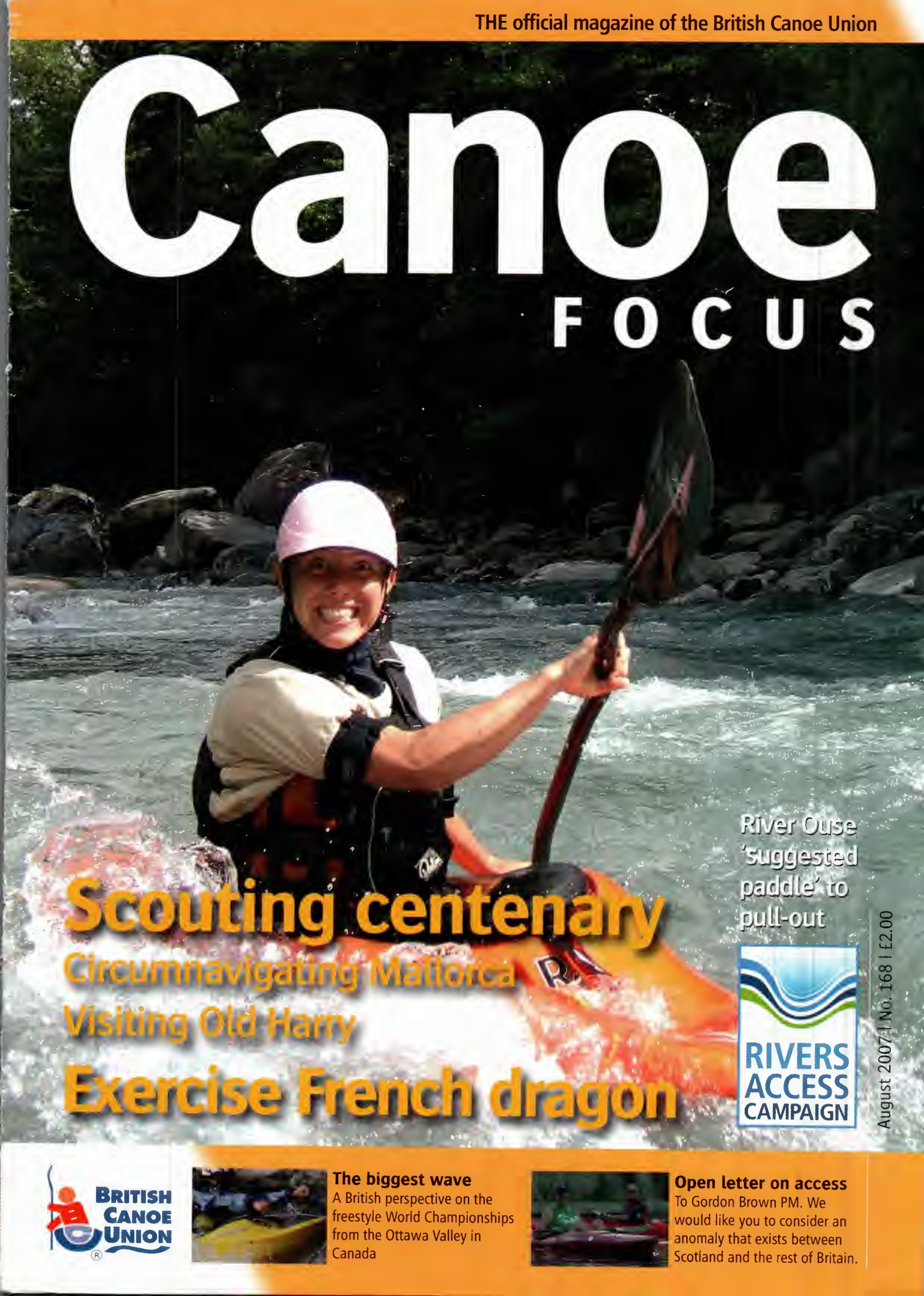


Canoe

FOCUS



Scouting centenary

Circumnavigating Mallorca

Visiting Old Harry

Exercise French dragon

River Ouse
'suggested
paddle' to
pull-out



August 2007 | No. 168 | £2.00



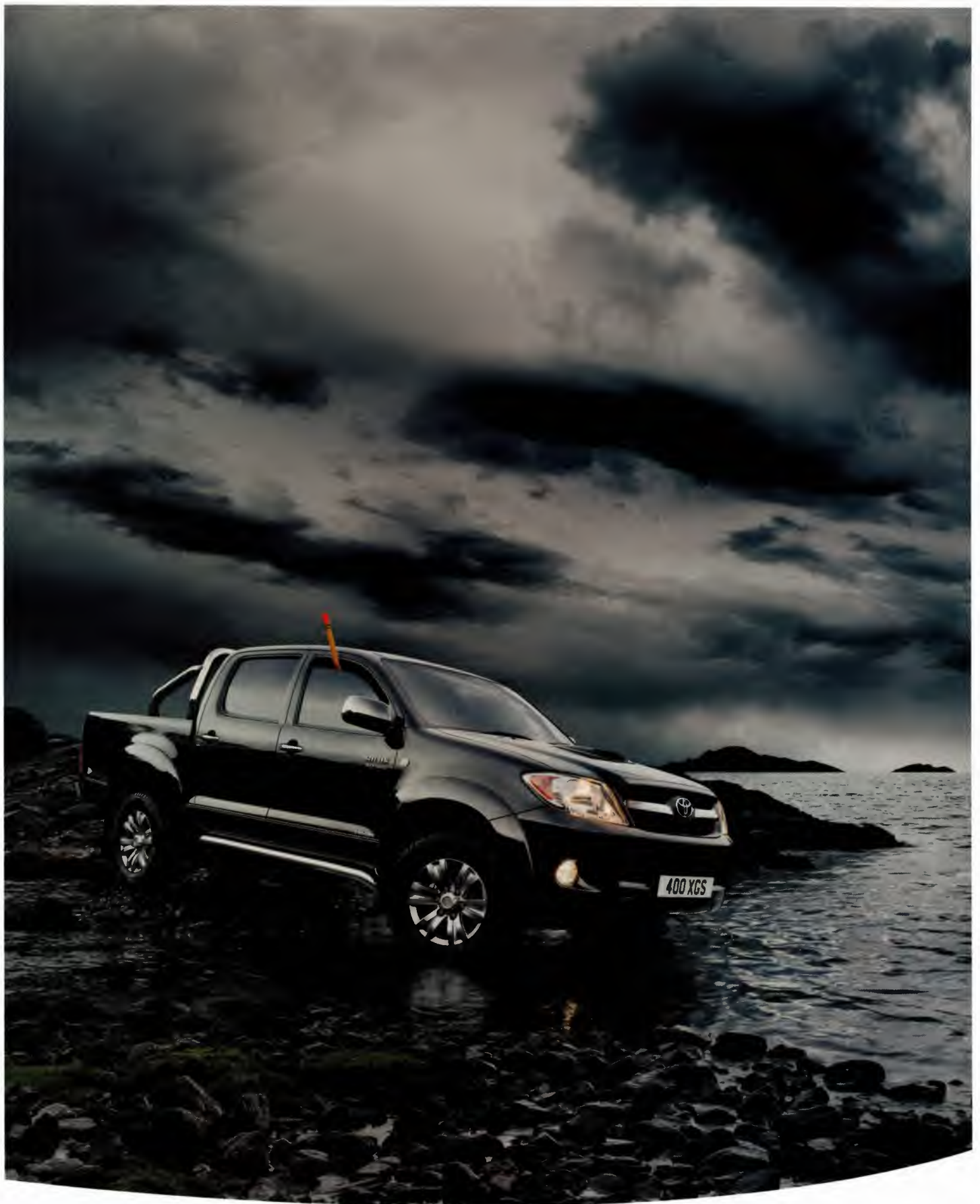
The biggest wave

A British perspective on the freestyle World Championships from the Ottawa Valley in Canada



Open letter on access

To Gordon Brown PM. We would like you to consider an anomaly that exists between Scotland and the rest of Britain.



The new 3.0L D-4D Hilux Invincible. Unstoppable. £18,870.

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Chrome sports bar is an extra cost option. Calls to Toyota may be monitored or recorded to improve customer service.

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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: Mary Grey on Operation French Dragon.
Photo: Anthony Bell

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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@canoeocus.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 August issue of Canoe Focus

There has certainly been plenty of rain over the last couple of months in some areas of the country. Occasionally during summer months opportunities to paddle would be reduced due to drought conditions, but I hope the increased rainfall has presented opportunities to enjoy paddling near to where you live.

BCU achieve Standard for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport

Following the successful achievement of the Preliminary Level, we are delighted to announce that Canoe England has achieved the Intermediate NSPCC Standard for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport. This reflects the commitment we have to ensuring that children have a positive experience in our sport and to support everyone involved in paddlesport with appropriate guidance and help.

To support this role the BCU will be running a series of workshops for Club Welfare Officers this autumn and next spring (see page 47).

ICE at the Outdoors Show

As our contract with the Outdoors Show has expired, we've used the opportunity to evaluate feedback from members and from the trade to investigate future options.

Recently the Outdoors Show has lacked presence from the trade and members have expressed that the show is not how it used to be. Consequently we will not be renewing our contract, but we will be exploring alternatives. We have already signed up to the new 'Canoexpo' event held in February which is already proving popular among the trade. We will keep you updated about future plans.

Competition results

The summer months continue to be busy for the GB teams, as they

compete for medals at international events and there have many achievements to celebrate.

Slalom

European Championships, 16-17th June - The GB team won three medals at the European Slalom Championships in Slovakia. Olympic silver medallist Campbell Walsh, won bronze in the men's K1 event. The racing was televised on Eurosport. Both the men's and women's team won a bronze medal each in the team event (see page 24).

World Cup 1, 29th June-1st July - In the first World Cup race held in Prague the GB team won a total of two bronze medals. Fiona Pennie won a bronze in the women's K1 event and the second medal was won by C1 paddler David Florence (see page 24).

World Cup 2, 6-8th July - C2 paddlers Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott won a silver medal in the 2nd World Cup event held in Tacen, Slovenia.

World Cup 3, 13-15th July - C1 paddler David Florence won a bronze medal in the last of the World Cup series, achieving second position overall.

Flat Water Racing

World Cup 3, 2-3rd June - Tim Brabants won a bronze medal in K1 500m World Cup 3 event in France. This was Brabants' first ever World Cup medal in the 500m - a tremendous result for the doctor who has been on a sharp learning curve to develop his racing skills over this distance.

European Championships - Tim Brabants wins the European Championships in the Men's K1 500m event, a first for Brabants in this distance (see page 24).

U23 and Junior Regatta, Germany 15-17th June - Congratulations to the GB team who paddled excellently to win five medals!

In the K4 Kristian Reeves, Tom Hide, Ben Parfitt and Ed Rutherford won a silver medal in both the 1000m and 500m events. The other double medallist of the group was Hayleigh Mason who won a bronze and a silver medal in the K1 1000m and 500m events.

Jessica Walker and Amoret King contributed a bronze medal in the K2 1000m to GB's medal haul. Special mention also to go to the U16 Boys C4 who took a silver medal in the 500m event, and to Dean Terry who also gained a silver in the K1 1000m race (see page 24).

Marathon European Championships Trencin Slovakia 14-15th July - Tim Pendle won a gold medal in the Junior Men's K1 event, and Mark Childerstone and Dean Terry won a bronze medal in the junior men's K2 event. Well done to all.

Wild Water Racing

Junior Wild Water Racing Championships 17-21st July, USA - An impressive five medals were won in the Wild Water Racing Championships.

In the women's K1 classic Sandra Hyslop won gold and Olivia Churchill won bronze. In the women's K1 team event, the team consisting of Sandra Hyslop, Hannah Brown and Olivia Churchill, won gold. In the women's K1 sprint, Sandra Hyslop won silver and Olivia Churchill won bronze (see page 24).

Canoeing welcomes public consultation into coastal access

The BCU supports the government's intention to improve access to coastal land in England and welcomes the DEFRA public consultation, launched Tuesday 19th June. The announcement is warmly welcomed because the lack of clarity surrounding access to England's coast line is a problem for all water users including canoeists. England and Wales have approximately 4,400km or 2,700 miles of coastline and estuaries. Where there is public access, it is currently provided by a variety of different mechanisms making it confusing. We look forward to hearing the outcome.

Rivers Access Campaign

The second reading of the Access to Inland Waters Bill has been pushed back to 19th October 2007. Whilst the Bill is still on the parliamentary agenda, it presents the campaign with an opportunity to lobby newly appointed government ministers in the forthcoming party conferences. For more details on the campaign see page 33.

Next Cotswold discount days

The next Cotswold days are over the following dates:

- 9-12th August
- 25-28th October

To advantage of the 20% discount, on selected products, over these periods (as opposed to the usual 15%) simply quote the code C2114 when purchasing in store, on-line or by telephone. Visit www.cotswoldoutdoor.com

British canoeing restructures

The BCU have successfully completed a restructuring exercise which sees them 'Fit for 2012' and able to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves in the run up to London 2012 and beyond.

The reorganisation focuses on meeting the changing demands of competitive sport and recreation in the UK and England. The organisation has established an infrastructure to deliver performance and participation well into the future.

A review of the whole organisation has been carried out, resulting in the creation of five key functional areas:

1. **Olympic Performance and development programmes** - supporting our Olympic podium athletes to ensure that they are able to fulfil their potential in achieving medals at Championships and ultimately the Olympic Games
2. **English Development** - driving participation at a grassroots level and developing our international canoeists of the future
3. **Operations and Customer Services** - continuing to provide our membership with first class service, whilst controlling governance and supplying a first class support structure
4. **UK Coaching** - supporting over 9,000 coaches with an enhanced UKCC accredited coaching system
5. **Competition** - providing support services to our competition disciplines and events programme

The re-structuring has put us in an excellent position to achieve our objectives both in terms of performance and participation. As a successful and internationally recognised Governing Body, we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. We have taken a hard look at ourselves and put in place the strategies and people to take full advantage of the opportunities in sport and recreation in the lead up to 2012. This will ensure that our sport leaves a lasting legacy of opportunity for generations to come.

The next issues of Canoe Focus in 2007/08 are:
 - October
 - December
 - February

Start	Finish	Discipline	Event
1-Sep	2-Sep	Slalom	Cardington, Div 2, 3 & 4 - 25th Anniversary Event
1-Sep		Sprint Racing	Broadwood Regatta
1-Sep	2-Sep	Surf	British Championships, NE England
1-Sep		Multi-Sport	Eden Rivers Festival - Rickerby Park, Carlisle
2-Sep		Freestyle	Youth Series, Holme Pierrepont
2-Sep		Marathon Racing	Adlington 2
2-Sep		Marathon Racing	Bristol Avon Descent
2-Sep		Marathon Racing	Ratho East
2-Sep		Marathon Racing	Calder 2
2-Sep		Slalom	Washburn, Premier & Open
8-Sep		Marathon Racing	Liffey Descent, IRL
8-Sep	9-Sep	Marathon Racing	World Championships, Gyor, HUN
8-Sep	9-Sep	Slalom	Inter Club Championship Finals, Cardington
8-Sep	9-Sep	Sprint Racing	Inter Club National Regatta, Holme Pierrepont
8-Sep	9-Sep	Freestyle	National Ranking, Tryweryn
9-Sep		Marathon Racing	Ironbridge
10-Sep	16-Sep	Canoe Polo	European Championships, Thury Harcourt, FRA
12-Sep		Marathon Racing	Lowport Summer Series 10km
15-Sep	16-Sep	Canoe Sailing	Corus
15-Sep	16-Sep	Slalom	Holme Pierrepont, Premier & Div 1, Paul McConkey Memorial
15-Sep	16-Sep	Slalom	Oughtibridge, Div 3 & 4
15-Sep	16-Sep	Wild Water Racing	Holme Pierrepont, Div A, B & Youth
16-Sep		Marathon Racing	Poole Harbour Circuit
16-Sep		Marathon Racing	Hasler Finals, Pangbourne
16-Sep	17-Sep	Surf	Freshwater Contest, Pembroke
19-Sep	23-Sep	Slalom	World Championships, Foz d'Iguazu, BRA
22-Sep		Freestyle	Youth Series, Boulsters
22-Sep	23-Sep	Slalom	Shepperton, Div 2 & 3
22-Sep	23-Sep	Slalom	West Tanfield, Div 3 & 4
22-Sep		Surf	Portrush, North Coast
23-Sep		Marathon Racing	Huntingdon Great Ouse
23-Sep		Marathon Racing	Chester 2
23-Sep		Marathon Racing	Tees
23-Sep		Marathon Racing	Oxford - The One Thousand Guineas Series - Race 4 - K4
23-Sep		Wild Water Racing	Langham Farm, Youth Finals
29-Sep	30-Sep	Slalom	Bala Mill, Div 2 & 3
29-Sep	30-Sep	Slalom	Princes Quay, Div 4 & Open
29-Sep		Wild Water Racing	Washburn, Div A & B
29-Sep	30-Sep	Freestyle	National Ranking, Nene
30-Sep		Marathon Racing	Henley
30-Sep		Marathon Racing	Macclesfield 1
30-Sep		Marathon Racing	Fladbury
30-Sep		Marathon Racing	Tay Descent
30-Sep		Wild Water Racing	Aire, Div B & Youth
2-Oct	11-Oct	Multi-Sport	Special Olympics World Cup Games, Shanghai CHN
6-Oct	7-Oct	Canoe Sailing	Draycote
6-Oct		Marathon Racing	Reading K4
6-Oct	7-Oct	Slalom	Llandysul, Div 1 & 2
6-Oct		Slalom	Scottish Championships, Grandtully
6-Oct	7-Oct	Surf	HP series Final, Newquay
6-Oct	7-Oct	Surf	HP series Final, Newquay
6-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Nene 3 (Wavehoppers), Div B & Youth
6-Oct	7-Oct	Freestyle	National Ranking, Holme Pierrepont - British Championship
7-Oct		Marathon Racing	Bollington Cut
7-Oct		Marathon Racing	River Isla
7-Oct		Marathon Racing	Chelmer
7-Oct		Marathon Racing	Elmbridge
7-Oct		Marathon Racing	Fowey River Race
7-Oct		Slalom	Stone, Div 3 & 4
7-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Ironbridge, Div B & Youth
7-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Awe - Training Release
7-Oct		Sprint Racing	10km Handicap Race - Lincoln CC
13-Oct	14-Oct	Slalom	Tees, Premier & Div 1
13-Oct	14-Oct	Slalom	Sowerby Bridge, Div 2 & 3
14-Oct		Marathon Racing	Windsor
14-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Stone, Div B & Youth
19-Oct	28-Oct	Surf	World Championships, Mundaka/Bakio, ESP
20-Oct	21-Oct	Slalom	Llangollen Qual, Premier & Div 1
20-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Wear, Div B & Youth
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Wolfreton
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Marlow
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Hemel Hempstead
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Mersey Descent
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Griffon

September

October

Start	Finish	Discipline	Event
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Richmond
21-Oct		Marathon Racing	Dee, Highland Series
21-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Steningford Mill, Div B & Youth
21-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Lower Dart, Div B & Youth
27-Oct	28-Oct	Canoe Sailing	Oxford
27-Oct	28-Oct	Slalom	Yalding Weir, Div 4, Kent & Sussex Open Championships
27-Oct	28-Oct	Slalom	British Open & Inter Regional Championships, Llangollen
27-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Usk, Div A & B
28-Oct		Marathon Racing	Trent K2
28-Oct		Marathon Racing	Banbury
28-Oct		Wild Water Racing	Taff Sprint, Div A, B & Youth

October

Have we missed any?

