

October

1996

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

Canoe

F O C U S

No. 103 £2.00

Atlanta 1996

The Olympics

Sweden 1996

Marathon World Champs

Slimboat: return of the cockleshell hero

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Issue 103
October 1996

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Gareth Marriott
Photo by
Joe Mulholland

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Your contributions make 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. Please don't be put off writing because
you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeists to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers.
Technical Information. Contributions are acceptable in clear handwriting or typed (double spaced). PC
disks (3.5 or 5.25) can be read from most Word Processing programmes especially if saved as an ASCII file.
Macintosh Files saved as DOS or ASCII can also be scanned. Photographic images are preferred on
transparencies (colour slide) Artwork and line drawings should be clear and large. All material is
accepted on the understanding that the BCU and it's agents cannot be held liable or
responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard
material. **Next Copy date is the 24th OCTOBER 1996.** Material arriving at
FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the December issue.

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Olympic Games

Gareth Marriot's fourth place in Atlanta again provided the GB canoeists with their best result at the Olympic Games this time missing a medal by the narrowest of margins. The next best result was that of Steve and Andrew Train who came 6th in the final of the Sprint Racing C21000m. All of the Sprint Racing team made the semi finals despite the traumas of late selection due to the ICF assessment criteria. Lynn Simpson's 23rd place in the ladies Slalom Competition came after incurring a 50 second penalty for missing a gate, although she did complete the fastest run of the day. Ian Raspin came 9th and was our best mens K1.

As I write this comment, the debate over Britain's overall performance at the Olympics, the worst for many years, flourishes and the BCU will be having its own debrief to see what can be learnt from the Atlanta experience.

Helen Reeves - Junior Slalom World Champion

Congratulations to Helen Reeves who became the Ladies K1 slalom junior World Champion at the recent event in Lipno, in the Czech Republic. Certainly a tip for the top in future years.

Marathon World Championships

Great Britain's first World Championship canoeing medals of the year were provided by the Marathon Racing team. Ivan Lawler and Steven Harris kept the World title in the mens K2. Steve and Andrew Train regained the title last won by them in 1988 in the mens C2 and Anna Hemmings came second in the ladies K1 winning the silver medal by a fraction of a second.

Sailing and Polo World Championships

Good luck to both the Canoe Polo and the Sailing team's who will be taking part in their respective World Championships later this month in Australia - lets have some more medals!

Sports Club of the Year Awards 1996

The CCPR have once again been asked by the Foundation for Sport and the Arts to find the 'Sports Club of the Year'. Prize money for the 1996 awards will be £10,000 (1st place), £5,000 (2nd place), £1,000 (3rd place).

Olympics 2000

Indications from Australia are that Slalom canoeing will not be included in the Sydney Olympics. The International Canoe Federation are appealing against the decision of the Australian organisers which is said to be because of the high costs involved in developing a course.

The BCU is assisting in ensuring that the case for Canoe Slalom is properly made and that all opportunities for lobbying are being undertaken. Additionally, the Union is making sure that if Slalom cannot be included opportunities to explore the possibility of including Marathon will be pursued.

Presentations will be made at a special dinner to take place at the CCPR annual conference on Wednesday 27 November 1996. Nominations should be sent to the BCU office, for the attention of the Chief Executive by 25 October 1996.

Dick Grieve

It is with great sadness both personally and on behalf of the whole sport that I report the death of Dick Grieve. Dicks contribution to the sport was immense and a full obituary appears further on in this edition of Canoe Focus. The sport will be far poorer without Dick's contribution.

Welcome to the Family

The newest member of the BCU arrived on the afternoon of Thursday 25 July. A baby girl, named Amber Primrose, the first baby for our Chief Executive Paul Owen and his wife Tamsin. Baby and mother are both doing well. We wish them many congratulations from all in the BCU family.

AGMs

The Annual General Meetings for all of the BCU Committees and National Associations will take place as follows:

BCU: Saturday 15 March 1997, venue to be announced.

CANI: January 1997 Venue to be arranged. Contact CANI for more detail.

SCA: Saturday 9 November 1996, venue to be arranged in Aberdeen, contact SCA for more detail

WCA: Saturday 5 October, Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. 5pm

English Regions

Eastern Region: Monday 18 November, 7.30pm for 8pm at the Butterfly Hotel, Symmonds Road, Bury St Edmunds. Tel: 01284 760884

East Midlands: Saturday 23 November, multi activity day leading to the AGM in the evening at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. For more detail contact Regional Secretary.

London & South East: Wednesday 27 November, 8pm at Dukes Head, 122 High Street, Hampton, A311. Next to swimming pool.

Very good food available, vegetarians catered for. For more detail contact Regional Secretary.

Northern Region: Tuesday 19 November, Hexham venue to be arranged, for further information contact the Regional Secretary.

North West: Saturday 23 November, Chester Canoe Club, Sandy Lane, Chester. Paddling opportunities all day, in conjunction with E2 regional seminar, assessment award and coaching AGM. Regional AGM starts at 7pm. For more information contact Andy Cook, North West Regional Chairman Tel: 01695 577226 (eves)

Southern Region: Tuesday 12 November, Liston Hall, Marlow, 8pm. For more detail contact Regional Secretary.

South West Region: Friday 29 November, Bridgewater, Somerset 7.30pm. For more detail contact Regional Secretary.

West Midlands: Monday 2 December, The Ackers Trust, Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, 7.30pm. For more detail contact Regional Secretary.

Yorkshire & Humberside: Thursday 5 December, Queens Hotel, Pontefract 7.30pm. or more detail contact Regional Secretary.

Sports Disciplines

Canoe Polo: Sunday 8 December, 12.00 noon at the National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. Please note that this year Polo have moved their AGM to coincide with the other BCU Committees, this will now be the traditional time of year for future Polo AGM's. For more detail contact Secretary.

Racing: AGM part II, Saturday 11 November, National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham, 12.00 hrs. For more detail contact Secretary.

Wild Water Racing: Saturday 2 November, 'Jenny Jones', Llangollen. 7pm. For more detail contact Secretary.

Slalom: Saturday 23 November, National Water Sports Centre, Nottingham. For more detail contact Sue Wharton, Slalom Development Officer, The Old Bothie, Broadgate Lane, Kelham, Newark, Notts NG23 5RZ Tel: 01636 705363

Surf: Saturday 19 October, to be held in conjunction with the British Championships. For more detail contact 'Taddy' Williams, Highlands, 17 Southdown Road, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 3ET

Marathon: Saturday 9 November, Venue to be arranged in Nottingham, 5.30pm

Rodeo: The AGM for the Rodeo Committee took place on 3 August.

