to the river gorges of the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to his magnificent photography, Munsey engagingly writes about the sport's various disciplines, advances in equipment, what you need to know, and the stories of kayaking legends. most importantly, though, Munsey emphasises his profound respect for whitewater as stated in his personal mantra: "The river is my teacher."

MBI Publishing www.motorbooks.com

THE WORLD OF
WHITewater
KAYAKING



The i4, the new Ina Zone...

New for the 2005 season, Pyranha have given the successful Ina Zone series a revamp with the latest incarnation the i4. Designed as an all-round river play and river running kayak, the i4 incorporates the latest in lightweight syncro 5 outfitting. This combined with several subtle but important tweaks, make the i4 a very playful and river friendly kayak.

The main changes include improved volume distribution, with more volume in the rear deck area, as well as a raised re-profiled gunwhale line just behind the cockpit. These features make the i4 more predictable in bigger, more confused water. A narrower planing surface gives a snappy edge to edge feel while a kicker on the rail gives a clean release while spinning but allows great carvability while on a wave.

Up front an improved bow section slices through the water cleaner while playing and has more foot room. A slightly raised knee area further improves comfort and finishes off this much improved design.

Standard outfitting includes 2,000lb 'river' end grabs, two quick clip rescue points and an adjustable bean bag footrest is also fitted to further improve Pyranha's market leading ergonomic syncro 5 outfitting. The i4 is the 'one boat option' for those paddlers looking for a playful but confidence inspiring river running kayak which will make the most of the locals rivers, ocean surf and playspots.

www.pyranha.com



Plan your getaway at Destinations

Earls Court, London
3-6th February
NEC, Birmingham
from 4-6th March
Do you listen to friends recount tales of their fantastic holiday experiences? Get your inspiration from a host of travel programmes? Read the travel supplements of the newspapers? Or do you prefer to take a chance and just stick a pin in a world map and see where it takes you?

If you want a unique chance to meet travel experts, celebrities and writers as well as over 300 tour operators representing thousands of destinations across the world, then make a date for The Daily Telegraph Destinations 2005, the UK's largest holiday and travel event.

The show features a World Entertainment Stage with live performances throughout the day including the Vietnamese Dragon Dancers, a Malaysian cultural troupe and Teiko drummers. For detailed advice and information to help select and plan your journeys, the show also features dedicated Meet the Experts Theatres where different travel destinations will be covered throughout the event.

Destination Holiday Homes Abroad is a new area of the show for 2005. Developers, estate agents and experts will be on hand to discuss your requirements for finding your perfect place in the sun. Whether a cottage in France, apartment in Florida or villa in Italy.

Tickets cost: £8 in advance / £10 on the door and are available from the Destinations Hotline on 08701 212181 or log onto

www.destinationsshow.com

Bear Creek Adventure Open Canoe-fest

25-27th February 2005

The annual Bear Creek Adventure Open Canoe-fest will be held in the picturesque area of Glasbury on Wye. The event, which is sponsored by Bear Creek Adventure and supported by Mobile Adventure, We-no-nah, Nova Craft and Woodlands OEC. The event will bring together open canoeists from all over the country to paddle some of South Wales's finest touring and white water rivers. The rivers that are on offer range from grade 1 to grade 4 on the River Wye and Usk and their tributaries.

The emphasis of the weekend is to provide workshops and a river guiding service which will allow canoeists to paddle rivers with experienced, qualified and knowledgeable guides, who believe that getting out and paddling is better than talking about it. Evening entertainment will be provided in the form of slideshows, music and socialising.

There will be the opportunity to purchase high quality clothing and equipment at great prices from Bear Creek Adventure's shop and the opportunity to try demo boats from We-No-Nah, Mobile Adventure and Nova Craft.

Once again full-board accommodation will be provided at Woodlands OEC, which will be our base for the weekend. The centre boasts excellent quality accommodation with drying rooms and lounges. There will even be a full roast dinner on the Saturday evening to refuel canoeists before Sunday's adventures.

The cost for the whole weekend is £120.00, which includes full board accommodation, river guides and guarantees a great weekend. Camping and day passes will also be available.

If you are interested in booking a place, please call Bear Creek Adventure on 0870 050 8203 or email info@BearCreekAdventure.co.uk

Schroders London Boat Show

6-16th January 2005

The Schroders London Boat Show 2005, in association with The Daily Telegraph, is set to bring London's docklands to life once again this January. The stunning Hydropool marina packed with boats of all shapes and sizes, the redesigned indoor Watersports Arena, the latest dream yachts and cutting edge powerboats as well as dinghies, surf boards, canoes and narrow boats will all ensure that visitors from around the world come flooding in.

The pool is staging the British Canoe Polo Championships from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th January where teams from around the country will be competing to be crowned UK champions. Visitors wanting to join in the fun will be able to take to the water themselves with new public coaching sessions, learning top tips from windsurfing, wakeboarding and canoeing experts sessions.

With over 800 exhibitors and 1000 boats to check out, the Schroders London Boat Show has something for everyone.

