

Canoe

FOCUS

Rivers Access Campaign update

Christmas special offers

Uganda: a paddler's paradise

Creeking in Scotland

Two very different D of E expeditions

Paddling the River Tay

BCU expedition:

Typhoons in Taiwan

Three more suggested paddles to pull-out



December 2006 | No. 164 | £2.00



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The BCU's in-depth response to the Brighton report



Competition:

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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.

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THANKS

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Front cover photo: Running the Nan-Ao-Pei in Taiwan. **Photo:** James Farquharson

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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE CANOE FOCUS HAPPEN.

The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers, so don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. **Technical information:** Contributions preferably as a Microsoft Word file, which can be emailed to peter@canoefocus.co.uk or mailed to 2b Graphic Design, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and its agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material.

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Comment by Paul Owen, Chief Executive

Welcome to the December issue of Canoe Focus

We are now truly in the winter months and Christmas is fast approaching.

So it seems like a while ago now, but at the time of writing the last issue, the Marathon World Championships (Tremolat, France) were underway and what great racing took place.



Congratulations to Anna Hemmings who defended her world title and won a world gold medal for the fifth time (six seconds ahead of competitor Renata Csay from Hungary), an amazing achievement.



Congratulations are also due to Louisa Sawers who won two gold medals in the marathon world championships. Louisa won gold in the women's K1 junior event and gold with Jessica Walker in the women's K2 event.



An excellent race by Andrew Daniels and Stuart Hastings who won silver in the K2 Men's Junior event (see page 16).

New BCU telephone number

The BCU have a new telephone and fax number, so ensure that your records are updated:

Telephone number: 0845 370 9500
Fax number: 0845 370 9501

New directory

Following feedback from members suggesting that the yearbook in its current format is not user-friendly and could be improved, in the new year we will be replacing the yearbook with a directory.

This will contain information that our members need 'on the move' and all other general information will be posted on the web site.



Rivers access and the Brighton 3 report

The Environment Agency (EA) commissioned Brighton University to investigate the feasibility of rivers access agreements. Now that the study is published, I take the opportunity to underline its flaws and re-assert our firm view that access agreements are not acceptable nor the way forward. The study has achieved very little, 72kms (45 miles) have allegedly been 'given' to paddlers, but in reality over 25 miles already had access agreements in place (the EA had sponsored a Canoeists Guides to one of the rivers). So in two years – 20 miles of access have been secured. There are over 41,000 miles of rivers (over three metres wide) with no access. At this rate gaining access to rivers is too slow and certainly not adequate.

Why the study is flawed:

- There was no consultation with the British Canoe Union, the National Governing Body of the sport, representing the interests of over 50,000 paddlers.



- Rather than finding an innovative solution this study fuels the angling versus canoeing debate.
- In the light of CRoW, Scottish Land Reform Act and following example from other European countries, canoeists are right to expect a more realistic approach to access.

In depth analysis and comment of the EA's report is in this issue (starting on page 34) and on www.riversaccess.org

We have dedicated additional pages to the campaign in order to highlight ongoing work and developments. The campaign will continue to lobby MPs and seek new legislation. You can help support the campaign by writing a letter to your MP – visit www.riversaccess.org for more information.

Slalom Technique Library DVD

Also available and selling quickly is the new 'Slalom Technique Library DVD' that identifies and demonstrates strokes and drills from the basic to more advanced whitewater techniques. Filmed in Nottingham using GB team athletes, the DVD is a valuable resource for coaches and paddlers alike.

An order form for both the calendar and the DVD is in this magazine.

2007 paddling calendar

A calendar has been produced from the BCU's 70th anniversary photograph competition. It makes an ideal present for any paddler and demonstrates the real variety and fun of canoe and kayaking (see page 52).



FUTURE MAGS

For your reference, the next issues of Canoe Focus in 2007 are:

February
April
June

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all and see you in 2007.

New showroom

The Family adventure Store have completed a move to their new premises adjacent to the River Avon and Kennet and Avon Canal in Wiltshire.

Says partner Terry Sinclair "A unique feature of the new showroom has become affectionately known as "the wall" which consists of a massive floor to ceiling matrix display consisting of many Canadian Canoes by manufacturers such as Old Town, Wenonah Pelican and Grumman. The whole object is that the customer can stand back in a well lit and comfortable environment and can compare hull design between models and brands, the differences in performance are explained by our staff (all qualified coaches) who will take a friendly but structured approach asking some key questions to ascertain the customers' needs.

The new store is still on Marsh Farm in Hilperton, I don't think we will ever leave the farm as we have found having the Kennet and Avon canal and the River Avon right on our doorstep an absolute gift for trials and BCU courses."



OBITUARY

Gavin Winsborrow

1976 - 2006

Gavin suffered a tragic kayaking accident on 12 August 2006 on the Sitter River in Switzerland during solo kayaking. It is believed to have been a siphon entrapment accident.

Gavin was a man who many could learn from, a high achiever and world traveller. His friendly ambitious attitude helped many push their grade on the water with his uncomplicated enthusiasm.

He could never be replaced in the kayaking world. His big smile touched the lives of many. All our thoughts go out to Gavin, his close friends and family.

Farewell, Andy Turton

PADDLE THIS

Quadrathlon World Championships

A swim of 1500m, a paddle of 10k, a cycle ride of 40k followed by a run of 10k was the formula successfully completed by a GB team in the Czech Republic.

Overall, a great success for the GB team. After a close first couple of events (which run successively), Andrew Byatt from Perranporth left the water in third place but eventually just missed out on the medal places by finishing fourth.

The jewel in the crown on the day was the first ever gold medal in the individual events, won by Helen Parkinson. Down in fourth place after the bike ride, she pulled off an astounding run to beat the event leading German competitor by just over one minute.

With 20 team and age group medals, GB were just behind the home country, coming second in the medal tables.



At the National Championships, held in Bude on 30th September, Helen confirmed her strength as the leading GB female by winning again, but after struggling on a couple of legs Andrew Byatt was beaten into second place by winner Matt Thomas, with Keith Longley taking the overall Championship for his consistently good points scoring throughout the British Quad racing season.

Coasting

Sea kayaking is due to be featured in the forthcoming BBC 'Coast' TV series in the Spring of 2007.

Neil Oliver, the presenter of the BBC Coast programme kayaked across the seven mile tide streams and ten metre high tides to reach Les Ecrehous reef off Jersey Channel Islands accompanied by Derek Hairon of Jersey kayak Adventures Ltd.

"For someone who had little sea kayak experience Neil certainly was a fast learner. But then he needs to be as he was off to Dover next to do a long distance swim for the programme". said Derek.

While kayaking around this unique location Oliver interviewed the leader of the Normandy fisherman, who with over 150 Normandy separatists and supporters of the return of the French monarchy, staged an invasion of Les Ecrehous in 1994 to protest about the fishing laws in the area in order to make the French government listen to their concerns.

www.jerseykayakadventures.co.uk



PGL sponsorship for canoeist Andrew Hadfield

Andrew Hadfield from Worksop, Nottinghamshire is aiming to be part of the GB Olympic team in 2008 with the help of PGL, the largest school activity break provider in the UK, who are continuing their support and sponsoring him for the next three years.

The 21 year old was hooked from the time he first tried canoeing at PGL as an 11-year-old youngster on a trip in 1996 and has never looked back.

Andrew became one of the youngest canoeists selected for the GB senior team after achieving third place in the Three Race selection series held in Nottingham earlier this year and, as part of the World Class Programme, he was identified as an athlete with the ability to achieve medal-winning

performances at world, Olympic and European level within the next eight years.

Currently he is embarking on his winter training with the objective of selection for the GB team in Spring 2007. This means training twice a day, six days a week with the focus on developing base fitness, learning new techniques and adapting old ones. During the next few months, he will undertake a number of training camps in Holland where an artificial slalom course, the exact replica of the new Olympic course in Beijing, has been built (see page 30).



OBITUARY

Stephen Pullinger

1957 - 2006

On Friday 27th October, Steve Pullinger was tragically drowned on the River Roy north of Fort William, whilst canoeing on the 'Gorge' section of the river. He was paddling with members and friends of Kingfisher Canoe Club (KCC) from Oxfordshire.

Steve had been a member of the club for many years when living in Oxfordshire and Bucks and although he moved away to Kent, kept in touch, continuing to participate in the annual autumn Scottish river week and other events when possible.

Steve, whilst never being totally canoe orientated, thoroughly enjoyed the sport and it's camaraderie. His cheerfulness, enthusiasm and vigour were an inspiration. His death occurred in circumstances that were completely unpredictable and invisible at the time and despite the tireless efforts of paddling colleagues, Para Medics and the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, unfortunately he couldn't be saved.

Our sincere condolences go out to his children, family and many friends. He touched us all for the better and will be deeply missed.

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Safe return

Martin Rickard, Pete Jones and Phil Clegg returned safely after their 43 day unsupported attempt to paddle from Scoresbysund to Ammassalik on the east coast of Greenland this summer - many thanks to all their sponsors, a full article to be in a later addition.



Johnson Outdoors acquires Lendal™ Paddles

Johnson Outdoors Inc. have announced it has added Lendal™ paddles to its portfolio of outdoor recreational brands on October 3rd. Lendal™ founders, Marianne Wilson and Alistair Wilson, inventor of the patented Paddlok™ System, will work exclusively with Johnson Outdoors on a variety of design, marketing and promotional efforts in the future.

Lendal™ operations, located in Scotland, will be integrated within the Johnson Outdoors paddle sport operations which include the market-leading Old Town®, Ocean Kayak™, Necky®, Carlisle® and Extrasport® paddlesport brands.

Helen Johnson-Leipold, Chairman and CEO of Johnson Outdoors said, "Lendal is a perfect complement to round out our paddle portfolio: an elite brand with a unique and meaningful point-of-difference, and a strong potential for growth by leveraging our global distribution network and marketing strength."

Lendal™, founded in 1964 by the Wilsons who are both former Olympic paddling champions, is a major paddle brand throughout Europe and the United Kingdom and though there is a change of owner it will remain business as usual.

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READ THIS

It was bold, it was breathtaking, it was fun! And we did it!

We paddled round the Isle of Wight!

Five novices kayaked through high waves and strong winds and tides to round the Isle of Wight for the charity 'Paddle for Life'.

Robert Murray Willis, son Will, Andrew Craig and son James, complete with Bud the kayaking dog, rose to the challenge of kayaking the 60 miles round the Isle of Wight in support of Paddle for Life, a registered not-for-profit charity supporting Cancer Research UK, Dreams Come True (for children with life threatening illnesses), and an Amazonian school project.

Robert and Andrew both wanted to do something for charity after cancer affected loved ones. Andrew said "The challenge was as much a mental one as physical because it's a long way round the Isle of Wight and there's the risk of capsizing!" Robert went on to say "Having two teams of father and son, representing the generations, was especially poignant as cancer can strike anyone, at any age."

The safety boats were supplied by one of the main sponsors, Richard Rhodes of FCM Facilities. Robert said "On Friday it poured with rain, the winds were gale force at times, the tide was against us, and, sometimes we didn't think we could make it. On Saturday the conditions were better but the sea had a big swell. Passing St Catherine's



Point we capsized but managed to recover. On Sunday the weather was perfect. The trip was a fantastic adventure and was really worth it in the end. We lived every moment of the challenge!"

The charity continues to the end of next year, when they are planning to do it again – this time in two days.

Robert, Andrew, Will and James want Paddle for Life to raise £250,000. They would also like to make the "Paddle for Life challenge" an annual event. You can find out more by visiting www.paddleforlife.co.uk

Further information from: Robert Murray Willis
Email: Robert@paddleforlife.co.uk

Welsh Open Kayak and Ski Championship



For the third successive year, Cardiff Harbour Authority and Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre hosted the Welsh Open Kayak and Ski Championship. The event consisted of a series of distance races on the Saturday with a 4.5km lap on the River Taff, and sprint racing on Sunday.

Kayakers and Ski paddlers changed classes throughout the weekend keeping a fun element to the whole event. Individual trophies were won by Richard Lewis, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Natasha O'Leary and Rob King in the K1 Class, with Croesyceiliog CC picking up the K2 trophy.

The Ski events were dominated by Woolacombe SLSC and Rhoose SLSC who won the overall club trophy. The resident club, Cardiff Bay Kayakers also picked up medals in the Junior K1 with help from Tom Sanders and the overall kayak trophy. A full list of results are available from Cardiff Bay Kayakers. The event was sponsored and supported by Spar, Childs Play Surf and the WCA. The club is planning a series of winter club races and time trials.

Contact Ben Longhurst, blonghurst@cardiff.gov.uk for general paddlesport enquiries at Cardiff Bay centre or Paul Sanders, PSander@uwic.ac.uk for club information.

Paul would also like to know if any readers have an old boat collecting cobwebs (or snails) which they might donate to them? Condition is immaterial as they can repair and generally make bayworthy.



Councillor Fred Elliott, Chairman of the District of Derbyshire Dales presenting the award to Chris

Chris Martin's coach award

Derbyshire Dales District Council ran the first sports awards within the district this year, working in partnership with the County Sports Partnership in Derbyshire.

Chris Martin was nominated in the performance coach of the year, and won the category. Chris was selected above the others, some of which were world class coaches. The criteria being as follows; the Performance Coach of the Year will have coached individuals or team to outstanding success, and will have created a positive athlete centred environment.

Chris formed Matlock CC in 1984. He has been a member of the BCU for many years, and is a past performer at national level. Chris is a BCU level 3 Coach and World Class Start Coach for the East Midlands.

He has coached Fiona Pennie to become current slalom world silver medallist and been GB junior girls coach for over ten years.

Chris has also been nominated in the Performance Coach of the Year across all of Derbyshire

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AdventureX are giving all participants a 10% discount on the scuba diving extension for a well deserved post trip chill-out. **If you fancy joining the team call on 0870 7669509. Alternatively for more info go on www.adventurex.co.uk**



Ray Hatherley cuts the Diamond Jubilee cake.

PADDLE THIS

The Çoruh extreme week

We left the Çoruh in 2005 after the first Çoruh extreme week on a huge high: we the organisers felt that we had pulled off the best event in the kayaking calendar and the competitors agreed with us. I promised to reserve places for the paddlers who had come to the 2005 event for the next year's event if they all wanted to come back.

However, the lack of a commercial sponsor meant I had to impose an entry fee of 250 euros (which included all the accommodation and transport to and from Erzurum). In the end, no one who came to the 2005 event turned up.

Still we had an event and despite some of the sponsors having misgivings of donating expensive gear they stuck with us and Pyranha donated a new Burn, Palm generously gave us a life jacket, dry top and river shoes and Robson had no hesitation in offering a pair of paddles. We had the event with a fairly unique collection of nationalities: USA, Iran, Belgium and the UK were all represented. The competitors enjoyed the races (limited to a mass start, down river race and an extreme slalom).

In the end Steven Van den Heuvel from Belgium was the overall winner and chose the Palm dry top – he is a sponsored paddler by Eskimo and so Amir Hussein Mahyari from Iran took the Pyranha Burn and Phil Woodhead from England won the Robson paddles and the rest of the Palm



gear was claimed by the lesser placed paddlers. Amir then proceeded to buy all the gear from the winners!

Where to from now? I will get a sponsor for next year's event – we have leads to big companies in Turkey and hope to run the event again next year from the 2-10th June 2007. So put the dates in your diary and come on over – the days of the Çoruh are numbered and the dam builders are starting work on the Yusufeli dam in August this year.

In the end the dam will be 228 metres high which will in time flood the Çoruh, Bahal, Tortum and Oltu river valleys. Yusufeli will be under 187m. of water when the dam is full.

More details of the event will be available on www.Coruhextreme.com
Once again Palm, Pyranha and Robson - thanks so much.

Chelmsford CC celebrates Diamond Jubilee

This year is special for Chelmsford CC as its members celebrate 60 years of canoeing since the club's humble beginnings by a small student group in 1946, over the years developing into one of the most successful multi-discipline clubs in the country. Today it is one of the most renowned sporting clubs within Essex and continues to attract huge interest within the centre of the town.

On July 8th, members past and present gathered at the club including a founder member from 1946, Ray Hatherley, and others who joined in the 1960's and 1970's.

Many members took part in a wide variety of demonstrations on the water which included a Diamond Slalom competition for under and over 16's, canoe polo, rolling demonstrations, open canoe skills and a paddle past of all types of racing boats in various formations and differing speeds. The afternoon culminated with a Bell-boat Push of War across the river to end on a very wet but competitive spectacle.

The club was pleased to entertain both Simon Burns MP and Chelmsford Mayor, Councillor Margaret Hutchon, during the celebrations, both of whom expressed interest in the

activities of canoeing within the town and throughout the country, especially the imminent tenuous situation of the club site within the towns redevelopment and the National Access Campaign. The Mayor also awarded trophies to the winners of the competitions.

'Careers' for canoeists

Are there any such things as careers for the canoeist? If you're a recreational paddler who gets out for the sheer enjoyment of being on (or in!) the water then the answer is probably a resounding "No!" Over recent years there seems to have been a massive growth in colleges and universities offering academic or vocational courses for people wishing to work in the outdoors. Frequent criticisms of these courses have included questions such as;

- Where are the jobs for all of these people?
- It's great studying it but wouldn't they be better off doing it?
- Why do people with degrees want to run outdoor or adventure organisations?

At a higher education level the advent of Foundation Degrees seems set to answer, quell or dispel these questions. A Foundation Degree in Adventure Recreation; will be structured and run in close co-operation with outdoor organisations and employers, will have a major portion of the learners time spent 'out doing it in industry', will develop their outdoor skills and knowledge whilst maintaining an academic standard and rigour.

Ambitious? Well several Foundation Degrees in Adventure Recreation or allied 'outdoor-ish' topics are convincing people, even some canoeists, that paying the tuition fees are worth it. After all – going on a course where you develop yourself across the board, get to work in an outdoor organisation, are exposed to exciting new challenges and get to go paddling – well that can't be too bad can it?

To find out more about Craven College's Foundation Degree in Adventure Recreation or to come on a taster day for the course call 01756 693858 or visit our website: www.craven-college.ac.uk

PADDLE THIS

Paddleworks new shop!

Following on from a hugely successful move to larger shop premises back at Easter, Paddleworks Kayaks and Canoes in Bala are on the move again. This time however they are acquiring a second shop. Paddleworks have taken over the old Eddylines shop in Llangollen. Those that know the riverside shop will be familiar with its fantastic location for kayak demos and seeing all the latest kit and boats plus of course paddling the rapids on the River Dee.

Chris at Paddleworks told Canoe Focus; "We plan to reopen the new shop, Paddleworks Llangollen following a fresh refurbishment with a huge demo fleet and one of the best ranges of Whitewater kayaks anywhere. We feel that this shop is probably the best kayak shop location for whitewater anywhere in Britain although we do plan to also sell open canoes and recreational boats and kit there too."

Paddleworks Llangollen should be open for business close to Christmas. In the meantime Paddleworks Bala is trading as usual. For further details please call 01678 520808 or go to www.paddleworks.co.uk



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Essex Canoeing Association

Canoeing tour
River Blackwater
15th April

The tour from Kelvedon (nr TL860 180) near Grey's Mill to Langford (nr TL836 091) is about 13km with four portages around mills on the way.

This tour has been arranged with the specific agreement of all the landowners. No other access has been agreed for this year.

Meet time: 10am please be prepared to help to shuttle cars
Start time: 11am sharp (takes about 45 mins)
Finish time: 3:30pm approx.

I am expecting to have a minibus to help. (Children and Scouts are welcome with their own adult supervision)

Limit: First 50 to confirm with all details only. Your organiser is M Robards 01621 817062 email: Mike.Robards@btinternet.com

DW2007

6-9 April
DW-day is fast approaching if you're planning on entering this year's Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon.

With DW running from 6-9 April 2007, it is just 14 weeks from the New Year to Easter and the toughest endurance event in the UK. That's 14 weeks of training, upping the time in the water, the time in the boat, building the muscles and testing your gear.

You choose your race from the four-day Endeavour to the straight through non-stop event. And you choose your reason – the sheer challenge, trying something new, unfinished business or something you've always wanted to try.

You don't have to know the course to take part. You can get all the information you need about preparing for and taking part in the event from Brian Greenaway's The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race available from the DW organisers through the website www.dwrace.org.uk. And DW race organisers will do all they can to help you understand the demands of the course.

So what are you waiting for? DW day is here. Make the decision and start training.

PADDLE THIS

Youth freestyle

This year's Youth Freestyle Series saw close to 90 paddlers taking part in one or more events, which took place on the Dee, the Nene, Boulton and finally, Holme Pierrepont. Local and national coaches (including Kayakjocko) helped the eight to 18 year olds in all aspects of paddling.

There was also, of course, the freestyle competition at each event. The competitors showed great enthusiasm encouraging their peers and competing in the various features. The scoring system allowed all moves to be scored from front and side surfs right up to front loops and space godzillas. As a special incentive to do well at the competitions, the top non-sponsored paddlers of the series in each age category won a brand new kayak from our sponsors: Jackson Kayak, Dagger Europe and Pyranha. Congratulations to all of the winners (for full results visit www.youthfreestyle.co.uk).

New for this year was the boater X event which took place where venues allowed and saw groups of four or more paddlers battling their way down the course to try to make



it into first place. This was an exciting spectacle for the parents as well as great fun for the competitors.

We look forward to seeing even more people at next year's events www.youthfreestyle.co.uk In the meantime, a big thank you to all who took part and to the helpers who volunteered their free time to help organise the events.

A special thanks to all of the sponsors who provided some fantastic prizes throughout the series: Square Rock/Jackson Kayak, Dagger Europe/Palm Equipment Europe, Pyranha and Kayakjocko.

Fiona Jarvie



Paul Farrant's great achievement



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With reference to the article by Jennifer Munro in the October issue regarding 'memories of slalom worlds' – I find it very sad that so little was made of the great achievement by Paul Farrant in Geneva in 1959, (not 1957 as stated in the article).

This was the first ever gold medal



the details of Paul's achievement. Paul Farrant was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident whilst returning to Hambleton after retiring from the Devizes to Westminster race in 1960. In his memory, the BCU presented a bronze trophy to the ICF to be competed for in the F1 class in

the bi-annual Slalom World Championships. Roger French PS: I would be interested to know the whereabouts of the trophy – can anyone help (01628 486885)

London SE region ACM

20th January - Wey Kayak Club, Guildford
Come and find out what's happening in the region. Morning and afternoon of activities and information - hot lunch available. For more info check the website or contact: paulnewmanpaddlesport@blueyonder.co.uk

for British canoeing in any branch of the sport. In those early days, people like Paul were true amateurs, having full time jobs and training in their own time without the support and sponsorship deals available in recent times. The front and first inside pages of the October 1959 'Canoeing in Britain' number 35, published by the BCU, gave



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Daily Mail

"Well, if he isn't lost we are."



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We decided on Uganda's infamous White Nile, with much the worried looks from our parents as they overheard us planning our two-month adventure. Luckily for us our parents seemed to get used to the idea over time as we booked flights got our jabs and all the other usual precautions and preparations you have to do before a trip away to Africa.

In October 2005 we arrived at the airport with laden boats, worried parents and bags of anticipation as we dragged our boats over to the check in praying they didn't charge us extra for our ungainly craft. Even after numerous repackings and weigh ins I still couldn't get the weight down even my hand luggage was 20kg... (camera equipment sure does add up!) and resorted to wearing all my clothes in a last ditch effort to cut weight.

Luckily for us the travel gods shined down on us and the nice check in lady turned a blind eye to us and our "specialised surfboards" (thanks British Airways). Two Months later in December we landed back again in Heathrow with big smiles, over 40 hours of film and thousands of pictures and expensive phone bills (Jimbo!) to remember a totally awesome trip.

I recommend the Nile to any kayaker of reasonable ability, logistics are way easier than you would think, waves are big, lines are sweet and the local's friendly and honest... a paddlers paradise by anyone's standards there is something here for everyone!

Here is a brief guide to the river and waves on the Nile to spur you all to travel there and experience this awesome gem of a river before the pending dam is constructed.

Day One – Main Rapids

Rib Cage: The Day 1 section kicks off with the option of either going down the right channel of Ribcage a straightforward Rapid graded 4 with an obvious line but does have some large holes to be avoided.

The Hump: The right channel is called the "Hump" and is an easy but intimidating grade 5 rapid where you hug the river right bank (not too closely) and punch through a meaty hole making sure you avoid the overhanging trees on the right. Then after punching the first hole you hit a much smaller one behind it and negotiate your way through some swirly boils before eddying out river right.

Bujagali Falls: After running down the Hump or Rib Cage you come to Bujagali falls which offers up several lines graded 4 – a meaty 5 with the most run line being a straight forward line down the river right side of the river punching straight into the guts of it, and although quite big looking it is surprisingly friendly but do be prepared to get thrown around a little (you can scout the rapid by eddying out just above and walking down the right bank till you get a good view to check it out)

50/ 50: Really straightforward and fun grade 4 rapid with a really cool wave in the middle at the top eddy service on your left.