Sailing: The AGM for the Sailing Committee took place on Monday 19 September and was run in conjunction with the National Championships at Saundersfoot.

Membership matters

As you know October is a very busy period for membership renewals, please get your application in early and allow 10 days for return. We will, during the peak time, give priority to on time renewals and new members.

Only October renewals have gone out with this edition, November renewals will receive a direct mailing in late October. Life members and direct debit subscribers should already have received their cards, if there are any problems please write to Lorna Orton, Office Manager at the BCU office, quoting your membership number, and the matter will be dealt with.

Why not consider direct debit? This is especially useful if you are habitually disorganised and always renew late asking your partner to ring on Friday afternoon and grovel (anyone out there recognise themselves?).

Canoe Exhibition

Don't Forget, the International Canoe Exhibition is taking place at the NEC, Birmingham on 22-23 February 1997.



Paul Owen
Chief Executive

**Gaybo Ltd/
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Perception kayaks have their home page on the WWW. Interested paddlers can check progress on: <http://www.perception.co.uk/kayaks>. Prototypes of the new Perception Rodeo boat the 'Whiplash' have recently been tested and should be available later this year. The 'Whips' will be released in two sizes; the Whip-It for those craving the ultimate play machine and the Whiplash for paddlers looking for more volume.



SPARKS Shine Out in Scotland

Around Britain Canoe Challenge

Blind man, Steve Macdonald, aged 24 from Liverpool, and Peter Bray, expert Canoe Instructor of Outdoor Challenge have now crossed the halfway point in their expedition to circumnavigate the coastline of Great Britain for SPARKS, Sport Aiding medical Research for Kids. Since the launch on 15th May from St. Katherines Dock, London, they have paddled 58 days to Applecross, and undergone 38 enforced rest days due to weather conditions or Steve being ill.

The wind takes on an extremely malevolent personality when it blows in your face no matter how many corners you turn, as it has done with Steve and Pete. They curse the skies quite often! Steve has caught a couple of stomach bugs off the sea, and recently developed the dreaded tenosynovitis. As soon as Lendal heard about his ailment they provided modified crank paddles which have greatly eased the use of his wrist. Despite difficulties a clear routine has developed within the team for each expedition day. Peter pores over the nautical almanac, sea charts and O.S maps daily, as each paddle has to be planned and timed perfectly so that fierce tidal races can be avoided or at least conquered at their lowest force. Fortunately, the canoeists keep to an average speed

of 4mph which helps the support team know when to expect them at each days meeting point.

Pete and Steve now have a host of strange stories about life on Britain's shoreline, they came round Beachy Head at night, not only did their light break, but the moon disappeared! The lighthouse flashing on the white cliffs guided them in the mists. On their paddle out of the Isle of Wight they overtook a yacht at 9mph much to the dismay of the yacht owner! On Holyhead Island 2 young anglers cast out their lines onto the canoe between Steven and Pete as they paddled past. The hooks and weights got tangled in the kit on the canoe and it was only this that prevented Steve from being seriously injured.

Recently the paddlers were joined for a couple of days by Dan and Karen Trotter as they left the support team to camp on Arran, Kintyre, Gigha and Cruach Scarha. They designed and built canoe faroe which fairs excellently in rough sea conditions. They filmed Steve and Pete in action for a possible documentary, and recorded the team's experiences for the Out of Doors programme on Radio 5. Their adventure turned into a wildlife tour as they spotted porpoises, otters, deer, seals, golden eagles, basking sharks and of course the vicious

midges.

The team would like to thank our sponsors, Lendal, Phoenix, Trax and Outdoor Leisure for the top quality equipment they donated; to Dan and Karen Trotter for the canoe and for their support; to the Somerfield staff for all their efforts in fundraising or SPARKS, and the Coastguard and RNLI for their assistance.

Lastly, we would all like to thank the people and canoeists we've met on the way for their kindness and hospitality, as this is what makes good memories in all the months of hard work. We hope to be blessed with good weather for the rest of the trip, which ends in mid-October, especially for Cape Wrath and the Pentland Firth.

If anyone would like to join Pete and Steve on a paddle, find out about the equipment we use, buy a T-Shirt (only £7 cheque made payable to SPARKS), or make a donation, please call Ben at SPARKS on 0171 931 8899.

The Canoe Team -
Steve Macdonald -
Project Leader
Peter Bray -
Front Paddler
Paul Weaver -
Driver, practical support
Catherine Bond -
PR Support.

**Placid Water
Coach**

Richard Ward, National Coach for Placid Water, has moved to 166 Westernlea, Crediton, Devon EX17 3JE Tel: 01363 774841

Loel Collins

has been employed by WCA on a three month contract to complete research and development projects linked to the growth of rafting and coaching in Wales.

BCU English Regions Award - Robin Wright

On 22 June, Ann Hart, Chairwoman of the East Midlands Region presented Mr Robin Wright with the BCU

English Regions Award. The award was given in appreciation for services to canoeing in Lincolnshire. This was

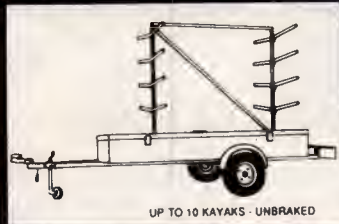
the first time that the award had been given in Lincolnshire. Robin started canoeing with the Sea Scouts and was



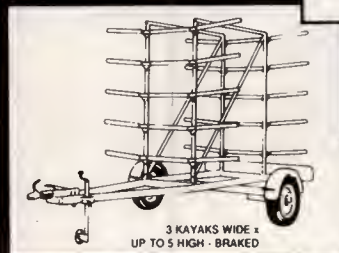
one of the first candidates from the Lincoln area to obtain the BCU Senior Instructor Award, he started running Lincoln District Scouts and inspired many others into canoe sport. For 15 years Robin represented the BCU as the Local Coaching Officer for Lincolnshire, a more than worthy reason for being presented with this award. Congratulations.

Photo by
Chris Cole

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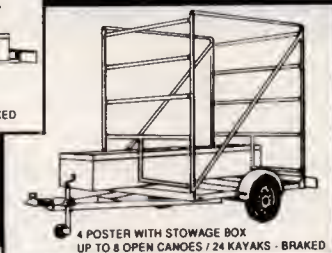
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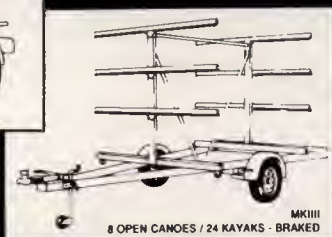
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**Tryweryn
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The Tryweryn is again available following the shut-down because of drought conditions. Paddlers should phone 01678 521199 prior to travelling to confirm the availability of a release.