We have compiled the list from those events which people have notified us of and we do our best to ensure that the information is correct at the time of writing. However, circumstances change, so if this is the case or if you know of any competition events that you think should be added, contact: Andy Goodsell: andy.goodsell@bcu.org.uk

Where can I view a calendar of the whole year?

Visit the BCU and Canoe England web sites (www.bcu.org.uk) and follow the link 'News & Events'. A full list is available to download in PDF format here.

I am new to competition events – what's it all about and how do I enter?

There are many paddlers who may not have thought about the competition side much, but disciplines DO welcome newcomers. The next issue of Canoe Focus will provide more information for those who are thinking of trying a competition for the first time. Alternatively, look in the directory for details the contact person of a particular discipline, or visit the BCU web site (www.bcu.org.uk) and look under 'disciplines' to visit a discipline's web site.

Club events

We are aware that there are hundreds of club based events that take place throughout the year. Unfortunately we will be unable to list them all here, however we are very keen to publicise them, we want the BCU web site to become the place people post details of events, email Shruti Passi: shruti.passi@bcu.org.uk

For more information on all disciplines and events visit:

- Canoe polo : www.canoe polo.org.uk
- Canoe sailing: www.intcanoe.org.uk
- Flat water racing:
Visit BCU, then 'Disciplines' and 'Flat water racing'
- Freestyle: www.ukfreestyle.com
- Marathon racing: www.marathon-canoeing.co.uk
- Slalom: www.canoeslalom.co.uk
- Surf: www.bcusurf.org.uk
- Wild water racing: www.wildwater.org.uk



New



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EDGE

Passion for kayaking

Adventure Elements is a new North Wales based company offering an exciting range of kayak courses. Based between Snowdonia and Anglesey on the Menai Straits Adventure Elements is close to fantastic sea kayaking and river paddling. Courses include evening sunset sea kayak trips, introduction to sea kayaking weekends as well as five day paddlesport introduction courses where you can try surfing, sea kayaking and river kayaking all under the watchful eye of local, experienced coaches.

They have a range of high quality equipment with boats and equipment from Nigel Dennis Kayaks, P&H, Lendal and Palm. Adventure Elements operates with a small client to instructor ratio and uses qualified local guides and coaches with a passion for passing on their enthusiasm. We hope to see you on the water.

Contact Details: James Stevenson - 07986992254
info@adventureelements.com
www.adventureelements.com



PADDLE THIS

Sea cadets in the surf

Southern Area's Sea Cadets recently ventured out on their first surf kayak weekend. The cadets, who are mostly used to river paddling, ocean going warships and sailing dinghies, had the chance to skipper their own small ships out in the surf.

With coaches Andy and Bertie on hand to set the course and keep the group (literally) off the rocks, the cadets headed to Saunton, North Devon. Arriving at the beach it was a bright crisp spring morning, but walking down to the beach it was clear the stiff offshore wind was going to make things tricky in the surf.

Paddling a range of river kayaks and a demo surf boat supplied by Woodmill Outdoor Shop (www.woodmill.co.uk) the group headed for the surf and prepared for a dunking. After a quick warm up and explanation of the golden 'one surfer one wave rule', everyone hit the surf.

While those new to the surf environment developed their stability and edge control in the broken waves, the other group headed further out to pick up the small but clean surf conditions. By midday everyone was progressing well, capsizing less and smiling more. With energy levels starting to drop, we headed for the shelter of the sand dunes to enjoy our beach picnic.

With the wind dropping off slightly, it was time to leave the suntrap and head back out. With the newer paddlers working on their wave take off and bottom turns, the others headed out to crack the elusive top turn. After



much frustration and several swims, a quick demo by Bertie soon confirmed that it was indeed possible to turn a kayak at the top of a wave and not fall in. The remainder of the afternoon allowed everyone to do some free surfing, including their first experience of a HP surf kayak – which everyone agreed was way too tippy to be any good in the ocean!

The course introduced everyone to the thrill of riding waves and an experience of a different type of paddlesport beyond the typical lake or stream. The cadets are looking forward to their next paddling adventure. General information about the Sea Cadets can be found at www.sea-cadets.org/ and details of paddling in Southern Area: www.hants.gov.uk/paddlesouth
 Andy Pearce – Southern Area Sea Cadets
 Bertie – <http://bertie.joystik.co.uk/>

A much more saucy source to sea!

Or what three men in a boat can do, two women in a canoe can do better! (quicker, more efficiently, more attractively, more multi-tasking...etc.)

Inspired, intrepid and insane canoeists Lindsay Dean and Heather

Rand, from Christmas Common in Oxfordshire, intend to paddle the Thames from Source to Sea in September in their open canoe.

Setting aside a fortnight they confidently predict they will do it in seven days, or even quicker if they find their tent and sleeping bags less snug than they anticipate. Their canoe is an Old Town Discovery 174 and once loaded with all their kit ie. solar powered ceramic hair straighteners, chocolate fountain and other essentials, it should weigh quite enough for them to cart round the various obstacles. They have on stand-by a legion of support vehicles filled with paranoid parents and frantic friends to offer well meaning but sure to be ignored advice, and also replenishment of bread (strawberries) and water (champagne) supplies.

Lindsay and Heather are facilitators for the Son-Rise Programme working with two wonderful and inspirational



children Laura and Stevie Bannister (www.lauraandstevie.org) who through the support of the programme are being helped to overcome autism. This emphasis on happiness is the key to the way the programme encompasses acceptance while carrying an unswerving belief that everyone has the capacity to influence change. The sponsorship that Lindsay and Heather receive will enable the children to continue with the programme and their enabling visits to the American Institute where they receive intensive therapy.

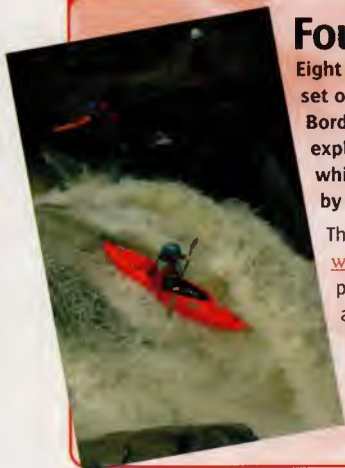
For further information email: lins@christmascommon.com
www.source2sea.wordpress.com

PADDLE THIS

Four borders expedition

Eight of the UK's best white water kayakers have set off to Siberia and Mongolia on the Four Borders Expedition. Over six weeks, they will be exploring rivers of the Altai Mountains - some which have never been successfully descended by kayak.

They will be updating the blog on www.fourbordersexpedition.com as often as possible, so please log on and follow their adventures. Thanks to Pyranha, Palm, Medi UK, Splash White Water Rafting, Lyon Equipment and everyone else who has helped us to make this possible.



August volunteer focus

Across the country, volunteers are making outstanding commitments to paddlesport. Without the coaches, officials, committee members, administrators and helpers the sport could not exist as it does today. A special thanks goes to all volunteers and this section will provide the opportunity for clubs, centres and committees to say a special thanks to their volunteers.

Name: Neville Simmons

Club: Banbury & District CC

Qualifications: Level 3 Placid Water Coach and Competition Coach

Recently celebrating his 75th birthday, Neville coaches at the club three days a week without fail and has been doing so for as long as the club can remember. His dedication to the club doesn't stop there either. Neville is a member of the club committee; a club trustee; helps organise club events; and contributed to the school development programme through organising a school's bellboat festival last year. Despite recovering from surgery, he even finds the time to take part in training himself, and is still an active racer.

As an expert in glass-fibre boat repair, Neville runs master classes to teach people how to repair their boats. Its hard to imagine Neville is left with much time to spare, but when he does find the time Neville can be found enjoying gardening; carpentry; and doing odd jobs (admittedly for the club – only last week Neville was hard at work repairing the club's lawnmower!). Being in charge



Neville Simmons receives an award from Paul Owen

of the twin group Hennef CC in Germany, Neville went back to evening school to learn to speak German and has turned into a computer whizz after gaining his European Computer Licence.

As fellow club members say: "Neville doesn't sit still much! He is an asset to the club and an inspiration to everyone." Neville's dedication to the sport and his club is clear to see and is a role model within paddlesport. Even when Neville takes time out to spend with his loving wife Peggy, the couple enjoy boating on the Norfolk Broads but he will no doubt have to be dragged away from any temptations to work on his boat!

Many thanks to all the volunteers in paddlesport. Let Canoe England know about volunteers in your area for the chance for them to be recognised in Canoe Focus and receive a special gift of thanks. Email volunteers@bcu.org.uk or write to the Volunteer Coordinator, British Canoe Union, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AP.

Taking on the world!

Top kayakers representing Special Olympics Team GB showcased their skills during a training weekend in Manchester between 8-10 June 2007. This was the last chance to see them before they fly to Shanghai to represent their country in the World Summer Games, the world's largest sporting event of the year.

Joining the Team GB athletes in Manchester were top sporting stars Darren Campbell and John Amaechi as well as SOGB Chairman Lawrie McMenemy MBE.

The country's top learning disabled kayakers trained at the Holiday Inn, Runcorn between 12-2:30pm on Saturday in preparation for the World Summer Games, which will take place in Shanghai between 2-11 October 2007.

On the evening of 9th June the athletes were honoured, along with new ambassadors Darren Campbell, Mark Cox, and SOGB athlete Moira Brown at a black tie fundraiser called Shanghai Nights: On the Road to Gold in Shanghai.

"The World Games is the pinnacle towards which all of our athletes strive," said Lawrie McMenemy, SOGB Chairman, "this is a chance for Special Olympics athletes to showcase their abilities and talents on a worldwide level, proving that they deserve just as many accolades as other world-class athletes."

At the World Summer Games in Shanghai, the athletes will represent Great Britain, competing against 170 countries and 7,000 Special Olympics athletes. The event includes 40,000 volunteers, 3,500 event officials and thousands of families, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent.



Canoeists endure snakes and gators

London, UK – Five British men have completed a gruelling 262 mile canoeing endurance test across Texas waters, to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

During June, Alex Kelly, Will Sykes, James Dauman, Tim Chamberlain, Simon Mills and Simon West took part in the Texas Water Safari. Setting off from San Marcos the team navigated rapids and swamps infested with snakes and alligators. They also encountered leaping alligator gars a 4/5 foot, predatory fish which, attracted by night time lights, leap out and often land in the canoes. Previous competitors have received broken arms and ribs courtesy of this prehistoric looking beast.

After 120 miles, two members of the team were forced to retire due to conditions as the temperatures reached above 30°C and sleep exhaustion and hallucinations set in. This left the remaining three men to power the five-man canoe for the remaining 142 miles.

A gruelling 63 hours later, Alex and the remaining members of the team pulled in at the finish line at Corpus

Christi, Texas. Despite the having had just three hours sleep, they came 48th out of 110 starting crews and are one of a very select group of non-US teams to complete the race.

Alex Kelly commented: "It involved six months of training, including night time canoeing on the Thames. However nothing could have fully prepared us for

the challenge TWS provided. There were scary moments in the swamps and on the final night time bay crossing, but all the lads pulled together."

So far the team has raised circa £13,000 via off and online donations for Cancer Research. Further donations can be made via:

www.justgiving.com/BG_Challenge



Children with disabilities to access waterways

To increase access for everyone, Totnes Kayaks is supporting an new initiative that will enable local, physically disabled children to safely paddle kayaks and canoes.

Key to this venture is employee Mark Dugmore. Mark has not let his own physical disability stop him becoming a very competent paddler, it even led to a job working at Totnes Kayaks. He says "Kayaking is totally addictive. I started three years ago on flat water and now am up to paddling the more difficult white stuff! It's very accessible for people with physical disabilities because it's so adaptable and the sport is full of people willing to help. Now I want to help others get into it and as I've been through that learning process myself, I understand the challenges they face."

To this end Totnes Kayaks is putting Mark through a coaching certification that will equip him to teach small groups of disabled children, who will benefit from the freedom and confidence gained. Lee Pooley, one of the top kayaking coaches in the country, is sponsored by Totnes Kayaks and is personally training Mark. Mark is planning on starting the sessions in late summer. Anyone who is interested should email Mark at mail@totneskayaks.co.uk or call 01803 864 300 for more information. See www.totneskayaks.co.uk for more information.

Stockbroker wins canoe challenge

Teams competing in the 2007 Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge had to contend with south westerly gales on Lake Windermere and driving rain on the passes and were only offered some respite from the elements thanks to good visibility on Scafell Pike. The result, however, was £134,709 in aid of underprivileged young people throughout the UK and Ireland.

A Birmingham stockbroker was among those who took part in this gruelling triathlon and succeeded in canoeing the length of Lake Windermere (10.5 miles), cycling 26 miles over England's steepest passes – Wrynose and Hard Knott – and climbing Scafell Pike.

Richard Norman, 33, who lives in Edgbaston, teamed up with software developers Peter Murphy, 40, from Corbridge in Northumberland and John Blackman, 42, from Earls Court, and finished the event in eight hours and 53 minutes.

They were assisted by 30-year old computer programmer Nick Chapman from Sawbridgeworth in Hertfordshire, who acted as support driver and transported their equipment between the stages.

Calling themselves Team OMX, the team made a storming start and powered its way to victory on the lake, finishing in an impressive one hour, 55 minutes and 52 seconds. In recognition of this achievement Richard, Nick, Peter and John were presented with one of the event's most prestigious awards, the Canoe Bowl.



Team OMX also showed that fell running is their forte and would have picked up the award for the fastest time over Scafell Pike had they not already won one trophy. Most importantly, however, Richard and his friends raised £5,010.

The prize for the fastest time went to a team from the BP CATS Gas Terminal on Teeside, who completed in seven hours and 55 minutes. Meanwhile, the Challenge Bowl – awarded for the best overall performance in terms of elapsed time and funds raised – went to colleagues from integrated support services company Amey plc, who not only finished in a creditable nine hours and 17 minutes, but also raised an amazing £23,730.26.

Wooden Spoon's next Great Lakeland Challenge is scheduled for May 2008. To enter a team call 01889 582889, email challenge@eventsunlimited.co.uk or visit www.spoonchallenges.com

Charity paddle success!

Myeloma sufferer Hilary Thomas hopes to donate more than £800 to the charity Myeloma UK after successfully completing a sponsored four mile paddle at the Reading Circuits Race in June. Hilary (48), who was diagnosed with the bone marrow cancer in July 2006, was competing in her first race since treatment with high dose chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant in December.

Hilary writes "I first noticed that something was not quite



right when paddling K2 with fellow club members from Banbury and District Canoe Club. I struggled to complete the Windsor Vets 10 mile course with Chris Jones and then had to retire from the Thames Valley Circuits Hasler Race paddling with Julie Wood. A trip to the doctor's revealed severe anaemia and a diagnosis of Myeloma soon followed.

One year on, with the Myeloma in remission, I was keen to raise awareness of the disease and support the charity that has helped me and supports patients, family and friends of Myeloma sufferers. Anyone can make a donation by phoning Myeloma UK on 0131 557 3332 or

www.justgiving.com/hilarythomas



Nepalese fundraising

AdventureX are proud to have joined forces with Hertfordshire Kayak Club to raise over £1,000 for the Mirge medical centre – one of their deserving charities in Nepal.

Mirge sits high in the Dolakha district of Nepal, a five hour drive east from the nearest town of Kathmandu and a four hour steep mountainous climb. Self sufficient in crops and animals, yet extremely 'cash poor' due to their remote location, the villages have suffered terrible poverty, with no medical support to provide aid – the ill and pregnant have been dying rather than make the demanding journey for help.

Over the years through sponsored events, enough money has been raised for building materials, tools and land to build a medical centre. However, a last bit of fundraising was planned to finish the job and pay for medical supplies.

With a kayak trip organised to Nepal with AdventureX in October, Herts KC 'dug deep' and came to the rescue to join AdventureX. With a 110ft abseil and other contributions they managed to raise over £1,000 for the villagers, in addition to the shipment of some 'posh new clothes' in Ben and Jo's kayaks! A brilliant result!

If you would like more information on the charities please contact info@adventurex.co.uk. Many thanks to Hertfordshire KC and to Claire and John for their brilliant abseil! www.adventurex.co.uk

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Letters

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
 Prime Minister
 10 Downing Street
 London
 16th July 2007

Dear Prime Minister

Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister.

We would like you to consider an anomaly that exists between Scotland and the rest of Britain.

Representing the constituency of Kirkcaldy you will be aware of the very successful canoe club based in the town. These canoeing friends of ours have, because of the Scottish Land Reform Act 2003, the freedom to use their natural environment for enjoying their sport and leisure activities. They have rights and responsibilities concerning their natural heritage. Yet, when they come on holiday to England they are unable to enjoy the same freedoms.

In England we have the "Right to Roam" under CRoW 2002 and soon we will have access to our coasts under primary legislation. However, we have no statutory right of access to our inland waters.

If our friends from Kirkcaldy decided to come to England for their summer holiday along with their children and canoes the following is the sort of experience they could have:

The confusion begins at the Scottish Border

The River Tweed forming the border between England and Scotland highlights how English law acts against public access to water. On this river either Scottish or English law can apply depending on which half of the river a boat is located. English law can make use of the river a trespass, whilst, the Scottish Land Reform Act (2003) gives a right of responsible access on the Scottish side.

Our friends decide to take their canoes and go and visit the beautiful city of Durham.

Access to the river Wear (County Durham) for canoeing above and below the City of Durham has been

strongly opposed by landowners and angling interests. In stark contrast a scheme to provide a riverside trail for walkers and cyclists along the same sections of river where canoeists are unwelcome is planned by local agencies. It is apparent that a sector of the public who enjoy water recreation are overlooked in the provision of recreational facilities. This situation is further exacerbated by recorded historical use of the river by boats and a disputed right of continued public use.

Totally confused they head further south to find a place to go. They avoid the beautiful city of Salisbury even though there is the river Avon running through it. They know that the river Avon has a right of navigation. The Act has been on the statues since 1664 and has never been revoked. However, the landowners in this part of the country have insisted that there is no right of navigation and so custom and practice has led us all to believe this is the case. In fact, this is wrong there is a right of navigation on the river Avon.