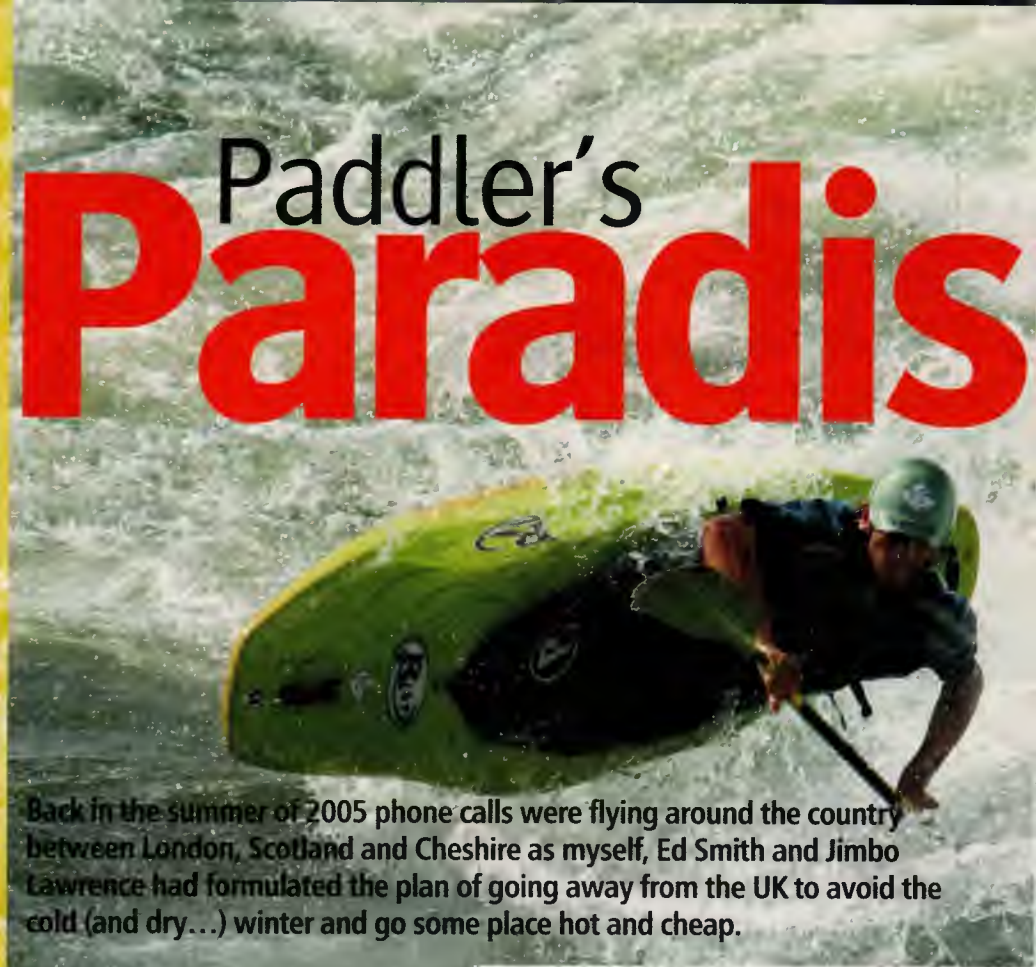
Total Gunga: This is one of the most fun rapids on the Nile, huge waves, holes and boils, be prepared to get thrown around and trashed a fair bit but everything flushes through so just hold on and enjoy the ride!

Ugly Sisters: Sweet Wave at the top but when you flush paddle river left hard to avoid the pour over behind it!

Silverback: Really amazing rapid with a spectacular view from the lead in, a series of four massive waves

Paddler's Paradise

Back in the summer of 2005 phone calls were flying around the country between London, Scotland and Cheshire as myself, Ed Smith and Jimbo Lawrence had formulated the plan of going away from the UK to avoid the cold (and dry...) winter and go some place hot and cheap.



forming a rollercoaster ride of a wave train, take the centre line (very easy to see) again you may get thrown around a little but nothing with any consequences to it here.

Overtime: One of the grade 5 rapids on the Nile that does have consequences if messed up due to the shallow, technical nature of this rapid. The line is a big ferry glide at the top towards an eddy half way down and then over a rocky slide/ fall at the end that you need to run upright as the rocks are sharp here. Best to follow someone who knows the line down this one.

Retrospect: A really cool wave with plenty of room for downriver moves to be thrown.

Bubago Falls: Cool glassy green wave at the top with a hole behind it line is very easy to spot the line and a good place to see the rafts get flipped too!

Itanda/ Kalagala/ Hypoxia: The big three on the Nile, Itanda is a full on grade 5 with a tricky line needing powerful paddling to avoid some massive holes and

Waves as well as with names like pencil sharpener, Bad Place and the Cuban. Kalagala is a huge volume waterfall with the line going down the right under the branch of a tree, with a big hit at the bottom. Then there's Hypoxia an Insane rapid with an insane hole at the end of it. With all these rapids it is best to talk to the local guides before running them and make sure your well prepared.

Day 2 - Section

Vengeance: This is a sweet wave with good eddy service; most moves can be thrown here off the radial.

Hair of the Dog: Another fantastic wave, mostly caught on the fly with poor eddy service at some levels, anything can be thrown on here, lots of fun.

Slappers hole: A small hole with good eddy service, a great spot for practicing cartwheels and splits.

Kulu Shaker: Two really sweet waves that tube at some levels can be found at the top but you'll need to catch them on the fly, then behind is a longish rapid of wave trains.

e



James Bebbington



Jimbo Lawrence



Billy Harris



Ed Smith

Above: James Bebbington big lefty

Far left: Jimbo Lawrence on Nile Special left

Left: Billy Harris chucking a massive back Panam

Below: Ed Smith on Nile special

Below right: Sean on Nile special



Nile Special: Possibly the most famous wave of the Nile simply amazing, great eddy access, 15minutes from the hairy lemon campsite anything can be thrown here with huge amounts of air!
Malalu: 45minutes downstream from Nile Special another amazing wave slightly slower and calmer than Special and a great spot to learn anything can be thrown here. Good eddy service here too.
Back Channels: Due to the size of the river there are also many back channels to run, you can find more info on these at www.kayakthenile.com.

James Bebbington



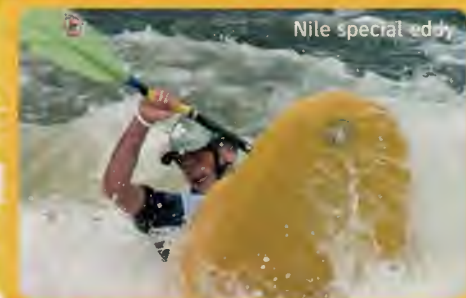
Jimbo Lawrence boat ramp



The view from the tent



The camp



Nile special eddy



FACTS

Getting there

Travelling to the White Nile is easy book a flight to Entebbe Airport get in touch with www.kayakthenile.com let them know your flight details and they'll arrange a pick up from the airport and once their Matatus (taxi vans) and Boda Boda's (Mopeds) will take you everywhere you could need to go.

Places to Stay

The most common places to stay are Nile River explorers situated at the start of the day one section and the Hairy Lemon Island resort 15 minutes from Nile Special. Both offer camping, dorms, and Banda's and have bars as well as providing food if wanted at reasonable prices.

Other Advice

- Visit your GP before you go to get all the necessary vaccinations and drugs.
- Make sure you cover up in the evenings and take the anti-malarial drugs as a bout of Malaria could really spoil your trip.
- Talk to the local guides about the river if your unsure about running a rapid of what the line is as they are all willing to hand out all the info you could need.

Contacts

Get in touch with www.kayakthenile.com to ask any questions, to sort out airport shuttles, courses, guiding, bookings and anything else you could need to know.

To find out more about James and the rest of the Pommie Crew visit www.pommieproductions.com

Thanks also to: Riot Kayaks, Peak UK, H2O Paddles, Sweet Protection, Steve at F.B. Fire systems, Fishibusiness and Reaseheath college for their continued support whom without these trips would not be a reality.

For further details on courses at Reaseheath college contact: Press Officer Lynne Lomax on 01270 613279 / 07960 781658

World Marathon Champi

20-24th Sep

Tremolat, France

Right: Andy Daniels and Stuart Hastings win the silver medal

Below: Louisa Sawers – Junior World Champion

Bottom: Anna Hemmings – Senior World Champion
Photo credit Igor Meijer



The World Championships were held in the Dordogne area of France this year, an area as well known as Tuscany in Italy for the large number of British people owning properties there. Certainly huge numbers of spectators from Britain had managed to find gites and houses to rent and most of the large canoe clubs in Britain seemed to have set up camp somewhere in the vicinity. Over 50 Masters also took the opportunity to compete on such an idyllic piece of water, contributing to one of the most successful championships for many years for the British team.

The Dordogne is dammed just downstream from the village of Tremolat where the water sports centre, the Bassin Nautique, is situated. The dam provides such a large straight stretch of water that it can also be used for sprint racing. Add in a purpose-built landing stage and a sandy portage and safe, fair racing was the order of the day.



Saturday dawned bright, clear and sunny. Hopes were high in the GB camp as Louisa Sawers had won gold at World Cup 1 in Zamora, Claire Spencer silver at World Cup 2 in Trecin and Edward Rutherford silver

and bronze in his two World Cup outings. Add to this the fact that Andy Daniels had beaten Edward in the final assessment race at the Nationals and some good results were expected.

Local interest was strong in the junior men's K1 race with two French boys making the first group, along with Edward and Andy, Barry Watkins from Ireland, and seven others. This huge front group more or less stayed together throughout the race, with Edward and Andy certainly taking their turn leading and making sure they were in good positions at each

of the two portages during the three lap race. The French lads, buoyed up by the vociferous local support held on for first and second place, with Andy coming in fifth, 13 seconds down, and Edward two places and 13 seconds behind him.

Meanwhile, the junior women's K1 race had split quickly from the start, forming a front group containing Louisa, Wiebke Frohlich from Germany and a Hungarian: Erika Medveow. Frohlich looked like she might give Louisa a real run for her money as she went off the start like a rocket, though Medveow was let down by her pedestrian portaging. By the second portage, the Australian Lani Belcher had caught up with the leading three girls and Wiebke tipped her boat on its side getting out. This was all Louisa and Lani needed. Putting their running skills to good use, the two of them sped through the portage and broke away. They paddled the last lap together, with Louisa using her mental and physical powers to pull away for victory. The bronze medallist, Medveow, finished two minutes behind them.

Louisa explained afterwards "On the last lap Lani kept saying 'I can't believe this is happening; I don't care what happens now!' and I thought to myself 'Well I care and I'm having that gold medal!'"

Claire Spencer found the competition understandably harder than at Trecin, but put in a gutsy performance to paddle away from her group and finish in eighth place.

The senior men's K1s were off at 2.30. Ben Brown had, arguably, the luck of the draw on the inside along with Shaun Rubenstein, Manuel Busto and Emilio Merchan, all proven performers at international level. However, the draw did mean that Ben had to put in the start of his life to make it work and he certainly did that. Tom Daniels, nearer the middle of the field, also got away well. By the time they came back from the far turn on the first lap, Rubenstein, Busto, Merchan and Ben were in a cosy little group of four, with Ben's dad, David, ecstatic to see him there. Ben's portaging was slick and the four stayed together. Tom came through with the second group, also looking comfortable.

Once the men had all gone through the portage, the senior women's K1 started, with Anna Hemmings making her usual strong start. Nicky Taylor also got away well.

onships

Tension was high in the GB supporters camp as they knew that Busto would try something after the fourth and last portage to break up the group. Several burns were put in, but Ben hung on like a limpet and would not be moved. When the time came for the final sprint in, Ben had the job of getting himself out of the 'V' to make some impression on the finish. The other three proved to have too much in reserve and the South African Rubenstein just managed to steal the Championship from the two Spaniards. Ben's initial disappointment gradually gave way to the realisation that he had come within six seconds of a medal in only his second senior year. Tom was also justifiably pleased with his tenth place, less than four minutes behind the winner.

Meanwhile, Anna and the Hungarian Renata Csay, whom she had never raced before in K1, were leading the women's race with Beatriz Gomes. The three women stayed together for three laps with Anna trying a different course on the last lap upstream. By the time she reached the turn she had to clear weed from her rudder before the final push and Csay seized the lead, but Anna fought back managing to take the gold by six seconds. Nicky Taylor found herself in a group with Ireland's Jenny Egan, both of them finishing nine and a half minutes behind Anna.

K2 Juniors, Andy Daniels and Stuart Hastings, had raced well against the seniors all year and taken a silver medal at Zamora. They certainly went off the start meaning business but knowing that the two French boys who took gold and silver in the K1 had teamed up hoping to do the double. The race ebbed and flowed at the front with eleven boats there or there about for much of it. By the final lap these had broken into two slightly more distinct groups and on the sprint in it was down to Stuart and Andy to try to take it from the French crew. In the end, home advantage told (despite the go-slower haircuts!) but the British pair looked happy and relieved with their silver medal. Tom Hide and Ben Parfitt, in their first international race, did not have the best of preparations for the race as Tom's paddles didn't make it to France, so he had to borrow a pair. He explained afterwards that he completely missed his first stroke, a disaster at this level of racing.

The junior girls' K2 race had settled down into a group of six boats for one lap, breaking to four boats later. The German girl who lost out on the portage in her K1 was keen to salvage something from her weekend, while Louisa was determined to 'do the double' and her partner, Jess Walker, was determined not to let her down. It was a hard race, only seven minutes slower than the boys', but, though pushed to the end by the Czech girls, one always felt that Louisa and Jess had it under control. They were thrilled with their win and their hug once in boat control spoke volumes about what it meant for them both. The second GB boat of Lizzie Broughton and Fay Lamph finished in 12th place.

In the senior K2 classes Britain had one crew in each. John Sawers and Nathan Johnson competed in the men's K2 and had an excellent race, running throughout just behind the front group and not letting the gap increase much, despite the punishing pace of the leaders. The race was won by Manuel Busto, determined to get revenge on Shaun Rubenstein for the K1. The Hungarian crew managed to take the bronze, beating the second Spanish boat. Nathan and John finished in eighth place, just three minutes behind; a very creditable performance.

Hayleigh Mason and Vicky Surrage finished in eighth place in the women's race, in their case just under ten minutes behind the popular winners, Anne Lolk and Mette



Barfod from Denmark. In her second race of the weekend, Renata Csay had to settle for a silver medal.

In the men's C2 event, James Train and Matt Lawrence forsook the regatta course, so that, unusually for recent times, Britain had a representative in this class. The race was won by the Hungarians as usual and James and Matt battled through to take seventh place.

Three golds and one silver medal were a just reward for the team's hard work and especially pleasing when considering the ages of the team members. Anna is very much the 'senior' paddler at 29, while four of the six men are aged 20 and the others 24 and 25. Four of the juniors are only 16 and hence have another two years in this level of competition. It would seem that we can finally look forward to welcoming a new phase of paddlers into the marathon family and view the future with some confidence. Let us hope that the resources and manpower as well as the enthusiasm will be available, in the clubs and the national structure, to build on this base. ●

Diane Bates

Top left: Start of the Men's K1 race – Ben Brown (1); Tom Daniels (16)

Left: Start of the Junior men's K1

Top: Nathan Johnson and John Sawers in the Senior Men's K2

Above: Louisa and Jessica show off their gold medals



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With the up and coming GB raft team selection event, British white water rafting teams have been training hard together and competing in races within the UK and Europe.



Who's for Korea?



The national selection event, to find the teams that will go to South Korea next year to represent Great Britain at the World Championships will be held on a river in north-east England on 3rd and 4th of March 2007. Teams of up to seven paddlers are invited to come and compete in the event which will be run in the IRF (International Rafting Federation) format consisting of a head to head sprint, a slalom course with up to 12 gates, and a down river endurance. For more details of how to enter please e-mail Debs at deb.cook@tiscali.co.uk

After a very credible 15th place in their first international outing at last years World Championships in Ecuador, the men's team are hoping to gain a few places next year. The three day competition, which was eventually won by Russia, included teams who paddle together full time. It was a fantastic learning experience for the team who all have full time jobs, and it gave them a valuable insight into different paddling techniques, training programmes and the gruelling international event schedules.

They put this experience to good use when they finished in second place overall at the Eurocup event in Norway a couple of months ago. They are going from strength to strength, as a couple of additions to the team has enabled them to have more team training sessions at their

Nottingham stomping ground, in addition to their own individual training programmes, which includes gym sessions, circuit training, swimming and canoeing.

The ladie's team have been to two competitions over the summer season, kicking off with the Liquid Life festival in Scotland at the end of May where they won the ladie's event and gave the Welsh boys a run for their money in an open final. They have recently returned from a four-day training camp and competition in the Czech Republic, where they were racing against the gold and bronze medallists from the World Championships last year, and gained a respectable seventh place overall against tough competition from eastern European teams. The team have improved huge amounts, due to lots more training and also taking on Matt Blue as their coach, who has been giving them a beasting at their regular training meets at Holme Pierrepont, or in Wales! Due to the Liquid Life festival, the RaftFest at the beginning of the year, and a higher profile of the sport, there is now more interest in raft racing and a second ladies team have formed and are now training regularly, threatening to give the current girls a run for their money.

Their aims over the next year include winning the GB champs, placing at the World championships and at the extreme festivals around Europe. Their determination and training combined with new sponsorship deals and real sense of team spirit, their opposition had better watch out! ●

Article by Ruth Gross and Georgina Preston



*There are far
more stretches
of wild rivers
without play waves
than there are with!*

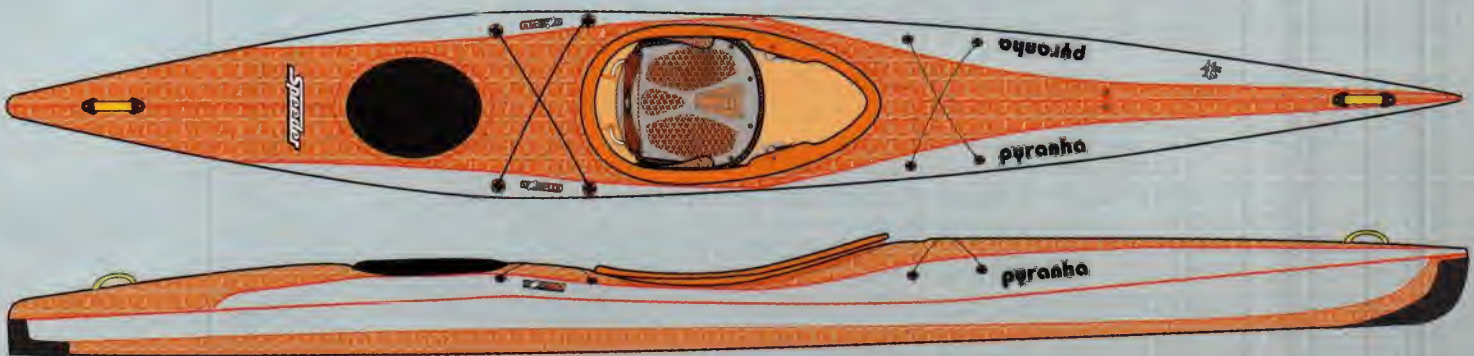


Speeder

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Brookbank Canoes	Stockport	0161 4741499	www.brookbankcanoes.co.uk
Brookbank Canoes Scotland	Perth	01738 622723	www.brookbankscotland.co.uk
Carlisle Canoes	Carlisle	01228 531703	www.carlislecanoes.co.uk
Paddle Sport	Warwick	01926 640573	www.paddlesport.co.uk
UK Canoes	Lancaster	01524 388850	www.ukcanoes.co.uk
Up & Under	Cardiff	02920 578579	www.upandunder.co.uk
Whitewater the CC	Shepperton	01932 247978	www.wwtcc.com

www.pyranha.com

For many athletes, representing their country in their chosen sport is likely to be the greatest achievement of their lives. This is no different in freestyle kayaking.

This time... it's serious

Despite this, selection is a fairly low key event consisting only of those paddlers who feel they have a chance at gaining a place on the team. There is no party (or at least not officially), few spectators and no novice events - it's serious.

The event took place over the two days of the 14th and 15th October and saw a small group of the top UK freestyle paddlers gathered to determine who would be going to the World Championships to be held in Ottawa, Canada next April/May. There were two separate events, one on each day, on different features. Each paddler had three runs of which the best two counted towards the ranking list. The ranking lists from the two events were then added together to give the final overall results.

For squirt the location of the first competition was the

looping pool on the Saturday. The looping pool provides a vicious eddyline that is difficult to control and can give a beating to the unlucky, however the paddlers in selection were used to competing here and the flatwater routines and lengthy downtimes produced some impressively high scores. The second of the squirt competition was split between two locations in order to try to replicate the proposed venue for the world championship. This meant a mystery move on the weak eddyline that comes out of the chickrun around the muncher, followed by a flatwater routine in the eddy of the first pool.

For all other disciplines the first competition was held on the inlet gate. Although not normally used as a competition venue due to the lack of space for spectators, the flow rates on the day produced a retentive uniform hole which provided the potential for all hole moves to be performed. The challenge was therefore for paddlers to try to fit in as many of the high scoring moves as possible in the short 45 second runs. As standard runs in men's competitions now include air loops, back loops and space godzillas, this was the minimum that had to be achieved by those hoping to make the grade.

The second competition on the Sunday was moved down to the Muncher. With recent changes to the course and alterations to the water levels the Muncher made a good venue for high level competition. It was unforgivingly flushy but the top paddlers in the UK made it look easy.

Overall the standard of paddling had notched up from last year. Many of the paddlers runs started with the same moves as in the previous year but now people are getting more adventurous. To make the team you have to be able to pull off those impressive moves on demand and this year people really were. Congratulations to all those who made the cut. The full list of results is available on www.ukfreestyle.com and the official team will be published shortly. ●

Story by James Reeves. Photo by Peter Meares

PADDLE THIS

PeakUK 16/17 September 2006 Northampton

I arrived at my local play spot a few hours after my younger brother, as I was too lazy to get out of bed and help. He had dutifully put up our tent, which had odd poles and was a little wonky. We later found another problem: when baby brother Paul had last used the tent he was 5ft 7in – now he was over 6ft tall and the tent was too small. He solved the problem by going to bed early and taking up all the room. Luckily I was up for most of the night anyway.

The competition was great. Watched a few people head butting their boats as they went for practice loops on the newly constructed wave in Pool A and after everyone's hard practicing was over, the competition began. The C1 and OC1 categories were the ones I was looking forward to all day. Not only because Paul was in them but they were the most interesting to watch. One of the stars of the day, Aaron Layton, didn't have a C1 so he entered the C1 category in his own boat sitting backwards and spent a lot of time swimming with his borrowed OC1. It was great. The end result was that baby bro and his mate Miles (aka Melvin) were both through to the finals on Sunday.

The following day was the finals and BoaterX. Miles' deck popped early on the in race and he spectacularly submarined over half the course. However, he had some impressive runs in the final considering he started the day with a headache. Baby bro had a fantastic afternoon and took third place in the C1 with lots of encouragement from Ollie Castle, Paul Mills, OC1 Chris, and Jamie Burbeck. In his first OC1 competition he took second place being firmly put in his place by Paul Mills who he had just beaten in the C1 class. Many thank also to superhero Gav Layton who spectacularly dived in to save Paul when he mislaid his OC1 roll.

Laura King

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Creeking

I am 16 and a passionate freestyle kayaker. Living only 25 miles from Holme Pierrepont, mum's taxi permitting, I can paddle easily after school and at weekends. Two years ago I had a taste of creeking with Nico Chasing and Jacko in the French Alps, it was exhilarating and I wanted to do more.

However, going creeking was so much harder to organise, I needed someone with experience, knowledge of the area, someone whom I could trust, transport and shuttles. Then the week before Christmas a great opportunity arose for me, Ed Smith asked me to join him up in Scotland to run the classic rivers he knew so well.

I flew up to Edinburgh on a beautiful afternoon enjoying spectacular views of the Lake District. Leaving the relative comfort and warmth of the plane Edinburgh welcomed me with icy cold winds. I retrieved my Sniper from the carousel receiving looks of curiosity and interest from families obviously visiting relatives for Christmas with their smart little wheelie cases. Negotiating a boat, paddles and kit on a trolley I discovered could be an extreme sport in itself, boat vertical and I could not see where I was going, boat horizontal people did not see it either as they bashed their ankles almost hurtling over it. Was it excess Christmas spirit that prevented them from seeing six feet in front of them of bright yellow boat?

Arriving at Ed's home I was welcomed by his family (his parents shared many amusing similarities to my parents, must be their age) I immediately felt at home. The evening was taken up with packing up the van ready for an early start in the morning. Torches, cooker, sleeping bags – we might end up sleeping in the van, and as many thermals and woolly hats as we could get our hands on.

"Food?" Asked Ed. "Anything", I replied, never having been considered a fussy eater. Food would equal fuel to keep us warm and fuel we were going to need.

"Pasta will be fine" as we raided the kitchen cupboards. "Shreddies OK?"

"Never had them." "I just assume all cereal to be pretty bland and boring. "They'll be fine, just throw in some Tabasco".

We set off early morning into the cold dark unknown, driving through what I visualised to be spectacular countryside that we just couldn't see. We rounded a bend to see the sun greeting us with the shadows of hills and lakes reflecting the early morning light from all different areas. The road was



quiet and we made pretty good progress as we headed up to Fort William and to Glen Etive. The Etive is one of the most well known runs in Scotland and hearing so many stories of adventures and scrapes on the Etive, it was on the top of my list to do. With water levels being really low all over the country I couldn't help but worry about whether there would be enough water running off into the

Etive. Passing cars were becoming less frequent, the sun was rising higher in the sky and the hills and mountains became more striking and bold. We arrived at Triple Falls the get in to the Etive. The treeless landscape gave us no indication of the strong winds outside. I opened the van door to find it ripped back out of my hand. The wind battered the side of the van as we layered up with as many thermals as



possible. Ed drove off to take the van to the end of the shuttle leaving me standing, wondering how long he was going to be, it wasn't too long before I saw his distinguishable helmet in the distance as he peddled on an old bike, his face the colour of his cag (Was it red or blue that day?)