**Norfolk
School Of
Canoeing -
New Address**

All correspondence for the Norfolk School of Canoeing should now be addressed to: Bure Valley Business Park, The Street, Buxton Lammas, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 5AF Tel: 01603 279979

New Women and Sport Resources

The Women's Sports Foundation have recently released two new resources: 'You've Got News for Them!' Which is a guide for all sportswomen including advice and practical tips on working with the print media, radio, TV, photographers, sponsors and funding agencies send a cheque for £5.25 to WSF. The Women and Sport Time of Change Video is available at £7.50 and is presented by Judy Simpson, it contains an insight into historical development, active participation and leadership, performance, excellence and media coverage, all of interest to women in sport and development work. Cheques should be made payable to the Women's Sports Foundation, WSF, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 4AU

Last Chance to Paddle the Yangtse - Update

Further to the notice in June's issue What's On page, we have received the following information from the Chinese Canoe Association. Please also note that the telephone numbers have been changed to those published in June. "Unfortunately, due to some reason, the rally, which was planned to be held in September this year, will be put off. We are still working on the project, hoping to run it in May or June 1997, before the closure of the Three Gorges Dam." Tel: 86-10-67113740 Fax: 86-10-67112793. Canoe Focus hopes to carry more information if and when it becomes available.

Ten Year Season Tickets for the Tryweryn

The WCA is inviting all water users in Great Britain to invest in a ten year season ticket, a bargain for a lifetime's canoeing at Canolfan Tryweryn. The offer is open until 31st December 1996. It will only be possible to purchase a Ten Year Season Ticket if there are sufficient applications. Price per ticket: Individual WCA/BCU/SCA/CANI members £100. Professional providers per client ticket £150 Non members WCA/BCU/SCA/CANI £150. The season ticket will start from 1 January 1997. For more detail contact WCA on 01678 521083 or Fax 01678 521158

Boat Stickers

BCU Members stickers are alright if you only have one canoe, but if like me you have more, there is a problem changing your Registered Number from boat to boat. The answer is a cold seal wallet, this can be taped to any canoe. For your cold seal laminate, send two 1st class stamps and 2 x 2nd class stamps. To: The Secretary, Edmonton Canoe Group, 19a Westerham Avenue, London N9 9BT Enclosing your name and address.

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Yorkshire Database

Nigel Wilford, LCO for Central Yorkshire is compiling a database of all canoe clubs in Yorkshire. It would be of great help to him for all those wishing to appear on the list to write to him with the following information: Club name, contact name and position, address, tel no, email address, membership details and activities undertaken. The information obtained will be used to provide the LCO with data useful in his role. The data will be processed using an Apple Macintosh, and when completed will be available to those who request it. Please send all information to: Nigel Wilford, 18 Abbey Street, York, YO3 6VG

The Top 100 Club

Canoeing once again is proud to acknowledge that the following paddlers are receiving grant aid from the Top 100 Club: Rachel Crosbee, Helen Gilby, Stephen Harris, Anna Hemmings, Ivan Lawler, Gareth Marriott, Shaun Pearce, Paul Ratcliffe, Lynn Simpson, Alison Thorogood, Andrew and Stephen Train.

Obituary - Dick Grieve

It is with regret that I have to report the death of Dick Grieve on 8th August after a short illness.

Many will remember him for his unstinting service to canoeing for over 20 years which took many forms.

Locally he served Colchester Canoe Club, Essex Canoeing Association (only resigning as treasurer this year after over 12 years service) and the Essex Winter Series of races where his cheerful and ribald humour as starter and finisher was often to be heard at many of the events, and his efficient behind the scenes works ensured prizes and trophies were always available when required.

In the Eastern Region he served as Racing and Marathon representative for over 10 years encouraging the development of the Placid Water Scheme within the region and being a participant at the first placid water award course to be run within the region by David Train in 1982.

I have many fond memories of producing the Eastern Region yearbook with Dick on many an evening in January's past, the

pages laid out on his floor while the stapler was getting too hot to hold.

He will be remembered by the British Team for his backroom work transporting boats around Europe, for his ribald humour and harassment, but always ensuring equipment was ready for the event and allowing the competitors to concentrate on the competition, and by the many others in the racing world to whom he will have issued boats during the many regattas he attended in a great variety of roles at Nottingham.

While he will probably be remembered most for his background work he was first and foremost a paddler, and many of us in the Eastern Region will remember him at his last paddle at the Eastern Region day in May where as usual he gave his full support to events to encourage our sport at any and every level.

Dick was awarded the BCU Award of Merit for services to canoeing in 1990.

Ron Hodgson - Eastern Region Chairman

Corrections to Canoe Focus - August Issue

Page 5 - Chief Executive's Comment Page - Please note that the E mail address should read 101764.124@compuserve.com
Page 8 -

Source to sea: A kayak expedition down the Zambezi river telephone number should read 0171 405 0101

Apologies to Colin Hill Please note that the article entitled 'Kayaking the Source of the White Nile' on page 16 of the August issue of Canoe Focus was in fact written by Colin Hill and not Colin White. Colin is now working for Interraft in the Austrian Tyrol. Many apologies Colin, we all look forward to reading your next article!



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Open Canoe Courses

The Open Canoe Association of GB are running two weekends to introduce open canoeists to white water on the Dart on Nov 8 - 10th and 22nd - 24th. Members and non-members will be welcomed, as will trainee SIs who need experience of leading groups.

For information call 0117 968 3842

Tees Open Tour

26/27 October £10 for the weekend. Pre booking available contact **Derek Brooks, 22 Sherbourne Avenue, Westminister Park, Chester, Tel: 01244 675870**

Poetry in Motion

You are invited to submit up to two poems, each no longer than 30 lines, on the subject of boating for possible inclusion in a new anthology. Entries should reach **Arrival Press, Port Out Starboard Home, 1-2 Wainman Road, Woodston, Peterborough PE2 7BU** no later than 31 October 1996. Or you can fax your work on 01733 230751.

Please ensure your name and address is clearly written on each poem. Royalties will be paid to a charity nominated by the authors, please nominate a charity when sending in your work. A sae would be appreciated. All unused work will be returned.