They head off to the river Rother in West Sussex. They know that in 1790 an Act was passed for making the Western Rother navigable from Midhurst to Stopham Meadow. It was enacted: "that all persons whosever shall have free liberty ... to navigate upon the said River, and the said Cuts or Canals, with any Boats, Barges or other Vessels, upon payment of such Rates and Duties as are herein-before mentioned"

In 1936 the then Minister of Transport ordered that the proprietors of the navigation should be released from all liability to maintain the aforesaid navigation and from all obligations arising under the said Act of 31

George III cap.66. The order did not explicitly extinguish the public right to navigate on the river. But our Scottish friends then find that the Cowdray Estate have maintained since 1936 that the Act was passed to enable the transport of goods and that the Act never gave recreational boats a right to use the river.

Confused our Scottish friends head home

There is a general uncertainty for public access to inland waters in England and Wales. Prior to the nineteenth century, research has shown that the public had a generally accepted historical right to access and make passages along rivers. Legal opinions and interpretations expressed since that time have diminished this position and created a lack of clarity for such a right.

With the 2012 Olympics in London and Britain proclaimed embarrassingly as the fattest country in Europe now is the time to give clarity of access to our natural heritage, our inland waters.

Having worked with voluntary access agreements for the last 50 years we know that they do not work. The only way to have clarity is through primary legislation. The Bill – Public Access to Inland Waters has been sponsored by Dr Des Turner MP and is due for its second reading on 19th October.

The Bill is a reworking of part one of the Scottish Land Reform Act 2003 amending it to apply to access to water in England under English law. Like the Scottish Land Reform act this Bill would have an access code written to support it. The Bill giving everybody rights with responsibilities enshrined within the access code.

Access to our inland waters is not just an issue for canoeists but for anyone who wants to exercise on or near water (swimmers, walkers, anglers, other watersports etc)

We are aware that there is a perceived conflict between the different users, particularly with fishing. We understand that in reality as access is increased and therefore intense use of a few sites removed, any conflicts will be few and far between. It is worth noting that the government sponsored Active Peoples survey indicates that 281,000 adults fish at least once a month. Very few of these participants would be affected by the proposed legislation. Many anglers pursue their sport either; in specially provided still water fisheries on private purpose built lakes or on the sea or on large rivers which are often existing navigations where fishing and boating interests have had shared use for many years, an example being the River Thames. Many of our angling friends now fish from kayaks so access to the inland waters would support this rapidly growing part of the sport too.

We note and applaud the social values attached to your recent statements. We would ask that you consider addressing this particular inequality giving back to the people basic rights, which have been lost, not through the legislative process but through interpretation.

We wish you well in your endeavours to make Britain a fairer place.

Yours sincerely
Tamsin Phipps
The Rivers Access Campaign

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Fig. 1 Lendal DNA Strand



Circumnavigating Mallorca

The day had finally arrived, I was to meet Roger at the airport with the kayaks so we could go straight to the bay of Palma and

I was just checking the flight arrival information to check the plane was on time when I had a telephone call that would change the course of the day's events. It was Roger, explaining that he was still in England. Whilst checking his passport he discovered that it was two months out of date, so was unable to fly from Bristol to Palma de Mallorca. This was a blow to both of us, the previous summer I had invited Roger out to experience the diversity of sea kayaking in Mallorca, and it was a trip we were both looking forward too.

Roger managed to re-schedule his flight for the following Tuesday, this meant we now had six days to get as far round the island as possible, we knew it would be highly unlikely to complete the circumnavigation within this time frame, but the aim now was to complete as much as we could as time allowed.

We decided to put in at St Elm, near the most western point on the island and paddle clockwise around the island. The weather forecast was looking favourable over next few days with light NW winds predicted, becoming variable later in the week.

We arrived at St Elm around 8:00am, unloaded the kayaks of the van, and then began unloading the rest of the gear. At 9:30 we half lifted, half dragged the boats to the water. The bay was like a millpond as we headed out, the boats were feeling heavy and my body was feeling unprepared. Half an hour into the trip my body started to find the rhythm, and relax into the trip ahead. It was great to be out on the water.

Impressive coastline

We passed the small island Mitjana and passed through the passage between the island of Dragonera and Mallorca. The cliffs started to rise up and as we rounded the headland of Pta Bachasa the Tramuntana mountain range unfolded before us. This



Clio

is indeed an impressive coastline the mountains rise up out of the sea to a height of 1,443m.

The sea had a glassy sheen to it, revealing some of its hidden depths. Scores of jellyfish lay below the surface, capsizing could have painful consequences. After 15km we pulled in the Cala Estellencs for an early lunch, a beautiful secluded bay, with a pebble beach and turquoise water. We sat in the sun and ate Spanish tortilla, and contemplated what lay ahead.

Our next destination was Cala Deia, 20km further on down the coast. A sea breeze was starting to build from the west which gave us a welcome boost, we were now paddling up to 9km/hour. The coastline seemed to be flying past; we passed Banyalbufar and admired the neat but extensive terracing dating back the 15th century, then paddled past Port de Valldemossa, we could see in the distance Foradada an impressive spit of land jutting out of the sea rising around 100m out of the sea. The rock is inundated with pockets and holes like a Swiss cheese. Just round from Foradada was our next pit stop, Deia. We arrive around 5pm. Pull the boats up and took in the view.

Little tidal movement

One of the great benefits from paddling in the Mediterranean is there is very little tidal movement,



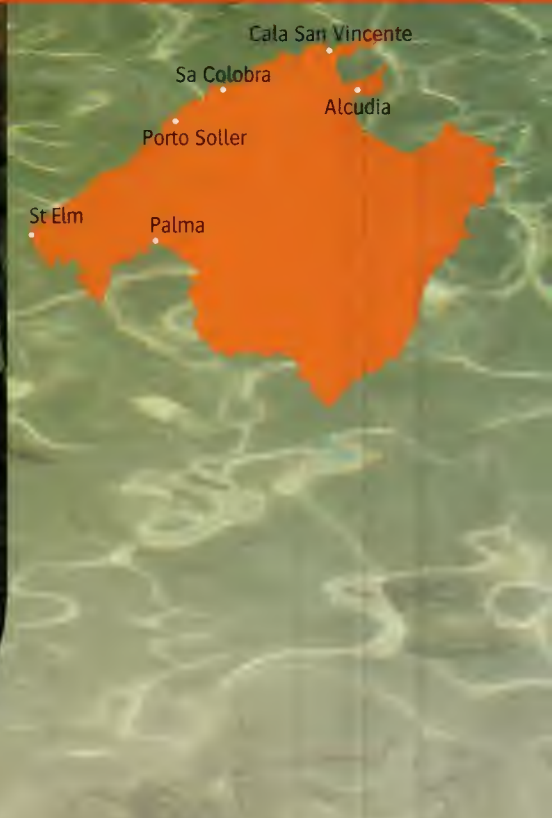
this makes planning trips so much easier, also you don't need to carry the boats miles up the beach.

After 30 minutes rest we set off again for Porto Soller, this was the chosen place to camp for the night. It was 7km from Deia. It is a natural harbour, guarded by cliffs rising up either side of the entrance. Large caves have been carved into the rocks creating some interesting places to explore. We entered one such cave which is around 30m in length, the water had an amazing deep blue colour, which was very inviting to jump out the boats and have a quick swim, however we resisted the urge as time was getting short and we wanted to make camp before night fall.

We pulled the boats up on to rock ledge, just inside the harbour and found some rocks flat enough



get on the water to start a ten-day trip paddling around the coast of Mallorca. But as Pete Evans explains it didn't go to plan...



to sleep on. Our evening view was amazing; we looked out to sea and watched the sun go down.

We seal launched in at 7:00 am just before sun up with the hope of getting the next section of coastline under our belt as quickly as possible, before the easterly wind picked up. The sea had a sloppy feel to it this morning after the night's wind, but after an hour or so it settled into a rhythmical swell. Our next goal was Sa Colobra, 13km away.

This would be the last possible place to pull into before a 40km section between Sa Colobra and Cala Castell.

The wind was around 12 knots on the bow, slowing our progress down. We aimed for the next headland 5km away; our speed over the ground by the GPS was down to 5km/hour. Heads down we continued on knowing we were in for a long slog. We reach the headland and set our sites on the next

headland another 4km on. The wind was slowly increasing along with the swell, making conditions fairly unpleasant. The swell was around two metres at this point and at the bottom of each trough Roger would disappear from site. By this time the wind had increased to around 20 Knots making progress incredibly slow, we were down to around 2 knots over the ground and at this rate it would take us another 12 hours to reach our destination.

We reached the point after 90 minutes of paddling, something that had taken four hours the day before. The sea had turned into a millpond, as we continued along the coast

We made an executive decision to turn round and head back to Sa Colobra, rest the night and see what tomorrow would bring. It was a completely different story paddling with the wind surfing the waves. Our speed shot up the maximum speed recorded by the GPS was 13.1Km/hour although this is where I wished I had a little more weight in the stern. We got back to Sa Colobra in one hour, pulled the boats up on the beach and walk to the next bay to grab a beer and a pizza.

We decided to touch base with some friends on the island to see what was happening with the weather, they said the forecast was still saying easterly Force 3, what we had experienced was certainly not a Force 3, So it must have been a localised phenomenon. The forecast for tomorrow was due to be variable 1-2 so with renewed hope we settled down for the night ready for tomorrow.

The sea had turned into a millpond

As predicted the wind was light, the sea was still confused but the wind had gone. We reached the point after 90 minutes of paddling, something that had taken four hours the day before. The sea had turned into a millpond, as we continued along the coast, I spotted something in the water and went to investigate. To our astonishment it turned out to be a green back turtle and seemed totally unperturbed by our presence, swimming under our boats effortlessly.

Three hours into the trip the call of nature was starting to override the pleasure of the day. Roger handed over his secret weapon, a plastic ziplock bag, which I can thoroughly recommend. Roger is an experienced paddler having accomplished many of the treacherous crossings in the British Isles, so is well advised on peeing methods.

School of dolphins

As we drew near to Cala San Vicente a small school of dolphins came to investigate us – who said the Med was dead. We arrived at the beach at 12:30 after a 5½-hour paddle, and pulled the boats up the beach and headed for the local bar for some Pa amb oli, a local Mallorcan open sandwich.

Our next destination was Cala Figuera, 14km away, a secluded bay just short of Cap Formentor.

The scenery is incredible along this section of coastline with cliffs rising up out of the depths of the sea and large rock promontories jutting out

into the sea. High up on the cliffs we could see what we thought to be an eagles nest. After two hours we were pulling our boats up onto the beach and making camp for the night.

We set off just after 7:00am the next morning, to make the most of the calm morning conditions as rounding Cap Formentor can be an precarious undertaking. The sea between Menorca and Mallorca can build up, causing steep standing waves. On this occasion we were lucky, the sea was calm. We rounded the headland just after 8:00 the headed across Pollenca Bay to Cap de Pinar, our first open stretch of water. After an hour we reached the headland and aimed for Coll Baix, a beautiful beach, with smooth pebbles, and turquoise water. This was our early lunch stop before heading across the bay of Alcudia, 17km of open water.

Everything seemed great. Half way across a sea breeze started to build, and if you have ever noticed they always seem to be on the bow. Our speed started to drop and the headland seemed as though it would never arrive, however after 2½ hours we finally reached the headland and tucked into a small cove for a well earned rest. As we paddled round the headland we were buffeted by the wind again, it had picked up to around a Force 3.

We had 7km to go until we reached camp for the night, a small but beautiful bay called Cala Torta. This section of coastline has a completely different feel about it, in the foreground there a rolling hills and sand dunes, whilst in the background mountains rise up. We pulled up on the beach unpacked the gear a sat to watch the stars come out one by one. This was to be our last night camping, due to time restraints and the weather was due to turn, which didn't bode well.

The next morning we had a short paddle round to Cala Radjada, the sea had an eerie silence to it and on the horizon a cloudbank was moving in.

We reached Radjada by 9:00 am where our transport was waiting to drive us back to Palma. We had covered just over half the island, covering a distance of 160Km, in just over four days.

This means we will be back to complete the circumnavigation.

We would like to thank Tramuntana Pursuits for their organisation and dealing with the logistics. ●

Pete Evans





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Report from the Freestyle World Champs

“Biggest wave for the



The Ottawa valley had for the past few weeks been extremely cold and wet. The expected snow was gone. The water, cold but bearable, was low for this time of year as there had only been 40% of the expected snowfall on the 146,000 square miles of the Ottawa catchment. Upstream, the Garberrator wave was only a washed out wave train and the towrope serving Buseater was draped 1-2 metres above the water line. Only the non retentive Waikiki wave was up and around it were a mass of colourful helmets, boats and paddlers, as the world's top kayakers waited to get a ten second, one move, practice ride.

The best and the brave from over 20 nations including New Zealand, Costa Rica, Israel and Japan, with local teams of USA and Canada along with the biggest team of all from Great Britain weighing in with 22 athletes, had gathered by the Ottawa River. The big talk was would the Buseater run? It had been promised but every person in the know was sceptical, there just wasn't enough of the wet stuff. Pete Caterall, GBR coach, had his work cut out to keep his paddlers motivated on smaller and less exciting waves. There was

JUNIORS

Junior men semis: Heart stopping moments for me here as the only GBR interest was on the young but broad shoulders of Ross Montandon who made sixth place, missing the cut by just five points, the local Canadian and American guys just ahead.

Junior women's final: Flic Meares oh so, so close. Big wave expertly handled trying everything she knew to get the boat to bounce. All the British support were pretty convinced she had succeeded in winning the bronze but the judges thought otherwise. Giving her fourth place. Great job Flic.



SQUIRT

As the water was being let loose for the Buseater, the competition opened with the Squirters, and what a start. Six medals were awarded to team GBR, in the men's, Ben White took gold with Greg Nicks claiming bronze whilst Claire O'Hara took silver and Emma Runciman winning bronze in the ladies.

C1

Semis: 16 competitors 8am start, the wave had become more retentive than the previous day but European Champion Dave Bainbridge just couldn't make the big moves happen but achieved a great ninth place, with Rodeo Rick coming in at 13th.

onships from a British perspective

world's best"

Squirt worlds

The GB Squirt team was without a doubt one of the strongest teams in the squirting event. Ben White, with years of experience, Claire O'Hara and Greg Nicks current European Champions and James Reeves, silver medallist at the last Worlds.

The location for the event was at the top of the Ottawa rivers first rapid, Mckoys chute. The event began with the ladies, Emma Runciman, Claire O'Hara and Molly McKenzie flying the flag for GB. The heats went well with consistent rides from all three ladies with cleans, washouts, stern and bow stalls and some good down time to top it off. Emma Runciman finished in a very well deserved fourth place, with Claire O'Hara in a spectacular first place. Molly's well-planned ride was just not quite good enough to make the finals but having arrived in Canada less than two days before, she still gave a great performance.

With such a good start it was impossible to stop, awesome rides from Ben, James and Greg with some fantastic fast controlled rides with one arm bandits, tricky woos and every possible squirt move thrown down on the score sheet taking all to the finals.

Things were hotting up on the bank as the women's final got underway. A determined Emma Runciman throws down some spectacular rides fighting and winning the bronze against Japan's Motoko Ishida. This left Claire O'Hara to battle it out with Canada's Valerie Bertrand. Claire threw down one of her best rides in the competition, she even threw a very smooth tricky woo. The buzzer went for ten seconds with Claire situated right at the top of the eddy for a mystery. As she went down a boil caught her and pushed her up the crucial mystery. But with such a high scoring technical ride was it enough for Claire? The scores were checked once, twice, three times. The gold just went to Valerie Bertrand from Canada and a happy Claire took the silver.

After the men's first ride in the finals, all three Brits remained with strong dynamic rides. James put together a very fast skilful ride for him to gain fourth place. Ben and Greg both putting together some brilliant rides their experience and knowledge of the scoring system was paying off. The bronze went to Greg leaving Ben and Coyo to battle it out.

Coyo stepped up first and just like many times before he slipped into his usual routine of spectacular fast ends, vertical manoeuvres like no one had ever seen. And then Ben came into view from the bank; he looked as if it was another squirt session on the magic roundabout at Nottingham, totally relaxed. The thumbs up, one armed bandit both sides to begin then into a flurry of vertical ends, cleans, washouts ticking the boxes, the time came for Ben's mystery up the eddy he raced into the flow and down he went – one, two, three, four it continued – nine, eleven seconds of downtime in the last ride of the Squirt World Championship finals. That had decided the gold. The judges didn't need to confirm as the bank erupted from the British supporters cheers carried across the water a gold for GB.

GB's Squirters took four medals in the competition cleaning the squirt table giving a spectacular showcase for this radical side of kayaking.

Ross Montandon. Photo by Ross Montandon

a recurring shoulder injury throwing the women's competition wide open.

There were many highlights

The fantastic team spirit particularly the vocal and logistical support of the GBR supporters beat every other team hands down. Terry Best, our logistical organiser, Hippy Dave and Pete Catterall's efforts on behalf of the team were all out of the top drawer. All the medal winners: Ben White's fantastic eleven second down time to win gold; Claire O'Hara's narrow miss of the gold; Ed Smith coming back from, by his standards, under par performances to get sixth in the men's; Ross Montandon's sixth place in the junior men's and a fantastic fourth for Flic Meares.

But the most impressive performances were by Juniors Joanne Hacking, Seb Allinson and Dom Brayfield, all of whom had never paddled anything remotely like Buseater, in the rare atmosphere of top competition all 'did good' as the Canadians would say.

Peter Montandon. Photos: Ross Montandon

plenty to have a go on but everybody wanted to pit their wits on the biggest of them all. Team head coach Hippy Dave was whisked away to numerous meetings; there was plenty of talk, but as yet no wave.

By the opening ceremony held on Sunday 29th, April the decision had been made. Buseater was going to be in. The water companies had guaranteed, in a unique deal, to provide enough water for the Buseater to be in for four days, three of competition, one of practice. It would take three days for up river dams to open to allow enough water to ensure that the Buseater would run. Each national team, in groups of 20, were allocated a slot of 90 minutes in which to practice giving paddlers up to three rides before the competition. Pete Catterall was upbeat, "Sure the USA and Canadian teams have an advantage but our squad is very adaptable paddling on a variety of stuff in Europe, I have no worries on that score."

By the first and last day of training on the Buseater the entire team was fit and well, no injuries, except that Jutta Kaiser, the defending Ladies World Champion, was out with

LADIES K1

Semis: a big class of 28 with Jutta Kaiser the defending World Champion from Germany in the judge's tent leaving the field open and the Brit girls didn't disappoint. The Buseater was big, very big and it was only the skillful and brave that got to grips with it. Flea Jarvie got a fantastic third followed by Lyndsey Evans who made the cut at fourth with a typical gutsy performance.

Final: Lyndsey put in some good solid blunts in the first run but bombed by catching an edge in the second round. Flea's last round was just magic as the Brits on the bank went wild; half way through her ride the wave collapsed but with great strength and awareness she held it together for the full 45 seconds to take the bronze medal.