We headed to the water quickly to keep warm, getting out and taking photos along the way and running rapids twice. Triple Falls is three consecutive drops, the first drop is a small drop and then the second is a river length drop which is slightly bigger and then finishing with a clean drop. It is a great way to start the river and get into it. The river bends and was quite sheltered from the heavy wind above. The second rapid we came to was Letterbox, a ledge drop which formed a stopper at the bottom which could catch you in a side surf before you knew it. The line was close to the far bank away from the stopper that was in the middle. We ran the drop and as I paddled away I could feel it pull you in slightly. We continued round the corner and over a nice boof spot over a clean drop. The river began to gorge in and even though this was a Scottish classic there were no other paddlers around, I felt as if we could have been the first. The quiet feeling of isolation, just the two of us without any evidence of the material world was a new experience for me and one which I shall strive to seek more often. The gorge narrow section follows round to find Crack of Doom, a narrow stopper with an undercut guarded by a boulder garden at the top, finishing with a smooth drop. Even though it was freezing cold and the wind was howling, none of this was going to stop us from having a good time.

The next rapid, Crack of Dawn, on the river left is a clean boof spot whereas on the right is a very shallow drop a common place for boats vertically pinned. Nothing beats a clean boof like this spot the only drawback is the thrill of soaring through the air is only for a few brief moments and you just want to do it over and over again. I could see how people get hooked on creeking and running bigger and bigger falls. I was hooked. We followed the meandering river down a rock slide and some small rapids until we came to the get out point to Right Angle Falls, the 25 foot freefall with an irritating dog leg at the top. Ed ran it first while I watched through a lens as he plunged to the bottom and whoops got backed looped. Ed climbed back up for another go. I was ready. I'd tell my mother about it afterwards! I sat at the top wanting to make sure that I didn't mess up on the dog leg. I rounded the corner and before I knew it I was at the lip, tucked forward and bang there was

the impact of cold water onto my face I rolled up to look back on the fall, feeling elated. I waited to watch Ed throw himself off the fall. His red boat rounded the dog's leg and then caught him backwards I thought he might be heading down the fall backwards but he managed to skillfully paddle into the micro eddy above it and stop himself. We headed down and out of the sheltered gorge section to find ourselves out in the open again in the cold bitter wind lashing at our hands and faces. Did we care? God it felt good. We ran the last drop quickly and headed down river to the tributary, Alt a Chaoruinn.

After a cold lunch in a windswept field we headed up to the Alt a Chaoruinn, one of many of the classic tributaries that enter the Etive. Following the eroded path made by other paddlers, you can look down and see the colour of the water is a clear blue standing out so fresh off the hills. It was quite amazing to see after my paddling regularly in the gray coloured Trent. As we found ourselves at the top looking down at the narrow flume, you can't help but look down the tributary and be so glad that you are not stuck in a city snarled up in a traffic jam but you are in fact creeking. What a great day to be a kayaker as I dropped down Speed at an alarming rate. Paddling down through the crystal blue waters down to the longest rapid on the tributary, Ecstasy, a fun slide with no real line just follow the flow down into a pool. Next on the agenda was Pinball, the fast and furious 'ricocheting off rocks and hopefully not

hurting yourself' rapid. I decided to sit this one out and watch Ed run it. All I heard was Ed hit both rocks very hard taking a hard blow on his right shoulder on the bottom rock. Paddling up to me he said with a groan, "I shouldn't have run that."

The sun was getting lower as we ran a steep slot down Chasm into a blue pool the gradient forever getting less and less, until the last boof of the day as we scraped our way down the rest of the tributary into the Etive once more. We clambered into the van to thaw out our numb hands and set off, hopefully to find room at an inn and not a stable. I had had a fantastic day.

After spending the night in a great bunkhouse in Fort William, turning the small heater in our room up to mega blast to dry out our kit whilst we took in a movie down town! We decided to head to another tributary of the Etive, the Allt Mheuran, a section of great falls and slides in which once you have trekked through the mud you can spend the day just running drops and slides over and over again.

The walk up is well worth it, there are some great drops. The first one included a short slide right into a clean boof into a pool and with the momentum carried you straight into the next slide. The last drop was a long fast 23 foot narrow slide with a 15 foot freefall at the end of it into a pool which at the time was only about four foot deep. Being up there with an amazing view made me feel that the great kayaking was only a part of what I was experiencing, sitting at the top in the eddy with clear crisp water flowing down past me is simply something that I will always remember of paddling the Etive.

The sun was leaving how it had arrived, quickly and without our noticing as we walked back down to the van to reheat our cold limbs. Heading back to our Bunkhouse for one last night I really started to feel the addiction to creeking even though I have only had a brief experience But it wasn't just about the creeking for me. It was the magical, mesmerising scenery. Making the journey, over the lakes, to the river, on the river and from the river. For me it is all of this that makes boating such a great sport. I saw other boaters in Fort William on their journey, finding the enjoyment, the adventure, filling their senses. For me no other sport can give me this fulfilment, this trip made me realise just why I love boating. My first trip to Scotland's white water, must be some of the world's finest water, after all they do make whisky with it. ●

Written by Ross Montandon
Photos by Ed Smith

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Going, going

Gong

We were in the fourth of six canyons on the first descent of the Nan-Ao Pei. The sheer canyon walls dictated the only way out was downstream. We were above a class six as much as we could guess as inspection was very difficult. With a shear face down our side on the left, only the right side had any possibility but there was no eddy – just an area above a couple of sub-surface rocks.

After a terrifying 20 minute 'lunch break', James took the lead and broached his boat above the rocks on the far side. Failure to do so would mean going off down backwards into the abyss. Having made the move it meant great relief for us as now he could help us get out to inspect the drop, which now looked actually portagable down some rocks on the right. We could also see round the corner as the canyon continued straight ahead over a rather sketchy looking boxed in drop. Luckily it went and the river continued on through the canyon emerging after 50 metres into the sweet sunlight giving a strong hint that the river was opening up again. Only two canyons to go then!

Our three day, class five first descent was probably the kayaking highlight of the trip, however the three week exploratory trip to Taiwan bore insights into all the pleasures of grazing the fresh pastures of the kayaking world.

We were welcomed to Taiwan by some of the local's from 'club 222', Taipei's active and enthusiastic kayak club. The team hosted us down the Nanshih River. An absolute classic, Grade 4 with a touch of 5, staggeringly close to the outskirts of the capital. As we drove up the valley it was clear that the terrain was amongst the steepest we had ever witnessed. Steep jungle filled ravines adorned the banks of the river with the road perched hundreds of metres above. One thing was becoming very clear to us, the rivers in Taiwan would at best be difficult to access and at worse would be a total nightmare to escape from.

The local's have a laissez faire approach to paddling. A paddle is not so much about getting to the bottom but more about feasting all that river has to offer. Prolonged lunch breaks, hot spring sessions and real coffee breaks are the norm. The local's were astonished if not a little impressed at our ability to run sections of river in good time, and our ability in rescue technique (which incidentally we had plenty of practice in when paddling with our amiable hosts!) We ran the Nanshih on our last day, before catching our flight home and it took us 50 minutes, the norm for Club 22 is about 6 hours.

We were overwhelmed by hospitality on our first night as we ate with Club 22 in one of the ubiquitous



Tony on the Nan Sheh

Greg Nicks



Pete in the jungle



'Fan Dian' or rice houses. Applying our go 'anywhere, do anything' attitude to the diet, we thoroughly explored all the local food that could be found. Seafood was covered from squid on a stick to whole

fried shrimps. Meat was stir-fried chicken gonads to snakes penis and everything in between. Not forgetting vegetables as the staple cabbage was spiced up with bitter melon. I must not omit dessert, 'Twa Bing'. An ice block is attacked with a Black and Decker style drill to create a large pile of ice shavings. This is adorned with a choice of sliced fruit, multi coloured jelly or a variety of sugary pulses and beans. All topped off with sweetened condensed milk.

Taiwan is a small country about the size of Holland. The Ovoid island packs a punch skyward with a mountain chain approaching 4,000m. Add to



Given our current predicament we agreed that if we got out of the canyon we would give up boating for good. "I think Cornwall is very nice at this time of year," James hinted as to his future holiday aspirations.



this a massive annual rain fall and you have all the ingredients for potential white water. We had been advised that July would probably be the best time to go as in winter the runs become on the low side. Typhoon season is summer time with the chance of bigger typhoons (hurricanes) increasing as October approaches. The rainfall over the summer keeps the rivers full but it's a bit of a gamble, if a typhoon hits everything stops and there is the possibility of serious aftermath - rivers impossibly high, roads washed away and river morphology changes.

We had got in a few runs in northern Taiwan in the first week, before the first typhoon 'Bilos' hit the island. The Tai-Gong was the best of it; 15 kms of Grade 4/5 in a deep slit in the jungle, with some of the most breathtaking canyons I have seen anywhere. The rapids are formed by lots of big boulders jumbled on top of each other, a legacy of the country's young geology. This makes for interesting convoluted rapids with lots of moves but poses extreme siphon hazards. After this first run we were all very excited as to the possibilities Taiwan might offer for whitewater.

We had got off the Tai-Gong, in very good time, to be welcomed by some rather jolly road workers on a bend in the road with a couple of dwellings. We were invited by our new friends, the inebriated

workers, to some high altitude rural karaoke - very bizarre!

It appears that the Taiwanese are fighting a battle that they will never win. The roads are continually being washed away and giving into the demands of gravity. Many of the sections not being fixed were very subsidised and had tell-tale cracks all over them. It seemed like the mountain villages were populated mainly by road workers who fixed the roads, thereby justifying their existence in the first place.

Our bolthole for Typhoon Bilos was Taipei where we hunkered down for about 48 hours. Although we were away from the worst of the storm which passed over more southern parts we experienced 'torrential' and 'super torrential' rain where it didn't stop raining for a good 36 hours straight. After Taiwan had fended off the storm it carried on to China where the flooding and carnage that it caused would sadly kill hundreds of people.

Whilst it was clear that many runs in the immediate post typhoon period would be too high, we decided to venture down the breathtaking east coast and start investigating what Taiwan had to offer. Our first stop was to the Taroko Gorge, a claustrophobic marble canyon with road access that snaked up the river in a variety of terraces and tunnels. Although this had great potential the river was obviously too high - a frothing type of liquid mud was creeping up on the canyon walls. The run looked absolutely wonderful and would probably be reason alone to return to Taiwan.

However we were not deterred and decided to soldier on, circumnavigating the Island scouting for runs that we had earmarked on our 1:50,000 topo maps. We were hopeful that the levels would drop as there was no apparent reservoir of water. Sadly we were mistaken and this was a recurring theme all the way around the island.



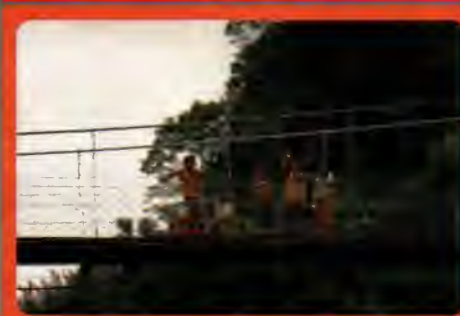
Tim on the Mystery River



Tony and Mr Dong



Chris Wheeler



The very frightening Nan-Ao-Pei



FACTS: BCU EXPEDITIONS COMMITTEE

The members of the committee being active paddlers are fully aware that the nature of kayaking expeditions has dramatically changed over the past few years. Many years ago, when the committee was formed, it was to offer a small amount of grant aid and to act as a resource for paddlers to consult; the committee has always been made up of active paddlers with a good network of friends around the world and a wealth of knowledge built up over the years.

In those days expeditions were rarer, more formal and often planned and prepared over the winter by paddlers before they set off to attempt their expedition some months later. Expeditions now tend to be a group of friends who select a destination – Nepal say – and when they hear a few words from fellow travellers and they are off to some new run that has opened up. No one really calls these trips 'Expeditions' more often they are referred to as 'Missions'. Also over the last few years many applications that the committee have received have been from 'gap year' students doing Operation Raleigh or similar organised trips which includes some canoeing or kayaking. Now I do not want to belittle these trips but I do not feel that this was the reason for the committee's existence.

So what direction for the Expeditions Committee?

There is nothing we can do about the lads and lassies in Kathmandu or similar destination, however, the committee will continue to try and support the 'gap year' type of expedition if the tag 'canoeing or kayaking' is sufficiently warranted. In between these two types of trips are (slightly!?) more organised expeditions and we look forward to hearing from these. The expeditions committee works like this:

1. Expeditions apply by mid January – application forms from BCU or by e-mail from me dave@dmanby.demon.co.uk.
2. I check the expeditions: feasibility, capability of the team, references and the like if necessary.
3. I circulate the rest of the committee with the details.
4. The committee meets at the International Canoe Exhibition where we decide which expeditions get grant aid. Grants sizes vary depending on the number of expeditions applying, the nature of the expedition, and the budget we have to spend but vary from £100 to £1000.
5. The expeditions who applied are contacted and told if they have been successful.
6. They go off on their expedition and on return write of their experiences for publication in Canoe Focus.
7. On receipt of the article we pay the grant whether or not the editor of Canoe Focus chooses to publish their account.
8. (We try to be fairly helpful as a committee and through the marvels of e-mail will consider exceptional applications that may want faster processing – for instance an expedition may be conceived in April and the window for it is October.)

To be considered for a grant as an expedition here are some guidelines.

- Grants are given to an expedition not an individual.
- Expeditions must be outside of western Europe.
- As far as can be ascertained the expedition should be a first descent or at least a first British descent. We realise we could get into trouble here!
- The committee also considers sea kayaking expeditions - but definitions here are even harder - so be sensible in your application!
- The majority of the members should be British passport holders and members of the BCU.
- Youth expeditions need not be first descents but 75% of the expedition team should be under 18.
- We also offer 'Approval' for suitable youth trips where these trips would benefit from the status offered by the tag 'BCU Expeditions Committee Approved'.

Seething rivers of liquid mud abounded. We ran one lower section to make the most of it - a continuous Grade 4 flush of gritty cappuccino had us washing the mud off our kit for the following days.

It was nice to explore Taiwan on many other levels. We hired some surfboards in Taiwan's equivalent of Croyde bay, 'Kenting', on the southern tip. It was a delight surfing in board shorts.

As the days passed into a week we drove from river to river and it became apparent that they were not going drop in a few days as we had hoped. I think there had been so much rain that the terrain of many convoluted and steep ravines all lined with jungle were acting to hold the water, stubbornly refusing to let the levels to drop anything below a muddy spate.

We drove back to Northern Taiwan, the only part where the rivers were at sensible levels. This was partly due to the typhoon not hitting Northern Taiwan and also due to the slightly lower mountains. It was a relief to see rivers relatively clear again.

After free camping in a village school we set off for a first descent of a section on the upper Tai-Gong. We had previously run the lower section and it was of high quality. Being an optimist I had looked at the map thinking it would be a short walk down a marked walking trail to the start. However two hours later and after some sketchy rope work, a few encounters with spiders and having sweated our guts out, we arrived at the put on. There was one class five rapid and the rest was a nice runnable Grade 4. We had thought this would have been the case from looking at the gradient on the map, desirable since given there was no trail, the consequences of walking out from the river which would be horrendous and probably not possible solo with a boat.

Encouraged by the levels we soldiered on, taking in some more bread and butter runs in Northern Taiwan. Then, one night as we camped at an information centre, we got news about the incoming Typhoon Kaemi. One typhoon in July is to be expected but two is unlucky and hinted strongly that it was going to put an end to the trip.

Even though typhoons are violent phenomenon



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they are relatively predictable in their onset. Kaemi was mapped on the satellite picture tracking towards Taiwan at about 15 km/hour. This really gave us a window of about four days to finish off our paddling activities in Taiwan. Making the most of it, we were invited on the first descent of the Nan-Ao Pei by James and Bear, our friendly paddling hosts from Taipei.

It was a three day trip involving seven hours of walking in 30 degree heat, 100% humidity and then 18 hours of paddling and portaging spread over two days to get back to the coast. There was some high quality class five paddling and also some epics. I swam and lost my paddles half way down one of the canyons. The tension was a little high and I felt like a dead weight trapped in a canyon with no paddles. The only hope would have been hand paddling between some rapids, portaging lots and then making it to a point where I could walk out. Let me be quite clear that this would be a horrific bush bash taking a long time assuming you don't get lost.

In the faint hope that we might retrieve my paddles I swam across the river and James and I started poking logs into a sump under two large boulders where James had last seen them. It was clutching at straws really and the grim realisation that something was badly wrong was setting in. However, unbelievably and after an agonising 20 minutes the paddles popped out from their subterranean journey. God knows what they were treated to down there but they had gained some rather nasty scratches and the shaft had a deep notch worn into it.

Bear, our brave Taiwanese host had been



swimming constantly and had lost his paddles. He then swam and destroyed our splits half way down the second day. After a rather heated bankside discussion, he decided to walk out having tied his boat to a tree. Rather weary and traumatised we set off down into the tight run hoping to see him later that day. Making it out at the bottom of the run was a mixture of exhaustion, elation and anxiety, as our shuttle guys had seen neither hide nor hair of Bear. As typhoon Kaemi was due to hit later that night we were concerned for Bear's

well being, to say the least.

From our hotel room in Taipei we were pleased to hear that Bear had extracted himself that night. I am not exaggerating to say that it took us all a few days to mentally and physically recover from the experience on the Nan-Ao Pei.

After surviving Typhoon Kaemi we had enough time for some sensible Grade 4 runs around Taipei before returning our luxurious air conditioned VW van to the hire people and heading home.

In conclusion I am very excited at the prospect of paddling in Taiwan. Although the levels were not optimal for us, judging from the runs we did and the rivers that we scouted, I feel that there is great potential. The small island is jam packed with vertiginous river systems in steep ravines and tight canyons. I am sure there are a variety of grades of paddling on offer. In time we are hoping to combine our river notes with the local's knowledge and produce some constructive information about the paddling. It is still ripe for the picking and I would be delighted if further groups were to visit and build on the knowledge that we have amassed. As a country to travel in it is friendly, cheap once you're there and very stimulating in its cultural offerings.

Article by Greg Nicks

Photos by James Farquharson

PS: So what about that holiday in Cornwall next summer? Now time has tempered the memories I might just have another look at those topo maps of Taiwan again... ●

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The snowy trossachs to Nor

We were fortunate to have chosen a typical spring week, snow capped mountains, a crisp blue sky with the odd cumulous cloud threatening a shower.

Six of us from England paired up in boats and one from Scotland who had decided to go the distance solo, meandered our way down towards Loch Tay on the River Dochart surrounded by the many Munros. A bit of a bump and a scrape, however a fine introduction to what was going to be a great trip.

The paddle to Killin, with Ben More (1172m) behind us, passes through some amazing scenery and provides a couple of stretches that require careful negotiation. Two kilometres above the infamous Falls of Dochart is Lix Toll, a fantastic Grade 3 run which can be inspected from the minor road. This provided us with an enjoyable finale to the Dochart – unless of course one wishes to paddle the falls (not advisable in an open boat!)

The next day we entered Loch Tay hoping for favourable winds. Unfortunately a northerly wind swept off Ben Lawes (1214m) across our bows and the loch crushing our hopes of a free sail to the mouth of the River Tay at Kenmore. Hugging the north shore in the lee of the wind we were able to make slow progress towards our next bivvi, a site that we will all remember for its fabulous views and beach shore.

The next morning we were blessed with a favourable wind which now and then blew a white horse up the loch off the crest of a wave. We rafted the boats and rigged a sail to take advantage of this excellent blow. To our delight we were sailing at seven kilometres an hour, with a bow wave lapping at the gunnels.

Leaving Kenmore and on entering the River Tay you immediately start to gain speed upon the flow and anglers fishing for salmon or trout appear to multiply in their numbers – just stay clear, smile and say hello.

The first section of white water, a big sweeping right handed bend, comes into view moments from the run into the Tay. This is marked by an old bridge and a

castle (river right) which is secluded by vegetation. For some this provided an exciting wave train with waves breaking over the bow and the gunnels.

Grandtully

The approach into Grandtully (the SCA white water site) became a little more interesting when the only Scotsman within the group decided to take a swim in the cold peaty water. Where he stood, after clambering to his feet, dripping and looking slightly shell shocked, suddenly became an ideal venue to set up camp for our third night. With a crackling fire to remove the chill, the Kelly's Kettle bubbling to make a brew, and a plate of hot food we settled down with a mug in hand topped up with a wee dram.

The meandering run into Grandtully would provide a great warm up for the actual slalom course if one was to run it. However, with heavily loaded boats this section provided a great run down to our egress point (river right). From here a portage can be made easily along the path. Slalom poles suspended across the river and a road bridge warns you well in advance of the approaching hazard.

The flow carries you through some amazing scenery, rhododendron lines the banks and fishing huts with manicured lawns are dotted here and there with the odd boat moored on the bank. White pebbled beaches reach out towards the middle of the river providing ideal opportunities to rest.

Our fourth and unfortunately our last evening was spent on the banks of the River Isla at the SCA access point. Although a road (A93) runs along side the field it provided a comfortable place to rest.

The river turns south from here and so did the wind. A stiff breeze blew directly into our faces making progress difficult and slow. The wind picked up the crests of the waves enhancing each of their white summits blowing spray upstream.

After what seems to have been miles of flat water paddling, the appearance of rocky vegetated islands, signals the falls of Campsie Linn. These small

'falls' can be inspected from the large rocky platforms that separates the river into four shoots, river left taking the largest volume of water. We chose the small drop, river right which is described in the Scottish Canoe Touring guide book as the easiest in low water. We found it to be an enjoyable and probably the best shoot to take with loaded boats.

Stanley weir, a kilometre on from Campsie Linn, gave us all a wet ride. Crashing through the waves that stand proud like pyramids, flooded the boats, forcing us to stop and bail out. Some almost missed the shoot, grounding themselves to a sudden halt on the concrete wall of the weir.

The following set of rapids took the Scotsman for his second swim of the week, and yet again he emerged from the water making his excuses while some of us rescued his boat off the rocks further downstream. His bar bill had just become a little larger!

With the wind still making progress hard work, we decided to take the alternative route that is described in the guidebook. This is the old mill leat that runs from the 'old weir' all the way down to Luncarty, some five kilometres downstream. This

With a crackling fire to remove the chill, the Kelly's Kettle bubbling to make a brew, and a plate of hot food we settled down with a mug in hand topped up with a wee dram

proved to be a very pleasant alternative from the wind with a good flow. Unfortunately the guidebook fails to tell you about the private house, the turbine at the end of

the leat, which requires a portage, and the low bridges that would test even the best limbo dancer.

Perth, our final destination, slowly came into view; our trip draws to an end. Our last point of egress was made at the old docks, river right, where there is a slipway and a car park with plenty of space for equipment and four open boats to be loaded onto cars.

Our five days of adventure, time spent with good friends, and our many laughs that were had on the way, finally came to an end within the warmth of the pub at Criarlarich. Tales of our many great experiences and woes that were had on the River Tay, some cold and others a little wet, were remembered over a few well earned drinks. ●

Tim Magson

the th Sea

The decision was made to paddle the River Tay, including Loch Tay and one of its many tributaries the River Dochart: a total of 119km in open boats, which we decided could easily be done over five days.



THANKS

This is a great trip and I would thoroughly recommend it to any paddler who wishes to complete a short trip in some inspiring scenery.

I wish to thank the following for a fabulous week of boating: Heather Perkins, Angie and Jonny (Bon) Sidebotham, Sam Rush, Paul Hayllar and Dave (The Scotsman) Crosbie



'World' Masters Marathon Canoeing Championships

Results

20-21st Sep

Tremolat, France

Andrew Kelly - 45-49	K1	3rd
Oliver Harding - 50-54	K1	2nd
Melvin Swallow - 50-54	K1	3rd
Brian Greenham - 55-59	K1	2nd
Andrew Morton - 60-64	K1	1st
Sharon Colley - 35-39	K1	2nd
Sue Gray - 40-44	K1	2nd
Ali Pendle - 44-49	K1	3rd
Melvin Swallow/ Andrew Kelly - 45-49	K2	2nd
Roger Bell/ Brian Greenham - 55-59	K2	2nd
Christopher Skellen/ James Parker - 55-59	K2	3rd
Tracy Dresch/ Isobel Meikle - 40-44	K2	2nd
Gail Battison/ Tamsin Phipps - 40-44	K2	3rd



The competition was held over two days with the single kayaks/canoes on day one and the doubles on day two. The 12 mile course was circuit based with two portages.

The World Marathon and Masters Marathon Canoeing Championships were held in the picturesque Dordogne Valley, in the village of Tremolat. Canoeists from all over the world have driven, flown and paddled to be at the Masters Canoeing event of the year!

The Masters classes in this year's championships were in five year age bands starting 34-39 years with the last class being 74-79 years. The atmosphere is very jovial but also one of intense competition. It is an opportunity to catch up and compete against 'old' friends from all over the world.

The portage was spectacular and gave both the paddlers and the crowd great entertainment. It started from a normal get out along side the bank, with a run through sand then there was a deep water entry! This involved the competitors running out in to the water and getting in to their craft without the aid of a bank. Many competitors were able to deftly jump in to their boats and stay upright but for others a soaking was involved... some with creakier joints took a little longer but it was most certainly one of the places to watch the race from.

For some the swim, although time consuming, was welcome as the races were completed in the hottest part of the day.

The competition is not only enjoyable but most stayed on to support the actual world championships. The entry money from the Masters supports the running on the 'main' event. With more and more people now in the Masters age range it is such a shame that the ICF Marathon Committee have not actually embraced the Masters events and actually done something to support them.

Great Britain had a very successful championships with golds from Steven Train in the 39-44 year single canoe race and Andrew Morton in the 59-60 years single kayak.

There were numerous silver and bronzes enabling Great Britain to take third place in the overall medal table. ● **Tamsin Phipps**

PADDLE THIS

Dutch Water Dreams



Dutch Water Dreams, a unique, Olympic-level whitewater sports complex in Zoetermeer, Holland has recently been opened. Everyone can experience indoor surfing, bodyboarding and the rush of whitewater. The first event was the Dutch Open Slalom over the weekend of 20-22 October where members of the GB team took part. The outdoor course is very similar to the design for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing with the layout being extremely flexible with the ability to move obstacles and adjust water flow.