New Water Activities Centre for Southport Scouts

Southport District Scout Association with the help of BCU North West Region secured £345,000 lottery funding for a new building on their existing site in Southport Marina Lake. They will continue to offer canoeing as one of the main activities at the centre. The money will provide a 2 storey building and extensive ground work to upgrade the site. For further details contact: **Andy Cook, Regional Chairman Tel: 01695 577226 Eves**

New Canoe Slalom Course Secures £2.1m National Lottery Funding

A National Lottery bid to the Sports Council was submitted in March for the Canoe Slalom and 8th Earl Spencer Centre for Young People. The centre will be based on the River Nene in Northampton's south east urban fringe and will provide a 300 metre long artificial canoe slalom course together with a building to be called the '8th Earl Spencer Centre for Young People'. The landscaped area will also include areas for rowing, artificial piped caving and orienteering. There will be easy access for disabled usage and for those without the use of a car. Other funding partners include the British Canoe Union and the Environment Agency.

What's On ● What's On ● What's On ● What's On

River Leven (Cumbria)

Open Days

**3 November,
17 November,
8 December,
15 December,
26 January 1997,
9 February,
16 February,
9 March and
30 March.**

The system will remain the same as in previous years, ie. numbers limited to sixty in the water, all paddlers to wear a bib. Bibs are bookable up to two weeks in advance. Bookings to be made by telephone from: Sten or Angela Sture Please note the new telephone number 01229 466063. The cost is £1 per bib per day with a £5 deposit per bib. All money payable on the day.

Wild Water Racing - Take the Challenge with Leeds Canoe Club

Sunday 27th October 1996. Once again Leeds Canoe Club are organising this popular event which starts from Burnsall in the Yorkshire Dales to Bardon Bridge. The race starts at 12 noon and we can guarantee excellent scenery, the best in Europe. Once again Mobile Adventure have kindly agreed to supply a number of Canadian Canoes and we also expect to have Wavehoppers from the Wild Water Executive but both types of boat are limited and should be booked with the race organiser Ian Needham at the address below. There is camping and B&Bs nearby so why not make a weekend of it! Book early to be sure of your place. For more details and entries contact: **Ian Needham, 14 Inglewood Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3LD Tel: 01943 463199**

November '96 Hurley Weir Rodeo

The next Rodeo at Hurley Weir on the River Thames in Berkshire will take place over the weekend of 30 Nov/01 Dec. As usual this second Hurley event of each year will have the emphasis on fun, with an easy going, laid back type of atmosphere.

We hope to catch the first weekend of this winter season when the big old Hurley Weir opens up for real. The Hurley lock keeper and the Environment Agency usually help us out with the occasional extra gate for the competition, so come along and experience some outstanding playboating water.

Entry categories will include: float boat, open canoe, C1, ladies, squirt, novice etc. Plus, of course, plenty of free practice time.

Camping on site is available from Friday and free Rodeo training for entrants of all abilities will take place on the Saturday morning.

As usual, the event is being organised by Shaun Baker, through Playboater, contact **Shaun - Playboater, Haymill Centre, Burnham Lane, Slough SL1 5PH Tel/Fax 01628 602622** - Entry forms available from 01 November. But remember to also phone Shaun closer to the date for final confirmation (water levels etc.)

Outdoor Activities B.Sc (Hons) Sports Science

Commencing in October 1996 a new programme in Outdoor Activities. The degree will cover areas such as: An understanding of the manner in which the human body functions during exercise/activity. An understanding of the manner in which materials and textiles function, especially in the design and construction of equipment for use in adventurous sports, etc.

These strands are then integrated within the study of various adventure sports including kayaking/canoeing, rock climbing, fell walking and others. Entry requirements, normally 3 passes at A level or two passes at A level with two AS levels or equivalent. Two of these should be selected from biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and geography. Enquiries for further information to: **W Patterson, Admissions Tutor, Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports Science, The University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT Tel: 0113 233 5082 Fax: 0113 233 5083**

BCUSW Canoe and Kayak Rally, River Dart, 7-8 December

The BCU South West Region are pleased to offer all canoeists a weekend of canoeing activities on the River Dart, from Newbridge to Totnes, over the weekend of the 7th/8th of December.

The event which is run in association with Teignbridge Canoe Club, will include:- Open Canoe Tours, White Water Racing (including an open canoe class), Women's only Tour on the Loop section, White Water Training sessions by BCU qualified instructors, Rodeo workshops, Walking tours, Caving, Lectures, Saturday evening entertainment. Local accommodation information will be made available to all participants and a BCU Taster Ticket fee will be charged to non-members. Please note, the river is only open to paddlers booked on the regional weekend. All bookings must be made in advance via the local access officer, **Mr Icarus Edmonds of Summerhall House, Littleham, Bideford, North Devon EX39 5HG (sae please).**

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Article by
 Laurence Oliver,
 Manager Junior
 GBR Racing Team

Junior European Racing Championships

Poznan, Poland 5-7 July

Seven junior men and three junior women represented Great Britain at this new bi-annual event. There were 34 European nations competing. All of our boats reached the semi-finals. Our most experienced paddler, Daniel Golder (Banbury), had the most successful regatta. He was our only finalist. He came seventh in the 1000m final and missed the 500m final by 0.15 secs. His time of 1min 48.5 secs

was actually the eighth fastest semi-final time.

The K2 of Damien Chapman (Nottingham) and Ross Sabberton (Norwich) had a food regatta missing out on the 1000m final by only 2 seconds. Rachel Train (Fladbury) also missed her 500m K1 final by the same margin. The K4 500m crew of Chris Cheyne (Leighton Buzzard), Lea Pilgrim (Barking and Dagenham), Adam Kennedy (Fladbury) and Ben

Tendler (Wey) came seventh in their semi-final only 4.2 secs behind the winner. The performance of Lucy Hardy (Fladbury) and Nikki Gordon (Barking and Dagenham), in the K2 500m semi-final where they finished ninth was disappointing. However, Nikki will still be a junior next year, along with Adam Kennedy and Damien Chapman when the Junior World Racing Championships will be in Lahti, Finland from 19th to 23rd July.



The Team

Back row (L to R) Laurence Oliver (Manager), Ben Tendler, Bob Porter (Driver), Ross Sabberton, Damien Chapman, Daniel Golder, Trevor Wetherall (Coach), Lea Pilgrim, Russell Jones (Coach).