MEN'S K1

Semis: What noise went up as Dickie Chrimes threw his kayak round the wave with massive air blunts and pan ams. Ed Smith far from happy with his previous performance stepped up to the pace and put in some terrific runs putting him in sixth place missing the cut by less than one point. Dickie came in tenth. The standard of paddling was out of the top drawer so these results were good achievements.

Final: With no British interest and having sweltered in the heat all day we were flagging a bit. The scoring system was slow and the whole thing seemed to take forever. Peter Cronska from Slovakia was absolutely magnificent, his runs were very exciting and the entire crowd except the USA contingent was willing him on along with local boy Nic Troutman.



When you organise a get-together for 250 paddlers in a world-class destination like Skye you have to make sure the event lives up the promise of its surroundings. Fortunately the team from Skyak Adventures have the experience to know what people want and the pulling power to attract top names. Simon Willis takes up the story.

Scottish sea kayak symposium



Skye, May 2007

Seattle based Nigel Foster left us amazed with his boat and blade control. His 'Fun With Forster' sessions involved a lot of paddle twirling and standing up in boats, while his approach to 'Discovery Learning' had other coaches reaching for their notebooks to scribble down tips. Nigel and his partner Kirsten only just arrived in time for the event after an airport strike in Sweden.

Many benefited from the forward paddling sessions taken by Shaun Caven. Better known for coaching the British Olympic team, this was Shaun's first time on Skye and only his fourth time in a sea kayak. Those of us, who tried to keep up with him, as we paddled from Armadale to the event centre at the Gaelic College, simply could not believe this. From rotational advice to suggestions on how to get the blade into and out of the water at the correct point, Shaun's advice switched on light bulbs in many paddlers.

All the major boat manufacturers offered demo boats, Valley, Point 65 North and Sea Kayaking UK. P&H's new Cetus was a popular paddle, as was the new boat from the new company In-Uit.

If there is a complaint about this bi-annual event it is a positive one – that participants are spoiled for choice. It's hard to decide between having Nigel Dennis advise how to choose a paddle; Jeff Allen guide you through incident management; try out a superb Greenland kayak made by Anders Thygessen from Norway; or spend a whole day beachcombing by kayak with the author of Blazing Paddles, Brian Wilson.

There are only three times everyone comes together; to drink in the bar; to eat at the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, where the staff cope superbly with the sudden influx of slightly soggy clients; and to watch the evening presentations. Patrick Winterton tackled the



biggest crossings in Scottish waters, from Tiree to Mingulay, to St Kilda, to the Flannan Islands (the first time that crossing had been done), then to Lewis and on to Shetland. To make it more of a challenge, he video taped the trip, and we were treated to the final cut of the resulting film. The long list of people who put their names down to buy a copy prove this went down well.

Nigel Foster's illustrated talk on his expedition to Labrador was another chance for mere mortals to gaze open mouthed at an adventure few of us would dream of attempting. Not only because of the paddling but also because of the polar bears. Nigel and Kirsten had close encounters with sixteen of these huge predators, some of which stalked them across the ice.


It's a huge tribute to the organisers Duncan Winning, Ken Nicol and Morag and Gordon Brown that, despite the mammoth logistics of dealing with such a large number of paddlers, many of who stayed in the Highlands for the whole week. Some put new-found skills into practice, while others joined training courses and assessments for SCA/BCU awards.

Sea kayaking is growing in popularity partly because it feels like hill-walking as it used to be. There's that thrilling sensation of humility in the face of powerful natural forces. Overnight camps are intensely special in isolated places. Best of all, you never follow a well-worn trail. No one ever left a footprint on a wave ●

FACTS : CONTRIBUTORS

If you'd like to listen to the contributors to the Scottish Sea Kayak Symposium, log onto SeaKayakRoutes.com where Simon Willis has recorded interviews with many of them.

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WW Racing Euro Champs

Results

16-20th May

Bihac – Bosnia and Herzegovina



With no GB C1 entries it was left to the C2 of Jamie Christie and Simon Wright to hold up the Canadian paddling side of the team and the two earned 11th place in the field of 24 crews, only two seconds off that magical top ten finish and a step up in performance since last year's world championships.

Sprint racing

The sprint course was deceptively difficult, very swirly with boils that rose and fell from deep rock pools under the surface of the water. The superlatives to describe Jonnie's performance don't go far enough to embody his combination of speed and rough water agility that make up the talent. His first run time of 1:29.16 and with expert advice and video analysis from Alan Tordoff, he upped the standard yet again for the second runs to record 1:28.69 and post a combined time of 2:57.85, a full 1.87 seconds ahead of Florian Wohlers from Germany and the two fastest runs of the day. Martyn Steele superbly controlled his boat to earn 30th place and Jamie Oughton came down in 34th place.

The ladies event raised the excitement to a new level. After the first run, Jessica was in second place with a time of 1:43.35 seconds, 0.13 ahead of Sabine Fusser of Germany but nearly six seconds behind the dominant Michala Mruzkova who reigns supreme atop the world a class above everybody else. The race order was re-ranked for the second runs, slowest first, so when Fusser fluffed it and Jessica overtook her part way down the course hopes were high that the silver medal had been secured. In the end Katerina Vacikova improved her first run time by over a second to mover from fourth to second, only 1/100th of a second up on Jessica to make it a Czech one-two.

In C2 the tight course proved too marginal for Wright and Christie who raced on the ragged edge and got the wrong side of a narrow current line to be shoved into a tree on their first run. The French dominated with a full one-two-three white wash of the medals.

At the medals ceremony the national anthem was heartily sung and coach Tordoff had the kind of deep smile that just cannot be wiped off. The whole team was buoyant and vowed to do even better next time.

Many thanks go to Alan Tordoff, James Wingfield, Jes Oughton and Peter Schofield for help and support, not forgetting that even though the medals are individual, it is full team effort in practice and preparation, as all the athletes and staff contribute to every individual performance. ●

Simon Wright



This year's European Championships proved to be a happy hunting ground for the GB Wild Water racing team. Jonnie Schofield was crowned European Champion in the sprint event, adding GB's first major championships individual gold medal to his overall World Cup crown and reinforcing his dominance of wild water sprint racing over the last four years. Jessica Oughton in her first year as a senior claimed a bronze medal in the sprint event on the same river that she earned a bronze medal on in the junior classic event a year earlier. Both the results are outstanding achievements for two young paddlers who have yet to reach their full potential and Jessica's particularly pleasing as it's the first showing of her huge potential at a major senior championships.

Classic racing

The classic (long course) was relatively straightforward to race and at around 12 minutes was a real test of power endurance and time trial ability. The most challenging sections in the middle of the course formed the sprint race and the finish was right outside the main hotel where a lot of the teams were staying, most convenient. Of the 45 starters Jonnie came in 15th and Jamie Oughton powered down to 23rd position, two satisfactory results with Max Hoff of Germany taking the gold medal a full 15 seconds up on Benassi of Italy in silver.

In the women's event, Jessica came in seventh, a fantastic top ten finish in a world class field whilst Dee Paterson came down in 13th place. In her first major championships, Anna Wise acquitted herself with some aplomb to finish 16th and demonstrated that she has much future potential to build upon.



*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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WATERSPORTS

Tim Brabants is crowned European Champion

Tim Brabants was set to defend his European Champion title in the men's 1000m event at the Flat Water Racing European Championships held at Pontevedra, Spain.

The heats were an indicator of what was to come. In the 1000m event, Tim impressed everyone winning his heat by a whole five seconds with Brabants taking silver in the final. But Tim (2006 World Championship silver medallist and Olympic bronze medallist 2000) wasn't satisfied with just that medal and he went on to win gold the next day in the 500m event.

Brabants has already medalled three times in 2007 at World Cup events and this is his second medal in the K1 500m event.

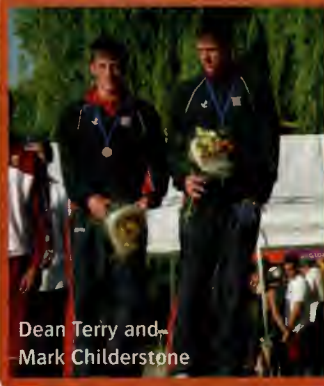


Tim Brabants

Marathon success

The GB team returned from the European Marathon Championships in Trancin, Slovakia with a new European Champion, as Norwich CC's Tim Pendle won a gold medal in the junior men's K1 with a brilliant tactical performance.

There were also bronze medals for Wey's CC Dean Terry, who has received a Sport's Aid Grant and Mark Childerstone in the junior men's K2.



Dean Terry and Mark Childerstone

European Slalom Championships

Campbell Walsh



The GB team delivered three medals in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia in June.

Olympic silver medallist and five times World Cup medallist, Campbell Walsh, won bronze in the Men's K1 event. The Scottish born paddler automatically qualified for a place in the GB team this year as he took the bronze medal at the Prague World Championships in 2006. Campbell received a two second penalty due to touching an upstream gate and finished three seconds behind the winner Jan Sajbidor (SVK).

Other medals from the championships were won in the K1 team events with both the women's K1 team and men's K1 team each winning a bronze medal. The women's team consisted of; Scottish born World Championship silver medallist Fiona Pennie, the experienced Laura Blakeman and the gutsy Lizzie Neave.

Florence scoops medal

David Florence



In Augsburg, Germany on the 1972 Olympic canoe slalom course, David Florence raced two outstanding runs and won a bronze medal in the last World Cup of the series. This has been a successful season for C1 paddler Florence, who won another bronze medal in the first World cup race in Prague. He is placed second in the World Cup overall, a personal best and a magnificent achievement.

In other classes, Olympic silver medallist Campbell Walsh achieved fifth place in the men's K1. Walsh looked strong and raced fast but collected a penalty, taking seventh place on the finals scoreboard. On his final run Walsh raced even harder and climbed to fifth place in this race and fourth overall in the series, with what was probably the most riveting performance of the day.

In the women's K1 there was drama as Laura Blakeman was placed a strong fifth and ready to do better when she Eskimo rolled, losing a few seconds, but she recovered very quickly to come sixth at the end of racing. Fiona Pennie was handicapped with a fresh injury, and placed ninth overall, pretty magnificent in the circumstance. Louise Donnington has raced very competitively in her first World Cup race and has demonstrated her potential.

In the C2 class, it was Nick Smith and Dan Goddard's first season racing together, we will see plenty more to come from them. Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott, C2 Silver medal winners in World Cup 2 did not make the finals this time, due to penalties on a tricky stretch of the course.

Five medals at Bochum!



Hayleigh Mason

Congratulations to the GB team who paddled excellently on the 15-17th June to take home five medals for GB!

In the K4, Kristian Reeves, Tom Hide, Ben Parfitt and Ed Rutherford won two silver medals in the 1000m and 500m events. The other double medallist of the group was

Hayleigh Mason who won a bronze and a silver medal in the K1 1000m and 500m events.

Jessica Walker and Amoret King contributed a bronze medal in the K2 1000m to GB's final medal haul.

Special mention also to go to the U16 Boys C4 who took a silver medal in the 500m event, and to Dean Terry who also gained a silver in the K1 1000m race. A good result considering there were no U16 classes this year and he raced a number of older paddlers. Abigail Edmonds also, had a good regatta with some promising performances throughout the event.



K Reeves, T Hide, B Parfitt and E Rutherford

Junior Wild Water World Championships

Junior wild water athletes produced an outstanding performance at the Junior World Championships, held in the USA in July taking home five medals for GB!

It has arguably been one of the most successful weekends of racing in the junior wild water racing's history.

Medal winners include 16-year-old Sandra Hyslop who won a gold medal in the women's K1 classic event. Hyslop, who is Hexham based raced spectacularly all the way. Also in the classic event, 17-year-old Olivia Churchill from London won a bronze medal.

In the Sprint event, the girls dominated the competition again. Sandra Hyslop won silver (just one second behind the winner) and Olivia Churchill won bronze.

The women's K1 team also won a gold medal, a whole 15 seconds faster than the German team that came in second place. The team consisted of Sandra Hyslop, Olivia Churchill and Hannah Brown (17-years-old).

Judith Rasmussen, Regional Director at Sport England North East, said: "We're so proud of Sandra and her phenomenal success in this exciting sport. To bring a world gold medal back into the North East is a credit to the determination and effort of Sandra and the incredible support she receives within the region. She offers an exceptional example for the younger generation and is sure to help increase participation in kayak and sport in general. We congratulate her on what is a great achievement."



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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: GREAT OUSE

This is part two of David Savage's guide to the Great Ouse. We rejoin the paddle just after Hartford.

Houghton 28.5 miles. Turning off the main river just after Daylock Marine (left – teas and laces), you'll see a wide weir which drops into Rhymers Pool. If there is any water on it, then kayakers can shoot the middle of the weir which has a very gentle slope but a sharp edge at the bottom since recent work. Open canoes are best to line down the far left side of the weir and re-enter. Rhymers Pool is shallow and a very good place to practice your poling technique. Continue through onto a widening backwater which leads you down to Hemingford Abbots.

Turn left at the back of the Island, rejoin the main river, and paddle upstream towards Houghton Mill for 200m to find the next backwater on your right, with a small footbridge across it. Slither down – a very small slither! and wend your way down Trout Stream (although I've never seen a trout there!) to where it joins the main river in the pool below Hemingford Lock. (Turn left)

Houghton 28.5 miles. Main river paddlers will pass the Three Jolly Butchers landing stage on their left (good beer and excellent food) before approaching Houghton Lock.

Just to the left of the lock you'll find some dis-used punt rollers. This is the easiest portage. Do not go down the left stream towards Houghton mill; there can be a very strong current to the sluices there.

Houghton mill is a National trust property; you get the best photo of it from the pool below. There are pubs and shops in Houghton village, about 500 metres on your left. There is a campsite at Houghton Mill, fronting onto the mill pool – phone number 01480 466716. They don't like teenage groups!

On the way down to Hemingford, don't be tempted by the left hand side weir at 289709 which leads to a navigable back water – there can sometimes be a heavy holding stopper with deep re-circulation on it.

Hemingford Grey church stands right beside the river with a curiously cut off steeple – local legend is that it is in the bottom of the river, although another legend holds that the



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 online @ www.riversaccess.org

New Leaflets and now stickers...

We have a new campaign leaflet and a new leaflet called "You, your canoe and the environment." If you would like copies of these or stickers to hand out please do e mail us at info@riversaccess.org Visit the site regularly www.riversaccess.org to keep up with changes..

Do let us know if you good experiences (or bad) when you are out and about.



Anglers Mail! –

5/6/07 – keep rivers for all – not just the select few

Interesting letter which was in fact letter of the week in Angler's Mail entitled 'Keep rivers for ALL – not just the select few.'

The letter comments on the fact previous writers have advocated going out to fish the rivers which are under fished on the 16th June (the start of the new coarse angling season). But the writer bemoans that fact that rivers are not being fished because mortals cannot get on them to fish. He even says "who gave out the divine right to say that naturally created rivers, and river angling could be turned in to a privatised industry?"

Well the Public Access to Inland Waters Bill, as we have said on many occasions, also assists the others who want to use the inland waters for recreation. The Bill most certainly includes anglers, who too would have much greater access to the rivers etc.

We have to agree with the writer, as we too believe that opening up the inland waters would provide more eyes and ears to monitor the environment, report pollution, illegal dumping, distressed animals and birds etc...

In opening up the inland waters, there will be no need for any user to be in conflict with another, with 41,000 miles of rivers there is room for all!

PADDLE THIS: GREAT OUSE



Devil flew off with the steeple when the incumbent would not damn all Catholics from the pulpit. Believe what you will!

30 miles. Hemingford Lock. The upstream landing at Hemingford lock is not as easy as some – quite a high staging, and there is a narrow bridge on the portage but good river access downstream.

32 miles. There is a Scout campsite on Holt Island (just before St Ives). For information email Cromwell@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk. The river widens out as it approaches St Ives.

On the left hand bank, immediately before the rowing club is a galvanised steel landing stage belonging to the Floods Tavern. They keep an excellent range of Elgoods Ales, including one at about 5.5abv whose name escapes me! Perhaps the abv had something to do with that. They also sell very good and very reasonably priced meals and welcome paddlers, but not those philistines who would eat their own sandwiches in a pub garden. If you stop here (or at any riverside pub) please buy their drinks and don't consume your own food on their premises!

St Ives bridge has one of only three bridge chapels in England in the middle of it – just below the bridge, you can stop at the quayside for an ice cream.

Take time to enjoy the view at St Ives; developers have done a super job in the restoration of the waterfront and the old warehouse buildings whilst supping ale at the Floods Tavern but make sure that you approach St Ives lock from river right.

Below St Ives quayside (on the left) you'll see a small cut with moored boats. This is the old river and originally bypassed notorious shallows in the town centre on the main river. It can be used to bypass the St Ives lock but beware.

The clearance under the very small bridge is only 15 inches in summer and less when it rains and is immediately followed by a small (6 inch) drop over the old lock cill. A pin on the bridge could be very serious – at best you would look pretty stupid to the inevitable weekend fishermen who use the stream and at worst... It is better to portage the lock unless you are very sure of what you are doing.

32.5 miles – St. Ives lock. There is a very strong draw to the sluices on the left. Egress is easy on the upstream

landing stage and there is a good portage platform downstream.

It is now a gentle downstream (and generally downwind) drift to the Ferryboat Inn at Holywell, where more good ales and good value meals await the weary paddler.

34.5 miles – Holywell. A very picturesque and popular place on a weekend – please maintain the good name of canoeing by being quiet, civilised and discreet in both your behaviour and your parking!

36 miles. The river now winds across the Fen to the Pike and Eel pub at Needingworth and then to Brownhill Lock. There are landing stages on the river right at Brownhill.

The next section of river to Earith is tidal, so at low water springs the bank can be muddy

39 miles – Hermitage Lock. Here the Old Bedford and New Bedford rivers take flood water straight through to Denver. The New Bedford is straight, windy and tidal and takes you through to Denver. The only pub is the Three Pickerels in Mepal (six miles on). Heritage lock is an horrendous portage across a busy road, and the lockkeeper usually locks canoes through to avoid the road.

You may be able to camp at Westview Marina (01487 841627) in Earith (left bank) and you can certainly get a drink at the Crown, which has a landing stage

47 miles. The river (now called the Old West River) winds on through farmland; very quiet and remote until you arrive at the A10 and the Lazy Otter pub which welcomes paddlers. Access is possible here from the Stretham Ferry bridge just past the pub.

48 miles. Stretham Engine (right) is an historic Fenland pumping engine that is often open to the public. Worth a look.

50 miles – Popes Corner. Junction with the River Cam (Cambridge 13 miles) and a super pub, the Fish and Duck. It may be possible to camp at or near the Marina (01353 649580).

53 miles. Turn left at Popes corner, and Ely Cathedral soon appears. Ely Waterside is always busy; the best places to stop are at the Cutter pub or, if you are linking up with your car, go through the main town, past the marina (right) and to the small park just before the railway bridge. (Willow walk, off Lisle Lane).