ExCeL has great transport links and is located close to London City Airport. There is a direct dual carriageway link to the M11 and M25 and ExCeL has its own dedicated Docklands Light Railway station - Custom House for ExCeL - providing fast, convenient access to the City (30 mins) and the West End (45 mins). To find out more about the facilities the venue now offers visit www.excel-london.co.uk/excel/

The show will be open daily from 6-16 January 2005 from 10am until 7pm (6pm on Sunday 16). Thursday 6 and Thursday 13 January are late night openings until 9.00pm.

Reduced priced show tickets are now on sale through the ticket hotline 0870 060 0246 at £12.50 (£14 on the door).

Tickets to watch the Indoor Windsurfing Championships in the Watersports Arena cost £6. Reserve your seat at www.schroderslondonboatshow.com or on the ticket hotline 0870 060 0246.

National Boat Caravan & Outdoor Show

19 - 27 February 2005

The annual National Boat Caravan & Outdoor Show offers an even greater choice of product and outdoor activities for all ages to enjoy.

Explore the latest in tents, camping equipment and outdoor clothing and climb aboard the vast displays of boats and offshore cruisers.

For the adventurous, try canoeing, sailing, skiing, snowboarding and climbing. For people of all ages who have never tried sailing or canoeing the Volvo Sail and Canoe Zone is the place to go. Sponsored by Volvo, a specially built pool will enable newcomers to take to dinghies and canoes under the supervision of qualified RYA volunteers. The zone also includes regional sailing clubs, surf kiting, jet biking, and sub aqua clubs offering advice on where you can take part in these great recreational watersports. Alternatively, why not go along and watch. There's something for everyone who enjoys the great outdoors, and its all included in the entry price!

Alternatively, why not take to the green for a round of mini golf and take up the opportunity to beat the golf ball stacking world record in association with the Guinness Records where visitors will be invited to try and beat the current world record of nine stacked balls - as well as a world record attempt to beat the fastest 100 Eskimo rolls - with no paddles.

Tickets cost £12 for adults, £7 for children (5-15), £9 senior citizens (60+), and £35 for a family (two adults and three children under 16). Tickets can be bought in advance for the reduced rate of £10 for adults, £6 for children, £7 for senior citizens, and £30 for families. Parking is free.

Group discounts of 10+ are available in advance.

Where: NEC, Birmingham - halls 2, 3, 3A, 4 & 5,

When: 19 - 27 February 2005

Open: 10am - 6pm

For more information call 0870 730 0963 or go online

www.boatandcaravan.co.uk

Canoe 05 - The International Canoe Exhibition

March 18-20 2005

Canoe and kayak enthusiasts, prepare to be inspired! For the third year in a row Canoe 05 is running alongside The Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show at the NEC in Birmingham. Between March 18-20 2005, The NEC will be packed with canoe and kayak enthusiasts from near and far to take part in this huge celebration of the sport. The coming event has more features, competitions and speakers than ever before. Your ticket also gets you into the largest outdoors show in the UK where you can check out the latest in rock climbing, adventure travel, diving, biking and more.

This is a great chance for you to check out and buy the latest canoe kit, as well as take part in some of the many interactive exhibits. You can also check out the Peak UK Freestyle Competition in the Watersports pool. This ever popular event features the top freestyle paddlers from around the UK.

CONGRATULATIONS to Simon Tapley
who piloted his Fun to 3rd place
in the 2004 International Nile
Freestyle Big Air Competition
(photo Pete-Cornes)

WIN A TO FIT YOU

JACKSON

kayak



CANOE FOCUS COMPETITION

The Fun is a river play boat with serious performance - yet forgiving and versatile. Available in six sizes from the Fun 1 for the youngest kids, to the Super Fun for those with size 12 feet. If you think you can answer the questions below then send your answers to Square Rock, PO Box 1005, Surrey GU19 5WX or email competition@squarerock.co.uk for the chance to win a Fun to fit you.

- How many holes are there in a JK boat?
- What's the new JK creeker called?
- Who are the designers of JK kayaks?

WWW.JACKSONKAYAK.COM



Aaron Layton (12) in the Fun 1½ cartwheels a the Nene (photos Ollie Castle)

squarerock
inspirational stuff

tel: +44 (0)1276 453455
www.squarerock.co.uk

JACKSON
kayak



IQ
Modular Gunwale System

INGENUITY IN MOTION

Your teachers were right. If you have the IQ, you can do amazing things.

Conditions change. Does your canoe? With the IQ System you can add, move and remove seats, yokes, spray decks, dry bags, storage boxes and accessories to suit whatever the conditions, and you, demand. Interact with this astonishing system at your nearest Mad River dealer.



Shown with
Chine Bag,
Adjustable Footbrace,
Glove Box, Lash-In System
and Yoke. (bow seat removed).



Shown with
Bow Spray Shield,
Work Station and
Adjustable Foot Brace.



Shown with
Bow/Stern
Sprayshields, Lash-In
System and Yoke. (bow
seat removed).



Shown with
Bow/Stern
Sprayshields and
Belly Cover.



MAD RIVER

CANOE®



Available from all good dealers

Whitewater Consultancy International Ltd.
Bronwydd, Carmarthen, Wales SA33 6BE

Tel: 08000 151520 or visit www.wwc.co.uk for more info