1. View of the 1,000m final
2. Lea Pilgrim/Alan Kennedy/Christopher Cheyne/Ben Tendler
3. Rachel Train
4. Ross Sabberton/Damien Chapman K2
5. Daniel Golder

A Standard for Helmets

The BCU has been co-operating with the bringing about of an EC Standard for canoeing helmets. Phil Bibby, Chairman of the BCU's White Water Safety Committee, has been looking out for paddlers' interests on the working group.

A final draft is now expected in early October - please send sae to the BCU office for information on its availability.

The formal vote should be called for in November, and if there is

majority agreement, among the member states, the Standard should become effective in Spring 1997.

The main 'bone of contention' has been whether or not there should be two types of helmet within the scope - one for water grade 2-3, the other for 3-4.

The French and Germans have now agreed to a shock absorption performance figure for a single standard for use on water up to grade 4. (It is generally accepted that those paddlers who paddle grade 5 and

above must make their own decisions with regard to the type and level of protection necessary).

Once the Standard is agreed it can be used to demonstrate conformity to the requirements of the EC Directive on Personal Protective Equipment. The Directive became effective on 1 July 1995, and from that date it was illegal for a manufacturer to 'place for sale' a helmet that did not carry an EC mark, indicating conformity to the requirements of the Directive.

Helmets held in stock by retailers, may continue to be sold, however, while stocks last. Helmets issued to paying clients may continue to be used for the duration of their reasonable life.

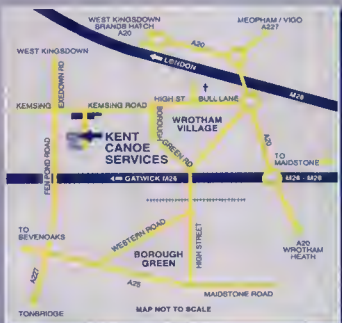
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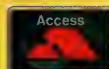
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Britain had it's best world Championships ever in Sweden. A silver medal from the juniors on the first day and then on the second day, two golds and a silver from three races. Racing days don't come much better than that.

5th Marat



Saturday started with the Junior K2 where Daniel Golder & Damien Chapman were always in the lead group and doing much of the work. Leading out of the last turn they dropped the Poles and then the Hungarians and with 50 metres to go it looked as if they would win but the Swedes had one final burn in hand and finished extremely fast, making up three lengths to take victory.

In the Junior Men K1, the South African Hank McGregor always seemed in control of the race. Getting among the tail-end K2s he pulled away to win by 2 minutes. Ross Sabberton was in the third group and won the sprint to take a good 5th. place, but Lea Pilgrim never seemed comfortable despite some slick portaging and finished 12th.

The Junior Ladies, Rachel Train and Lucy Hardy both had steady races in the middle of the field to finish 10th. and 12th. respectively.

Connor Holmes had an excellent start in the Mens K1 but then allowed himself to drift towards the rear of the large lead group, worried about conserving his strength over 40km. When this split he ended up

World Championships

Vaxholm Sweden



Above: Gunnarsson (SWE) leads Bulk (NED) & Hemmings (GBR)

Photo: D. Enoch

Left: Damien Chapman & Daniel Golder.

2nd in Junior K2

Photo: A. Bennett

in the third group. Neil Coleman had a slower start and in this class of field and a very fast race, was unable to work his way to the front as he had done in the Grand Prix earlier in the year. On the final lap a leading group of 4 broke clear and in an exciting finish the Australian, Chad Meek, out sprinted Gary Mawer of Ireland and Richmond with the 1995 World Cup champion, Rui Cancio of Portugal, third.

A clear win by the Swedish Ladies K2 went down well with the home crowd but even more popular was the other Swedish K2 of Eklund & Augustsson. Capsizing off the start they caught up with the race and worked their way through the field to finish 4th. Just ahead of Sonja Bapty & Trish Davies who worked really hard for their fine 5th. place. Helen Gilby & Alison Thorogood had a good start but after several clashes finished back in a disappointing 8th.

Legendary Arne Nielsson

The first day's racing was completed with the C1 race won by the legendary Arne Nielsson of Denmark in his last international competition. He was able to cruise the second half of the race and still finish over 2 minutes clear. James Lee did far better than expected to finish in the

top 10. His time was less than 6 minutes outside the medals and with only 1.5 minutes covering 6th. to 9th. places, he was very much in the thick of the racing.

Sunday started with the Mens K2 - perhaps the closest race of the lot. The initial lead group of 14 boats broke into two groups after about 7 km. with Ivan Lawler & Steve Harris in the first group and Simon Dark & Greg Slater in the second.

At the last portage there were still 5 boats in the lead group including both Swedish boats which ensured a certain amount of partisan encouragement from the P.A. system. However Ivan & Steve ensured they were first out of the portage and there was no way they were going to let anyone past. To the cheers of the British supporters they retained their World title in fine style. The excitement of their sprint finish was hardly over before Simon & Greg led in the second group to take a well earned 6th. place.

To have a lead group of 5 boats at the finish with another group of 4 just 30 seconds down is unprecedented at a World Championships and indicates how the overall standard is rising.

The Brits went wild

Early on in the C2 race the Train brothers broke clear of the pack with the two Hungarian boats and we all expected another long race of attrition. But Steve & Andy stepped up the pace after the top turn,

dropping one of the Hungarian boats and on the second lap stormed away to go one better than in Amsterdam 2 years ago and become World Champions - by nearly 6 minutes. The Brits went wild - two races and two wins.

The final race was the Ladies K1. Anna Hemmings was drawn six places away from the defending World Champion and Olympic gold medallist, Susanne Gunnarsson of Sweden. But she managed to sprint fast enough off the start to cut across the field onto her wash. These two with the 1995 World Cup champion, Nicole Bulk of Holland, were soon clear of the rest of the field.

Towards the end of the first lap Bulk was dropped leaving Anna and Gunnarsson to contest first place; Gunnarsson had the better final portage with only 1,200 metres to go but Anna was immediately back with her and the final result was in doubt right to the line. In the end Gunnarsson's strength and the frantic home crowd enabled her to edge ahead but it was obvious from the state of the Swede that Anna had pushed the World Champion to the very limits of her resources.

Beth Campbell in her first major international K1 race paddled well to finish in 21st place.

Tremendous results, brilliant sunshine, superb organisation and large enthusiastic crowds made these a championships to be remembered.

Article by Dave Enoch

World Championship medallists.