59 miles – Littleport. It is a long straight stretch and the Black Horse is the only respite before the confluence with the Little Ouse at Brandon Creek (13 miles to Brandon; 20 to Thetford)

63 miles – Brandon Creek. The Ship Inn – and public car par/picnic area.

68 miles – Confluence with R. Wissey. Eleven miles to a pretty riverside campsite at Whittington near Stoke Ferry bridge.

69 miles – Denver Sluice. The Jenyn Arms is a welcome sight – left bank. There is a public car park straight ahead of you to the right of the main sluice. Please only get on and off at the Jenyn arms if you are buying food / drink there. Denver sluice is a fascinating historical place; worth having a look at. Beyond here the river is tidal with muddy banks and strong currents to Kings Lynn. Not recommended.

However, you can paddle through Salters Lode lock and onto Welle creek and thus to the middle level and the river Nene – and could find you way back to Northampton!

David Savage RAO East region

My thanks to Anne Dorber for prodding me into action to write this up and for contributing some up to date information on the river above Huntingdon. Any queries or updates, do please email me david@mepal.co.uk





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World Scouting

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Introduction

August the 1st, 2007 marks the Centenary Celebration of the Scouting movement. At this year's Scouting Jamboree in the UK, up to 40,000 young people from all over the world will be connecting cultures, faiths, cuisines and performance as one huge peaceful world family.

Scouting has played a huge role in the development of paddlesport in Britain and as 40,000 scouts paddle the British invented Bellboat as part of the Splash programme at Alton Water, near Ipswich, it could well be another historic moment for Scouting. For, with the Bellboat goes an idea, the 'Paddle for Life', that is designed to bring all the people of Earth on board to solve the global problem of climate change.

The inventor of the Bellboat and Paddle for Life ideas, David Train, former Olympic coach for canoe racing, believes that Scouting could, if it seized the opportunity, prepare young people across the world for the changes brought about by climate change, and even, with the cheerful and optimistic culture of Scouting, slow the changes down, to prevent the Earth's systems reaching a tipping point from which there will be no return.

David, a one time Scouter, like so many in paddlesport first came into canoeing when he built a PBK canvas and wooden canoe. The PBKs – Percy Blanford Kayaks - had their origins in the 1929 World Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead. It was there that a youthful Percy Blanford, later to run the Scouts Watersports Centre at Longridge, saw the canvas and wooden kayaks brought to the Jamboree by the Hungarian scouts. Others spotted them too and the British Scout Kayak was born. It was a cumbersome kayak and Percy Blanford was driven to design something better. Out of it came the PBK designs that took paddlesport to many thousands of people across the world in the late forties and early fifties, before the invention of fibreglass kayaks and canoes.

From building his first PBK10, David Train built many boats and became Olympic coach for canoe racing, as well as the BCU National Coach for Placid Water. In 1991 David gave a talk to the BCU coaching service, connecting his work in human and manufacturing systems and as a result met the engineers and scientists who transformed Japanese industry after WW2, with the quality revolution. Their work was based on people working together and they asked David if he could help them to get their message to America, through education.

It seemed an Olympian task, but in the early eighties David was involved in the introduction of Dragon Boat racing into Britain and he knew of the stories that went with it. He realised that if he invented a new boat, created events and attached stories to it he could, in time, get a message to America and the world about working together. The Bellboat was born, and from it came the Paddle for Life, which, in March, was signed by former Prime Minister Tony Blair, the Speaker of the House of Commons, David Miliband – Foreign Secretary, Lord Seb Coe, Mike Haslam for the Dragon Boat Association and David Gent and Paul Owen on behalf of the BCU. Senator Lugar of Indiana will lead the

way in America and it is hoped Neil Armstrong and President Bush will soon sign it.

The Paddle for Life is the brand of a world story, evolving to bring all the young people on board to solve the problem of climate change, and David's belief is that it only needs one Scout from every country at the World Jamboree to grasp the idea, and get it started in their country, just as Percy Blanford did, and humanity on the planet will not only be prepared, but will be able to solve the problem.

Taking the first step with A Paddle for Life

After designing the Bellboat, David saw on TV, the Speaker of the House of Commons telling children a story about the origins of the two parallel red lines on the carpet of the House of Commons. They are two sword lengths apart and were first put there when members of parliament went into the debating chamber carrying their swords. In debate, members were not allowed to cross the line, thus making sure that if the debate became too heated they could not draw their swords and kill each other. As the Speaker told the story David realised that he too could use a wooden sword and shield to get a message to children about co-operation rather than conflict as a way of solving problems, which was part of the Deming message.

In 1992, children at Fladbury First School, in the village where David lives, made the first wooden 'Paddles for Life'. The children assembled their paddles from what looked like a sword and shield. They painted individual designs on them; their parents and friends signed the back, pledging their support and sponsored the paddles; and then the children went on a voyage and took part in regattas with their parents, friends and teachers in the Bellboats. They asked why they were called 'Bell' boats and were then told the story of what Dr Deming has taught in Japan.

Later David met a keen environmentalist who showed him Al Gore's book, 'Earth In The Balance - Forging A New Common Purpose'. It was suggested to him that if he had found a way to get a message about systems thinking to America he should include something about carbon emissions. He did it by suggesting that the children should plant trees to replace the wood they had used in making their paddles. The Paddle for Life had taken on an extra meaning and he had become interested in what was happening to the systems of Earth.

In the last two years the ideas have been taken to America where David has built three plywood Liberty Bellboats at Purdue University, where Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, and another 22 astronauts were trained. This cradle of astronauts is where the Paddle for Life will be used as a perpetual prize for an annual 'CommuniVersity' Boat



g Centenary Jamboree

lanet through paddlesport



Race for the Blue Planet, in the autumn of 2007. It will bring together on the same boat the 'First Nine' carbon emitters, versus crews from the rest of the world. It is hoped that Neil Armstrong, the man who first gave us a vision of the Blue Planet, will present the prize.

Scouters Percy Blanford, Neil Armstrong and David Train are leaders who have inspired

generations to take part. There is no more important time than now that their messages of creative participation are lived to the full as we all work towards the challenges of our 'one world'.

The Jamboree runs from July 27th to 8th August 2007.

Good paddling!

Above clockwise: David Train with Tony Blair; Paul Owen; David Gent and David Miliband.

INFO

For further information contact:
 The Scouting Jamboree:
<http://eng.thejamboree.org/>
 Scouting: www.scouts.org.uk
 Bellboats: www.mainacademyglobal.org
 Paddlesport: www.bcu.org.uk

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What has been going on?

We have been undertaking a considerable amount of political lobbying recently. With the summer coming on we are also preparing for the political party conferences. We are going to attend them and we are hoping to highlight our case with an eye-catching display!

Public Access to Inland Waters Bill

The bill is currently before Parliament and scheduled for a further reading 19th October 2007.

We presented the case on the 12th June to the all party Parliamentary Waterways Group (PWG). We were given the slot straight after the PWG AGM. Some of the boaters there were really shocked to hear what we had to say. It was an issue, as motorboat users, they had not fully comprehended. Many, including MPs present, for the first time, fully realised the huge difficulty we have accessing inland waters.

We stressed that the Bill is concise, but nevertheless incorporates the main concepts of Part One of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, in so far as they relate to inland water, but adapted to take account of the different circumstances in England. Doubtless there may be amendments in committee.

So what now... with the Bill going to go for a second reading on October 19th has many advantages to us, so its now time for you to assist us once again too.

By the time the 19th October comes around the Public Consultation in to coastal access will have been completed. It is looking more and more likely that coastal access will be dealt with by primary legislation in England. This will give us a real hook to say ...

- CRoW gives access to Land in England
- Coastal access legislation will give us access to the coasts... ie a right (but with an access code)

So what about inland waters? How can it be ignored now? From a campaign point of view and the comments we get is access not now a question of when and how rather than in the past when it was a question of whether access would ever happen?

What is the Bill about?

Essentially, as in Scotland the public are to have statutory rights of access to rivers, canals, lakes and other inland waters, but on the basis that these rights only apply in so far as they are exercised responsibly. The Bill indicates what is and is not responsible for both visitors in taking access and owners or landholders in providing for it, respectively, but there will be further more detailed guidance in the proposed Inland Waters Access Code, which will need to be agreed between the various interests concerned.

What would the Bill do?

A Public Access to Inland Waters Bill will bring certainty to the legal position for the recreational use and enjoyment of inland waters in England. The Bill, whilst giving new rights, would protect existing rights and create a presumption in

favour of access to and along inland waters. An associated Access Code would support and codify these rights.

Have you contacted your MP about it yet? There is a letter on the website you can send to them. This will remind them that we are still here and not going to go away until we have access!

Coastal access update...

And this is what people have had to say about it!

Miliband sets out 'Access All Areas' plan for English coast

David Miliband (Secretary for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) said: "We are an island nation. The coast is our birthright and everyone should be able to enjoy it. I want families to have safe and secure access to walk, climb, rock scramble, paddle and play all along our coastline.

"The coast is also vitally important for nature conservation and wildlife and for tourism, so our vision for greater freedom and rights for people will take into account the need to safeguard habitats and heritage sites.

"Improving public access will enrich people's enjoyment and understanding of the varied seaside landscapes and environments around the country."

Right so next must be Public Access to Inland Waters? The disparity between land and inland waters must be addressed!

Canoe England welcomes public consultation into coastal access

Canoe England supports the Government's intention to improve access to coastal which has been launched (19th June). There is a huge variety of different types of sea paddling, a type of paddling for everyone. The coastal varieties include; surf, sea, sailing and sit on top kayaking - they are an ideal way to experience the natural habitat in an environmentally friendly way. We all need access to our coast!

Public consultation – have your say!

Consultation paper on improving access to the English coast

DEFRA have issued a consultation paper Consultation on Proposals to improve access to the English coast. This is

All change at DEFRA

With Gordon Brown now as PM there has been a big change in DEFRA too. The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP was appointed as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 28 June 2007.

The full list of Government ministers was published by the Prime Minister's office on 29th June – and this includes the following ministerial appointments in relation to Defra:

- Minister of State – The Rt Hon the Lord Rooker
- Minister of State – Phil Woolas MP
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Joan Ruddock MP
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the South East – Jonathan Shaw MP

Jonathan Shaw's responsibilities cover marine and fisheries, rural affairs, landscape, local environment quality. Hmm... well I guess we'd better get letter writing!

At the time of writing we do not yet know who has particular interest and responsibility for Food and Rural Affairs so do keep watchful eye on the DEFRA website as it will be announced there.

Please get ready for the letters you need to send. In the meantime you can send a letter with your concerns and observations via your MP but don't forget to write to the MP who gets the rural affairs portfolio!

Canoe England appoint a new Head of Access

We are pleased to welcome Andrew Green to the newly formed Head of Access post.

Andrew comes with a wealth of experience relevant to the position. Having worked as a regional access advisor for Natural England, he developed the regional access strategy. Before that, he worked for the Cyclists Touring Club, one of the objectives being to gain improved access for cyclists to the rights of way network. Previous to that Andrew worked as a Rights of Way Officer for the Surrey County Council.

The main objectives of this new role are to implement and develop the access strategy in consultation with the English Council and to manage the access section, within the English Development Department. The role will involve networking successfully within the sport, with key partners and relevant external agencies and will deal with access issues in relation to inland waterways and the associated access legislation. The aim will be to increase the opportunities to improve access for canoeing on inland waterways. An element of the job will also be to provide support and advice to the Rivers Access Campaign, which aims to introduce new legislation similar to the Scottish Land Reform Act.

Paul Owen Chief Executive comments, "We are investing in the newly created Head of Access post, because access to inland waterways is fundamental in providing opportunities for everyone to take advantage of the benefits paddlesport. Canoeing is the most popular watersport and over 1.5 million people canoe but increased access to water will make the sport even more accessible and inclusive for all."

Andrew described to us his passion for kayaking and access for all, "I have a passion for outdoor recreation, not only do I kayak, I mountain bike, I walk, I enjoy wildlife and landscape photography, as well as just mooching about in the countryside. My strong belief is that everyone should have a right to enjoy the outdoors, so long as they don't harm or adversely affect anyone or anything else while doing so.

"As I know you will be asking about my kayaking. I first started paddling as a teenager with my local scout group, however by my mid-twenties I had all but given up due to the normal none paddling commitments. I'm not quite sure what triggered it, but about four years ago I decided I would like to try paddling again and I contacted my local canoe club, and was once again bitten.

"I paddle a Prijon Cross; I enjoy white water up to Grade 3-4, although it's fair to say that at Grade 4, I spend a fair amount of time practicing my back stroke!

"Yes I do have BCU membership, and I am attempting to become a level 2 coach, I also fancy trying my hand at some Canadian paddling, if only to see if having only one end to your paddles gives any benefit, can't see it myself but you never know.

"What do I hope to achieve? Well ultimately I suppose redundancy, this is the first job I have had in which an end result would be no work. How do I intend to achieve this? Well, why the route may be up for discussion, ultimately I want access to be a right on all suitable inland water. While my role will be different to the current access campaign, there will be a lot of cross fertilisation. Without wanting to sound too vague my role will be to engage at a far more legal and practical level than has been the case up to now. For example engagement with Government Departments and agencies, building best practice, challenging legal concepts and generally chipping away at the conceptions that are currently preventing legally defined access to inland water.

"All that being said I firmly believe that in the coming months and years, not only will every member of BCU staff have to be an advocate for access, so will every member of the BCU, as



well as every other paddler who aspires to use inland water as of right. Part of my job has to be to support this process.

"Before I finish it would be churlish not to say hi to my family, my wife Angela, son Adam and daughter Abi. I must also say hi and thanks to everyone at Wyre Forest CC, Hi because it's polite and thanks for bringing my paddling and backstroke on in such a short period of time and with such good humour."

available at <http://defra/corporate/consult/coast-access/index.htm>.

The consultation paper follows consideration of Natural England's report "Improving coastal access our advice to Government" which was submitted to Defra at the end of February 2007 and which is also published today. It is available on Natural England's website at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ along with a number of background papers.

Defra appointed a consortium of consultants led by Asken Ltd to undertake research to identify the benefits and costs of options to improve coastal access and on whom they would fall. To accompany the consultation paper Defra has today also published a copy of Asken Ltd's research report Appraisal of Options to Improve Access to the English Coast.

This is available at: <http://defra/wildlife-countryside/issues/accesscoast.htm>

Responses to the consultation paper should be sent by the end of Tuesday 11 September 2007, preferably by email to coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

There is a prepared template, which you may find helpful. A copy of the template is available in electronic format on the Defra website at <http://defra/corporate/consult/coast-access/index.htm>

To mark the publication of the consultation paper they have published Issue 26 of the Access newsletter.

<http://defra/news/2007/070619a.htm>

CCPR calls on ministers

"Coastal access proposals are a leap for walkers but small step for other activities", says CCPR (Central Council for Physical Recreation)

CCPR, the national alliance of representative and governing bodies of recreation and sport have called on ministers to use the opportunity to open the coast to as wide a range of activities as possible.

CCPR, whose 260 members include the Ramblers' Association, the British Mountaineering Council, the Cyclists' Touring Club and the National Federation of Anglers, is campaigning for:

- activities in addition to walking to be accommodated and
- the access 'corridor' to extend to the sea.

Tim Lamb, CCPR chief executive, commented: "These proposals are a step in the right direction but they are not the leap which could transform access to our coast.

"There is a great opportunity to create thousands of new 'theatres of activity' around our coastline where people can cycle, canoe, climb, cave or ride. But that won't be achieved by opening up a narrow 'corridor' which constricts access on either side – what is needed is comprehensive access from a point inland all the way across to the sea. That will mean that people aren't restricted to just sight-seeing but that they can actually interact with our coast right around the country."

He added that limiting access to the coast solely to walkers would deny participants in other activities unique opportunities.



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Exercise Fren

Bombardier Anthony Bell is our guide to Exercise French Dragon: an expedition to the southern French Alps. 14 members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, ranging from raw recruits with no paddling experience to regimental canoe team river leaders, had two weeks to achieve the aims of military adventurous training... 'to develop, through challenging pursuits and within an outdoor environment, leadership and the qualities necessary to enhance the performance of military personnel during peace and war', by exploring some of the best rivers in Europe. Bring it on!

We arrived at Le Argentiere La Basse campsite in des Ecrins National Park that is fully equipped with a practice lake and slalom course. Glorious conditions melted all but the most stubborn of snowcaps and Reg our river leader highlighted the difference in flow on such a warm day in contrast to the UK, as 'that's a bit quick isn't it?'

Day one gave everyone the opportunity to shake out on the lake, with the ratio of coaches to students being almost 1:1 everyone got a good workout. The surprisingly early emphasis on support strokes, reverse paddling and defensive swimming was not lost on the rookies.

World Cup fever was now in full swing and the St Georges flag flying proudly on our canoe trailer always got a beep and a wave from passing motorists (at least I think that's what they were doing). "Nothing technical lads – just big and bouncy in places" was heard on

more than one occasion, said to the wide-eyed group at the back of the bus on route to the get-in point.

After three hours, a couple of swims and many a contorted expression later the whole group was buzzing, marking their

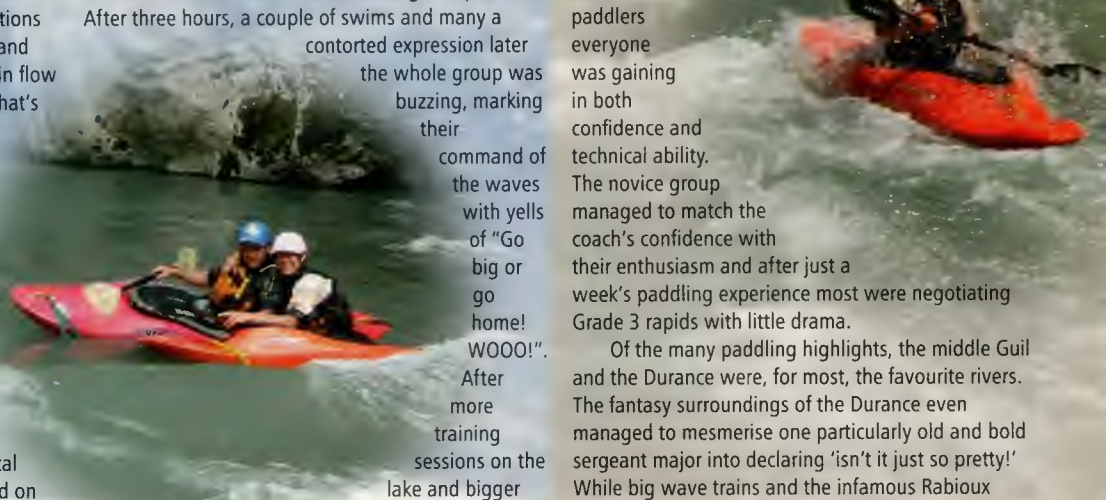
command of the waves with yells of "Go big or go home! WOOO!".