Lots of people came to have a look or try out the rafting, hydrospeeding or bodyboarding and flowboarding and the GB slalom team were no exception to that. After competing in the Dutch Open they booked a session on the indoor flowrider where the team and a few hangers-on had a go - what amazing fun!

On the flowrider you can practice your surfing skills in safety and indoors. Have a look at www.dutchwaterdreams.com for more information.



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whitewater image: © 2005 jason smith

It may have started off looking like a nice calm day but all that was to change by the time our intrepid bunch of paddlers reached the shore. Why did Simon Hammond, programme co-ordinator, have to put a curse on us by announcing that this was surely the best conditions ever seen for a ladies surf development course!

In truth it wasn't that bad - well not for the first half an hour! In fact judging from the smiling faces it looked like everyone had a really great day. However the thing you quickly realise about surfing is that no matter how much you try to pace yourself it's tiring and is certain to give you a healthy appetite. Thank goodness for the Crooklets beach cafe just a couple of hundred metres up the beach serving probably the best Cornish pasties in the world!

But let me tell you about the day, or should I say the days that are making up this two year development programme. I've now been on three of these development days and have enjoyed every second. Simon Hammond and his team of surf coaches including Dave Oxnard, Andy Hambley and Ed Long have worked tirelessly with various groups of women paddlers aiming to encourage, educate and even improve our skills in the surf. It's not an easy job, especially dealing with us lot as your students! But the days have been brilliant, the feeling of support from the other girls on the course and the relaxed atmosphere has really helped us all to improve our surfing without scaring ourselves stupid.

Simon and his team really know what they are on about with advice and help for complete beginners onwards. As well as practising our skills in the surf they've had us pretending to be as strong as rugby players, balancing (in our boats) on piles of sand and even hopping around on one leg to simulate a bottom turn! It might sound strange but it all makes sense and when you're doing it within a group that are all out for a



Surfing in the SOUP

good day its a real laugh. I've even bought Simon's book which gives me the chance to run through the same ideas and skills in the comfort of my own living room!

So where is it all going?

Well for me its just about getting better and feeling more confident in the surf. For some its a good day out and for one or two it might be about getting involved in the odd surf competition, I might even have a go at one myself, especially if, as rumoured, they organise a women's only

competition some time next spring! For now I'm just waiting for the next date to be set, sometime before Christmas I hope when I'm sure the conditions (according to the ever optimistic Simon) will be perfect!

Why not come along to the next day, all you need is your kit, some energy and be prepared to have a great experience, oh and you need to be a girl (age and ability doesn't matter).

Jackie Moores

PADDLE THIS

Battling in the surf

This fifth junior surf development day was as tough and fun as ever for the keen group of young paddlers who travelled across the country to Bude, North Cornwall.

Conditions started well but as the wind strengthened and swell increased, the juniors were tested to their limits. This didn't stop the paddlers or their coach Ed Long from making the most of every wave. The paddlers worked on a range of techniques with some amazing improvements during the day. However real improvements take time and practice to develop and so the aim of these days is to guide young paddlers into this exhilarating sport over a much longer period.



Although pausing now for the winter, this programme will re-start in the spring with more development days and a junior only competition.

All juniors are welcome and if you're interested in either a development day in the future or the junior only competition in the spring then contact programme co-ordinator Simon Hammond for more details. Email: hammond.family@virgin.net
Simon Hammond

Development days

Development days are planned to run throughout the winter, conditions will dictate the exact locations but these will be somewhere on the Atlantic Coast of Devon or Cornwall

E-mail: hammond.family@virgin.net for more information.

This development course is supported by CREST, SW BCU and the BCU Surf Committee. Course Co-ordinator is Simon Hammond, former World Surf Kayak Champion, international surf coach and author of 'Surf Kayaking The Essential Guide'.



I wish someone would design a boat that...

Was forgiving to learn in but gives the beginner and intermediate the opportunity to learn how to flat spin and surf in holes. – Tony Michy: Four Corners, Durango CO

Has a performance hull but not designed for the rodeo star. I want a boat that's comfortable and gives me confidence. – Bob Taylor: Appomattox River Company, Farmville, VA

Doesn't sacrifice speed for play. A boat that can run bigger rapids but still plays well. – Dale Adams: Beauty Mountain, Fayetteville, WV

That I can surf with and still run class V. – Jock Bradley: Rippin Productions, Seattle, WA

I just want one boat that I can take anywhere. – John Hart: Kayak Shed, Hood River, OR



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The Environment

Putting pilot voluntary access

The BCU disputes the findings by this research that found in the vast majority of cases, approaches to securing canoe access by voluntary agreement are successful.

This third tranche of research by the University of Brighton consultants follows their earlier feasibility study for the Countryside Agency that concluded additional access to rivers could be provided by voluntary access agreements. The consultants revisited the Rivers Mersey, Waveney, Wear and Teme to progress this work for the Environment Agency during 2005/06.

The Environment Agency released the study findings (now known as 'Brighton 3') on October 3 at Bungay, Suffolk, on the River Waveney. The Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn MP and Minister for Rural Affairs, Landscape and Biodiversity, Barry Gardiner MP attended the event and took to the river in an open canoe.



The BCU takes issue with this finding as discussed here. The reaction from paddlers that voluntary access agreements were the way forward was one of incredulity, as witness the web sites.

The study is reported in two formats - a 'Summary

Report' that outlines the main findings and recommendations and the 'Final Report', a factual account of the study. It reveals the backdrop to the attitudes encountered by the consultants, describes the methodology of making agreements, plus the factors in negotiations for agreements. Both reports are available from the Environment Agency web site www.environment-agency.gov.uk by a search on the recreation page. The 'Final Report' can also be found via the link www.brighton.ac.uk/chelsea/newsevents/canoereport.pdf.

There are over 41,000 miles (66,000km) of rivers with no access; and the Environment Agency has again stated that unmet demand for recreational access to inland waters was not widespread. This remains a point of contention for the BCU.

The study claims to have achieved approximately 43 miles (72km) of access by agreement in principle. Looking at the pilots in turn and noting that as each are scheduled to have a 12 month trial, it is premature to announce that voluntary access agreements are successful to qualify the finding.

NB. The detail and conditions of use for each of the pilots will be posted on the BCU web site when available in electronic format from the Environment Agency.

River Mersey

17 miles (28km) from Stockport to Carrington to include some dedication of access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

This agreement can be viewed as the realisation of an earlier scheme put forward by the BCU in 1994/5 and supported by the Environment Agency North West Region. Access was

2006 – A short Synopsis of what

January

The numbers signed up to the EDM 957 have reached over 100 and the media have picked up on this. John Grogan MP and Martin Salter MP (fishing interests) were interviewed on Radio 4 on January 2nd. Letters written to all MPs asking them to consider supporting the EDM 957.

February

The EDM continues to receive significant support. This is mainly as a result of members writing to their MPs to persuade them to support the cause. The BCU continues to express concerns with the work of the EA concerning the four pilot river study areas.

March

Work continues with the LAFS and with the media to get the message of the inequality of the access situation out in the public domain.

April

Article in the Times concerning the access issue. Received much more media interest as a result. Lots of articles in the regional and local press.

May

Letters sent out to all MPs to remind them as to why and what we are campaigning for. Radio 2 debate concerning access. Supported from the BCU by Ashley Charwood, (WCA)

June

BskyB film the access issue with a family paddling open canoe (it contained Paul Owen, Chief Executive of the BCU) up to the mouth of the River Loddon. The family took the open canoe back to the start point put it on the car and then drove five miles to an access point further

up on the same river. The piece was seen world wide. Contacted all LAFS to update them of the access issue and remind them that we are willing to present to them.

Agency report - agreements in place

uncontested by other interests, and the study generated a high level of co-operation from local authorities, so the voluntary agreement could be considered more a formality. Access is all year. The 'Final Report' notes that other river interests considered access would divert paddler's attention away from other rivers.

River Waveney:

33 km from Brockdish (east of Diss) to Ellingham (east of Bungay) and the tidal limit.

The access section is isolated from the Broads Navigation system at Geldeston as the angling interest has not agreed to access. This agreement is based on the earlier access achieved by the BCU, Environment Agency, Local Authorities and the East of England Development Agency in 1999 to provide canoe access. Access is closed on some days. The 'Final Report' acknowledges canoeing is accepted on the river and not contested to any extent. In the recent 'Secret Rivers' series on Anglia TV, Paul Hiney paddled the entire river and traced navigation back to the Romans.

River Wear:

9 km from Houghall upstream of Durham to the Sands below Durham.

From the 'Final Report', in reality the 'agreement' is probably limited to the three mile (5km) stretch around the Durham peninsula, which has always been used by canoeists, rowers, commercial boat trips and hire operations. There is no certainty the section above Durham will be included and the aim to include a further 8km below Durham looks distant. As

it stands, the study has arrived at a River User Group format similar to that on navigations such as the Rivers Thames and Severn etc where there is open access.

River Teme:

Only one mile or 1.6km of whitewater through Ludlow, including four weirs.

The BCU has advised the Environment Agency and Ludlow Town Council that the condition of use for all weirs to be shot with no provision for inspection is unsafe. Access is highly restrictive with none in June, July and August and two or three specified days (Sundays excluded) a week for the rest of the year. Ludlow Council proposes to introduce a charging and booking arrangement. Prior to the intervention of the consultants access was all year round based on suitable water levels. The study has enabled local residents to close down paddling opportunities. The whole arrangement is unacceptable.

Of all the pilot studies, this is the agreement that shows that the consultants and the Environment Agency by negotiating, or rather it seems accepting these terms in settlement for an access agreement, do not understand the needs of canoeing.

The 'Final Report' discusses in some depth the failed negotiations on sections of the rivers. Some of this is very familiar, the consultants having reported like resistance to canoeing in the preceding feasibility study. Access has not been gained where there is implacable opposition to canoeing, resulting in designated places and for paddlers to be excluded from other sections of river.

Keep in touch with the campaign

Visit

www.riversaccess.org
or e-mail us at
info@riversaccess.org

To receive a regular newsletter from the Rivers Access Campaign e-mail your address to us and you will be mailed a copy on a regular basis.



Professor, Dr Neil Ravenscroft who lead the Brighton University research team



It has been happening this year

July

Met with John Grogan MP to look at the next steps in the campaign from his perspective. Got the message out on Radio Oxford as part of their river Thames week. Members/supporters write letters of support in regional papers and answer letters placed by anglers.

It has been a very busy year and we do thank you for your continued support. Here's to a busy 2007 and more success in our pursuit of legislation to give us all access to our natural heritage.

August

Put out a press release concerning the fact that canoeing is the most popular watersport for the fifth year running. Met with Natascha Engle MP in Chesterfield with Reverend Matt Barnes as part of the 'Get your MP Afloat'.

September

Spent time at the Labour Party Conference on the Boating Alliance Stand. Met up with many MPs including Caroline Flint, David Milliband, and John Grogan. Lots of follow up as a result of these meetings.

October

The EA released their report - 'Putting pilot voluntary canoe access agreements in place' on October 3rd. The BCU expressed their grave concerns about the summary report and the implications for canoeing. The BCU's press release resulted in a large amount of media interest and coverage. Additional work published on website by the EA has also met with

additional negative comments. The BCU continues to press the case for new legislation akin to the Scottish Land Reform Act.

November

Many meetings with MPs. Planning the strategy for the new Parliament. Continued discussions with other organisation about support for the campaign. Gained commitment from several large organisations not only to support the campaign but actively work towards a change in the situation.

What the report says about the Rivers Access campaign

"Use of other sections of river without the permission of land and riparian owners, combined with national media coverage of the 'River Access Campaign', has resulted in a number of land and riparian owners questioning the commitment of canoeists to ensuring that locally negotiated arrangements work."

Our response..

The BCU has always encouraged its members to act legally but will continue to campaign in the interest of members, as its democratic right. It will campaign on all matters that will benefit the sport. We believe that in a democracy, whilst, we will always advise our members to follow both the law and its widely recognised interpretation, we do have a legitimate right to campaign for change.

The campaign in the news -

Again the campaign has been generating a lot of interest in the national and regional press.

'Canoeists pour scorn on deals to open up 40 miles of waterways' was the title put on a piece in the Guardian Newspaper about the BCU's response to the EA report.

'Why campaigners are unimpressed by new access rights to waterways' was the title in The Independent.



All I want for Xmas is access to the rivers

Recommendations and key points from the study

The report is comprehensive with much to be digested and some particular points are noted with comment annotated.

The methodology for developing and sustaining agreements is detailed and much emphasised. The Environment Agency has issued information or 'tool kit' for how to make access agreements on their web site.

The 'tool kit' is based on the 'Agreeing access to water for canoeing' booklet produced by the Environment Agency for the Angling Canoeing Liaison Group in 1999.

Many previous attempts to negotiate agreements have floundered through a lack of clear processes, resources strategic support and guidance.

The BCU has ample evidence of seeking access in a business-like manner and the negotiation failing.

Riparian owners have the opportunity to tailor agreements to their individual requirements and concerns.

Voluntary agreements can be highly restrictive and very insecure.

Canoeists hold the key to developing and sustaining agreements. The BCU is expected to be responsible and be committed to supporting access negotiations. 99% of land and riparian owners are willing to consider canoe access.

The BCU is not surprised, as resistance to access to land, brought forward the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The BCU Access Campaign is criticised as encouraging trespass.

The business of the campaign has been to raise public awareness of the access to water issue.

It is acknowledged voluntary approaches cannot secure access in all circumstances and have limitations.

There is no mention of alternative solutions as identified in 'Water based sport and recreation: the facts'.

- Targeted purchase of services and revised funding arrangements.
- Targeted acquisition of land and water rights.
- Compulsory access orders.
- A selective increase in statutory rights of navigation.
- Statutory rights of navigation to all major rivers, canals and water bodies.

There is a need for local and regional political and financial support.

This is taken as a view that the BCU does not have the resource to adequately develop agreements. Elsewhere the study refers to the low cost of achieving access.

Licensing of canoes and registration numbers is an issue for further discussion and consultation.

Reference to the perceived impact of canoeing on fisheries.

There is no mention to Environment Agency Research W266, that concluded canoeing has little or no impact on fish stocks.

Overall the study draws the conclusion that combining the tool kit, suitable supplementary planning advice, grant support with strategic planning for water-related sport and recreation will assist in providing and managing voluntary agreements.

So much more could be discussed and paddlers are encouraged to refer to the study reports for a complete overview and what this research means to the sport and recreation of canoeing. On the basis of these findings and the pilot schemes, it is clear to the BCU that negotiated voluntary agreements cannot be seen as a satisfactory strategic approach to increasing access to water. Voluntary access agreements are not secure, can be fragile and are not the basis for a sporting discipline to rely on.

There remains a lack of equity for access to water, in contrast to land where the government is creating more public access by legislation with the forthcoming Coastal Access project. In the light of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, paddlers are right to expect more.

PLEASE NOTE

Should you, your club or organisation become engaged in negotiations for access, please advise the BCU Access and Facilities Department, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS or email access@bcu.org.uk.

Have a look at the latest from the Environment Agency

Canoe access - how to get access to new stretches of water with this link www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/recreation/345720/1467794/

We have renamed it 'How to put people off paddling' It takes nearly an hour to print off all the 'helpful' advice, which has resulted in a file full of paper (clearly not feasible for paddling). Is it water proof?

The pictures are interesting. There is a splattering of pictures labelled "female canoeist". Is this trying to show that canoeing is an inclusive sport? This doesn't need to be shown, as canoeing is recognised by all to be a truly inclusive, ecologically sound and healthy sport.

At the Outdoors Show in Birmingham earlier this year, the author of the report (Neil Ravenscroft), stood up in a public forum and said that making voluntary access agreements was a resource rich exercise. This shows that it takes a huge amount of time and effort to even start finding out who

owns the land even before the negotiations can begin. This EA work is about how to get others to do the work. This requires each group wanting to paddle a stretch of river to negotiate their own access agreement... an impossible task!

- How can this really benefit those who want to go for a paddle on a Sunday afternoon? It could take hours/days and months to get an agreement for a short stretch of river! (or not as the case may be).
- How can it benefit the promotion of the sport and a healthier nation etc!
- Have a look at it and you will see why it has been renamed by us. It is not only detrimental to us but also to sport in general.

PADDLE THIS

The architects of positive spin!

Landowners allowing voluntary access to their rivers is the way forward, says Environment Agency. But...

Did you know?

That since the EA and Brighton University have been involved in the four rivers of the study, paddling opportunities have actually reduced.

For example a scout group has recently been stopped on the river Wear whilst covering the same course that their troop has canoed for over 25 years. There is even a trophy covering that stretch which was inaugurated in 1980!

The work of Brighton University and the Environment Agency is beginning to look like it is undermining de facto and tolerated access, let alone reduce the access agreements that were already in place.

A gentleman in the Environment Agency has acknowledged that the Brighton team have created problems with riparian owners with repercussions on paddlers.

Another example, of the many that we have, is a family paddling on the same stretch of river as above (where they have canoed peacefully on for many years) receiving significant abuse. There were small children in the canoe as well! Do let us know of any other 'experiences' you may have had. We use them to support the case for legislation.

What is happening in Parliament?

Well we intend to leave no stone or parliamentary process unturned. But we do need your help. We are considering

- Another paddle to Westminster.
- More EDMs (Early Day Motions).
- Parliamentary questions.
- A Private Members Bill
- A 10 minute Rule Bill
- Lots and lots of lobbying... And this is where we need your help...

It is important that you keep your MP informed as to what is going on and why the issue is important and remains to be so.

How can you do this?

By you lobbying, writing to them via a letter or e-mail, going to visit them at their surgery or even at Westminster.

Write to your MP

We have drafted a letter which you can send in the first instance. We will add more to the RAC website (www.riversaccess.org) over the next few months. It is important to keep MPs aware that this access issue is extremely important and inequitable and that it will not go away without new legislation. We will also need to continually ask them for their support through EDMs etc.

Remember canoeing meets all the government agendas on health, participation, activity, rural economy, social inclusion etc and should be made available to all through access to the inland rivers... our natural heritage.

To get an electronic version of this, please do e-mail us at info@riversaccess.org and we will send you one.

A question to pose to your MP...

Could you please explain why the government has chosen to approach coastal access with legislation but continues to look at access to rivers through voluntary arrangements? Is not land and water intrinsically linked?

United Campaign Against Waterway Funding Cuts

Funding cuts will affect us all... no funding means no canals and as we have so few rivers to go on... it will mean even less paddling opportunities.

Following the news that British Waterways is likely to suffer a government funding shortfall of up to £60m over the next five years, ten national groups (including the BCU) representing tens of thousands of waterway visitors and users are gearing up to campaign against the current thinking of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

EDM 2757 – Inland Waterways has been launched (16.10.2006 - Sponsor - Charlotte Atkins MP) and is currently supported by 142 MPs. Is your MP supporting this?

To find out and to view the press release visit

www.riversaccess.org

DEFRA funding slashed - Update

A series of protest events had been arranged around the country for November and December. Details of these events are posted on the Inland Waterways Association web site www.waterways.org.uk

British Waterways is subject to a 12.5% (possibly 15%) cut in funding this year alone causing a 10% reduction in the work force and the upkeep of the system. There is every prospect of hikes in charges, canal closures and restoration schemes delayed or abandoned

The Environment Agency has just levied a 12% increase in charges for each of the next three years and promptly announced the DEFRA cuts will reduce maintenance and operational functions (level of customer service). We will be paying more for less from January 2007. The cuts will also impact on flood defence works and other Environment Agency functions that benefit recreation.

Comments from su

We get many people logging their support everyday and many of their comments are already up on the website but here are just a few for you – more can be found on the website...

“ I have only recently decided to join in the sport of kayaking with my eight year old son and was unaware of any access concerns until visiting your website. Although this has not put me off pursuing this as a very enjoyable hobby, I can imagine that it could quite easily deter others. With the current obesity levels within the UK, surely the government should be encouraging all healthy sports and hobbies for young and old alike.

The ludicrous current situation should be changed to allow all people access to all of our wonderful rivers and waterways. Access to rivers would provide an attractive, healthy, safe and fascinating way for the British people to explore the countryside.”

“ Children and young people in particular would benefit from unrestricted access from the fresh air, exercise, wildlife and spirit of adventure. The cost to the environment and to river owners would be minimal, provided river users acted responsibly. In general terms those who enjoy the water do so abundantly.

We have the right to roam around the countryside: why not a similar right to roam along our rivers?”

“ I do not canoe or paddle at all. However, as an angler and walker I passionately believe access should be available to all, irrespective of income, status or anything else. I am frankly disgusted by the attitudes of many anglers with their 19th century mindsets. It is important to realise though that not all are like this. Here in Scotland we have taken a

forward looking approach and while the circumstances differ between the two countries as far as available water and population density goes, I can only say it works well here and I have had no problem with other water users. After all, they have as much right to be there as I do. Voluntary access arrangements will not work. Get your rights enshrined in law. Many anglers I know are also canoeists/kayakers and some are not. Most are sympathetic to your cause. I will try to encourage them to support your campaign. There are deep divides in angling circles over this issue. Most of the anti-canoe brigade are also anti-ordinary angler and simply want the rivers to be the exclusive right of those who can afford to hire expensive river beats for their own use. They don't want ordinary anglers there, far less canoeists.”

“ The current situation is silly. a 'right to roam' has just been brought in to give access to much more countryside e.g. the situation on Dartmoor. so why is there no similar action on our rivers. Is it not crazy that you can now



pporters



access land that was previously private but you are trespassing if you enter the water - even to paddle your feet.

As a passionate angler and walker in Scotland I am appalled by the apparent elitism that keeps water users other than anglers in England off the waterways."

// Voluntary codes will not work. Get your access rights backed up by the law! There is no place for 19th century "git orf moi land" attitudes in a modern civilised society."

PADDLE THIS

Times have not changed since 1947...

A BCU Colleague was browsing through a second hand book shop came and across an English Rivers book published in 1947.

The author discussed exactly the same issue we have about access to the rivers today.. except in those days DEFRA and the EA were not around it was a ministry! He was just as exasperated about the situation then as we are in 2006!

So that was nearly 60 years ago! Come on the world has moved on since then and so should England and Wales.

The governance of angling – raising our game

In the Reading Evening Post (2/11/06) is an article about Martin Salter MP and his concerns over the lack of cohesion in the angling fraternity.

Have a look at what he says on his website...

The governance of angling – raising our game Some thoughts:

For a long time I have believed that angling in this country needs a strong and powerful voice to speak up on the issues that affect our sport. I also want to see a more professional approach to the structure and governance of angling to enable Britain's most popular participant sport to properly punch its weight. At the moment we are the poor relations when compared to countries such as France, Holland or America.

However, all of this will cost money and it is high time that we had a thorough debate within angling on how we raise sufficient funds to pay for the services we need. Currently we have just a handful of paid staff working for organisations such as the NFA, S&TA, NFSA, ACA and the umbrella body, FACT. Just take a look at the equivalent body for shooting, BASC which has nearly 100 paid staff looking after the interests of less than one million shooters in Britain.

How on earth can we compete with the likes of the RSPB or the British Canoe Union on issues such as cormorant predations or river access if we haven't got the people or resources to properly make the case to the government, the media and the public at large?

Last month I organised an important stakeholders meeting with DEFRA on the subject of KHV and was struck by how many of angling's representatives sat round the table were volunteers taking the day off work and travelling to London at their own expense. This is simply ridiculous for a sport that claims 3.5 million participants.

There are a number of ways to raise funds and a voluntary levy on the rod licence, of say £1 is one option worthy of consideration. I want to know what anglers think which is why I am encouraging this debate. Please e-mail me your views to salterm@parliament.uk. A full copy of this paper is also available on my website www.martinsalter.com/news.asp

Considering there is 'supposed' to be 3.5 million anglers why should this be a problem. Great to have the Rivers Access Campaign compared to the strength of the RSPB but it's not about exclusivity of access, it's about opening up the waterways for all to share. The access to water issue is not an angling versus canoeing issue. It is far greater than that!

Please remember too, that apart from the paid people working on the campaign, the vast majority of canoeists and other campaign supporters are volunteers who also attend meetings, lobby MPs etc all in their own time. Remember many of you took time off to paddle to Westminster so thank you for that. All your help and support is much appreciated and it is by working together we will get the access issue resolved.

The easy way to ensure an Olympic legacy for canoeing...

The Commons Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport has heard that unless there are some dramatic changes, the legacy for grassroots sport from the 2012 Olympics is likely to be minimal.

At an Olympic hearing on 24th October, the committee heard evidence from the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) with both chief executive, Tim Lamb and chair, Brigid Simmonds, warning that there will be no automatic 'trickle down' from the games.

So even with Broxbourne (which will be a fantastic resource) there will (as there is today) be a huge interest in the sport of canoeing. Where are all these people going to go to paddle, to keep fit and healthy, let alone de-stress themselves after a day in the office?

In order to also maintain the 'green' nature of our sport, people do not want to have to travel miles upon miles to go get exercise and enjoy our natural heritage. So what can be done to support the interest now in the sport let alone what is going to be generated as a result of 2012...

Access to water is the easiest and only solution... through new legislation!



Canoe England Access Policy Group

In light of the changes to access in Scotland, as a result of the Scottish Land Reform Act and the Welsh Assembly gaining more powers in May 2007, a new access group has been set up for Canoe England. This group will set access policy for England. The group will be chaired by Vic Brown, who has a long established history of working as a volunteer in a number of positions within the BCU. She has also been a member of the BCU Board.

This group is to set high level access policy within England. Members of the group will also include:

David Gent –
Chair of Canoe England
Paul Owen –
Chief Executive, BCU

The group will use information collected from the committees, volunteers etc to formulate policies.