Steve Train, Andy Train, Jim Rossiter (team manager), Anna Hemmings, Ivan Lawler & Steve Harris. Photo by D. Enoch



RESULTS

Mens K2

- 1 I Lawler, S Harris
GBR 2:29:02.93
- 2 M Skoldbeck, T Krantz
SWE 2:29:03.38
- 3 J Villaverde, R Villaverde
ESP 2:29:03.71
- 6 S Dark, G Slater
GBR 2:30:35.79

Mens K1

- 1 C Meek
AUS 2:36:19.39
- 2 G Mawer
IRL 2:36:19.78
- 3 R Cancio
POR 2:36:20.08
- 9 C Holmes
GBR 2:39:03.51
- 18 N Coleman
GBR 2:42:47.42

Ladies K2

- 1 S Rosenqvist, M Haglund
SWE 2:40:04.61
- 2 A Schuck, R Portwich
GER 2:40:17.30
- 3 A Biro, A Erdodi
HUN 2:40:55.04
- 5 S Bapty, T Davies
GBR 2:41:47.59
- 8 H Gilby, A Thorogood
GBR 2:47:58.55

Ladies K1

- 1 S Gunnarsson
SWE 2:51:50.47
- 2 A Hemmings
GBR 2:51:51.44
- 3 N Bulk
NED 2:54:14.06
- 21 B Campbell
GBR 3:18:44.54

C2

- 1 S Train, A Train
GBR 2:44:43.81
- 2 I Gyulai, Z Bohacs
HUN 2:50:19.12
- 3 P Abrue, B Dacosta
ESP 2:51:21.01

C1

- 1 A Nielsson
DEN 2:58:42.87
- 2 C Scales
DEN 3:00:55.87
- 3 P Petervori
HUN 3:01:23.05
- 9 J Lee
GBR 3:07:14.68

Junior Mens K2

- 1 E Hallqvist, P Mark
SWE 1:21:50.49
- 2 D Golder, D Chapman
GBR 1:21:52.57
- 3 B Sadler, C Szepal
HUN 1:21:57.59

Junior Men K1

- 1 H McGregor
RSA 1:25:45.37
- 2 J Eriksson
SWE 1:27:47.65
- 3 N Persson
SWE 1:28:14.36
- 5 R Sabberton
GBR 1:29:58.40
- 12 L Pilgrim
GBR 1:36:46.98

Junior Ladies K1

- 1 E Javorski
HUN 1:38:54.81
- 2 O Fruhwald
HUN 1:38:55.86
- 3 L Quick
AUS 1:39:36.07
- 10 R Train
GBR 1:44:14.68
- 12 L Hardy
GBR 1:46:12.09

8 Go **Wild** in the Czech Republic

The Junior Team would also like to thank:

The Drivers:

Carl, Brendan (Bob)

The Coaches:

Paul (Dad) and Mally

The Team Manager:

Roger Davey

The Team Physio:

Hamish 'McBeth' Telfor

Written by

Lynne Wallis and

Alexandra Fromling



On June 28, four girls and four boys flew out to the Czech Republic to compete in the Junior World Championships in Wild Water Racing.

For most of the team it was to be the most competitive and important race we were to do.

The days before the racing were spent training on the lake and learning the racelines on the river. The atmosphere grew more exciting as the different countries started to arrive and the racing event was approaching fast.

Most of the boys had attended the Pre-world Championships the year before so therefore had had a chance to practice the river, but for the girls it was their first experience of such difficult water.

Wreckages

The best views of the river were to be obtained close to the finish where most wreckages and swims occurred. This section was then named the four weddings and a funeral.

In the non-stop event on the Friday all members of the team had good runs down the river, with some strange and different routes taken down the last section.

Saturday brought good weather and lots of sun. An early arrival of some unexpected family arriving to watch the individual events made one team members trip a bit more memorable.



In the fore-runners event Scott Wilson achieved an exceptional time and Joanne Golden also achieved a reasonable result.

In the main event James Perrier had an excellent race run and finished in 18th position, Nigel Jones was closely behind and achieved 21st place.

For Andy Hewitt his race was not as successful as he had hoped but a well earned 29th position was gained.

First and second places were taken by Boris Saunier and Julien Dekarczyk both from the French Team. In the ladies event Michala Strnadova of the Czech Republic stormed her way into first place with Anne Blandin Crochet for France following very close behind.

Alexandra Fromling unfortunately took the first drop at slightly the wrong angle and dropped into a rather large stopper and was unable to finish.

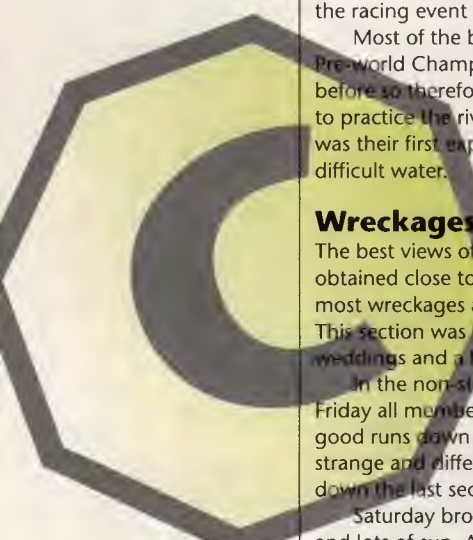
Yvonne Froggett had an excellent run down achieving 18th position finishing closely behind Lynne Wallis in 17th.

Maximum effort

By the Sunday everyone was tired but still put in maximum effort for the team event, with the ladies consisting of Alexandra, Lynne and Yvonne finishing in 5th position despite Lynne and Alex taking very different routes down the funeral together!

The boys team of James, Andy and Nigel unfortunately did not obtain a finish position.

The closing ceremony was anything but boring with our thanks going to Scott Wilson, Nigel 'Fungus' Jones, James 'Chicken' Perrier and Andy 'Blewitt' Hewitt for their help and enthusiasm during the dancing.



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Courteous and Considerate People

Dear Canoe Focus



Over the last weekend we were sited, with our caravan, on Teesside White Water Caravan Club Site. On the Friday we became aware that there was to be a White Water Rodeo on the Teesside

Course. This was not only to include canoeing but a party, with drinks. A tent city and canoe park sprang up all around us in the space of two hours. I think that you can imagine our trepidation and misgivings. We had gone for a quiet week, full of rest and relaxation.

I am very pleased to pass on to you the fact that these canoeists were the perfect examples of generous, courteous and considerate people. They obviously had a good weekend. They also gave us some pleasure in watching their skills. They left no litter and made no noise.

Please convey our thanks to both the organisers of the events and more importantly to your members.

Allan Dawson

Ed's Note - Thank you to all those people involved. You see, it does get noticed when we do the right thing!