After more training sessions on the lake and bigger

runs by the senior paddlers everyone was gaining in both confidence and technical ability.

The novice group managed to match the coach's confidence with their enthusiasm and after just a week's paddling experience most were negotiating Grade 3 rapids with little drama.

Of the many paddling highlights, the middle Guil and the Durance were, for most, the favourite rivers. The fantasy surroundings of the Durance even managed to mesmerise one particularly old and bold sergeant major into declaring 'isn't it just so pretty!' While big wave trains and the infamous Rabioux





Achievements
 In the end, eight canoe safety test, eight two star and one four star qualifications were awarded and several of the party were identified as possessing the necessary skill, aptitude and attitude to potentially become future coaches. The 14 days paddling Alpine water was simply unforgettable for all concerned. Aims achieved? We may have to come back next year just to make sure!



“Go big or go home! WOOO!”

wave (keep paddling!) ensured everyone went home 'chin strapped' after either swimming or boat chasing. Kayaking days were punctuated with two rest and recreation periods of canyoning and rafting. After much tri-lingual research in local kayak shops, Jonah managed to track down a company that would offer more extreme experiences to a group of robust soldiers who had done it all before (or seen it on TV anyway). The instructors chosen as our guides must have had more scars and bits missing than our boats but were experts on the local area. Rafting the Grade 5 Chateau Queyras Gorge including the Triple Steps and Guardian Angel rapids was absolutely awesome – the first descent that season – like being in an aquatic pinball machine for one group and a washing machine for the other who had an unexpected 100m swim

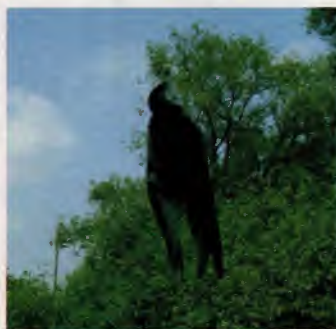
machine for the other who had an unexpected 100m swim. Toward the end of the expedition calls to 'step it up' and 'go bigger' were answered with the Grade 4 Upper and Lower Guisane on the cards. Eyes were on stalks as the gradient and narrow 'get-in' at Le Casset came into view. Comfort zones were visibly stretched as the false sense of security everyone had built up in the first kilometre was quickly snatched away by the infamous S-bend rapid. Plans to follow a line were promptly replaced with plans to just stay upright, made all the more difficult by Jonah overtly filming from one bank and Gaz miming instructions from the other. Jacko produced his first roll 'in anger' here which he would not let anyone forget for the rest of the trip. Senior

paddlers continued down the Lower section described in the guidebook as 'handsome', but after a freak rain storm half way down turned out to be anything but. Water levels visibly rose minute by minute until the grade they got off was not the grade they got on!



Sad experience

I am writing in response to a sad experience I had recently whilst paddling on my local river. As we put on the River Wear with a group of 3+ students, a distressed student asked me what was that hanging from the tree. We paddled over and couldn't believe our eyes when we saw a Sand Martin hanging lifeless from fishing line which was attached to a tree with an artificial trout fly hooked to its beak. This has been a regular occurrence since I took up the sport of paddling. All too often my friends and I come across Coots, Mallards and even a Swan caught up in fishing line.



Now I am not having a go at fisherman here, as a youth I spent a majority of my life fishing on this river which brought many hours of pleasure and great memories, but sadly it happens all too easy, you get snagged in a tree or on the opposite bank give your rod a good tug and 'snap' goes your line and tackle.

As paddlers I feel it is our duty to look after the environment and line should be cut and discarded in a safe place as long as we're not putting ourselves at risk.

This Sand martin could well of had a nest of chicks waiting for their next feed. So come on lets pull together and do our best to rid the rivers of this menace.

Brent Ardle, Spennymoor KC

What are the chances of that happening?

Our Mad River Intrigue has endured a mad river experience.

The Teifi Tour takes place in deep rural Wales. It is an excellent tour which I heartily recommend to both kayakers and open boaters as a prelude to the winter paddling season. It is also where the trials and tribulations of urban problems are forgotten, aren't they?

Saturday night and after a good day on the upper Teifi we drove down the three miles from the excellent

CONTRIBUTION DETAILS

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Moelfryn campsite for a meal in Newcastle Emlyn, parking the car outside the Bunch of Grapes pub. Having had a drink and placed our dinner order, there was a need to find some money to pay for the meal, so my daughter (Laura) and I left the pub to look for an ATM.

Outside she looked at our car and then exclaimed, "the Intrigue's gone!" Slow thinking mother then thought, "how many boats were on when we left the campsite? Two? One? None?" We had certainly removed one boat in order to fit a central air bag ready for the dip in Cenorath Falls the next day. Perhaps both had been left off and we'd driven down with the straps trailing merrily behind us (one strap was on the car and the other was missing). No, the Intrigue had been on the car upon arrival in Newcastle Emlyn.

I returned to the pub to report the boat's disappearance to our group. Five people departed the dinner table to go boat hunting, scattering in all directions beyond the pub to search streets and car parks and asking passers if they had seen a canoe! Laura had found the other strap down the road, suggesting the direction the boat had gone. Deepest Wales also means erratic mobile phone signals; however, the pub staff were very helpful in lending me their phone to "do the usual thing" of contacting the police. Of course in sleepy Wales there are limited police resources for Newcastle Emlyn on a Saturday night.

Now the sickening implications of the boat's disappearance began to kick-in as our autopilot behaviour switched off: why do people engage in such mindless activity? A pleasant evening out with a group of friends had been ruined. There was the distinct prospect of Sunday's paddle being a spectator event for my family.

Two hundred metres down the road from the pub a bridge crosses the Teifi 20 feet below. One of our group searching near the bridge spoke to someone who said "If you're looking for a boat, I've seen one being thrown over the bridge by two people." (Mental note: wasn't this a tad suspicious at nine in the evening in autumnal darkness? Any inclination to ring the police? Sadly, no.)

The search party returned in dribs and drabs with nothing more to report. Anyway, dinner was arriving and there was little to be gained by looking in the dark and the police had been informed. Gloomily, I returned to the

bridge and peered over the metal railings: if it had been launched from one side of the bridge, it would have landed in deep moving water. If it had descended from the other side, it would be in a crumpled heap on the shoals and streamlets below, which was not apparent in the darkness. So how far had it gone downstream?

During the ensuing sleepless night my thoughts went along the following lines (more or less). Will we get the boat back? If yes, what state will it be in? If two people had taken the boat, it was more likely to have been carried than dragged along, so it could have retained its buoyancy when landing in the river. Would it have done Cenorath Falls on its own and continued to the Irish Sea? Would I rather have it back or have a new boat? The Intrigue is a great boat to paddle and we had owned this one from new in 1999, but one always wonders if paddling will improve with a different vessel. And of course we all like new toys. But then this Intrigue has been there and done that on so many trips. It has endured competencies and incompetencies and reconfigurations; hours of work adding a kneeling thwart, straps, skid plates, sailing block. One thing is for sure, as it was so distinctively ours, no one would be able to claim it was theirs if they had stolen it. Then, what was my daughter going to paddle the next day if it failed to materialise or was not in a usable condition?

Next morning we descended upon Newcastle Emlyn. Nothing was visible below the bridge or on the wide sweeping bend of the Teifi beyond. So, some went up to Henllan to inform the tour organisers of its absence, others went to Cenorath at the end of the Sunday trip to do likewise. Fortunately, roads run reasonably close to both sides of the river downstream of Newcastle Emlyn. So cars with passenger scouts were dispatched each side of the river. On my side, the south, there were good views along the river – and sadly no Intrigue. We were rejoined by the north bank posse minus the passenger with incredible news: the Intrigue had been found and being guarded by Laura.

Sure enough upon examination the boat was virtually unscathed despite the launch from the bridge and the one mile trip down the river (one skid plate cracked and minor damage to a deck plate): the paddles pushed under the airbag were in place; the kneeling straps were there; the airbags were

fine – amazing. Now to the final intrigue: the boat was upright (okay it probably landed on the water that way, fortunately), there was virtually no water inside and it was a high and dry on the river 'beach' where it was found. The river had not gone down much overnight – so had it been pulled up? If so, what were the intentions of 'the rescuer'? Its recovery had not been reported by anyone to the police, so was it going to be removed later? Or was it a case of, "gosh, here's a canoe, I'll pull it up and leave it here and maybe somebody will come looking for it?"

Ah well, we had got it back, it was about time we went for our appointment with Cenorath Falls.

Footnote

We seem to be good at getting kit back: since the Teifi my son dispensed with his kayak paddle on the Ogwen, but it was found a week later and posted on the UKRiversGuide website. Many thanks for the honesty of the retriever as there was no name on it – maybe it wasn't a smart enough paddle.

Lessons learnt:

- Always attach your boat to the car with more than rope and straps.
 - Label your kit.
- Thanks to:
- The other paddlers who helped to recover the boat.
 - The staff at the pub.
 - The police for following up the incident.

Dr J F Brake

Far and wide

I am writing to say how much I appreciate a notice informing readers in February of an event run by Cambridgeshire Canoeing Association in June. As Secretary of the CCA I was under the impression that this information was to go in the yearbook when I sent it in in December.

However, unlike other years when the annual CCA tour was joined by perhaps one or two boats from outside the county, this year saw a great change. We had paddlers from three different counties: Oxford, Derby and Essex as well as local paddlers. What is more there were five double canoes and one single canoe from Essex, informed of the event through Canoe Focus.

So I am grateful to you for advertising our activities as we like to share our interesting local waters.

Happy paddling.

May Block, Sec CCA

That's not a problem – we are really glad the notice made a big difference.

Ed

Murray river marathon

27th to 31st December 2006
By Anne and Graham Sheward



This was a race, I was thinking, was never going to happen. It had been a logistical nightmare. For weeks I had a damaged shoulder, meaning very little training for myself or Anne. A week before the start of the race, we had no canoe, no driver or support team; we did have the promise of the K4 team transporter trailer which would move the canoe and us if we could get one!

The problem of the canoe was solved when I phoned a man in Yarrawonga, Jim Judd an ageless tough Australian who looked as if he had been carved out of a Red Gum Tree, he asked us a few questions then this kindly gent lent us his pride and joy. The canoe, a TC2, is the Oz version on a Canadian canoe and covered a bit like a kayak. He also lent us spray decks and very comfortable sheepskin seat covers.

I had taken the canoe to be scrutinised at Tocunwal and meet up with Brian, my Oz friend who had invited us to take part in the Murray event when we met in New Zealand while taking part in the 'Speights Coast to Coast Race' – good to meet up again. Race morning the weather was great, but the canoe arrived late and was too heavy for Anne to lift. Jim marched up grabbed the front of the canoe and marched through the crowds plonking the boat in the river, where Anne and I jumped in just making the start line ready for the 92km first leg. It was just 0700 and the weather was mild and with little wind.

The river

The level was low and the river banks high, running through the Australian bush of mainly Red Gum Trees. Lots of people camp in the woods and many watch as the race goes by from the array of tents caravans and boats in the trees that are home to a wonderful array of birds. The river normally had a good flow but as they were having the worst drought in 100 years, so the river level was low and the flow not very good. Most of the river was much of the sameness but the section of the third day was the most attractive with low banks and Weeping Willows with along the section. As we got towards Echuca we were a bit alarmed by a big paddle steamer coming straight towards us belching steam and smoke, as we crossed to the other side of the river to dodge the monster, it changed direction coming straight towards us again, then suddenly turned just in front of us. This is no problem except for the huge waves it throw up, good job Anne had Jim's spray deck otherwise we would have been swamped, but we reached the finish bank without problem.

Conclusion

We very much enjoyed the event and the friendly Australian people. The Race was hard, but not too extreme being spread over five days, though not to be recommended without the help of a support team.

Jim said, "It is only the few that do the whole distance, that can claim to have done the race, others only take part in the event," I agreed with Jim in that, but the teams did have a lot of fun too.



The race

Many different canoes of every size shape and kind enter this. K1s, K2s and the fastest being K4's which are racing four seat kayaks – very fast and long, while at the other end of the scale; TC1 and TC2s and in-between just about every type of canoe that you can think of. Only a few of the paddlers seemed to go the whole distance as most were part of teams, where the canoe would go the whole distance but the crews only paddle a stage each day. At 7am the slowest craft would start then at ten minute intervals the different classes begin according to the speed of the craft – of course we were first off and then spent the rest of the day being passed by the faster craft, talking as they passed often commenting about the cricket.

At the finish of each stage we would go to our motel as Ray Basile, the great guy who drove the K4 team trailer agreed to carry our canoe. Over and above this he also took and collected us from our motel. Without Ray we would not have got past the first day, our thanks to him.

During each day there were three checkpoints where each team would change crews and much excitement as the teams and supporters cheered their boat in. This was also where paddlers got refreshments from their support teams, however, we did not have a team so had to carry all we needed. As each canoe passes a set line, their race number would be called out along name of paddlers and some comment such as "and they have come all the way from Britain just to take part in this event" we at Jim's suggestion carried an Australian flag with the blue bit cut off, which enabled all to recognise who we were.

My wife Anne who had never paddled more than 25km at any one time was fantastic as she paddled all the way, strong and even, I am very proud of her.



BCU photo



The winners for Mary and June (as voted by you) are:

May adult winner:
Antony Marsh

June adult winner:
Fiona Pennie

May youth winner:
Edward Rutherford

June youth winner:
James Hickman

The photo competition is still running!
For your chance of winning the 2007
competition get clicking now!

How to enter

Send your photos in jpeg format via email to shrutipassibcu@bcu.org.uk or post your photos on a CD to: Chloe Nelson-Lawrie
British Canoe Union, 18 Market Place, Bingham NG13 8AP

Remember to label your photos and to provide contact details that include your name, address, telephone number, age and BCU number.

Please also include:

- the place where the photo was taken (name of river/lake/stream and the location)
- when it was taken (time of the year)

Prizes Monthly winner

A winner will be chosen each month until December 2007. 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.

How winners are chosen

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

Overall winner

At the end of January 2008 one overall winner from the youth category and one winner from the adult category will win a digital camera worth £150!

By entering the competition The British Canoe Union will be entitled to use your photograph to promote canoeing, without needing to obtain your permission.

By submitting your photograph/s you agree to grant the BCU a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, sub-licensable right and licence to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute and exercise all copyright and publicity rights with respect to your photograph/s worldwide and/or to incorporate your photograph/s in other works in any media now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in your photograph/s.

By submitting your photograph/s to BCU, you warrant that your photograph/s is/are your own original work and that you have the right to make it/them available to the BCU for all the purposes specified above; and does/do not infringe any law.

We will only accept images as taken and will not accept any image that has been re-mastered or which are montages.

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photograph competition



Antony Marsh
May – Adult winner

The British Canoe Union will not be able to return any images.

Wherever used, we agree to credit your images to you.

We reserve the right to crop the images as we see fit.

This competition is open to UK residents only. Overseas entries will not be considered.

Collective Editor's announcement of the winner is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

The prize(s) must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. There will be no cash alternatives.

The BCU does not accept any responsibility for late or lost entries due to the Internet. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.

No responsibility is accepted for ineligible entries or entries made fraudulently.

This competition is not open to employees of the BCU, any person directly or indirectly involved in the BCU or the running of the competition, or their direct family members.

The BCU reserves the right to cancel this competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.

Where photos of people are submitted, you agree to having the consent of those people wherever possible and if applicable (i.e. members of the general public). If children are featured the consent of their parents/guardians is needed.

Prizes unclaimed after 28 days will be deemed to have been forfeited and the BCU reserves the right to either offer the prize to the entrant whose name is next drawn at random, or to re-offer the prize in any future competition on the BCU.

Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them when entering this competition. This includes entries made via email.

We reserve the right not to publish images that are submitted and to edit the comments that accompany the image. The site editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



James Hickman
June – Youth winner



Fiona Pennie
June – Adult winner



Edward Rutherford
May – Youth winner

Launch into Paddlesport with the Rocket K4

The Rocket at just over eight metres in length has been designed as a one design class aimed specifically at eight to twelve-year-olds. It has been designed in collaboration between Canoe England and Marsport along with club coaches to take into account the principles of Long Term Paddler Development

Canoe England has worked in partnership with Marsport and Sports Match to provide a fleet of eight Rockets that will be used at the National Sprint Regattas and will available for local events via your Paddlesport Development Officer.

For more details contact
youth@bcu.org.uk
 Tel: 0845 3709520



Teeside youth freestyle

The second of this year's youth freestyle was at Teeside on Sunday 20th May and just like Llangollen there was a massive turn out in all age groups.

So far we have had around ten coaches and this meant we could have a small group to coach each. Teeside is an

excellent spot for beginners because if they swim they can just walk away. We began with a bit of flatwater coaching getting some cartwheels, splitwheels and loops going. We then moved down to the course where a few of the kids were picking up roundhouses, cartwheels and splits really quickly.

After an hour's lunch we had the down river race with a series of challenges set up, for example, racing without paddles or something along those lines. This is where I found out my hand paddling was not that great and managed to get absolutely beaten in the bottom hole 'the acid drop'.

The freestyle competition began straight after the down river and because of the wide variety of ability in these competitions we set up three features, one run in each feature with your best two results counted. This worked really well and meant the beginners didn't have to go in the bottom of the three features the 'cruncher' as it was slightly stickier than the top two.

The standard at this year's event has been incredibly high with some really impressive moves coming out of very shallow holes. In the U15s Stu Parry pulled off some amazing moves landing perfect phonics monkeys in a hole only around a foot deep in places. In the U18s Ben Brayfield was painfully managing big loops, again in a very shallow hole.

The next event is at Nottingham on the 2nd September. Thanks to all the event sponsors and coaches.

Ullswater Outward Bound/ Norfolk Island challenge race

The fifth annual event took place last Sunday 1st July in unexpectedly good weather. With light winds and just the odd shower over 50 competitors lined up for the start of this important Cumbrian canoeing event. Alongside it is a very successful family event with over 50 people turning up for this relaxing event which sets off just after the main competitors have started.

The whole event is based out of Outward Bound Ullswater who also provides safety boat cover along with Patterdale outdoor centre. Fortunately the rescue boats weren't needed as the teams were led out by the World Masters Champions who travelled up to the event from Chester. Other competitors had come from as far afield as York and Blackpool. All the Cumbrian canoe clubs were represented with a good entry from juniors. Proceeds are split between Outward Bound and Cumbrian canoeists who help volunteers canoeists become qualified coaches.

Also at the event was the launch of the Ullswater canoe trail – a leaflet describing parking, cafes, points of interest and possibly trips - all on waterproof paper. Obtain these from either BCU or Eden Rivers Trust.

Nigel Timmins



Yorkshire youthfest



Roundhay park in Leeds was the host to this years Yorkshire region youth event. White Rose CC hosted this year's event with support from coaches from around the region.

The event was a great days paddling for all the young paddlers coming along. With the chance not only to compete in all the different forms of competition but to get some coaching to develop their skills with great progression being seen.