Some of the members from this group will also be part of a BCU wide Access Group which will look at access issues affecting the whole organisation. The BCU group will have membership from all the federal organisations (SCA, WCA, CANI and CE)

Matters concerning BCU access will be taken to the BCU Board for their information and support.

All illustrations by:
Kayak Capers
www.kayakcapers.co.uk



Dreaming of access

Facilities and access round up

Ludlow Weirs

The Teme weirs charitable trust have now completed work on Casemill Weir the fourth of the four weirs around Ludlow and have therefore completed the current and final round of their work.

The breach in Casemill weir has now been filled in and the weir rebuilt. A fish pass has been installed on the right with a large rock placed just upstream of the entrance. To the left of the fish pass is a purpose built, if steep, canoe shoot. Inspection is recommended and in normal to medium high river levels this can be done only by landing on the dry crest of the weir. To shoot the weir in Medium High river levels it is better to leave the large fish pass rock on your right, angle your craft to the left, and lean left as you reach the canoe pass. There is a plunge pool at the bottom to minimise bow damage and the canoe shoot has wooden slats to minimise stern damage.

Casemill can also be shot in the centre in high river levels (50m to the left of the fish pass) and in Spate can be shot on the right of the fish pass.

If you do not want to shoot the weir, it is possible to pull out of the river on the left about 50m from the weir itself.

Three of the weirs at Ludlow have had some work done to them. The water between the weirs is largely flat but the weirs themselves can be awkward and steep and in all conditions will be difficult for paddlers without a degree of white water skills. In higher conditions the weirs kick up unfriendly stoppers and white water skills are essential.

Wye at Symonds Yat

Canoe England is working with the Symonds Yat Preservation Group to rebuild the groins, and safeguard the rapidly eroding island below the 'Yat'.

Land access has been agreed in perpetuity with Forest Enterprise (The owner of the banks). Land Drainage and planning permission have been applied for and various environmental and methodology studies have been carried out. It is hoped to carry out these 'in river' works in late August next year. (2007) Fundraising is going on at the moment. The cost will be around £120k, with £60k being pledged from the Community Club Development programme (CCDP).

Washburn, Harrogate North Yorkshire

This is another Canoe England site being worked on. Five separate new 'in river' features are planned to the lower part of the river together with track and path restoration works.

The works, when complete, will not only make the river a better paddle but it will be possible for organisers to run an internal shuttle bus from the head of the lake back to the start. Land Drainage consent from the Environment Agency has been granted as well as permission from the site owners, Yorkshire Water, who are also helping with both money and plant. Planning permission is being sought and a start to the work is hoped for about mid summer next year. (2007)

Wye - No canoeing signs at Lower Lydbrook

Canoe England is aware of the deteriorating situation for bank access on the Wye in general, and at Lydbrook in particular.

We are working with the Environment Agency and the Tump Committee to try to rectify the situation. The lower of the two launch sites at Lower Lydbrook is affected and the gate has now been barricaded by a neighbour who claims he own it. The upper site is unaffected.

Research has shown that there were two ferry's and a ford at Lydbrook and that the landowners actions are of dubious legal standing.

Lazonby Steps on the River Eden

These have now been completed and are available for use. They are located on the Left bank of the Eden just upstream of the bridge at the traditional 'put in' for the Nunery Rapids section of the Eden.

In addition Lazonby Parish Council have agreed that from approximately one mile upstream of the steps to 50 yards below the bridge can be used by paddlers at any time. There are a few simple conditions and these are posted on a notice at the steps. This is a long term pilot project and is the result of a partnership between the Environment Agency, Lazonby Parish Council, the Eden Rivers Trust, Canoe England and Cumbria paddlers.

Avon Weirs

Work is to start (November 2006) on booming five weirs of the Evesham Avon.

The booms at Evesham, Nafford and Welford have already had their design modified after Canoe England representations. Chadbury still needs some work and Wyre Mill a lot more. None the less, The Environment Agency are trying to meet our criticisms on these two areas as well.

Suggested paddles



Where can I go paddling is often the question from new and experienced paddlers. Well, we are campaigning for greater access to the 98% of waterways we do not have access rights on... but in the meantime there are some interesting paddles around and the following are a few suggestions. Our hope is to offer a variety of suggested paddles as whilst some canoeists are interested only in rapid or white (wild) water rivers, others enjoy competing and there are also many others who enjoy paddling quietly along, exploring and visiting new scenes and developing awareness of nature round them. In our selection of paddles we hope to cover everyone's needs.

PADDLE THIS: The Mersey Canoe Trail

How I opened up the Mersey

Or

A little bit of government help goes a long, long way

Somehow, many years ago, (1995), I found myself Access Officer for the North West Region which covers Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Manchester but not Cumbria. It is a voluntary position entirely dependant for it's success on recruiting more volunteers to provide a River Advisor (formerly Local Access Officer) for each river. In 1997 I felt that I should try some direct action myself and took on my local river, the Mersey, which had canoeing potential but no River Advisor.

The Mersey between Stockport and Ashton had low level use for canoeing for many years, but inhibited by it's reputation as a stinking sewer and the real problems of urban and industrial development - pollution (now improving), lack of access points, steep and high artificial banks, weirs and dereliction.

On the positive side there was little established fishing use - nobody loved the Mersey.

Looking at the river nearly ten years ago I realised it really did have potential; pollution had improved and would continue to improve with the investment by the water company. There was 18 miles of river canoeing available close to the homes of a million people. A small part of the river in Stockport was built-up but most was through a green corridor where development had been inhibited by flooding.

The first step was a study and report identifying the problems and potential. I proposed a canoe trail as an entity to justify investment in access points and weir portage etc. I sent it to the three local authorities and the EA asking for help with access points and permissions.

Only the EA showed any interest. Because of my efforts the EA knew there was canoeing on the river and included me in consultation on the proposed flood defence works. I suggested that the scheme should include improvements for recreation and where they were going to be working on the bank could incorporate canoe access. They said they would provide steps at Northenden Weir (and did so in 2002) if we (the BCU) would get permission to paddle the river. I had hoped that the EA would take the view we could continue to paddle on the basis of nobody objects, but they could not be seen to help canoeists technically trespass.

It was a daunting task, how do you identify riverside landowners, how many would there be in 36 miles of riverbank? I decide to start with easy targets, the first was a success. Four golf clubs gave permission or stated no objection provided we kept off their land. The second easy target, or so I thought, was the three local authorities. They must own lots of riverside land and would freely give permission. All it required was a simple letter - What riverside land do you own and do we have permission to paddle it. The first problem was finding which department to write to and the second was that they did not answer. I had to contact them by phone and they all said they did not know what land they owned without looking at the plans and they did not have time to look at the plans. I could however visit their offices and search the plans



The Canoe Trail starts at Ford Street



If you have a suggested paddle... please e-mail the text and images to the editor of Canoe Focus:

peter@canoefocus.co.uk

Text is preferable in Microsoft Word format and images as 300dpi JPEGs saved at highest quality.

Access on-line @ www.riversaccess.org

Rivers access agreement on the River Dee

Following a report in the North Wales Daily Post on October 13th, the BCU takes the opportunity to clarify the report's inaccuracies.

The BCU refute comments attributed to us regarding involvement in a River Dee agreement. The agreement was not brokered on our behalf and we do not advocate that other local agreements are reached in this way throughout the rest of the UK. The agreement is not sustainable due to its restrictive and exclusive nature. This arrangement shows that legislative intervention by government is needed to provide sensible and sustainable access to water in England and Wales.

Whilst the return of the Llangollen Open and International Slalom competitions is welcome, and it is recognised that the event will again bring prestige, economic benefits and development to the town, it is sad that there is a lack of provision for recreational use of the river when it is suitable to do so.

The BCU will continue to campaign for greater access and in particular the introduction of a new law that encapsulates a presumption in favour of access akin to the Scottish Land Reform Act. This will give the public and users of manually propelled craft a right to access our inland rivers, whilst also enforcing the responsibilities that are enshrined within a sensible outdoor code which will be applicable to everyone.

access for all

Support the Rivers Access Campaign

www.riversaccess.org

Site seeks canoe club

An unusual headline, it would be more normal to see 'Canoe Club seeks site'. But it is true; there are two locations on the River Mersey in south Manchester that actively want canoe clubs.

They were found by the researchers working on the Mersey access demonstration project, rugby clubs with riverside grounds who want to expand into other activities. They have already shown support by having steps built onto the riverbank as access points for the Mersey Canoe Trail. They would welcome a canoe club to share their facilities or someone to set up a canoe section.

They are:

Burnage Rugby Club. Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey. SK4 3EB.

Trafford M.V. Rugby Football and Cricket Club. Finneybank Road, Sale. M33 6LR.

Both are next to the river and have changing rooms, showers, a bar and space to put canoe storage containers.

What an opportunity, but too far away for my club.

Contact the clubs, or me if you want more information.

Chris Cleaver. NW BCU Access Officer. 01625 878838.

chcleaver@tiscali.co.uk

PADDLE THIS: The Mersey Canoe Trail

myself. Of course that had to be in working hours and I had to fit it in with my holidays. I learned that even the council have trouble finding landowners when they wanted to improve derelict areas, what hope did I have.

Armed with knowledge of the councils land ownership I wrote asking for permission. No response. To further telephone chasing one council even said their land ownership stopped one metre from the riverbank and the EA owned the river. News to the EA.

Stockport Council was one ray of hope; they had changed their policy from building a shopping centre over the river in the sixties and eighties to wanting to use the river as a feature to enhance the town. They would help with a site I coveted for access to the river but still no statement on permission to paddle.

I made a presentation to the Mersey Valley Joint Committee and they gave their support to the canoe trail but no funds to do anything practical.

So my achievements in several years were: -

- Permission from four golf clubs.
- Portage steps at one of the four weirs by the EA.
- The support of the Mersey Valley joint committee.
- Help with one access point by Stockport Council.

But all was not lost; the national access situation sent me help.

The BCU has for forty years been lobbying for a statutory right of access for canoeing and successive governments have said that voluntary agreements should be used. The BCU believes this impractical. The BCU succeeded in getting canoe access discussed during the CROW debates. The Government did not want to complicate a difficult Bill and said that access to water would be excluded but it would be investigated separately.

The government started by DETR commissioning Brighton University in 2001 to make a study into 'Water-based sport and recreation - the facts'. This showed that there were only access rights to 2% of rivers of England and Wales and further access was required. The next step was to commission another study in 2003, again by Brighton University 'Improving access for canoeing on inland waterways - A study of the feasibility of access agreements.' Because of the profile I had given the Mersey within the EA it was one of the four rivers selected for the study, it's selection being on the basis of proximity to urban areas and potential to increase participation in canoeing. I provided my idea of the canoe trail and the meagre information I had collected to the researchers.

An access agreement must have been judged feasible because in 2004 the next stage was commissioned, an access demonstration project to arrange access agreements on the rivers, including the Mersey.

The result is quite an achievement way beyond anything we volunteers could have done. The Brighton University researchers, with assistance of EA, have found and contacted over 70 landowners on the river. They obtained formal permission from most of the landowners, statements of no objection from a few, and refusal from one. Luckily that landowner has only one side of the river and we can paddle on the other. The golf clubs and the three local authorities have agreed to dedicate their river for public use under CROW. The EA has also found £30,000 of funding to have steps built in the riverbank to provide



access at four points and portage around three weirs, provide signs and publish a guide leaflet.

Whether this project can qualify to support the case for voluntary access agreements is open to debate. The River Mersey was unloved, canoe access was uncontested, the EA had already assisted with access steps; and the local authorities have a remit to provide recreation facilities.

That said, the resulting 18-mile canoe trail is very worthwhile showing what can be achieved by professional resources.

Chris Cleaver, BCU NW Access Officer

On Monday October 16th Pam Warhurst of the Countryside Agency opened the Mersey Canoe Trail

The trail was inaugurated by Veteran Paddler Dek Davie, Chris Cleaver BCU NW RAO and several Stockport Borough councillors paddling a bevy of different types of canoes organised and manned by Mark of Brookbank Canoes.

Starting at Ford Street in Stockport town centre, the trail runs clockwise around Greater Manchester until it stops just short of the Manchester Ship Canal. There are several weirs on the way that have been fitted above and below with Egress and Ingress point for those paddlers who wish to portage.

Try and forget the old reputation of the river as an urban sewer, it is now clean enough for salmon and provides a surprising quality of paddling through an undeveloped corridor close to millions of people in the Manchester area. The river is Grade 1-2 with many riffles, rubble weirs providing waves and four weirs with portage steps around them. The river generally has enough water for paddling even at low flow.

The agreement has few conditions apart from the important points in the Canoeists Code and Countryside Code – only



PADDLE THIS: The Mersey Canoe Trail



Burnage Rugby Club

use the identified access points, you are responsible for your own safety, wear a helmet. (One of the golf clubs who have given access are sensitive on this issue because they are suffering a claim by a walker hit by a golf ball. If you choose not to wear a helmet - on your own head be it.) The agreement recommends that you keep clear of weirs and the guide provides information on when skilled and well equipped paddlers have used the weirs.

And one other thing, the access points are in urban areas with lots of people about so please change before you come to the river and be very discrete when changing afterwards; you could even use the changing rooms.

In this guide the distances are approximate, map references are given for Landranger Sheet 109, postcodes are given for in-car navigators. We are not responsible for where you end up.

The first section of river is not included in the trail as it is surrounded by high walls and passes through a 500 metre long tunnel under the Merseyway shopping centre.

The Canoe Trail starts at Ford Street, Stockport MR 886901. PC SK3 OBT. This is an industrial estate so parking is difficult during the working week. There is a gate to allow trailers closer to the river, key available from Stockport Tourist Information on 0161 474 4444.

Within sight of the start is a riffle and then Brinksway Weir. It is a crescent weir about 50cm high, it has been shot at low flows, at high flows it is drowned out with a wave and at middle flows it needs inspection and a portage. It is also worth inspecting for debris. The portage get out is on the right at the bottom of the riffle, if you overshoot there is space before the weir to break out and come back up.

The river runs for a while in an overgrown sandstone gorge, it is peaceful and difficult to imagine you are 100 metres from main roads and warehouse units.

At 2km is Heaton Mersey Bleachworks Weir, similar in size and type to Brinksway Weir with the portage get out on the right.

At 2.5km is Burnage Rugby Club with steps on the right. MR 862901. PC SK4 3EB. Can be used to start, finish or break a trip. The club is canoe friendly with parking, toilets, showers, sometimes food, and a bar. Ring to check beforehand on 0161 432 2150

At 8km is Northenden Weir. MR833903. PC M22 4HJ. A large sloping weir, dangerous at high flow. Portage steps on right after foot bridge. There is the Tatton Arms pub on the left and a public car park 100 yards down river. Can be used to start, finish or break a trip.

At 14km is Jacksons Boat Public House. MR811926. PC M33 2LX. Do not use the pub car park unless you are a customer.

At 18km is Trafford Metrovick Rugby and Cricket Club with steps on the left. MR782930. PC M33 6LR. Can be used to start, finish or break a trip. The club is canoe friendly with parking, toilets, showers, sometimes food, and a bar. Ring to check beforehand on 0161 973 7061

At 19km is Ashton Weir. MR773936. A dangerous stepped weir, there are steps to get out on the left, then follow the railings down to a beach to get in. The section of river that follows has not been modified by flood defence works and is most attractive with active meanders, earth cliffs and riffles.

At 27km is the end get out point at Carrington Parish Recreation Ground. Steps on the left. MR728936. PC M31 4BF. The ground is normally locked so ring to arrange for access for parking or use of showers or camping etc. There will be a small charge for parking to help the Parish Council with maintenance etc. Tel: 0161 775 7813.

Make sure you find this get out as there is no way off the river if you pass it. You could end up arguing with a 3,000 tonner on the Manchester Ship Canal.

Give the river a try, you will be pleasantly surprised.

I would like to know how much the river is used so please leave a message on 01625 878838 or chcleaver@tiscali.co.uk. 5000 copies of a leaflet are available from Stockport Council Tourist Information Department. 0161 474 4444, and will be available for downloading on the BCU Web site.

Chris Cleaver

East Lyn – river access agreement

Please note I have taken over from Scott Varker as the River Adviser for the East Lyn. A revised agreement has just been confirmed, the headlines of which are:

- No limit on numbers of groups/day (previously limited to three groups/day).
- No permits required, just an email to me for monitoring purposes.
- Keep to the right at the large house.
- October now included, so paddling OK from 1 October to end February.
- Web cam being fitted... funding in place.
- Main run Watersmeet to Lynmouth, but agreement for low water runs in the gorge on shorter stretch... see agreement for details.
- Small groups only... no big club or university adventures!

By the way, there are two big oak trees across the gorge, but both easily bypassed

I have a meeting with riparian owners on 13 December about access from Brendon. Not a good history with this stretch, so don't expect much. What is clear is that paddling this stretch will not endanger the agreement on the lower stretch. I have been asked to discourage launching from the community centre in Brendon until that meeting has taken place, but no reason given, so I am querying that.

Contact me on
peterthorn7@aol.com
Tel: 07870 207262



All aboard – exciting new way to fish

In the latest edition of Anglers Mail on October 10th, there is an article "All aboard – exciting new way to fish". Kayak fishing is an increasing popular sport and as we mentioned in a press release about canoeing (not only being the fastest growing but most popular watersport), some of its popularity is down to the fact that fishermen are fishing from canoes/kayaks.

The article says "mention canoes to most anglers and you are likely to get a dirty look, but there is a growing group of enthusiasts who rarely go fishing without one...."

"There are people finding it an addictive new slant on the sport.

"On rivers, lakes and out at sea they have landed a range of species up to the size of tope and small sharks and enjoyed the mobility and stealth that the craft provide"

There are many kayak clubs all around the country and many of these clubs offer training in handling a kayak/canoe as well as friendly advice on equipment etc. More information can be found at www.bcu.org.uk

In addition and in the realms of safety, Swift Water Rescue and Aquatic First Aid courses are also being set up by the BCU. So let's all enjoy kayak fishing but be safe.

PADDLE THIS :

River Stort, Bishop's Stortford - Harlow

This is a pleasant trip of about 12 miles. Start by parking in Sainsbury's car park in the centre of Bishop's Stortford, free on Sundays and bank holidays. There are nine locks to negotiate, but there are some interesting alternatives. The town is soon left behind and the first lock is reached, which is home of the local canoe club. There is not a lot of traffic on the canal and it feels very small and intimate. Some of the portages involve crossing roads as the canal goes under some small bridges.

As you approach the third lock, which is an easy portage, you can take a right and lift over the fence and take the weir on the side, this cannot be run, but is more fun. We did this in August and you can see the growth of hyacinths and the limbo dance you need to get under the bridge. We came to a dead stop in the growth, but forced a passage between the bank and the weeds and there was nice clear water after this. Before you reach the next lock (number 4) take the left hand turn into the small marina. At the end of the marina, short portage right onto what was the original river.

Be prepared for some hard work through the reeds, though if you had stayed on the canal, you would have missed the fun. It took us nearly 30 minutes to get through the reeds whereafter you come to the start of Sawbridgeworth. After the first lock and past the road bridge, there is a large old factory with a cafe inside if you need refreshments. The next lock takes you out of Sawbridgeworth but you have to cross the road here, so be careful.

You now approach Harlow. At the first lock, you can get out and have more refreshments at the large pub and catch the train back for the car, or carry on for another 3km with another lock and you can finish further down stream next

to the main railway station and return for your car. There is a big pub called the Watermill where and you can lift out straight into the car park.

Colin Southward



PADDLE THIS :

The River Thames, Buckinghamshire

This is a short trip in terms of distance, about nine miles, but can take a lot longer depending on time of year, though it must be done out of the fishing season. Get in is just past the church in Thame, on the border of Bucks and Oxon where the river follows the boundary.

We canoed it at the start of June and some of the reeds were almost impenetrable. There is little to see from the water, but this focuses ones attention on the meanders of the river where there is usually a fair current running. After going under two farmers bridges, the first thing of

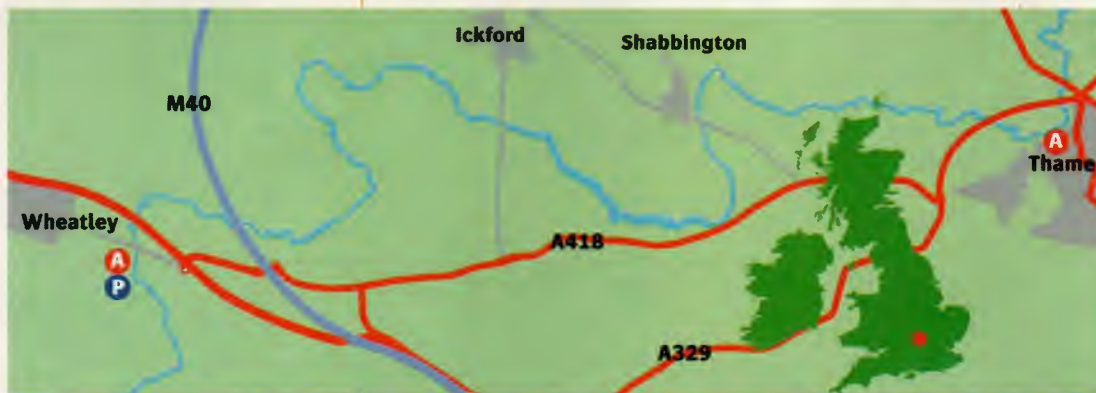
any note is the first road bridge at Shabbington, which is hidden from the river. Then the next bridge is at Ickford, again hidden from the river. Get out places are few and choosing a lunch stop needs to be done with care. There is an old concrete sill with a convenient bank on the right before you cross the sill on the right where it is possible to get out and have a rest.

The river has many twists and turns and rarely can you see more than thirty yards ahead. This makes the paddling all the more rewarding and we saw much wildlife along the river and its banks. There is a short portage needed after Ickford down a small weir, though it could be run if there was a lot of water in the river. A rather large left hand bend takes you round Waterperry. After this at Waterstock, there

is an old mill and the weir can be run on the right, no problems.

Crossing under the M40 which can be heard from a considerable distance, Wheatley is now reached and the get out point is a rather tall bank beneath the old railway crossing. There is an ASDA supermarket here which is convenient for the pick up, and food replenishment.

Colin Southward



NEW FROM BURTECH!

The C8 Multi-configuration canoe/kayak trailer
Fully adjustable for all boats.

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Liverpool to Salford in open canoe

In February this year Salford youth service found out that the Ocean Youth Trust were departing from Troon in Scotland, and that the trustees in Salford were opting for this time. This posed the question of how do we get there, options were put on the table and eventually a group decision was made to:

- Try to involve at least fifty young people in the expedition.
- To use all modes of transport.
- To do a circular route Salford, Troon and back to Salford.
- To involve all aspects of the award bronze, silver, gold and platinum groups in relay.

People volunteered for aspects of work and others were identified to participate so we went our different ways with differing tasks. The object of the exercise was now to walk, cycle, sail and canoe. The walking aspect was to take us to Bowderdale, on the north side of the Howgills. We were then to cycle from Bowderdale to Troon, then to sail from Troon to Liverpool via Belfast, Ireland, the Isle of Man, and Wales, then open canoe from Liverpool to Salford. This article will look at the canoeing aspect of the expedition.

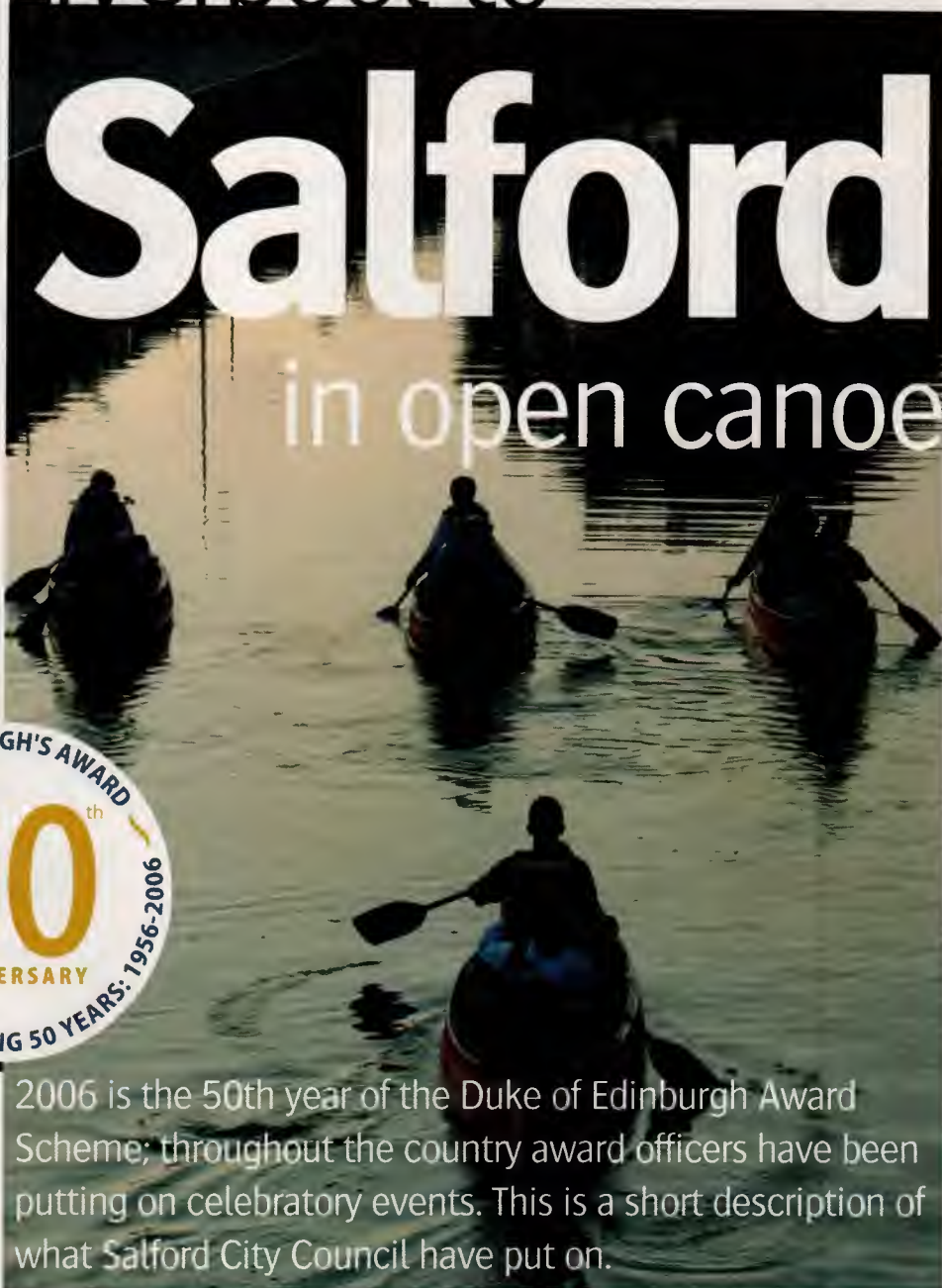
In March 2006 an existing group of young people who had already achieved their bronze award expressed an interest to complete the 57 miles from Liverpool to Salford, this would follow the Leeds Liverpool canal to Wigan then move onto the Bridgewater canal and finish at Worsley, Salford.