Your opportunity to write in and comment on what is going on in canoeing today sponsored by:



Dear Canoe Focus

I wish to express my thanks to those canoeists who supported me this year in the Doggy Paddle (sponsored for Guide Dogs for the Blind) and enabled me to send £2140 into my local branch.

Doggy Paddle John

Dear Canoe Focus

Ruby and Peter Lee of Marlow Canoe Club have moved nearer to the sea. Please note out new address and telephone number. If you'd like to join us for a paddle, please write or phone we'd like to see you. West Wings, Calshot Road, Calshot, Southampton SO45 1BR.

Peter Lee

999 programme

Dear Canoe Focus

Following the recent 999 programme (BBC 1 Friday 5th July) showing the rescue of student canoeists on the Conway, I have had several concerned members of the Bangor University Canoe Club contact me, anxious to make it known that their club was not involved in the incident. As a member of the club myself, I feel it important that a club which has worked hard to maintain an impressive safety record should not incur any unjust bad publicity. Many groups paddle the Conway regularly, but it would be logical to anybody to connect any incident involving students in North Wales with Bangor University.

This is not a continuation of the recent debate on students and canoeing, just an opportunity for an excellent club to defend its reputation.

Chris Brenchley, Athletic Union President

South West Region Sea Touring Guides Competition

The BCU South West Regional Committee has now issued the last of the South West Region Small Craft Sea Touring guides. The latest, Volume 3 covers the coastline from the Cornwall/Devon border to the Severn Road Bridge (North Devon, Somerset and Avon), in all 180 n.miles. The islands of Lundy, Flat and Steep Holm are included in this publication.

Produced in a similar format as it's predecessors, Volume 3 offers all the detailed information a reader would be hard pressed to find in other publications. The Guide is a concise reference to over 110 locations where small craft may launch or land. Chart information, HM Coastguard, shore coverings, tidal streams, surf conditions, outfalls, waypoints local amenities and points of interest are all covered in this handy 73 page, A5 paperback book.

Canoe Focus in conjunction with the BCU South West Regional Committee are now able to give you a chance to own a complete set of the Guides in this competition. The two other books in this series are: Volume 1 which reviews the Dorset and South Devon Coastline and Volume 2 which details the Cornish Coastline. In addition there are 5 runner up prizes of one volume of your choice. To enter this competition just identify the cover location photograph for each volume.

Volume 1 Dorset and South Devon

- A) Marble Arch
 - B) Prawle Point
 - C) South Stack
- Clue: Southerly tip of Devon

Volume 2 The Cornish Coastline

- A) Bishop Rock Lighthouse
 - B) Eddystone Lighthouse
 - C) Smeaton's Tower
- Clue: Most Westerly part of Cornwall

Volume 3 North Devon, Somerset and Avon

- A) Lundy
 - B) Land's End
 - C) Poole Harbour
- Clue: Puffin Island

Send your answers on a postcard with choice of volume (runners up prize) to: **Nigel Hingston, 'Canoe Focus', 85 Lawn Drive, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, TQ13 0LS.** Entries are to arrive no later than 15 November 1996. Winners will be announced in the next edition of Canoe Focus.

The Guides have been supported by the BCU Sea Touring Committee and are available from local South West canoe shops, BCU supplies or direct from their author, Nigel Hingston. The Guides are priced at £9.95 each. If ordering from Nigel please add 85p (P&P)



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A media relations, publications and media relations company dedicated to maximising the profile of sport, leisure and related activities through the media. Formed in 1992 by Caroline Searle, a former sports journalist, who for 7 years was the British Olympic Association's Public Affairs Director and Bryn Vaile and Olympic Gold Medalist in Yachting in Seoul 1988 who after 10 years with Mobil Oil spent 5 years working as a sports marketing consultant writer.

The company list of current clients include the Commonwealth Games Council of England, British Paralympic Association, the International Olympic Committee, All England Netball Association and during Euro 96, running the media centre at Wembley. In the past, the company has worked for the Lottery Sports Fund, the British Olympic Association, Topper International, The Badminton Association of England. In addition to running the Media Services at over 20 World and European Championships.

How Can You Help

Firstly, if you are one of the BCU squads and have received a biography form, please fill it in as fully as possible and mail it back to us. This gives us the basic information to help you gain the

maximum publicity when you achieve success in competition. Next, to all of you who organise club and national events, if you have a newsworthy story that you think is special, please, let us know. What is newsworthy? Quite simply anything that is out of the ordinary, just look in the newspapers and see what makes the story. Often it is what is the shortest, longest, youngest, oldest, fastest performance. It could also be who is last, an unusual result for that person.

In this country we have a huge amount of media who require stories at all levels from the local press/radio to the national TV, Radio and daily papers. You can help canoeing by sending them information in a format they can understand and use.

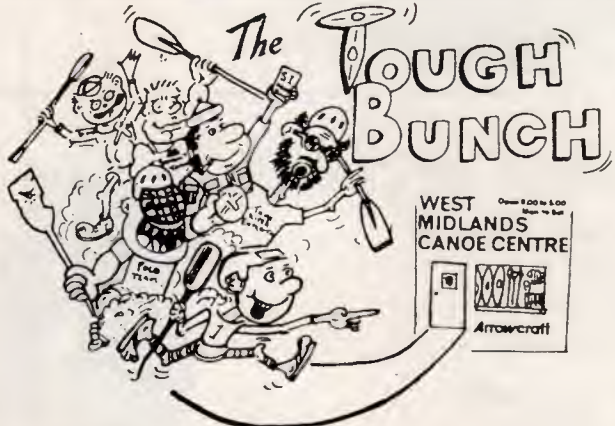
How to write a press release

To help you do this here are the basic rules of how to write an effective press release:

- Keep it concise. Never more than a sheet of A4 for the 'story' (you can add team lists and statistics on separate sheets if relevant.)
- Make your paragraphs short and type (or write) in at least 1.5 line spacing (Editors like to write amendments between the lines).
- Put the 'news' in the first paragraph

(and your sponsor's name) (editors will cut the story from the bottom upwards)

- Make sure the 5 'W's appear in the first paragraph (Who, what, where, when and why)
- Clearly mark your sheet as a News Release and give an embargo time (i.e. when the news is available for use preferably "For immediate use")
- Always put a contact name and number at the foot of the release (and make sure that the person named is available to answer calls)
- Try and make sure your release title is eye-catching
- If possible, add a quotation from a team member, coaches etc.
- Remember that the media will always want to know people's ages, occupations, place of residence and full names. (e.g. Lucy Smallwood, 22 an accountant from West Taphouse, was today selected for the British Canoe Team for a World Cup Race on March 16th 1996. The first Cornish paddler ever to make the National Senior Team)
- Decide on a 'house style' for names and stick to it. (e.g. Lucy Smallwood - followed by Lucy for each subsequent mention or Miss Lucy Smallwood - followed by Miss Smallwood)




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Club and £1,381,787 towards the construction of a new artificial white water course in Northampton. You and your club could also be successful in securing a grant.