Sport England supported the event with all the prizes while the Yorkshire outdoor Superstore helped provide specialised equipment. Tri It outdoors came to the rescue by homing the bell boats before and after the event.

Clitheroe CC NW weekend



A welcome return was shown to Clitheroe CC for the North West Weekend 2007 Event at Nene White Water Centre in Northampton. Competitors from northern clubs including Clitheroe, Garstang, Pendle, Ribble, Blackpool and Macclesfield were joined by their southern colleagues from Ibstock, Waveny, Newark, Tending, Northampton, Cambridge and Nottingham.

The Nene White Water Centre course provides an excellent facility for both novice and expert paddlers. Competition events on the first day were enjoyed by all ages, including this year's youngest competitor, Chloe Casson (7). A special prize was given to Gavin Layton and John Turner for their enterprise in entering the veteran downriver race in a duo kayak. Deb Pinniger, ex GB team member and world champion, kindly donated several copies of her book 'L'eau Vive' along with African inspired 'Looner' necklaces for prize winners. A huge support was provided by Tradewinds with their demo fleet and trade stand.

Even with the weather taking a turn for the worse the second days coaching provided an excellent opportunity for paddlers of all abilities to learn. Sessions being run on introducing paddlers to white water, developing their river running skills to their freestyle abilities where available for all.

A FUNtastic, flexible, paddlesport challenge

Cross Stream Challenge aims to develop and challenge boat handling skills, develop strokes and moves, whilst blending slalom, freestyle, polo, with a touch of wild water and flat water racing. The Cross Stream Challenge has been designed around the BCU Long Term Paddler Development Programme, offering something for everyone.

What underpins the challenge is the total flexibility in its delivery, focusing on the paddler, not just the boat. The challenge will help to provide paddlers with developing skill based around a predetermined course in managed and measured environment. The challenge will fully open the doors of our sport for all paddlers, providing an opportunity to experience the many different disciplines and helping coaches spot where an individual is most motivated.

Where can I deliver the challenge? The challenge has been designed to fit in to a variety of environments and has the flexibility to be adapted for use on your local stretch of water. Who can deliver the Challenge? BCU Level 1 Coach under guidance or BCU Level 2 Coach or above.

The New Cross Stream booklet can be downloaded from the Canoe England website. A printed version is also available. For more details contact youth@bcu.org.uk Tel: 0845 370 9520



PADDLE THIS

Young guns go big at the Nene

We were very lucky by having the best freestyle coaches around to help train the kids and Mark Birkbeck and Matt Chadders were in charge of the coaches. It started with an hour of flat water coaching just to give the young people a chance to warm up, all 72 of them. This was followed by bungee racing, just like the NEC. The U12 boys was won by James Benns and the girls by Natasha Isaacs. The U15 boys by Ed Mead and the girls by Poppy Layton. The U18 boys by Scott Ladyman. Lunch was declared and it was like a swarm of locusts all over the home made sandwiches and cakes.



After lunch Birky and Matt along with the other coaches, took all the children on to the course for a quick practice session before the main event. The U12s competed in the bottom pool (pool D) and the U15s and 18s were in the main feature on the course (pool A).



The U15 girls kicked it off with skilled roles in the hole. The boys then took over and showed what freestyle kayaking was all about. The moves just kept getting better and better. After a bit of abuse from the judges the boys started to take it seriously and went for complicated combination moves.

I would like to say many thanks to sneaky Pete and Timmy for the U15 and 18 judging and to Flea Jarvie and Jenny Chrimes for the U12 judging.



The last event of the day was the down river race. It was carnage! The different heats were set different challenges from Matt and they became crazier as the competition went on.

I would like to say a big thank you to the sponsors 3 counties self drive LTD, Square Rock Jackson Kayaks, Peak UK, Pyranha, Kara expeditions, Desperate Measures, Kayako Jacko and Dagger. However, the biggest thanks goes to all the coaches and judges who gave up there time so that others could learn. We would also like to say a thank you to the parents and children that came to the event we hope you really enjoyed!

We are making a DVD of the whole youth freestyle series. If you would like a copy, please send an email to aron@squarerock.co.uk the price will be £10. The profit that is made is going back into the youth freestyle series so that there will be one next year. Hope to see you all at the next one at HPP on the 2nd of September.

U12 boys: 1st Sam Stephenson, 2nd James Stopford, 3rd Joshua Wedgwood.

U12 girls: 1st Kim Aldred, 2nd Natasha Isaac

U15 boys: 1st Stuart Parry, 2nd Tom Turner, 3rd Adam Cox

U15 girls: 1st Poppy Layton, 2nd Gabby Bates, 3rd Stephanie Hacking

U18 boys: 1st Sevan Artoonian, 2nd Ben Aldred, 3rd Dom Brayfield

U18 girls: 1st Joanne Hacking

Gavin and Poppy Layton

Canoe England Volunteer Awards Programme 2007

Canoe England will be hosting their first ever Volunteer Awards for 2007. Nominations are now welcome for a number of categories in order to recognise those people who make outstanding contributions to paddlesport.

Volunteers, officials and coaches will be recognised for their contribution over the last 12 months at a special awards presentation. The awards will lead onto the UK awards where presentations are made to individuals who qualify for the already well established awards of merit, valour and honour as well as the prestigious BCU Services to Canoeing and Geoff Good Coach of the Year award.

Clubs, centres, committee members, or paddlers can make their nominations for the awards on the official form found in Canoe Focus. The form is also available on the website or by emailing volunteers@bcu.org.uk. Alternatively please call 0845 3709530 for a nomination form to be sent to you.

Goes Crazy

Paddlepower is an exciting scheme that has been designed to meet the needs of young people.

The orders for Paddlepower have been flooding into the BCU office. Literally thousands of young people have benefited from Paddlepower.

How does it work?

At Paddlepower Start there is a certificate which is awarded by the coach. For each award after start there is a colourful progress card for the young paddler to record their progress and to encourage them to move to the next stage with a BCU certificate awarded on completion of each award.

For more information contact the Paddlesport Participation Programme on paddlepower@bcu.org.uk or 0845 370 9500.

Volunteers in paddlesport

Volunteering and leadership is vital to the success of our national sporting life with over a quarter of all volunteering happening in the sports sector and over 47% of young people's time being given to volunteering in sport. Imagine how many hours your coach and committee members give to your club, and how many volunteers are needed to run a local event.

The Canoe England website now has a section dedicated to volunteers. Resources, information and news will be updated regularly onto the website. Click on the volunteer's link on the homepage www.canoe-england.org.uk.

A monthly newsletter is now being emailed to clubs, centres and volunteers to provide updates on new developments and opportunities for volunteers, including how to get involved in the National Volunteer Support Group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list email volunteers@bcu.org.uk.

Young volunteers: Step into Sport

We are discovering there are many young people already offering their time to the sport and a number who would like to volunteer but are not given the opportunity.

It is only right that these young volunteers are recognised and encouraged to continue this tremendous role within a sport that depends so heavily on the input from volunteers. Clubs who have achieved Clubmark and are working towards the accreditation have been sent a leaflet to provide more information – more copies are available from the BCU – and some school sports partnerships have already started rolling out the Step into Sport programme in paddlesport.

What have been the benefits in providing a high quality placement to young volunteers?

It is important that pupils who volunteer get recognition for their hard work and important that students get the opportunity to see how a club is run and contribute to the committee. This will give students the knowledge and confidence to take on these roles in the future.

How many students do you provide placements for?

Tynedale has ten places each year.

How did you find out about Step into Sport?

Through Northumberland Sport and Sport Leader UK.

What are the main tasks and duties of the students on the placements?

One student, Anna Louise, has coaching duties and is involved with coaching pupils who come to the club from the taster sessions.

How well do they carry out these tasks and to what degree of supervision do they need?

The students are highly motivated and require infrequent supervision. The club does most of the supervision and I will, on an informal basis, enquire with the student or with the club itself.

Where do you go from here, would you continue with offering placements in the future?

I tend to identify students who have strong relationships with a club already. I have not really got involved with trying to



Anna Louise

set up a placement with a club and student who is not already a member of that club.

Would you recommend the scheme to other clubs and centres?

I think the scheme is valuable. Clubs tend to look at providing coaching roles for students. I would like to see students used in different roles. Either supporting a committee member or given a task to complete.

Organisations, centres and clubs who feel they could offer a placement can register their interest on email pesscl@bcu.org.uk

PADDLE THIS

Eastern coaching weekend 29th June – 1st July



The last weekend of flaming June saw bedraggled paddlesport enthusiasts camping at Mepal Outdoor Centre near Ely to participate in the

regional coaching weekend.

The sun shone intermittently and the steady and heavy rain kept the lake well topped up but did nothing to diminish the enthusiasm of the dozen coaches from around the region who came to pass on their skills and experience in a wide range of tutorials, workshops and clinics. Coaching rolling, fun sports science, effortless rescues, K1 forward paddling, coaching games, classy open canoe, coracles, traditional skills, paddlesports skills workshops, slalom, polo and freestyle were all enjoyed by the eighty adults and young people who attended for the weekend. Many of the sessions were based around the ideas in the new BCU Cross Stream Challenge, seeing how skills and drills can be so usefully transferred from one discipline to another in our multi-faceted sport.

A big thank you to all the coaches who gave freely of their time to provide this fantastic range of experiences through the weekend and to Cambridge University polo club for the loan of their boats and to Desperate Measures for providing a great range of demo kayaks for the freestyle programme and to Reeds of Cambridge for the demo inflatable canoes and kayaks.



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New kayaks for Thurso club

Following a grant from the 'Awards For All' Scotland programme, the Thurso based Pentland CC has taken delivery of three sea kayaks, three river kayaks and a double kayak. The equipment was handed over to the Club by Tom Jackson, the Chairman of the Caithness Sports Council and a Director of Coaching Highland.



Olympic medallist opens club house

Olympic slalom medallist Helen Reeves cut the ribbon to officially open the new building at Frome in Somerset. The building, built to replace a gaggle of grossly inadequate 1950's portacabins and shipping containers was made possible by a substantial grant from the CCDF. The project took three years from inception to completion and is already yielding dividends increasing participation and membership.

Located alongside the river in the centre of Frome. The club house is in a corner of the main town centre car park. It is clearly visible to thousands of passers by every day and as such flies the flag for canoeing every day.

Over 200 people attended the ceremony, including the Mayor of Frome. After Helen opened the building and signed a few autographs she took to the water with a few young admirers and carried out an impromptu coaching session.



Church sponsorship deal



Robert Du-Roe (15) of Old Tupton has secured a sports sponsorship deal worth £500 from the local Church where he regularly worships. Robert recently presented to the congregation of St.

Bartholomew's, Clay Cross his new specialist slalom boat that their assistance helped him to buy.

Robert began

canoeing only a year and a half ago when he took part in some have-a-go canoeing sessions organised by the vicar Rev. Matthew Barnes at Poolsbrook County Park. Since that time he has climbed up the canoe slalom divisions and was recently promoted to Division One. Robert, now ranked 130th in the country, said, "I'm really please to have this support, who'd have though the local church would be interested in sports".

Robert now paddles with the Matlock CC where he receives regular training from some of the countries top coaches. The sponsorship deal has initially been agreed for a year and will be reviewed in 2008.

YORCIE NEWS: www.yorcie.org.uk

Its difficult to think of any good news that came out of the devastating floods in Yorkshire, but I did find a couple. You'll be pleased to know that the new Maltby & Manvers CC club house will be above the flood level. However, you will need a canoe to get to it! The other was that Kingston CC managed to scramble a scratch team of juniors and get a game of polo played in the street. Past club chairman Neil Jennison reported that the next night he planned to run a rolling clinic in his front room. However the level dropped. News is still coming in of the service that many of you have extended to the community, using canoes and kayaks to deliver supplies and aid rescues. Well done and thank you.

Another canoeing casualty of the floods was that the 'Loads of Money' talk had to be cancelled as our guest speaker Louise Tideswell who runs fundraising company Plan4Sport (www.plan4sport.co.uk) was stuck on the M1 for three hours. Regretable as this was, Louise has taken details of every club who sent a representative that night and has done a free search on funding. The regional team is currently considering how this can be developed further, but one suggestion has been to see if we can obtain the advisory services of anyone who has an interest in obtaining funding. To do this you obviously do not need to be a paddler, or even a club member. Just a few folk who could share the information available and pursue the trails of where all this funding is. Let me know if you may be able to help please (email address below).

It was bad news all round, as previously having asked you all to support the Washburn as much as possible, too much water in the reservoirs resulted in the first cancellation of a release date for 18 months. Please remember to check the YORCIE info line before you travel 0845 833 8654. The excess water hasn't however, stopped the paperwork on the Washburn site and the Washburn Committee are pleased to report that a formal application for the lease (that runs out in two years time) has been made.

After wading through waist deep water Access officer Paul Lister, managed to get to the regional 'Loads of Money' meeting and advise that access work has now started on the web. Have a look at www.sharemyroutes.com and see what I mean. Paul can easily be contacted on email access@yorcie.org or ring 01944 758463 or 07751

767067 at reasonable times please. With your help, your local stretch of river, or favourite trip could be on the web.

Quantity of water wasn't an issue on the 19th May when our PDO Gareth, ran a very successful Paddlefest at White Rose Lake site at Roundhay Park where all five scheduled events ran. Thank you Gareth. gareth@bcu.org.uk or tel 07738185885 and the whole team of helpers.



Also in May, Bradford & Bingley CC proudly displayed their magnificent new Wagon Lane facility opened up ahead of schedule for their slalom. Congratulations must go to the efforts of the BBCC team lead by Richard Lang and Tony O'Connell and HQ staff Chris Hawkesworth.

The next coaches evening get-together is again being hosted by White Rose CC on Sunday Evening Sept 23rd at Feamville Sports Centre, Oakwood Lane, Leeds, LS8 3LF. Minutes of the last meeting and an agenda for the next can be obtained by emailing Janet at paul@pcartwright.freereserve.co.uk or tel. 01484 603126. During the day of the 23rd Sept, there will be revalidation sessions at Pugneys. This will be by advance booking only and sent to Janet. If you are currently trying to obtain a coaching course and having any difficulty or want a tailor-made course to suit you, your group or club, then please contact your LCO. If you aren't sure who your LCO is, then contact me.

The regional team are here to help. Our next few meetings are, 10th Sept and 29th Oct. If you'd like to know more, receive regional info, come to a meeting, or would like one of us to come to yours, then please contact Jon at jdakeyne@aol.com. The region's ACM is again at 7.30 Ossett Cricket Club on Tuesday 27th November and will include supper. We are currently working on suitable entertainment. See you on the water.

Dick. dickconstable@canoeists.co.uk

Safeguarding and protecting children in sport: BCU achieve standard

We are delighted to announce that Canoe England has achieved the Intermediate Standard for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport. This reflects the commitment we have to ensuring that children have a positive experience in our sport and to support everyone involved in paddlesport with appropriate guidance and help.

Training for Club Welfare Officers

The BCU recommends that all clubs with children and young people appoint a club welfare officer to ensure the club has a point of contact for any concerns in the club and who can be the link between the BCU and the club to help develop best practice.

To support this role the BCU will be running a series of workshops for Club Welfare Officers this autumn and next spring. Dates and venues are as follows – full details will be posted on to the child protection section of the website with details of how to sign up for a course. Alternatively email: development@bcu.org.uk

Region	Date
London South East	29th September
South West	11th September
Southern	7th October
West Midlands	4th November
East Midlands	25th November
Yorkshire	23rd September
Cumbria	17th November

(North West and Yorkshire dates to be confirmed)

Important contact details:

24 Hour Child Protection Contact Number
Mobile: 0777 570 7364. Email: childprotection@bcu.org.uk

BCU Child Protection Support Officer: Nigel Timmins: 017684 80084

(For BCU coaches, volunteers and staff where an allegation has been made against them and they require support).

NSPCC Child protection helpline: Tel: 0808 800 5000

Childline: Tel: 0800 1111

Canoe England Club and Coach fund project framework

We are pleased to announce that Sport England has agreed to award the BCU (Canoe England) a grant of £1,614,000 towards the development of our Club and Coach Project. This funding will enable the BCU (Canoe England) to employ a network of 15 full-time equivalent (FTE) Coaches throughout the majority of the Sport England regions over a three year period.

The specific project objectives are:

- To increase the number of 'Performance Environments' offering high-quality experience to the membership (The BCU defines a performance environment as a well established water based facility or accredited top performance club or centre).
- To increase the number of high-quality full-time equivalent (FTE) coaches delivering within the clubs.

Although the BCU will receive this funding centrally from Sport England, the allocation of funding has been awarded against each of the Sport England Regional Sports Board's own priorities for sport within their specific geographical areas, and as a result of this, the funding will be ring fenced against each Sport England region.

The key responsibilities of the Regional Club Coaches (RCC) would be to co-ordinate canoeing's delivery of the Regional Talent Delivery Plan in delivering regional talent development focused on competitive events and participation, coaches, officials and volunteers and increase the involvement of all people in canoeing.

21st century facilities for Burton CC

Burton CC is celebrating the opening of its brand new club house on 15th June. The club offers expert tuition and excellent facilities in a safe and friendly environment and the club prides itself on being family orientated, always pleased to see parents and their children developing their paddling skills.

The official opening was held to mark the completion of the project that was funded through the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP), which has received tremendous support over the last four years from the

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Sport England, the BCU.

The total cost of the project is in the region of £420,000. The main grant awarded was from the BCU's CCDP Portfolio, distributed by DCMS and managed by Sport England, who in June 2005 made an award of £375,000. The new club house includes: changing rooms, meeting rooms, boat storage and is now one of the best club houses located on one of the best sites in the region, if not nationally!

Burton CC offers opportunities to groups from local primary and



secondary schools and holds Sport England's national Clubmark award ensuring it is active, accessible and accredited and in addition has the BCU's Top Performance and Top Community Club awards. There are four after-school clubs each week, supported by a community sports coach, plus sessions for local scout and youth groups. The club also has a well-established team of racing paddlers who compete in a range of regional and national events.

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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 web site. You will need a password which the BCU will email to you.

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A phone call from my friend 'Suffolk Pete' to say he was coming to Dorchester to stay with his brother for the weekend so could I fix him up with a boat, a sea trip and fine weather. Norman Howard takes up the story.

Old Harry

his wife and Tilly



Sure Pete I can arrange all those plus sun, blue skies and a perfect sea state! When? Oh Saturday June 24th, yeah no problem. Dream on. Getting out of bed at 0530 on the 24th I noted the sky was almost cloudless and the sun already warm and bright, well that's a good start. Quick wash and brew and I was ready, having loaded the boats and kit last evening. A little after 6am, I set off for Dorchester to collect Pete. (Aka Green King Rebel).

There were a few cars already parked along the road but plenty of room for us to park near 'Jerry's Point on the Poole Harbour side of the road. We soon had the boats over the dunes and at the waters edge. In the clear early morning sun the view was spectacular and the Terns were already diving into the water catching their breakfasts, so graceful. Truly the swallow of sea birds.