On the 19th August I set off with the first leg of the walking group. After one week on the fell, a week on road and a week on boat I arrived in Liverpool, my colleagues from the service brought canoes, buoyancy aids, paddles, waterproofs, safety equipment, tents, and the Silver group. We started on the canal and immediately it was evident that the young people had not been able to train, however it was evident that they were used to working with each other, constantly helping, and demonstrating a high team commitment. Slowly they meandered their way through Bootle, speed was about two miles an hour.

We left Bootle behind and headed into more picturesque scenery, I might add that as we passed various people the interest expressed was lovely everyone we encountered were inquisitive about what we were doing and why? On a couple of occasions people were saying how lucky we were, and how there was nothing like this when they were teenagers, Ironically for people to be saying that, tells me more about publicity and access to the award when they were young people. We entered and left Primrose County Park heading towards Aintree, At this point the service had a pre arranged inspection by Derek Stansfield of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, after answering his questions identifying lines of responsibility and relevant paperwork he left, knowing that he would have liked to paddle with us we left him and carried on our way.

As we travelled it was noticeable that in some places our inland waterways were neglected and abused, with large quantities of alcohol bottles, and cans. It is good to know that people still enjoy being around water, however, a more responsible way of disposing of their rubbish might endear them a little more to the general population, and other water users. Some places were overgrown with weed making water travel very difficult.

Once at Maghull the waterways did start to clear up,



2006 is the 50th year of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; throughout the country award officers have been putting on celebratory events. This is a short description of what Salford City Council have put on.

we passed homes that backed onto the waters edge and newly built housing estates. We were again greeted with inquisitive questioning and friendly waves. By now we were all tired and our job for the day was nearly over, due to restrictions and lack of camping on the canal front we pulled out at Lydiate. Again the well oiled team work

of the group shone through and the canoe trailer was loaded in no time. We were driven to our campsite and put up our tents and cooked in the dark. After our meal and in the quiet of the night we discussed the day and arranged a time to get up.

We awoke at 0630 in various stages of

FACTS :

In today's culture of putting down all young people as hooded hoodlums, please take the time to note that young people are capable of feats of outstanding courage and fortitude and with guidance and support stand a chance of becoming productive adults. These are just nine of the 50 who participated in the expedition. Matthew, Laura, Daniel, Hanna, Natasha, Laura, Sophie, Stephanie, Siobhan and Kay who also completed six exhausting days with the Ocean Youth Trust and cycled for two days prior to that.



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consciousness, and started warming to the day, at one point to get people out of these tents, I threatened to take photos of them and to display them for all to see, this had the desired result and by 0900 we were on the water putting on where we had got off the previous night. Today's aim was to cover as much mileage as possible. We were now in rural north west England observing all sorts of wildlife, the canal is clear here and you can see the bottom including the fish that swim under you. One of the more extraordinary creatures was a terrapin no doubt let loose by someone. Mile after mile we went at our standard two miles an hour. The young people kept themselves occupied by asking all types of questions – some I'm sure intended to embarrass Helen and myself. Through Burscough and onto Ring o Bells, where the other part of the expedition put in that morning, a group of young people from Oakwood High School led by Stephen Swallow and his group of volunteers.

By Appleby Bridge all were very tired, we had been overtaken and had overtaken a barge called Charmaine, (www.careafloat.co.uk) on a number of occasions in the last three hours. On board were some rather nice people who worked with young people at risk. After a particularly high lock the owners invited us on board for providing us with drinks and a rather good buffet, this was a greatly appreciated gesture, it added new vigour to the group and enabled them to carry on until Wigan.

Once again in the dark, we ended up putting up our tents, cooking, and discussing tomorrow's plan.

Some of the group were already awake when I rose at 0500 on that Sunday morning, it was cold, dark and there was a very heavy dew. Some had breakfast, some chose to wait whilst we dropped camp and headed off as the Oakwood group rose. Matt took charge once at the waters edge and the boats were soon on the water and disappearing into Wigan and a series of locks towards Wigan Pier. After Wigan pier we arrived at some unexpected canal works where Helen and I went ahead to do the risk assessment, realising that this was only a minor hiccup, the group made their decision and carried out the portage all working together and within best practice.

Once back on the water they turned right still on the Leeds Liverpool and headed towards the Bridgewater canal, and the final part of the expedition. All were extremely tired and were now pushing themselves with grit and determination beyond their years. As we arrived in Leigh, I received news that the Oakwood group had arrived in Boothstown and were going to wait for us. For a short time this fired the young people into action, however, after a mile or so some were looking despondent. At this point we rafted two of the canoes together. Pennington Flash came and passed and parents started appearing by the side of the canal, then workers, some walking along side with us others getting back into their transport and moving further towards Worsley. We arrived at Boothstown to have our first main greeting of loved ones before we completed and a meeting with the Deputy Mayor.

The finish was now two kilometres away and we had to be there between 1400 and 1500. A new vigour now came across the young people, with strength they never new they had they started to paddle with the Oakwood group by their side. As they arrived in Worsley, the local drums had been beating as we arrived to applause and tears. The honoured guest ensured that she spoke to each and every young person. In addition it would have been very easy for those just to leave with their parents once the Deputy Mayor had gone, however each and every one of them stayed and put the canoes back on the trailer. ●

Stuart Gibbon (Adventure Activities Coordinator)

THANKS

My personal thanks goes to members of the Adventure Volunteers Initiative Team (AVIT) who without their involvement the expedition would not have been the success that it was and to Salford Youth Service for their continued support. People both young and old, wishing to get involved please contact Stuart Gibbon at Deans Open Award Centre, Swinton, or Telephone 0161 974 1088.

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Exploring South Greenland

Manx youngsters Kayak Expedition to South Greenland to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Expedition to Greenland was able to provide a group of 25 young people from Queen Elizabeth II High School, Peel, with the opportunity to explore remote areas, to experience the satisfaction of completing a physically demanding journey in terrain unlike any they would experience on home soil, and, perhaps most importantly, to provide them with a real sense of achievement from being able to depend on one's own resources in order to survive one of the world's few remaining wilderness environments. The youngsters together with teachers and local leaders planned and led the expedition themselves

The groups split into three, kayaking a total of about 474kms. Group B kayaked from Narsasuaq to Narsaq to the inland ice and onto Qaqortoq. Group C did the reverse of this journey whilst Group A kayaked

weird as we had a glacier on one side, a turquoise sea on the other, icebergs and a desert like mountain behind. When the inland ice came into view it was so cool. It was so strange to think it goes on for miles and miles and miles.

As we paddled towards the glacier the water became icy cold and so did the air. This made your hands freeze and start sticking to the metal paddle and after visiting a beautiful waterfall we decided to head back. As soon as we turned there was a massive bang louder than any yet and the whole of the front of the glacier collapsed into the water producing a sizeable wave which took a few minutes before it hit us.

Qaqortoq arrived sooner than expected and we were welcomed by a crowd of local's. Over 20 people stood watching us, laughing and clapping.



from Qaqortoq to Equalugarssuit back to Qaqortoq

The kayaking from Narsaq was really surreal as we were surrounded by ice sculptures, we spent ages suggesting what each one looked like. Kayaking through the ice field was pretty amazing but every time we heard a rumble from the ice cracking we looked around to see where it had come from and if it affected us.

The campsite was incredible. It seemed so

We had to haul the kayaks onto the stone jetty which to our surprise had blood everywhere. Then we spied a lovely little bag with guts in and poking out of the top: a nose with whiskers.

We passed the farm at Tasiluk, where two weeks earlier there had been a big gathering for the celebration of the baptism of a baby. The pastor was giving a sermon when there was a shout of "bear"! A polar bear walked down from the hill whereupon



Our first day paddle with group A took us to the Hvalso Ruins which are well worth visiting. They are the most extensive and best preserved Norse ruins in Greenland. They were first inhabited in the late 10th century and the church, manor hall, barns and byres are very much in evidence.

As we packed our clothing into our water tight kayak bags there was a lovely sight of a seal being gutted on the edge of the harbour. This wasn't what I wanted to see after eating a Danish pastry. After 30kms we stopped off at Hvalso Ruins and set up camp.

There is a portage at Itilliarsik which is a wooden ramp with a trolley attached to a cable and winch. The local's must use this as a short cut saving a 40 km journey around the Vatnahverfi peninsular which we would do the following day. Unfortunately we couldn't get the winch to work and so ended up carrying the kayaks across the 200 metre walkway.

The 90 minute portage was epic as the bay was filled with an enormous ice berg, which we crept past so no ice from the towering mass would come crashing down on top of us. Getting out at the portage was also tricky as the tide was out and we had to try and balance and haul kayaks up wet, slippy rocks.

We knew that to continue up and round the peninsular would expose us to the Atlantic swell with little or no shelter; we had to have good weather. There were also no recommended kayak routes marked on the map.

We got up very early and had a lovely calm crossing to south of Qaarsuatsiaq farm. We then hugged the coastline and kept are speed up, hoping to pass around the point and into Uummannarsuq Tunua before the wind picked up. We did find it quite windy coming around the point but with heads down and gritted teeth we found ourselves at lunchtime in a sheltered bay of Uummannarsuq Island.

Lots of fishing boats used this sheltered passage and were very surprised to see us which was packed with huge icebergs. The boats slowed down and tried not to disturb the ice as we all squeezed through the narrow ice passages.

I saw a huge iceberg break apart which was both amazing and scary as it created huge waves; but what an experience. I bet not many people can say they've experienced this in their lifetime!

Whilst having a well deserved lunch on the beach an aluminium dory stopped where an elderly Greenlandic couple beckoned us to their boat. Although it was hard to communicate they were interested in where we were going and took great pleasure in showing us a good route on our map. We looked at the boxes of fish they had caught. It didn't seem to matter that we couldn't understand each other, smiles and waves were all that were needed.

Next day we kayaked to Eqlugaarsuit which has a population of 120 and is a hunting and fishing village. The people do not have many visitors and they were delighted to see us. We were welcomed with bowls of hot lamb soup that was absolutely delicious, then our youngsters gave out Manx pins and cat badges.

Later that evening I spotted a fin whale, its back glistening as it swam between the icebergs. Spurts of water gave away its progress as it continued its journey out to sea. A most thrilling and moving sight, I had been hoping to see throughout the trip. ●

Lesley Sleight



everyone fled into their boats. Fifteen minutes later the bear was shot dead. The bear must have spent months trapped on an iceberg and half starving eventually made its way ashore. Unfortunately it didn't last long!

Jack and I caught 12 cod and 1 char, as we were the fishing team. We then had a shower under the waterfall and like a pair of idiots posed for the

camera 'herbal essence style' – it was blooming freezing, very refreshing though.

We tried several methods of cooking the fish on our open fire, some were wrapped in seaweed Ray Mears' style, there was also the hot rock method and the drape over sodden stick method. The best method seemed to be boil in a pan and when noodles were added the fish was delicious.



INFO :

The Expedition was approved by The Young Explorers' Trust and won an award from the Gino Watkins Memorial Trust. A major part of the project was also to look at localised climate change in southern Greenland. The youngsters took samples of dwarf willow to measure their annual growth rings, and monitor plant development.

For further information on expedition contact Lesley Sleight, Queen Elizabeth High School 01624 841000. Boat transfers/kayak hire – Blue Ice Explorer (Jacky Simoud) www.bluicee.gl info@blueicee.gl

2007 BCU calendar and prize giveaway



Prize Giveaway

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BCU calendar Have you bought yours yet?



We have produced a calendar from the BCU's 70th anniversary photograph competition. The competition has captured the imagination of members and we have received hundreds of entries to date. The photographs demonstrate the real diversity and fun of the sport and we hope that this will be the first in a series. The calendar is A3 size, easy to write on, brightly coloured and full of fantastic paddling photos!

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Thank you for all the wonderful entries we have received so far! The winners for September and October (as voted by you):

BCU photographic competition

October – Adult

Mike Bell

October – Youth

Beth Berry

September – Adult

John Fleming

September – Youth

Harry Jackson

Overall winner

At the end of January 2007 one overall winner from the youth category and one winner from the adult category will win a digital camera worth £150!

How to enter

Email photographs in jpeg format to chloe.nelson-lawrie@bcu.org.uk. Or send in photographs on a CD to; BCU, John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AS. Remember to provide contact details that including; membership number, name, address, telephone number and age.

Prizes: Monthly winner

A winner will be chosen each month until December 2006. Each month one adult will win £25 Cotswold vouchers and one youth (under 18 years old) will win £25 WHSmith vouchers. Winners will be announced on-line and in future editions of Canoe Focus.



Mike Bell
October – Adult



Beth Berry
October – Youth



John Fleming
September – Adult

How winners are chosen

Once we receive your photograph it will be uploaded onto the BCU website where people can vote for their favourite image by emailing the number of the photograph to pete@bcu.org.uk

Harry Jackson
September – Youth

Perception Wavehopper Challenge 2007

The 2007 series made an explosive start on November 5th when 30 youngsters took to the water at the Tyne Tour, Hexham. The day started with two coaching sessions focussing on good forward paddling techniques followed by a two mile timed run in the afternoon in both Wavehoppers and GP boats. Thanks to the excellent safety cover provided by Blyth Kayak Club, we could race escorted groups of three to four at a time for this longer than usual timed race!

Some excellent runs were recorded - of particular note was the Oakwood Youth Club team of Adam Robinson, Simon Milne, Mark Ferns - Evans, Scott Evans, Matthew Grundy, Anthony Holt with Anthony and Mathew taking gold and silver places respectively. Prizes were kindly donated by stalls at the tour - so as well as certificates and medals, participants also went away with something a little extra!

With one thousand canoeists at the Tyne Tour again this year, these young paddlers really got the feel of being part of the whole event.

Race results available on the WWR website.

Bobby E. Timperley, PDO
N.E.Region



PADDLE THIS

NEW – School Club Links Funding Scheme

The BCU is about to launch a new funding schemes for clubs to set up effective links with schools. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to support coaching, and coach development and is open to all BCU Top Clubs. For more information and an application form contact youth@bcu.org.uk or check out the youth section of www.canoe-england.org.uk.

Recognition and rewards

(or more paper work?)

Ray Hudspith our new PE and School Club Links Officer talks about making links with schools and club development.



Most will have heard about the fears of obesity, crime on the street and nurturing citizenship, in the everyday news. There have been many programmes on television about what we eat and drink (or shouldn't), but not enough about the other aspects of leading a healthy active lifestyle. For many this is part of our life and we get involved, enjoy it and feel much better for it. There are for some, many obstacles and barriers to the more traditional sports and this is why sports such as canoeing are increasingly more important. Unfortunately it is difficult to incorporate our sport into an already overcrowded curriculum. The problems of time, transport and equipment, as well as access to water and qualified instructors are apparent.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) initiated a strategy to address our nation's reluctance to being sports orientated and active. In 2003 the PE School Sports and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy was launched with targets to increase participation during and after school, with one of the aims being to encourage more young people into sports clubs. The first milestone of getting 75% of 5-16 yr olds in England spending a minimum of two hours of high quality sport has been surpassed. Future targets are going to be more demanding as we are faced with those children totally turned off from sport for many varying reasons.

The clubs within the BCU who are open and encourage young people, are faced with the task of making their club accessible, welcoming and appealing to all within the community. Whilst our centres will follow the AALA/BCU approval route – Top Club and Clubmark are kite mark accreditation awards that help this process and support volunteers to develop safe, effective, child friendly clubs. Soon every parent/guardian or teacher will recognise the new branding 'tick' of Clubmark as being a safe, caring club to which they can send their child, knowing they will be looked after.

So... congratulations to the 36 BCU affiliated clubs that, to date, have achieved Clubmark and Top Club. These ranks are soon to swell as another 66 clubs are working towards the kite mark accreditation. They, along with other key players such as the regional Paddlesport Development Officers, have been instrumental in the marked rise in participants within our sport.

The BCU is currently investigating a Clubmark link to our centre approval scheme. This is aimed at approved centres wishing to achieve an enhanced accreditation, and gaining greater benefits through this scheme. It is based around the Clubmark award aims – to provide a nationally recognised,

safe, quality provision for young people with pathways from their first experiences in Paddlesport towards a long term continuation of the sport through a club.

How does this relate to School Club Links?

Part of the process of working through Top Club for a community based club is to create links with a school or youth group. Where a club is able to link with a school the aim is to achieve a smooth transition from the initial introduction to paddlesport in to a club environment.

To develop sustainable school-club links it is good practice to develop an agreement between the school sports partnership and the club or centre, working together to meet four target areas for developing youth:

- Meeting the needs of all young people.
- Provide new and varied opportunities.
- Help them to realise their ambitions.
- Agreed good standards of provision.

Reaching an agreement with shared clear aims, helps to establish ground rules, manage expectations and define their commitment to the partnership. This usually takes the form of the canoe club/centre delivering a programme of activity with a group or groups during or after school.

The period directly after school is the most likely time to encourage greater participation as students have not got to the other distractions that surround the home life. This also ensures more daylight hours, consequently allowing for more session times. This time slot is probably the greatest challenge for most clubs as the coaches usually have other commitments i.e. day jobs. Longer period of canoeing, culminating in some award, either Star tests or Paddlepower offers more potential for participants to evolve as club members.

The benefits of achieving Top Club and Clubmark and creating these school club links are worthwhile:

- **Club development:** The foundation for any club is its youth structure. By encouraging and attracting young members, it is building a strong future.
- **Increased membership:** Addressing issues like equity and child protection gives parents confidence when choosing a club for their children. Often the parent gets involved in a supportive/voluntary role or as a paddler.
- **Developing coaches and volunteers:** As part of Top Club, clubs receive help in developing the skills of those involved in their organisation.
- **Raised profile:** Once accredited, clubs will be listed on a national database and in other directories, to help them attract new members and grow.
- **Funding:** Access to wider financial benefits from the BCU and other awarding bodies.

How to get started with Top Club and Clubmark?

Further information is on the youth section of the Canoe England website – www.canoe-england.org.uk. You can either download a registration form from the website or drop us a line or e-mail at the Young People's Programme. You will then be sent a club resource pack and assessment file. Shortly after this your local PDO will make contact with you to support and guide you through to completion.

If you have any other queries regarding school-club links, Clubmark or other areas of the PESSCL strategy in Paddlesport then contact: Ray Hudspith, PESSCL Development Officer, Tel. 0115 982 4220. E-mail ray.hudspith@bcu.org.uk

How one club has made school club Links happen in the Tyne Valley

Through the efforts of the local Paddlesport Development Officer (PDO) and the Partnership Development Manager (PDM), Hexham Club were able to make these school club links happen within the Tynedale Partnership with three middle schools from the rural areas of Northumberland taking part in paddlesport at Hexham Tyne Green.

Transport is always an issue when it comes to transporting school groups and here there was no exception. Tynedale in Northumberland is the largest district council in England with a sparse population. It is not just about getting groups to the river and back after school but then comes the problem of getting the children home, when they usually rely on bus transport to the outlying villages where they live. To overcome this transport was organised by the PDM who asked for a small charge from the participants. As a result the young paddlers all progressed through their Paddlepower 1 awards and six joined Hexham CC following this agreement. Hexham CC have recently been awarded Top Club and Clubmark award (see right).

How one club has benefited from Top Club

Many Top Clubs have benefited from being able to access funding as mentioned in previous Canoe Focus articles. Peninsula CC who achieved Top Club this May throws a different light on the benefits. John Driver from the club explained, "The Top Club process proved to us something that we had lost sight of... It helped club members to recognise that what the club did was good (rather than what was wrong) and we all then felt good about it". John called this, "a paradigm shift in culture".

Finally – the youth that benefit...

Hugh Swetman took up canoeing because of the attraction of the adventure and excitement that recreational whitewater canoeing offered. He started canoeing at his school at the age of twelve, which progressed to local pool sessions in Bramcote Baths. From there he was invited onto a scheme ran by Nottinghamshire Country Council ran by George Oliver. Later he joined Nottingham KC and branched from marathon into slalom. He then moved on to join a strong group of paddlers at Matlock and from pool slaloms progressed to Premier where he was placed ninth and won a silver medal in the European Slalom Championships in Macedonia, competing with his fellow team members, Campbell Walsh and Anthony Brown. Hugh never set out with a goal to compete or win medals, instead wished to only evade the maths lessons at school!

Our first descent



My brother and I, many times, have gone to Teesside White Water Course and watched our parents kayak the barrage. Then, as we got more interested in the sport, and progressed steadily, they finally gave us both the chance to kayak the course ourselves.

Paddling my Sub 7 with Zachary in his Masterlite, we began the course just warming up in the first lake. We had been on the lake before but never the actual white water. We practiced turning sharply so if our dad (Lloyd) or

our mum (Linda) told us to do something quick we'd be on the ball! After that we tried rolling and hand rolling with our parents. The final warm up was capsizing, waiting for three seconds and swimming out. Zachary went first, swimming out fine, and then I did. I like to get the feel of the water in case I fall out on the course, so it didn't come as a cold shock! We then emptied our kayaks and got out to view the course and how we were to kayak it down to the first eddie by Easy Rider, the first main wave.

Mum kayaked first to show us both how it was done. I followed with Zachary and we began just ferry gliding across the rapids. We then followed Mum down to the next eddie and got out. Dad showed us our next route down to Happy Eater, the main wave that many use to play in.

Mum, as usual, went first and Zachary, being someone who just does it without thinking, went next! I couldn't really see him because my position wouldn't allow me, but I did see the orange blade of a paddle going through. Dad went on the bank and guided us down one by one. He was shouting at us, "left a bit, now go right!" as we made it down safely.

We repeated what we had just done, and this time we were allowed to choose our own route. Zachary being Zachary, went for a complete made-up route, and I, once again went the way we went before: the safe way!

After going down Happy Eater, Zachary wanted to go even further and tried the Cruncher, the largest stopper of them all. I just followed on the bank, watching Zachary kayaking and dad shouting instructions. He did quite well and we all made our way back, where we had a short break and then went down one more time. Unfortunately for us, mum was videoing our descent and it was hard concentrating on our route! This time I took my chance on the Cruncher but as my kayak is shorter, it is harder to control. This meant as I went down the smaller wave, I turned slightly and the Cruncher pulled me back in! I tried keeping upright but I tipped! As I leant to pull off my spray deck, I could feel the powerful water pushing against me. I came out and swam to the bank where mum reached to help me out. The floor of the river was very slippery and I couldn't easily roll out onto the bank. I finally got a grip and hoisted myself out. Before we paddled, dad taught us a way to exit the water and I followed his instructions.

My kayak had floated down past Valentines, quite a catching stopper at low tide, and dad ran after it. We met back at Easy Rider and Zachary kept on kayaking in Easy Rider, ferry gliding across. After Zachary had had enough, we got out and returned our bibs.

We greatly enjoyed our day on the Teesside White Water Course as we are sure you would too..

Go For It! Zoe Allin



PADDLE THIS: Hexham CC gains accreditation

On Saturday the 28th October, Hexham Canoe Club joined the growing ranks of clubs achieving BCU Top Club and SE Club Mark Status. The Club – now in its 11th year – is the second in the NE to be accredited. The eldest and youngest members – Paul Burgess – and the youngest – Johnnie 'Little Legs' received the awards on behalf of the Club from Lorraine Oliver, Leisure Tynedale, and Nigel Timmins, BCU CDO Northern.

Founder member Paul was somewhat taken aback to find himself in receipt of another 'badge of recognition'. The secret that it was also his 80th birthday on the 28th had leaked out and members were not letting it pass without congratulations!

Incidentally, Paul still coaches twice a week – can anyone beat that?

Junior members then went on with the celebrations with a Halloween party – just how spooky can you make a boathouse! I just hope the green slime and plastic skulls are all cleared away as Hexham Canoe Club are out in force again as they head up the 2006 Tyne Tour Rally for the N.E.Region. With over 1000 participants last year it must be one of the largest – if not The largest - canoeing event in the country.

I wonder if Paul Burgess really knew what he was starting eleven years ago!

Bobby E.Timperley, PDO NE region.



Richmond CC welcomes Olympic champions

Richmond CC welcomed 2004 Olympic K2 500-metre gold medalists Ronald Rauhe and Tim Wieskötter for a day of inspirational paddling. Richmond worked with the German champion's home club Potsdam CC, the State of Brandenburg and the local German school in Richmond to create a spectacular day.

Mixed racing over 100 to 400m paired Richmond paddlers with the world's best. Richmond paddlers included juniors from the London Borough of Richmond's Competitive Edge program which seeks to find potential elite paddlers in Borough schools.

Richmond and former Team GB coach Trevor Wetherall said "This is a great opportunity for our up and coming juniors. Working their hardest, they can see how much more the world's best have to give."

CBCU Club of the Year Awards 2007

This award is open to all BCU affiliated clubs.

- Do you consider your club to be encouraging more people to take part in Paddlesport and set standards that other clubs are envious of?
- Do you have a proven track record on working with schools, local authorities or community organisations?
- Do you hold high standards of good practice, safety and governance?

If this is your club then you could enter the BCU Club of the Year Awards. The three successful clubs will each win a £100 voucher to be spent at Cotswold Outdoors. The successful nominations will be put forward to the Central Council for Physical Education (CCPR) Sports Club of the Year (SCOTY) Awards 2007.

www.ccpr.org.uk/dyncat.cfm?catid=26844

Winners of this award will receive: First Prize £6,000, 2 x 2nd Prizes of £3,000 and 3 x 3rd prizes of £1,000. For further information or to receive an application form please contact: Mandy Delaney mandy.delaney@bcu.org.uk Tel: 0115 982 4221. Closing date for applications 1st February 2007

Awards for All Grant

The members and committee of Bude CC are celebrating after receiving a grant of £4,912 from the National Lottery's 'Awards for All' programme.

The award purchased six general purpose white water kayaks, and two junior kayaks, plus associated buoyancy aids, paddles and spray decks and will increase the number of members to become qualified instructors to enable the club to allow for increased participation for the residents of Bude and North Cornwall.

The receipt of the award builds on the club's development over the last five years. The club is now looking forward to an active winter season comprising pool sessions, canoe-polo, river trips (water levels permitting) and some good surf now that the autumnal swells are pushing through.

The club is actively encouraging an increase in female and youth members, those who would like to have a try-out should contact Steve Davenport or Mark Burnett at Bude CC.

CCDP grant for new facilities

Bradford and Bingley CC (BBCC) has received a huge boost, with an award of £160,000 from Sport England's Community Club Development Programme (CCDP).

The award is for new storage facilities beside the River Aire in the grounds of the Bradford and Bingley Sports Club. The investment will transform the club's storage from a dilapidated old portakabin and two rusty metal containers, into a brand new purpose-built facility. A contractor has been selected and work on the project is well underway – hopefully in time to provide the much-needed new facilities for the 2006 winter season.

Despite operating from such inadequate facilities for many years, BBCC has developed some of the most able white water slalom canoeists in the UK. The club has represented Bradford in slalom and white water competition since the late sixties and has produced slalom paddlers of national and international standard. Several of its members are ranked in the premier division of UK canoe slalom and no less than five junior members have qualified for the World Class Start Programme run by the BCU. The Sport England CCDP grant, which has been awarded to BBCC through the BCU, will enable the club to grow, to operate more efficiently, and to consolidate its position as one of the Yorkshire region's top clubs. For further information on the club, visit its website at www.bradbingcc.org.uk

YORCIE NEWS: www.yorcie.org.uk

Yorkshire Youthfest

Early September, a mirror calm Hatfield Water park waited patiently for the onslaught of Yorkshire Youthfest. By the end of the weekend this mirror calm lake had been transformed into a hive of canoeing activity. As young paddlers from around Yorkshire developed their bow stalls, goal shots, gate turns or simply messed around in boats. Links were developed between clubs and paddlers.

Saturday was the day to hone all their skills, getting coaching from a number of coaches from around the region. Sunday arrived and competitions were held and finally prizes were awarded for slalom, polo, sprint racing and freestyle.

A huge thank you is needed for the coaches that made the weekend happen. To GreenStar CC for hosting the weekend, to Robin Hood Water sports and Yorkshire Outdoor Superstore for supporting the weekend with equipment. But mostly for all the parents and young paddlers that made the weekend so much fun to be at. (Article contributed by our PDO Gareth).

Our youths continue to do us proud as we have two U14s champions in Mathew Lister from WRCC and Robert Jefferies from Pennine who came first and third in the Wavehopper champs. Well done to you both and your clubs and coaches.

Talking of Coaching.

All of the Yorkshire regions LCOs are actively coaching and run courses. So whether you want star testing, a coach qualification, guiding or something tailored to you and your group, just ask. Contact with individual LCOs is easy and all their contact details appear in the BCU yearbook page 62. One of the more recent web sites is from our LCO for the east of the county 'AP' Gair www.recreationalcoaching.co.uk

Our RCO has been busy of late, not just with coaching but with cradling. So please welcome son Oliver who made his first break out on Sept 25th and congratulations to Carol and Ian. Please make a note that Ian '2-phones' Scott can also be reached on a second and new mobile on 07944 580029.

Regional Coaches continue to make the news in this edition of Yorcie.

In an outing of Lower Wharfe CC, on the Ouse in York, Sue Couling and Grace Bowers chanced upon a man trapped between a barge and the quay. His cries for help had gone unheard for two hours and emergency services predicted the worst had Sue and Grace not undertaken the rescue. Also a female student who was trapped on the R.

Ure was rescued by Neil Jennison & Company (Kingston cc) who was leading a group of open canoeists on a YSBs trip.

The next Regional coaching scheme get together will be at Fearnville Sports Centre on Sunday 11th March from 7.30. The next regional coaching scheme weekend will be at Aldwark on the 21-22nd April. Details as always are available from Janet.

Our newest regional group the Yorkshire Single Bladders has now had a few outings and beginning to find its feet. The first event wasn't really an open (to all) event as it was as a result of too much yeast trigger enthusiasm. We went to the Liffy! But the second was widely circulated and resulted in 14 boats on the R. Eden, which is a fantastic river, if you have never been on it. We are still looking for a someone to front it up for us, but for now please contact us via ysb@yorcie.org.uk

The Yorkshire Sea Kayakers YSKs (the Salt n' Shakes) have had a second good year and have a full and varied range of events for 2007. Please see the region's web for more details www.yorcie.org.uk Many of the YSKs were at Staithes in August and with White Rose c.c. and helped raise £250 for the Staithes & Runswick Bay lifeboats. If you missed it save Aug 11th 2007 to do it again.

Also save the 27-29th July next year, as early plans are being made as the ACT are negotiating with the Countryside landowners Association (CLA) for use of the lake at Harewood House for 'have a go sessions' and there will be a need for volunteers to talk to the general public and keep up with the enquiries etc.

Before then though you will want to nip up to the lakes and have a bash down the River Leven that flows out of Windermere. The negotiated access dates for this winter are Dec 10th, Jan 7th and 28th, Feb 4th, 11th and 25th, March 4th and 25th. Don't forget to ring and book your bib.

As you read this you will just have time to check your details in the yearbook and let me know any alterations please. Thanks to White Rose CC and to Bradford and Bingley CCs who have both hosted regional meetings this year. If you would like the regional team to descend on your club, please let me know. Thank you to the entire regional team of helpers and doers. It really does make a difference. We want the world, but without it costing the earth.

Merry Christmas to you and yours and I look forward to getting wet with you in 2007. Dick dickconstable@canoeists.co.uk



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A hidden

Island



The daylight was slipping behind me and the only sound ahead was of a wave gently swooshing into the blackness and the voice of Gary calling me to paddle towards him.



In we go!

It wasn't quite like this at the start. I'd turned up at Greve de Lecq bay in Jersey, on a kayaking trip with Jersey Kayak Adventures along the North Jersey coastline. What I hadn't expected was to find myself sitting in the most awesome sea cave I'd ever been in - so deep that the legend Gary told of it being a smugglers cave running under the parish church half a mile away, seemed to have some truth in it.

Right from the start I realised this was not just a gentle paddle around the bay at the seaside. Sure, there was the beach café selling some seriously good food and ice cream, and a beach full of dads busily constructing tower block sand castles while their children lazed about listening to their iPods.

Within minutes of going afloat (after a safety briefing and instruction), Gary, our guide, was giving personal coaching tips and a guided history of Jersey. Then we began to see the 'jumpers' - people who were throwing themselves off the cliff face into the sea!

Jersey's national sport is jumping. "If it was in the Olympics we'd get gold," said Gary. Just watching them throw themselves off rocks maybe 30 feet up was stomach churning and made me wonder whether the local's had some sort of death wish or were related to Lemmings. But everyone seemed to come up smiling and keen to do it again.

Then it was our turn to be adventurous. Our little group of kayakers who hadn't met until 30 minutes ago were already starting to feel like explorers as we cruised between the rocky granite channel of Rouge Nez and the Rhino rock.

Depending on how long you looked at it perhaps the outcrop did look like a Rhino head, but I couldn't see the red nose on the headland - maybe it was because it was not the week of comic relief. Drifting on the sea we listened to the description of the bird life around us before Gary suddenly announced "Follow me." and vanished into a foreboding hole in the cliff face. Time to remember the old ski school advice "Always follow close behind your instructor," I thought. I followed cautiously.

I felt a blast of air on my face. Suddenly the cave opened up around me. In front of me sat our guide under a beam of sunlight. Looking up I now saw that I was sitting in a cave with not one but two entrances. One at sea level, the other 20 feet above me.

I sat quietly taking it all in. The stillness and gentle sound of the waves slopping against the rock face made

Greve de Lecq beach seem a very long way away. As I looked into the darkness the water seemed strangely emerald green in colour. I was sitting in a kayak in a blue hole cave, one where light is entering through another underwater entrance and shining upwards. I thought these only existed in the Mediterranean and Caribbean. "Well, tourism did advertise Jersey as Britain's South Sea Island years ago" replied Gary.

Passing beneath the cliffs we were getting close to the wildlife. "Shags" announced Gary. I looked at them. They were behaving themselves and not doing anything of the sort. Then I realised that this was the name of these elegant black sea birds whose diving skills were even more awesome once they plunged underwater and could be seen swimming under our kayaks searching for fish.

Another cave suddenly came into view and this time I could sense that the other seven kayakers were all intent upon dashing in. But first the guide was going ahead to check it was safe in case there were any sudden swells and to make sure we did not stray too deep into the darkness of the cave. As we paddled into the cave it dawned on me just how huge it was. The roof arched maybe 30ft above our heads and was so wide we could



Reaching places other boats cannot reach



cliff jumping is Jersey's national sport

easily turn our kayaks around if we wanted. No way was I leaving until I'd explored further into the darkness. I wanted to be an explorer. To my right the walls were encrusted in sea life. As I looked closer it seemed that the walls

were constructed like a weathered dry stone wall full of rocks and mortar creating a path into the blackness. This had all the makings of a real smugglers cave. That is until Gary pointed out that in a few hours the sea would have risen by some 30 feet and I'd then be banging my head on the distant ceiling of the cave.

Squinting on my return to the daylight, our exploration of the coast continued as we wound our way between sea stacks and channels and discovered natural arches and incredible lagoon blue ponds which without a guide we'd have missed.

Then on to Ile Agois and a tiny inaccessible bay that left me feeling as if we were on some remote unexplored coast complete with views of distant islands on the horizon. This really was a voyage to discover a hidden Jersey.

Returning to Greve de Lecq I felt like the explorer back from an expedition. The ice cream definitely tasted good! ●

Hilary Nicolson

FACTS :

Hilary Nicolson paddled with Jersey Kayak Adventures Ltd, tel 07797 853 033, www.jerseykayakadventures.co.uk.

They run tours and courses around the coast of Jersey and to offshore islands with qualified BCU Coaches throughout the week. All equipment is provided. For experienced kayakers they offer a range of sea kayaking trips and courses using a range of sea kayaks to suit all abilities and ages.

Further information on Jersey can be obtained from Jersey Tourism, www.jersey.com.

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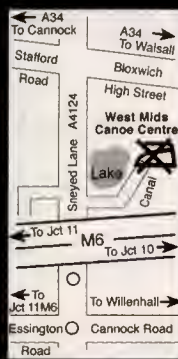
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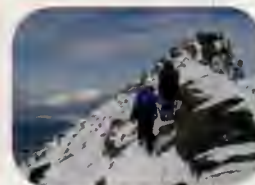
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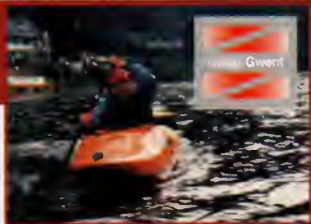
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SITUATIONS VACANT

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED

Vacancies for 2007 Season



Located on the River Soar, LOPC is a vibrant centre providing land and water based activities to people from the local area and beyond, and is also the home for several canoeing clubs. We need enthusiastic, qualified instructors to join our small but friendly team for the busy summer period for our holiday schemes, group bookings of all ages, team building and corporate training.

Applicants must hold a 1st Aid qualification and at least one of the following: BCU Level 2, SPA, or GNAS. Flexible work arrangements, and great opportunities! The main season is between March and October.

For more information and application details please contact Mark or Angie at: Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Loughborough Rd, Leicester LE4 5PN. Tel: 0116 268 1426 Email: info@lopc.co.uk Website: www.lopc.co.uk

Closing date for applications for seasonal positions is 16th January



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

LOPC operates an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

MARRICK PRIORY

Outdoor Education and Residential Centre
North Yorkshire



Deputy Head of Centre

This is an exciting opportunity to join an established team at this unique centre in beautiful Swaledale. We provide a wide range of activities throughout the year for children and adults from schools, colleges, youth groups and churches.

The successful candidate will have a good range of experience and NGB qualifications as well as excellent communication and organisational skills.

Salary:- £16,000 - £18,000 plus benefits (dependent upon qualifications).

For more information please contact Marrick Priory 01748 884434 or email office@marrickpriory.co.uk



STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Upminster, Essex

Vacancies for 2007 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: bob@stubbers.co.uk
Charity No. 1080941

Activities Manager

South of France; Ardèche Region



£19,500 pro rata

- Initial six month contract (March-Sept) with potential to become a permanent member of the team.
- You will be responsible for leading a team of 20+ instructors in all aspects of paddle sports and other adventurous activities.
- A proven track record of developing and training a team of enthusiastic and passionate individuals to deliver exceptional customer service to our clients.
- Ideally your qualifications will include; High level BCU coaching qualifications in both canoe & kayak and SPA.



For further information and application details please contact:
Lorna Stewart E-mail: lstewart@nstgroup.co.uk Tel: 0845 671 1357

Whinell Forest

At Center Parcs we're dedicated to providing the perfect natural environment for our guests to play, relax and indulge themselves. What makes us the UK's number one choice for short holidays is that our people are natural too – natural communicators, team players and achievers. If that sounds like you, here at Whinell Forest, you'll fit right in. Naturally.



freedom. naturally

Watersport Instructors

April 07 to Oct 07, £6.20 ph

For this enjoyable role instructing and supervising our guests, you will ensure all teaching procedures are followed, equipment checks and set up are carried out, cleanliness and high levels of customer service are maintained and take charge of health and safety standards and security. You will be a qualified Dinghy Instructor and hold a Powerboat Level 2 and First Aid qualifications. You will also be able to demonstrate the ability to co-ordinate lakeside activity sessions.

Lakeside Assistant

April 07 to Oct 07, £6.01 ph

Being responsible to our Instructors, you will assist in the day to day operations of the lakeside activity centre. Maintenance of lake crafts, correct storage of equipment and ensuring safety checks are performed are all paramount to this position. You will demonstrate excellent customer service levels and be qualified to either Powerboat Level 2 and First Aid or NPLQ.

Please note that due to the sensitive nature of these roles, successful applicants will be required to apply for disclosure with the Criminal Records Bureau. This disclosure, together with other selection information, will need to be satisfactory to the Company for employment to commence.

We offer full training and flexible working arrangements for most positions, plus a great range of benefits including pensions, discounted holidays, retail products and health and beauty treatments, free use of the gym, pool and other village facilities, incentive and service recognition schemes, annual bonus, subsidised bus passes and 30 days' holiday per year.

For more information and an application pack, please telephone the Recruitment Hotline on 01768 893041 or email

workopportunitieswf@centerparcs.co.uk

Closing date: 15th December 2006 |

www.centerparcs.co.uk



EXPERIENCE LIFE & WORK IN THE ISLANDS OF ORKNEY

2 x SEASONAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

Salary £12,531 - £14,031 pro rata inc. Distant Island Allowance. (job ref. ED/307/06)
Posts commence 7th April 2007 until end of September 2007.

applicants must possess the following qualifications

- A Full Driving License (+ D1)
- A Current First Aid Certificate

In addition to the above, applicants must have at least 3 of the N.G.B. qualifications listed below:

- Single Pitch Award
- W.G.L. or Summer M.L.
- G.N.A.S. Archery Leader
- B.C.U. Coach L2 or L3 (sea) Kayak
- B.C.U. Coach L2 or L3 Open Canoe

Applicants must have worked in the outdoor industry for at least 2 full years and have proven experience in instructing water, land and centre based activities. Experience of wild camping, bushcraft and leading environmental activities would be an advantage.

All outdoor instructor posts include travel costs to and from Orkney, staff clothing, in-house training and quality accommodation for the duration of the contract.

Closing Date: 16th February 2007

Completed application forms for the above posts should be returned to the Senior Administration Assistant (Personnel), Department of Education & Recreation Services, Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY.

Application packs for the above posts can be requested from Customer Services, Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY, tel. (01856) 873535 or email: customerservices@orkney.gov.uk

AALA



PGL is the UK's leading provider of residential activity holidays and educational courses for children.

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PGL is committed to the personal development of its staff



SITUATIONS VACANT

GRAFHAM water centre

Senior Instructors, Instructor and Trainees

If you want a rewarding and enjoyable place to work and to be involved with developing young people then look no further, we are seeking to recruit a number of new staff. Grafham Water Centre is a wonderful site on the shores of one of Britain's largest reservoirs. The residential centre offers activity courses for schools, youth groups and adults. It is open all year round and contracts will vary in length.

For 2007 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, 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 start at £219.78 per week with opportunities for overtime. Accommodation and meals are available.

Catering staff are also required.

This role involves working with young people and adults. GWC has a policy for safeguarding children and all applicants will be required to complete the CRB process before starting work at the Centre.

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



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Activity Instructors For Summer Season 2007

Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre, Essex

- Salary: £11,226 - £14,133 pa. pro rata - inclusive of outer fringe (depending on qualifications).

Grangewaters is a local education authority residential centre based in South Ockendon, Essex. We have opportunities for activity instructors and assistant activity instructors to work on multi-activity programmes.

The activities we offer include climbing, sailing, high ropes, kayaking, archery, mountain bikes, canoeing and much more. Our client base is varied and include:

- Schools
- Youth Groups
- Colleges/Universities
- Groups with physical and learning difficulties
- Corporate groups

We are looking for dynamic, enthusiastic and self-motivated instructors who work well within a team. Qualifications within the outdoor industry would be an advantage but not essential as training will be provided.

Seasonal posts are available from April through to September.

For an informal chat please call Adrian Hodges on: 01708 855228/856422.

To obtain an application pack, please call
Grangewaters on 01708 855228/856422 between 9 am-4pm Monday to Friday (answerphone available outside these hours). E-mail grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk
www.thurrock.gov.uk/grangewaters

SITUATIONS VACANT

Step up to the challenge

Are you
outgoing, adventurous
and great with kids?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Then this is for you!

Activity Instructors

Ideally you will hold one of these:

BCU Level 2 Training, SPA Training or GNAS Leader Award.

However we can provide excellent on-the-job training opportunities and can offer accommodation at all our centres.

To apply:

Visit: www.girlguiding.org.uk/vacancy

Email: hr@girlguiding.org.uk

Tel: 020 7592 1892



Charity no. 306016

Girlguiding UK

Whitewave: Skye's Outdoor Centre

2007 Instructional staff required for a May start. Seasonal or Full Time.

Check www.whiteact.demon.co.uk/job.htm for job specification.

Contact John White by email at info@white-wave.co.uk

Activity Instructors

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We are seeking

Energetic, Motivated

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www.adventure.uk.com tracy@adventure.uk.com

Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre Seasonal Instructors for 2007 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 £210 to £250pw + bonuses

depending on experience and qualifications

Onsite accommodation available

Please send a CV to Neil Maddock neil@hoac.net or
HOAC, Dews Lane, Harvil Road, Harefield, Middx UB9 6JN
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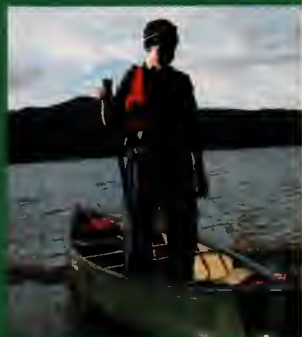
Are you up to **the challenge?**

IF YOU ARE:

- Dynamic ● Fun ● Caring
- Enthusiastic ● Full of initiative
- Looking for real adventure
- Eager to work with challenging young people
- Flexible and willing to work away from home

DO YOU HAVE:

- National Governing Body outdoor qualifications and/or
- Childcare experience



Active 8 Care provide high quality respite and emergency care for young people with challenging behaviour. We use a variety of adventurous activities to encourage positive personal development.

All staff teams are highly mobile and operate throughout the U.K. in specialist vehicles

If so contact us now!

Telephone: 01253 640683 Mobile: 07930 314762
or email: dave@active8care.co.uk web: www.active8care.co.uk



Lead Paddles Sports Instructor required for the Southend Marine Activities Centre

The Centre, based on the Northern Shore of the Thames Estuary, runs an extensive programme of courses for schools and the general public. The main watersports activities are: Sailing, Paddlesports, Windsurfing, Powerboat and Jetski driving.

We are seeking to employ a lead paddlesports instructor to coordinate and develop the Centre's paddlesports activity for the 2007 season. Candidates will ideally be a BCU Coach level 3 (but will consider Coach Level 2 with other suitable qualifications)

For full details, please contact Chris Bridgwater on 01702 612770 or Email chrisbridgwater@southend.gov.uk

Full time and Seasonal Staff required



We need committed and hardworking staff to help run our busy activity programme taking disabled and able bodied guests on activities such as canoeing, climbing and sailing in the beautiful Northumberland countryside.

An NGB qualification such as SPA, RYA 1 or BCU L2c would be an advantage.

Seasonal positions start Feb/March 07.

Phone 01434 250 232 or contact enquiries@calvert-kielder.com for an information pack
'Fantastic guests, excellent pay, great job satisfaction'



acorn



0121 504 2060
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www.jobs-acorn.co.uk



Acorn Adventure are now recruiting for our 2007 season running from April - September.

With centres in the UK, France and Italy we deliver adventurous holidays based in some amazing locations. You need to be energetic and motivated to deliver activity sessions to schools, youth groups and families.

With free travel to our European centres and opportunities to work towards NGB qualifications this is an amazing opportunity so get in touch now!

Get in touch

Call: 0121 504 2066

email: ned@acornadventure.co.uk

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- ▲ Great staff wages
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Todmorden, Lancs
www.robinwood.co.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Tel 01706 814 554

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



Hard working, multi-talented Instructors required to spend the 2007 season surrounded by hills, lakes, crags and rivers.

In addition to NGB awards, you will need a flexible approach to work, be good humoured and committed to developing your skills and career prospects.

For an application package send a CV and cover letter to:

Iain Brooks, Activity Manager,
Newlands Adventure Centre,
Stair, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UF.
Email: jobs@activity-centre.com
Web: www.activity-centre.com

SITUATIONS VACANT

Rockleywatersports

BCU KAYAK INSTRUCTORS

required for work in
FRANCE & UK

We are looking for enthusiastic BCU qualified Kayak instructors for our centres in France and the UK for the coming season. You will be teaching clients including school groups and families. Enthusiasm, professionalism and a hands-on approach are key qualities for all members of our team.

We offer competitive rates of pay and an excellent employment package with flexible start and finish dates from March to October.

For further information or an application pack, please contact the HR department on 0870 777 0541 or email personnel@rockleywatersports.com.



www.rockleywatersports.com

ACTIVITY
INSTRUCTOR
JOBS 2007

We require qualified multi-activity instructors for our rural Centre in Sandhurst, Berkshire. We're looking for self-motivated BCU/RYA instructors able to work with initiative and enthusiasm to deliver educational and FUN activity sessions and courses.

Join our professional team in providing both water and land-based activities - schools, youth groups, corporate team-building.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS must hold one or more of the following:
RYA Dinghy Instructor, RYA Windsurf Instructor L1
BCU Kayak/Canoe Coach L2 - BDA and GNAS an advantage.

Seasonal Contracts - April to September including weekends
Great wages for reliable staff (accommodation available).

Visit our website www.freetimewatersports.co.uk
Contact us: 01252 871808 jobs@freetimewatersports.co.uk
Horseshoe Lake, Mill Lane, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 8JW

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See us on stand N465 at the London Boat Show
and stand B13 at the dinghy sailing show



SITUATIONS VACANT

SEASONAL
INSTRUCTORS IN
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Enthusiastic multi-activity instructors required for the 2007 season at a busy outdoor centre in Essex. Applicants should preferably be a trainee Level II Kayak and/or Canoe Coach or higher with experience/qualifications in one or more of the following areas: Climbing, high ropes, archery or mountain biking.

Those without experience who are fit, flexible, keen to learn and have an interest in helping young people to develop will be considered.

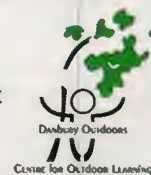
Applicants will need to be 18+ and able to work a flexible 37 hour week including evening and weekend work. Limited accommodation is available on site.