Old Harry Rock

I rushed us across the bay to Pete's first treat of the day, Old Harry Rock and all the arches and caves. To be able to paddle through these the tide needs to be high and the sea state calm. We had both these and paddled through all but two of the arches, which already had rocks showing above the waterline. The sun was bouncing off the white cliff faces and off the water surface it was like being in the Med and already the sun was scorching and guess who left his sunglasses in the car!

All the time the seabirds were wheeling and screeching overhead. We set off for Swanage and paddled into the bay to the end of the sandy beach for our breakfast stop. Sitting on large smooth rocks already warmed by the sun we certainly had the 'Feel Good Factor' watching the beach slowly filling with holiday makers and the bay filling with boats, jetski's, power boats and sailing dinghies with a variety of brightly coloured sails.



Because the bay was acting like a large 'eddy' we decided to head out into the main current rather than paddle through the 'treacle' of the bay. As we passed the RNLI station and the coastguard lookout at Peveril Point we suffered severe drag effect and a bumpy ride as the opposing currents formed a confused sea state. There were also many rocks breaking the surface to avoid. The paddle across Durlston Bay alerted to the sea state as we were now into largish swell.

We rounded Durlston Head and carried on past Tilly Whim Caves to Anvil Point, passing rock climbers descending the cliffs. Sitting looking at the lighthouse and cliffs we both agreed it would have been lovely to carry on with the current and we should have brought Pete's car to leave at Kimmeridge or even Weymouth and done a one way trip.

On the return we kept in close to the cliffs as that kept us out of the main swell and waves. It also gave an amazing close view of the caves and the ledges in them, which were swarming with sea birds, shag, cormorant, guillemot and razorbills.

Pete also spotted a 'Nature Watch' CCTV camera half way down a sheer rock face lined up on a very busy ledge full of sea birds. We were nearly at Durlston Head and could see we were in for some rough paddling. At one point on the headland my bows were almost touching Pete's stern, when he got lifted up on the swell and rushed forward while I got dragged back down into a deep trough.

Seaweed forest

Almost at Peveril Point we saw ahead, a darker band of sea and what appeared to be surf for almost 200 metres. This seaweed forest continued across almost as far as the first small sandy beach alongside Swanage Sailing Club. We had a very pleasant break here in the sun watching all the girls go by. I mean watching all the boats go by! Pete walked along the prom to get a coffee and a Belgian waffle, (obviously very chocolaty).



Into boats and across the bay to Ballard Point, where the lumpy, bumpy water stabilised into a more tranquil sea. While in the tranquil section we met another paddler in what I thought at first was an inflatable by the shape of it but subsequently it turned out to be a 'Ride On' made by BIC of razor and pen fame. The owner, from Weymouth, offered us a paddle in it when we got to Studland beach singing its praises. However when we reached the bumpy section approaching Old Harry we were quickly leaving him in our Daggars as he struggled more and more, getting further and further behind us.

We rounded Old Harry in a 'challenging' sea to find the previously calm Studland Bay was now a very bumpy confused sea and certainly not calm enough for photo shoots. The maniacs in control of powerboats and very large jetskis did not help our progress. Then to make matters worse five Royal Marines high-speed search/patrol boats that were chasing each other in ever tightening circles with us in the middle at times surrounded us.

Nasty surprise

About half way across Pete asked if we could stop for a 'blow', which suited me as my left thigh was going to sleep. I think this was mostly caused by no longer being relaxed and having the 'twitchy bum' mode, worrying if the boats would see us in the troughs

Visiting Harry by Whim



before blasting us out of the water. The breather enabled me to move my legs around and regain some feeling in them before setting off again. If we thought we were in troubled waters out there the Sandbanks entrance had a nasty surprise in store.

The southerly had got up and was blowing in over the outgoing tide making the famous rough waters this entrance is known for. Just to add to our rough ride the chain ferry crossed to the western bank ahead of us meaning we could not now keep close to the concrete slipway. Instead we had to go round the ferry and out to mid channel. We had 300 metres of very confused rough water being tossed around and up and down like feathers in a storm. Having rounded the corner to head west towards the cafe and toilets it got more sheltered and calmer the further we went away from the entrance.

After a bite to eat and drinks we decided to finish the day by paddling over to Brownsea Island that is owned by the National Trust. The anchored boats were starting to turn now meaning the outgoing tide had not turned and was coming back in. That would make the trip across to the island better as the shallows would soon go and we would have the tide pushing us across. Baden Powell and the Scout movement made this Island famous.

We paddled clockwise round the island as far as Maryland. Here we floated daydreaming and reflecting on our glorious days travel, which was almost at an end. We had launched at about 8:15am and it was nearing 5pm now. As we approached Jerry's Point and our egress the terns were still diving and fishing, the sun was still high in the clear blue sky but our limbs were beginning to let us know that after almost 25 miles it would be nice to rest. We drove back via a different scenic route passing both the 'Rhododendron Miles' and I do believe Pete was falling in love with the region. I do know I slept very well that night. ■

FACTS: OLD HARRY

Old Harry is the name given to the chalk stack that can be found below the cliffs at Ballard. Recent history shows Old Harry as the large rock on the end of the ridge and the small stack next to it as Old Harry's wife (above photo). In fact Old Harry is a smaller rock further to the south of the large rocks near the Pinnacle.

The true Old Harry has been eroded in recent years and has been around for well over 200 years where as the larger rock only broke away from the cliff more recently. Old Harry's wife used to stand next to Old Harry but collapsed around 50 years ago where the stump can only be seen at very low spring tides just below the surface.

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Aquapac MP3 player case

Aquapac have an enviable reputation when it comes to keeping possessions dry and with every man and his dog, owning an iPod, they have come up with the MP3 player case.

With its clear front panel, the MP3 player case gives users the usual ability to operate controls and click wheels of their MP3 players with a built-in external headphone jack sealing off the case and keeping your MP3 player safe from water.

Perfect for paddlers, Aquapac offers a tough neoprene ZipPac that allows the case to be worn as a belt or across the torso.

The plastic quick-action sealing system, called the Aquaclip®, makes each case 100% waterproof with a simple twist of two levers. The innovative design of the Aquaclip® ensures that the Aquapac always stays in one piece, even when open, eliminating the need for loose screws or folding of the case. All Aquapac cases sealed with the Aquaclip® are guaranteed submersible to at least 5m (15ft).

If you like your music on the move in wet conditions, then this is the perfect solution.

Price:

MP3 player case: £30

MP3 player case and ZipPac combo: £40

Visit www.aquapac.net to see details of the complete Aquapac range.



Alien technology

Mion Current sandal

Opening the box for the first time brought raised eyebrows, "these look just like the creature that wrapped itself around John Hurt's face in the film 'Alien'" was my first impression. Still, as long as nothing bursts from my rib cage after lunch I will give them a try I thought.

Slipping into the sandal for the first time and the draw cord tightens the individual structural ribs around your foot giving a very stable, personalised and secure feeling with no buckles or straps. First impression is that the sandal is incredibly light and has a feeling of being almost like polystyrene.

Martin Keen, of Keen Footwear fame has developed the feather light design by rejecting the more traditional leather and nylon uppers and instead using polyethylene foam for

the sculpted upper structure and encasing it with waterproof materials. Drop them overboard and they float!

To further the custom feel of the sandals, the anatomically shaped removable ergonomorphic foot bed gradually takes the shape of your foot after a week or so. Cleverly, this is permanent so the shoe fits only you, hence the name Mion, pronounced 'my own'.

Underneath, the outsole consisting of the excellent Gripstick rubber actually increases its grip when wet and the tread design channels water out from under the foot. Complimenting this, when the sandals are flexed, each lug breaks into mini-lugs for a terrific amount of grip on a variety of surfaces, especially wet ones.

The Currents are a unique sandal, but you may either love or hate the looks. However, even if you hate the looks, they do offer unique benefits, making an easy transition from water to land. For any paddler or anybody concerned with watersports, the Mions offer great protection, comfort and grip. A very functional product.

Peter Tranter

www.mionfootwear.com



PADDLE THIS

A classic canoe

Those who appreciate boat craftsmanship are in for a treat from Johnson Outdoors UK at this year's Southampton Boat Show. For the first time at any UK boat show they will be showing a top of the range hand-built wooden canoe from Old Town. The Molitor 17 is a traditional craft and defines the heritage of Old Town.

The company derives its name from Old Town, Maine, New England, USA where it is based. For centuries this has been the home of the Penobscot tribe of Indians and members of the fourth generation of the same family still work for the company.

It was their forefathers' birch bark canoes, which inspired the first wood and canvas canoe built by Old Town in 1898

behind the local hardware store. They proved highly popular because records show that by 1906 they were producing between 200 and 400 boats per month. By 1910 the town was calling itself the canoe centre of the world producing 3,500 boats that year and now a century later they have produced well over a million boats

The Molitor 17 has a pronounced tumblehome making her easy to paddle. Her sleek, sweeping sheer gives a dry boat with a fine entry and the long decks, outside stems and oval mahogany gunwhales create a frame so strong that no thwarts are needed. This classic is also enormously stable and offers good manoeuvrability

The Molitor 17 and other great new recreational products from Johnson Outdoors UK will be on stand B054 at the Southampton Boat Show 14 - 23 September

For further information contact: Johnson Outdoors UK

Tel: 01493 745192

Email: office@johnsonoutdoors.co.uk



Bollé performance

Bollé - Upshot

Polarised photochromic Bollé Upshot sunglasses

Very stylish, elegant sunglasses for the recreational, touring and sea kayaking fraternity. Superb lenses providing 100% UVA/B protection reduce glare from all directions on the water with the lenses being coated both sides and an industrial strength coating for greater scratch resistance. Very neat good looking light high-grade nylon frames means a very comfortable fit with the thermogrip rubber temples and nose pads providing firm adhesion with no slip.

Part of the Bollé Sports collection, the Upshots are more casual in the sense that you can wear them for everyday use and look good in them.

The Upshots come in a pouch with a microfibre cleaning cloth. There is a comprehensive range of Upshot sunglasses with differing lenses and colours with prices ranging from a retail price of £75 to the featured glasses at £99.



feel like you should be doing something serious like running marathons, triathlons and other insane things like that!

The Warrants are designed around dual Bollé Toric lenses that have two different base curves, one vertical and one horizontal that follow the curve of the eye. That allows the wearer the excellent comfort and vision without the distortion that can cause headaches, nausea, loss of balance and dizziness. With the larger lenses closely conforming to the contours of the face, they are more suitable for faster sports such as cycling and white water kayaking with excellent protection from UV rays, insects, dust and wind.

The warrants come in a case with holders for three pairs of lenses and a microfibre cleaning cloth and swapping the lenses is routine.

RRP £120
Andy Pearson
www.bolle.com

Bollé - Warrant



Bollé Warrant interchangeable lens sunglasses

Two lenses: Competivision gun (developed for tennis – muting all colours except yellow) plus polarised smoke lens.

Bollé Warrant interchangeable lens sunglasses come from the Bollé Performance collection and feel a much more serious affair than the Bollé Upshots. The Warrants make you



PADDLE THIS

Sundog goes Ballistic

These glasses are real heavy duty without the heavy, due to the lightweight frames. The Ballistics are for the extreme athlete, (or people who like to look like extreme athletes), who need all-round performance coupled with the ability for the sunglasses to stay in place no matter what the pace or position of the competitor. Perfect for the white water maniacs who disappear over huge waterfalls and feel at home on Grade 5 water, these sunglasses are difficult to budge owing to the snap release adjustable and removable head strap, air-cushioned brow, nose gasket for shock absorption and the hydrophilic temple tips to grip tight and prevent slipping.

Even if by some miracle they do come away, they have a toggle system that keeps the glasses afloat in fresh or seawater.



The ballistics are equipped with Cristec polarised lens technology that filter 100% of harmful UVA/B rays that are shatterproof and gives exceptional clarity with minimal glare with multi-vent aeration lens system to reduce fogging.

Ballistic is available in six frame colour/lens

colour combinations and is supplied with a custom neoprene case including an anti-fog lens cleaner stick and microfibre cleaning cloth – all for a recommended retail price of £79.99.

Sundog is the 'recommended eyewear' of the PGA, British Triathlon, Ironman UK and UK Sailing Academy.

Tony Cornwell
Sundog Eyewear
01243 555880 or email: sales@sundogeyewear.co.uk

Perception Kayaks new website

Perception Kayaks all new website has been launched at www.perception.co.uk

This new site will keep surfers up to date with all the latest equipment, news, information and events telling you exactly when and where Perception will be showing off their range.

On top of all this you can obtain information on the complete Perception range from family cruising kayaks, to surf machines to white water kayaks, as well as a full range of accessories. Once you decide on your choice the dealer list will show you where you can purchase your new kayaks and toys in your area. www.perception.co.uk



Events

Canoe Camping Club

Thames & South East Group.
Sunday 2nd September, River Thames, Oxford area

The group welcomes individuals and families as guest paddlers. Trips are normally 10-12 miles and suitable for open canoe and kayak. A BCU sticker or navigation authority licence is required. For further details contact: Robin Hickman, Robin@rhickman.freeserve.co.uk tel 01403 267244

World Rivers Day

September 30th
Last year, river enthusiasts across the world came together for the second annual event. It was a great success, with millions of people involved from almost 30 countries.

This year, some exciting new events will be part of World Rivers Day. The 'Pan-South American Rafting Expedition' will depart just after WRD festivities this September, travelling across the continent and promoting river conservation issues along the way.

Plans are underway for a circumnavigation of the British Isles in a 42-foot, sea-going canoe in conjunction with Spirit Dancer Canoe Journeys. This two-year expedition will have an environmental and educational focus, visiting virtually every river estuary in Britain in time for World Rivers Day, 2008.

World Rivers Day:
www.worldriversday.bcit.ca

BC Rivers Day:
www.riversday.bcit.ca

UN's 'Water For Life Decade':
www.un.org/waterforlifedecade

Wonder Of Water:
www.wonderofwater.ca

WW weekend

22-23rd September
Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham

London & SE region are again hosting a fun and training weekend. This is the only weekend when low water is available on the course. Training, testing, demonstrations and fun events are planned. For up to date information please visit

www.LASERwhitewater.org.uk

Welsh Open Canoe Symposium 2007

Friday 12th-Sunday 14th October

The Open Canoe Symposium has become the premier event for open canoeists across the UK. Organised and run on a voluntary, not-for-profit basis, its aim has always been to bring together people of all levels of experience and ability in a sharing of enthusiasm for and knowledge of all aspects of open canoeing.

We are delighted to announce that Cliff Jacobson will be our special guest for this year's event. Cliff is a renowned consultant on wilderness canoeing/camping and the author of over a dozen top-selling books. Special thanks are due to Richard Bennett of Outdoor Active for suggesting and arranging this visit. Outdoor Active are sponsoring a significant part of the cost and Richard will act as host to Cliff and his wife Susie during the event. Additional thanks go to Bell Canoes.

Venue

Gwersyll Glanllyn is an Outdoor Education Centre situated on the shores of Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake), situated about four miles west of the town of Bala on the A494.

Package options

Option 1 – Full Accommodation (£99). The on-site accommodation is comfortable, in shared rooms sleeping four, five or six persons and with en-suite facilities.

Option 2 – Camping (£75). For those choosing to camp, an arrangement has been made with the adjoining Glanllyn-Lakeside Caravan and Camping Park.

Option 3 – Day Visitor (£30 per day). For those who wish to join us but do not want accommodation it is possible to book in advance as a day visitor.

What's included?

Packages are inclusive of:

- Accommodation: Friday and Saturday night (depending on option chosen).
- Meals: Saturday breakfast, packed lunch and dinner; Sunday breakfast and packed lunch.
- Daytime Workshops: Saturday and Sunday
- Water Fees
- Evening Lectures
- Saturday Night Live Band

Canoe trade supporters

Bear Creek Adventure and Brookbank Canoes have both agreed to attend with retail shops. They will also be supporting the event with demo boats and outfitting workshops as will be Outdoor Active, White Water Consultancy and Pyranha. We hope to keep adding to the list for you.

Workshops

A full list of proposed workshops will be available on the symposium website www.opencanoesymposium.co.uk at the end of September.

Evening entertainments

- There will be an on-site bar on Friday and Saturday.
- Cliff Jacobson will be giving a slideshow presentation on Friday evening and will repeat it on Saturday evening.
- Chris Cooper will be giving a slideshow presentation on his proposed "British Isles Canoe Journey 2007/2008".
- On Saturday evening there will be a live band playing for those of you who want to strut your stuff.

Transport

We are planning for the availability of a number of courtesy minibuses and trailers for local travel (Bala Lake and Afon Tryweryn especially).

In dedication and remembrance

This year's event will be the first not to be graced by the presence of the late Huw Evans. Founder of White Water Consultancy International, Huw passed away in December 2006. Sadly missed, but fondly remembered.

SW Canoe Show 2007

Saturday 6th October

AS Watersports are once again pleased to be hosting the SW Canoe Show – the premier canoeing event for the SW region. This year's event will take place on the Piazza by the Quay in Exeter, just outside AS Watersports' shop.

We will have all the key UK manufacturers and distributors exhibiting, so there will be a good spread of new products to see as well as access to a wide range of demo boats.

On hand will be the experts from each brand to answer all your technical questions and offer the best advice. We will also have a good few bargains and special deals.

Keep your eyes glued to the SW Canoe Show Pages of the AS Watersports web site for regular updates as we get closer to the event, as we will be confirming exhibitors, special attractions and new products, as well as any special deals and promotions running on the day.

There will also be the gut busting hog roast, course providers stands, easy parking, easy demos, beautiful sunny weather etc...

For more information see www.swcanoeshow.com or call the team at AS Watersports on 01392 219600.

The Southampton Boat Show – £3 discount offer

14-23 September

The Southampton Boat Show returns this September to Mayflower Park. Europe's largest purpose built on-water boat show, the 39th Southampton Boat Show takes place from 14-23 September. Perfect for day trippers and enthusiasts alike, the event will see 140,000 people enjoying sailing, boating and water-sports. The Southampton Boat Show is the place to be to check out all the latest boating gear or to simply discover a new hobby.

Visitors to the show will get to walk the decks of HMS Bounty, star of the recent Pirates of the Caribbean film; they can enjoy the thrill of being out on the water with our Try a Boat feature and see the HM Coastguard in action. Sailors of the future can also get into the competitive spirit by visiting our Chinese Quarter, which celebrates the sailing town of Qingdao, twinned with Southampton and the official sailing area for Beijing 2008. And if all that sounds exhausting, then why not stroll along our Hydropool Marina and admire over 370 boats afloat, before sampling a pint of something refreshing at the Marina Bar.

We are offering £3 off the normal ticket price (normal ticket price is £15). This offer is only available by calling the hotline number on 0870 060 0246 and quoting 'Canoe.'

To find out more, then why not visit www.southamptonboatshow.com

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