For further details and an application pack please contact Richard at Danbury Outdoors, Well Lane, Danbury, Essex CM3 4AB

Telephone: 01245 223 342

Email: richard@danburyoutdoors.com

www.danburyoutdoors.com



Essex County Council

CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE CENTRE

Challenging positions in one of Ireland's most popular Outdoor Adventure Centres

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

for energetic, enthusiastic Instructors with land and/or water based qualifications

Level 2 Coach in Kayak/Canoe

High Ropes Trained

Sailing/Windsurfing Instructors

Rock-Climbing SPA Instructors

** Mini-bus (D1) License over 25 preferable

Salary Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Positions to commence early February 2007

Interested? - Please send CV with details of experience and qualifications to:

TOM McARDLE, H.R. MANAGER

CARLINGFORD ADVENTURE CENTRE, THOLSEL STREET,
CARLINGFORD, CO. LOUTH, IRELAND

Tel: 00353 42 9373100 Fax: 00353 42 9373651

email: info@carlingfordadventure.com

web: www.carlingfordadventure.com

UKSA

United Kingdom Sailing Academy

The UKSA is a registered charity and dedicated training establishment for watersports and yachting activities and also as a leading provider of careers training for the Marine Leisure Industry, it has an established reputation for supplying highly competent professional seafarers and marine managers throughout the world.

We are currently seeking to recruit outstanding individuals who are RYA and BCU qualified Watersports Instructors for the 2007 season.

You will need to be a strong team player with excellent interpersonal skills and a proven ability to multi-task.

If you would like to be considered for the above positions, please send your CV with a covering letter to paula.jacobs@uksa.org or post to Paula Jacobs, UKSA, Arctic Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

PO31 7PQ.



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERVICE

Opportunities at our four well respected residential centres for Seasonal Instructors

- Salary range £10,206 - £13,901 dependant upon experience and qualifications (subject to job evaluation)
- Posts available from February 2007 onwards - 6-8 month contracts.
- Opportunities for extended contracts for a further 12 months
- National Governing Body experience/qualifications in Outdoor Activities essential.
- Board and accommodation available whilst at work.
- 37 hour week including one evening duty.
- Generous paid holidays.
- Further training and professional development available.

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

Website:

education.staffordshire.gov.uk/curriculum/outdooreducation



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



EDALE ACTIVITY CENTRE

A number of opportunities exist for:
INSTRUCTORS & TRAINEE INSTRUCTORS/ STORE PERSONS

For the 2007 season (March-Nov)

If you are interested in working in the heart of the Peak District with a wide range of activities & clients and with all training (inc. NGB qualifications) provided, then please request application details from:

Edale YHA Activity Centre, Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Hope Valley, S33 7ZH.

Tel: 01433 670302

email: edaleactivities@yha.org.uk



Instructors Required

Based at the River Dart Country Park

A 90 acre adventure site on the banks of the river Dart on Dartmoor.

2 full time instructors - contract end February - end October

1 assistant instructor - commencing end February - Start September

- Qualifications required - minimum of 2 for instructor: minimum 2 training for assistant instructor position; SPA; BCU Level 2 Canoe/Kayak, D1 minibus, Cave Leader, MLTB Walking

Send your CV covering letter to:

Roger and Clare at CRS Adventures, RDCP, Holne Park, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7NP



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 Knowles 01457 860200

Outdoor Instructors/ Residential Care Workers

If you are NGB qualified in outdoor pursuits activities, and relish the challenge of working with young people with challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties, here are a few other reasons why you should call us.

- You will be based in the Peak National Park
- You will have the opportunity to go on trips to some of the most beautiful parts of Britain
- You will receive NVQ training
- You will have the opportunity to gain further NGB qualifications
- Guaranteed minimum monthly wage

Who We Are

Turnaround is a small independent residential home for children of both sexes aged 9-16 years. We use adventure activities and learning outside the classroom to create a framework of experiences and skills that can provide knowledge, thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as life skills, interpersonal skills and crucially for our young people - personal development

Who You Are

- You are at least 21 years old
- You hold NGB outdoor qualifications
- You are keen to gain further qualifications including NVQ 3
- You are calm, patient, with a good sense of humour
- You have a full driving licence
- You are able to work away from home for several days at a time

For further information, to arrange a visit or interview please call
Barb Frith on 01298 70655



Mersea outdoors MULTI-ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

centre for outdoor learning

Required from May to September 2007
NGB and in-house training provided
BCU Level 2 Kayak instructors needed
D1 licence an advantage
On-site accommodation available

For more information and an application form please contact the centre on 01206 383226 or email info@merseaoutdoors.com



Rewsalls Lane, East Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8SX
www.merseaoutdoors.com

Outdoor Instructors

Join a friendly, enthusiastic team at an expanding, high quality centre in coastal west Wales. Varied activities, diverse client base and favourable working conditions. Season- mid-March to late Oct. Applications from: www.llain.com/download, e-mail enquiries@llain.com or write to: The Centre Manager, Llain Activity Centre, Llanarth, Ceredigion, SA470PZ.

SITUATIONS VACANT

SENIOR ACTIVITY INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Starting Salary approx £16K (depending on experience)

37.5 hour week

27 days paid holiday + bank holidays

UK YOUTH - Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre

We are currently seeking a Senior Instructor to work at our outdoor centre, based in the heart of the New Forest. The Centre is run by UK Youth, a national charity providing innovative non formal education to young people. Working in an enjoyable, busy atmosphere, you would be required to oversee a team of approximately 20 instructors and instruct a variety of sessions and work with a diverse range of groups, including schools, youth groups, adults and individuals with additional support needs.

Avon Tyrrell offers a variety of Adventurous & Environmental activities including; Raft Building, Canoeing, Kayaking, Ropes Course, Climbing & Abseiling, Archery, Woodland Survival & Night Walks, as well as running a number of UK Youths development programmes, such as First Gear – a pre learner driver project.

Successful candidates must possess very good interpersonal skills and hold a minimum of BCU level 3 coaching qualification and a full SPA.

Experience with a variety of groups, or qualifications in any of the above mentioned activities are desirable. We strongly believe in continuous personal development and all instructional staff receive a comprehensive training package, using internal and external trainers, to provide on site qualifications, NGB's and soft skills training. An interest or experience in youth work would be an advantage.

Closing date: 9th January

Interviews January 23rd and 24th for a February 2007 start

Download an application pack from

www.ukyouth.org/whoware/workwithus or email info@avontyrrell.org.uk or send a 44p SAE to UK Youth, Avon Tyrrell, Bransgore, Hampshire BH23 8EE quoting reference S112-06

UK Youth is striving to be an equal opportunities employer

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England and Wales no. 5402004

Registered Office: UK Youth, 2nd Floor, Kirby House, 20/24 Kirby St., London EC1N 8TS



HATFIELD WATER PARK OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE

STAFF REQUIRED FOR 2007

Hatfield Water Park Outdoor Activity Centre is a Local Authority residential activity centre that has recently undergone a £1.3 million refurbishment. We have increased the range of activities on offer at the centre. For 2007 we are looking for enthusiastic and experienced seasonal staff capable of delivering exciting and educationally valid activities for Schools, Youth Groups and individuals. Ideally you will hold a minimum of BCU Level Two Kayak Coach, and SPA. Additional NGB awards would be an advantage.

For further details contact the centre and ask for Stuart or Darren or send your CV with a covering letter to:

Hatfield Water Park Outdoor Activity Centre
Old Thorne Road
Hatfield
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN7 6EQ

www.doncaster.gov.uk/hatfield_waterpark
Email: hatfield.waterpark@doncaster.gov.uk
Tel: 01302 841572

SITUATIONS VACANT

WHITECAP LEISURE

A multi activity centre based at Willen Lake - Milton Keynes.
Staff required for 2007 season.

NGB Qualified Instructors: BCU Level 2 coach and/or RYA Dinghy Instructor minimum

Trainee Instructors Scheme: Training will be given to gain NGB awards. You will need personal skills and a desire to teach watersports.

Accommodation is available on site.

Interviews week commencing 5th March 07 - immediate start

CLOSING DATE 31st January 2007

Contact:-

Whitecap Leisure, Willen Lake, V10 Brickhill Street,
Milton Keynes, MK15 0DS
Tel 01908 691620 email:- admin@whitecap.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

2007 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: apps07@longridge.org.uk

www.longridge.org.uk

Okehampton Adventure Centre

Are Seeking Seasonal Instructors to join our busy staff team

Applicants should ideally hold at least one NGB award:
SPA – ML – BCU L2 Coach
However Trainee positions are also available!

For further information and application form please contact Michelle Wood

Activity Manager

Phone 01837 53916 or

email: activities@okehampton-yha.co.uk



TAIN ADVENTURE CENTRE BALLYOONAN, OMEATH, CO LOUTH IRELAND



Instructor's required for 2007 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

Radical

RADICAL SERVICES

Freelance Residential Care Workers Needed!

Radical Services are based in the Lake District and have been delivering high quality crisis intervention (Outdoor based) and long-term (Care home based) childcare for over ten years.

Freelance Outdoor Instructors/Care workers can expect excellent rates of pay
Flexibility and short notice availability is highly desirable.
Work available from one to thirteen days a month.

Can you say yes to the following questions?

- You have a least one year of residential child care experience
- You hold a minimum of two NGBs
- You can deal with challenging behaviour
- You have a caring personality
- You would like to receive training (NVQ)
- You can work away from home 1-3 nights
- You are over 21 and hold a full clean driving licence

For information /application pack call us on 01768 899998
Penrith Cumbria



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www.southwatersports.co.uk
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West Sussex RH13 7UN
Watersports Courses phone
01403 734424
For all your watersports equipment look @ www.ukkayaking.co.uk

Essex

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

YMCA

National Centre, Lakeside

Looking for a job in the outdoor industry?

Paddle on down to see us... and join our team of experienced and enthusiastic multi-activity instructors delivering Outdoor Education and Personal Development programmes to school and youth groups at our dynamic Centre in the Lake District. Contracts for our 2007 Seasonal Instructors start from early spring to late autumn.

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 preferred.

We are also recruiting for chefs, general assistants and volunteers within our Hospitality Teams for the 2007 season.

For a recruitment pack please contact:

Personnel Manager
YMCA National Centre, Lakeside
Newby Bridge, Ulverston
Cumbria, LA12 8BD
Tel: 08707 27 39 27
Email: personnel@lakesideymca.co.uk

www.lakesideymca.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 212810

Lakes Leisure Windermere

Instructor Vacancies

- Seasonal Instructor
Join our small full-time staff for the summer. Minimum of 2 RYA or BCU qualifications required.
- Casual Instructors
Applications welcome from locally based instructors with RYA, BCU or MLTB qualifications, available for work as required.

In addition to qualifications we are looking for personalities able to deal with guests of all ages and abilities. We offer good rates of pay and the opportunity to work with a small, friendly team in a wonderful location.

For further information or to request an application pack, please contact: Kathryn Jackson on
015394 47183 or e-mail
k.jackson@lakesleisure.org.uk

lakes leisure
Windermere

SEALYHAM ACTIVITY CENTRE

Our centre is located in a 500-acre wooded river valley with multi-activities taking place within the grounds and the nearby Fennelkeshire Coast National Park.

We are looking for motivated, pro-active instructors to deliver our 2007 Programme here at Sealyham. Applications are invited from suitably qualified people. You will be working with a wide range of clients offering an exciting range of activities.

Applicants should hold at least 1 qualification from any of the following organisations
BCU L2 KAYAK OR CANOE
RYA INSTRUCTOR
GNAS COACH
MLTB SPA
BSA LEVEL 1
A CLEAN DRIVING LICENSE WITH D1 IF POSSIBLE

PLEASE SEND CV TO
ALEC WILLIAMS AT
SEALYHAM ACTIVITY CENTRE
WOLFSCASTLE,
HAVERFORDWEST,
PEMBROKESHIRE, SA62 5NF
WWW.sealyham.com
TEL 01348 840763

SITUATIONS VACANT



We are now interviewing for all year round freelance & seasonal contracted instructors.

Applicants should hold at least two NGB awards and must have excellent 'people' skills.

Operating in the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park** we provide a wide range of activities including Sailing, Power boating, Canoeing, Kayaking, Climbing, Coasteering, Hill walking, Ropes course.

Our courses include: Instructor training and assessment, Princes Trust teams, School Groups and a variety of personal development courses.

Attractive remuneration based on your skills and qualifications. The work is varied, interesting and provides great job satisfaction.

Send CV by letter or Email to:-

Steve Small

Pembrokeshire Activity Centre

Cleddau Reach

Pembroke Dock

Pembrokeshire

SA72 6UJ

Phone: 01646 624782

Email: steve.small@princes-trust.org.uk

<http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/pac/>

SITUATIONS VACANT



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**

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Lead Instructor posts available for a L3 Canoe (or kayak)

Email david@mepal.co.uk for job description and application form or download from the website www.mepal.co.uk

East Region



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All info and bookings

www.cambscanoe.org.uk
or
email david@mepal.co.uk



Dagger G-Ride 6.5

Whilst Dagger's G-Ride, is radically short (6 ft 6 in) it still offers comfort for medium to large sized paddlers largely down to its foot and knee contours. The G-Ride is outfitted with Dagger's familiar Clutch outfitting, whilst a separately supplied outfitting pack can also meet your custom requirements (hip pads, seat pad, bulkhead pads etc.) if needed.

A four hour paddle in a brand new boat gives very little information about the long term reliability and robustness of the system, but I was pleasantly surprised and impressed with both the fit and construction in the short term and found the seat and backband to be very comfortable

At six feet and 77 kilos the standard set-up suited me fine, as the boat has plenty of volume, though I personally would prefer a quick adjust foot rest system. The stern of the boat will accommodate airbags and you could carry enough gear for a day's paddling.



If you want a boat that will allow you to paddle all grades of UK rivers then the G-Ride will suit those who after a boat that can do it all with good to excellent performance.

The primary function of the G-Ride is as a river-runner where it floats high enough to provide confidence in pushy water. It excels with great stability and holds its line down demanding rapids. The stability of the G-Ride is highlighted as I could lean at some tricky angles whilst holding the boat without tipping over. As you become more used to the the boat's capabilities it begins to inspire the confidence to take harder lines on some of the rapids.

Though it is more of a river runner than playboat, you are still able to play if you have the skills and shows itself to be similar to the Dagger G-Force in many respects. The boat spins and surfs well and you can with some effort even throw cartwheels on flat water. However, flat water exposes the G-Rides achilles heel; as at being so short it is also quite slow as would be more or less expected.

That said, if I was limited to having just one boat, this would be a strong contender to be that one, it does everything you would expect and excels at its chosen speciality of river-running. This boat

has it all the angles covered.

Steve Humphreys

www.daggereurope.com

Don't leave home without it

You never know when there might be a big need for this latest little hand gadget from Gerber. It's a very neat small package that contains a wealth of useful everyday items.

Just 63mm long when closed, the Gerber Clutch is a mini-marvel incorporating just about every tool you're likely to need in a tight spot.

The Gerber Clutch features a reliably robust pair of mini-pliers which fold out with an easy action, and there's a tidy collection of mini-tools tucked into its anodised aluminium outboard handles, including three screwdrivers, a bottle opener, gritty file, tweezers, and all-purpose knife blade.

So clip it to your keychain or slip it in your pocket.

Available now, in special ops grey, the Gerber Clutch retails at approximately £19.99.

www.gerbergear.com

www.greatkit.com

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Ads are posted on www.canoeofocus.co.uk. It would be of great benefit to

us and to the readers if sellers advise us when their items have been sold on the web. Alternatively, members can post, amend and cancel their own ads on the new BCU website. You will need a password which the BCU will email to you.

Second Hand Boats www.aswatersports.co.uk

Marsport Epsilon

Stable racing kayaks are from the eyes of most paddlers an oxymoron, but Marsport's latest creation should prove this opinion obsolete. The boat is quick on the cruise gliding easily through the water. The fine bow line gives good paddle entry, coupled with the Alpha style deck gives the impression of a very racy craft.

The Epsilon allows those less stable in a k1 to transfer real power to the blade and use their effort for going forward rather than staying upright! It certainly helped me get past a wobbly period and was perfect for attacking those cruiser washes.

The Epsilon's club specification of an gives a very solid boat that should last for years with some clever additions, such as the long seat pin with the lock nut on top to avoid the loss of the wing nut and toggle and the leash to stop the seat being lost.

Across the front of the cockpit is another innovation a holder for your watch or gps unit although most users of the boat seem to use it as a handle for helping them out of the boat – a task that it performs equally well.

Using it as a coaching boat I had enough speed to stay with most of my group through the session but still had enough stability to perform a deep water rescue and put the swimmer back in the boat.

Overall it makes a great development racing kayak and would be a superb multi sport boat well suited to the rougher water or longer endurance races.

James Hinves



Pumping sweat

Velez Smock and Velez Adventure

Páramo have racked up a number of awards in the outdoor world with their membrane-free jackets, which use a Nikwax directional system that 'pumps' water away from the body to keep you dry. The technical cut of the Velez reduces volume and weight and improves aerodynamics, whilst fully articulated shoulders and elbows with a cropped front ensures freedom of movement and optimum fit.

This really is a jacket for every occasion. I haven't worn any other jacket for the last two months cycling to and from work and the gym and find it to be very comfortable over a

wide range of temperatures making it ideal for all kinds of activities. The Velez will still



make you sweat with hard training, but the directional system does its job and pumps the moisture away, so it's needless to say that when it goes on it stays on and it's soft against the skin too. If it does get really warm, then the full side-zips and deep chest zip provide excellent ventilation and soon leave you feeling comfortable again.

A great jacket for colder and rainy weather, it is quick to dry whilst keeping you warm and dry on particularly wet days – in short, the Velez material is first class. The chest and hand warmer pockets provide most of the storage you'll need, however, I would have liked a few more usable pockets for keeping items separate. Compared to a single purpose garment, such as a waterproof, it's not the lightest, but in terms of versatility this jacket is amongst the very best.

In September Páramo launched the Velez with a fixed hood which will run alongside the existing Velez for those who want a non-detachable hood. The new Velez Adventure has evolved in direct response to customer demand, and those who appreciate the twin front zip venting and its contribution to 'recovery' in miserable, sleepless conditions!

Features:

- Articulated cut.
- Additional venting via front twin zip design.
- Hand warmer pockets (big enough for an OS map).
- Large external chest pocket.
- Reflective piping and reversed zips.
- Average weight: 778g
- Retail price: £160.00

Tony Cornwell

www.paramo.co.uk

Tel: 01892 786444

PADDLE THIS

The AutoLoader Xv

Fully retooled for 2006, the AutoLoader Xv is one of the most advanced kayak carriers offered in the transport industry.

Features

- Jawz Universal Mounting System (Patent Pending) - fits square, round and factory oval cross
- New hex head mounting bolts fit all rack sizes
- State of the art corrosion free plastic injection moulded frame
- Molded boarding ramp for easy loading
- Cavitated construction to add strength and reduce weight
- Increased frame dimensions to handle large beam kayaks
- nine foot cam buckle straps – multi-slotted for various loads - ten year warranty

Autoloader VX pair with straps: £59.95

Seawing pair with straps: £59.95

SystemX

Tel: (01189 773 709

www.systemxkayak.co.uk



Two into one

Sanyo has launched the new splash-resistant Xacti VPC-CA6 – a pocket sized MPEG-4 digital movie camera and six million pixel still camera. The camera is designed specifically to appeal to those who enjoy a range of outdoor activities and according to Sanyo the can be operated with wet hands, which should make it ideal for paddlers. However, the manual states that the guarantee doesn't cover the camera being sprinkled with water, so beware just how wet you get it!

This is the problem with this camera – which at times is excellent but on other functions – not so good.

What is very good is the styling, this camera definitely gets noticed and a real head-turner and with good reason: it is small, looks very funky in its white and orange trim.

The camera is equipped with a two inch LCD screen and one of the best screens that I have seen in terms of clarity and brightness. However, it has to be because the camera has no viewfinder and in bright sunshine even a screen of this contrast can look very washed out.

What doesn't help is that the screen only flips out one way and therefore cannot be tilted or flipped which is another limitation in terms of shooting video in particular as your eye has to be in line with the viewfinder. Also when closed, the display curiously points outward, offering it no protection from getting scratched and full of finger prints.

The stereo microphones are included on the back of the LCD display. They both point in the same direction and are only separated by an inch or so. The microphones should really have been put on the front or top as the right one is blocked off by the camera and so will not pick up any more 'right' sound than the left one. Sound is recorded at 48KHz 16bit in AAC format.

In the box you'll find a battery charger, 1GB SD card and CD containing Ulead DVD Moviefactory 4.0 SE, Photo Explorer 8.5 Basic and Motion Director 1.1. An hand-strap is also included. There's no dock included but with a mains charger, AV and USB leads, it shouldn't be missed.

Main controls are at the rear of the camera and fall under the thumb with 'photo' and 'video', buttons dominating, however, watch out for your forefinger straying in front of the lens because a good grip is difficult at times. The zoom button is hard to operate with smoothness due to its position and it in video mode should have a pause function. The camera lacks instant buttons for macro and flash selection, however a well designed intuitive three-stage menu is used. The camera powers up very quickly in just over a second.

Test pictures are smooth and detailed and the video was good with the 30 frames per second capture producing a natural movement, however, quality is not as good as miniDV standards due to the lower resolution of 640x480 pixels. A real drawback though is the lack of a tripod mounting on the underneath of the camera where instead, there is a flap which accommodates the memory card and battery which is nice and small with a good duration.

I use an Apple laptop and the camera worked instantly with the resident Apple iLife software suite making it very easy to download both images and video straight away. One bonus of video on a memory card is that it is faster and easier to transfer to your hard drive instead of waiting in real time as with miniDV tapes.

So there we go – a real Jeckyl and Hyde – a camera that produces good results but is let down by a lack of some functions and a good looking camera that is held back by some design oddities. You pick which is important to you.

Andy Pearson
www.sanyo.co.uk



Features

- MPEG-4 30 fps digital movies or 6 MegaPixel still images
- Capture still and video images simultaneously!
- 2.0-inch TFT LCD display and 5.0x optical zoom lens
- Advanced anti-shake control
- 9-Image Display Function

Retail price: £300.00

PADDLE THIS

Bears and sheep!

Helly Hansen's tradition of producing top quality garments, combined with performance and style continues with the Freeze half zip turtle top. The midweight base layer combines the insulating qualities found in polar bear fur with Merino sheep wool, to create a great performing base layer for winter sports.

The Freeze utilises Helly Hansen's new, Lifa Thermic Tube Technology (T3), an innovative fabric inspired by nature, that mimics the properties of polar bear fur and is designed to be worn next to the skin. Polar bear fur is made up of hollow tube-like fibres that trap heat and move excess moisture away from the skin, ensuring warmth and dryness for bears in cold conditions.

In addition to polar bear warmth next to the skin, finest quality New Zealand Merino sheep wool has been added to the outside of the base layer for extra warmth, a luxurious super soft feel, elasticated cuffs to ensure low heat loss and a half zip for increased ventilation for when you get too warm (which you will) and versatility.

The tops for both men and women are tight fitting but utilise flatlock seams to reduce chaffing and have stylish contrast stitching for the quality finish you come to expect from Helly Hansen. The Freeze comes in a wide range of radiant colours, including black, hot pink/white and angora/aquarius (ice blue) for women, and black/red, tangerine/red, khaki/silver/copper and dark blue/angora for men, which makes the Freeze a stylish piece of kit to be seen in this winter.

Freeze is available now in sizes XS-XXL and retails at £45.

Anne Egan

www.hellyhansen.com or telephone: 0115 960 8797



Something for under the tree

A round-up of smaller items that have impressed us over the last year in terms of their usefulness and longevity and could make ideal Christmas presents:

HandiRack

Inflatable roof bars - great idea!
£49.99 www.handirackuk.com



Keen Humboldt

Very comfortable outdoor shoes!
£79.99 www.keenfootwear.co.uk



Polar AXN500

Excellent wrist computer and HRM
£239.99 www.polarelectro.co.uk



Paramo Cambia

Superb reversible t-shirt! £24.99
www.paramo.co.uk



Pyranha news

The team at Pyranha have been hard at work getting all their new toys ready for this season. Now in full production is the Recoil freeride boat.

The Recoil provides a real modern design for those who want to play all the river. It's one of the best all-rounders on the market this year and is packed with plenty of features that make a session playing your way down a local run a real smile filled blast, just the way it should be!

Tail squirts, splats, cartwheels are effortless and stable in the Recoil, while its fast surfing hull and well balanced volume distribution will excite others who look to waves for their kicks. Available in three sizes Small: 40 to 70kgs; Medium: 65 to 85 kgs and the Large: 105 to 165kgs and two specs; the all new full-on WW Connect 30 and the mid-priced Rapid + could be a big hit with instructors, clubs and individual paddlers alike. Prices are £799 for the top spec Connect 30 model and £575 for the Rapid +.

The Recoil is a kayak that helps everyone progress their paddling whatever level they paddle at.
www.pyranha.com



PADDLE THIS

Sea Kayak

Author: Gordon Brown • Price: £15-99 • Pesda Press

Summary:

A manual for intermediate and advanced sea kayakers. This book is a modern guide to sea kayaking by one of the leading exponents of the sport who is also a highly respected coach in this field.

Gordon Brown is a BCU Level 5 sea coach based on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. He shares his knowledge with you in his own succinct humorous style and very visual approach.

In this book Gordon covers topics of kayaking history, physiology, boat and paddle dynamics, seamanship and navigation, safety and rescue, weather forecasting, caves, rockhopping and tidal races, expeditions and overnighting, as well as a wealth of tips and resources for the sea paddler.

Over seventy photographs and illustrations help to make this an essential modern manual for the sea kayaker.

This is a visually stunning book printed on 170gsm silk paper filled with top quality photographs. The author is well known as a paddler and author, having written numerous and regular articles for kayak magazines and contributed to the Canoe and Kayak Handbook.

www.pesdapress.com info@pesdapress.com Tel: 01286-685233



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