Making a lottery application:

- 1 For information about the National Lottery telephone the Sports Council on 0171 388 1277.
- 2 For an application form telephone the Sports Council Lottery Line on 0345 649649.
- 3 You will receive an application pack along with its unique reference number.
- 4 Read the contents of the pack carefully and make sure that your scheme is eligible.
- 5 Complete the application form and send off the consultation forms in the pack to the Governing Body.
- 6 Be patient, the number of applications is growing steadily and they all take time to process.
- 7 If you are successful you will be notified of the level of the grant. Which will be paid in stages according to your projected cash flow.
- 8 The Sports Council will hold on to 10% of your award until completion of the project. Don't forget this when budgeting.
- 9 On completion of the project you will be expected to hold an official opening ceremony.
- 10 It's not going to be easy but with careful planning it should be possible.



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Sea Kayaking Incident Report - North Stack - Anglesey

The British Canoe Union have received the following report on an incident which happened in Parliament cave behind North Stack on Wednesday 17th July 1996; 13.10hrs approx. in otherwise absolutely flat calm, settled, hot and sunny weather.

...A group of experienced sea kayakers were taking lunch in the cave; boats were pulled up, equipment was spread about and people were sitting on rocks in the area. Several were preparing to have a swim in this sheltered spot.

Without prior warning other than a very slight movement of the water, a set of ten or more huge (approximately boat length) dumping surf waves was

funnelled in. Five or six boats were thrown into the water and carried out, as were paddles, food, clothing and other equipment. One boat was badly damaged.

People who tried to catch items were taken off their feet and at risk from rocks and flying boats. I truly thought I was watching the development of a major 'epic'.

It was exceptionally fortunate that there was slack water and no wind such that it later proved possible to retrieve almost everything and there were no injuries.

Enquiry from marine operations revealed that this incident coincided with the proximity of the new Stena high speed catamaran which was running slightly late.

We were probably the best type of group to cope with the situation. One poses the question as to what might have happened to children or anyone fishing on the rocks, abseilers at low level, anyone on a 'bivi' overnight at the head of the cave, a group of canoeists exploring a cave in settled water and so on. Such a situation is clearly potentially fatal.

This part of the coast is a treasure for its natural history, leisure and sporting resources. In my opinion, Stena have failed in 'a duty of care' to the public by such apparently irresponsible operation. . .

The BCU are taking this very seriously and are investigating the matter fully.

Slalom Snippets

Congratulations to 15 year old Helen Reeves of Shepperton Canoe Club and gold medal winner at the Junior World Championships held at Lipno in the Czech Republic in July.

Congratulations too, to three year old Oscar Hardy of Y Paddle Canoe Club - Oscar and dad Graham were promoted to Division 4 in the C2 class held at Winchester also in July! Youngest yet?

Lottery Winners - the former Great Grimsby Council, who, with a little help from the lottery fund (more than £40,000) have rejuvenated a stretch of quiet water which runs right through the middle of the town and, with the

help of the local Canoe Clubs, have provided the area with a super Div 4/5 slalom site and a training facility for all. Almost 100 canoeists turned up for the opening event and the GB Junior World Championship Team took the opportunity to give a demonstration - congratulations to all involved, especially Harry Donington and Steve Smith of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Club who worked tirelessly to get the facility and then the opening event off the ground!

Watch out for some possible rule changes for next season - it all depends on the result of the Special General Meeting held on the 8th September - the rules could be much simpler at Division 5 level and for experienced white water paddlers, it's likely that you'll be able to take part in Division 3 events directly.


Reminder - Remember to send back your Bib to your Bib Officer before the 30th November if you're looking to keep your bib deposit - clean and dry and with sae please. Also, do tell your Ranking Compiler if you have changed address since completing your Registration form- it'll save you chasing your Slalom Yearbook next year.

Aspiring British Team Coaches and support staff might like to hear of a new initiative taking place next 1/2 February at Holme Pierrepont. If you've always wanted to become involved and haven't been sure how, you're invited to attend the weekend, when we'll be on the look out for new and additional staff at all levels. Coinciding with the final weekend of the winter training for the National Development Squad plus the Organisers Conference, it's going to be a busy weekend with lots of opportunity.

And finally, if you would like to know more about Canoe Slalom or any of the items mentioned above, please contact **Sue Wharton, Slalom Development Officer Tel: 01636 705363.**

Below:
Members of the UK team. Holding the cheque is Helen Reeves, current champion.
Photo by R. Kershaw





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Thanks to Neil and John for all your hard work in reviewing the Rapid Fire and the Mosquito. Many thanks to Phoenix of Nottingham for lending us the spraydeck, we couldn't have done the test without it!

Rapid Fire & Mosquito

The reviewers for paddler's gear in this issue were a 6' 11", 13.5 stone, broad shouldered, loud mouthed Southerner, and a 5'9", 11 stone 12lbs, stocky Scotsman. The boats were tested on the white water course at Holme Pierrepont.

Both kayaks are designed by Eurokayaks and cost £367 + vat. The reviewers felt that both boats were ideally suited for their purpose and extremely good value for money.

The Rapid Fire

Weighing in at 17.5 kilos, is aimed at the river running/playboating market and is most suited to a lightweight paddler. Both paddlers found the Rapid Fire to be extremely responsive, although a little under buoyant (but perhaps they were just a bit too heavy!). It has very sharp lines at the front and the rear with round cockpit gunwales for easy rolling. It was felt that this was a great boat for playboaters who enjoy cartwheels, loops, popouts and pirouettes, etc. with flat decks to aid the moves. Lots of rocker gives a good ride on the waves. Very good value for money, and excellent fun to paddle. It was felt that this boat would also be well suited to lady paddlers. The only slight criticisms both paddlers had was that the Rapid Fire was not as comfy as the Mosquito, and that the metal work for the full plate footrest was rather sharp and could catch on bare legs or wetsuits, this could be easily resolved with some neoprene padding. The summing up comment: Great it turns on a sixpence!

The Mosquito

The Mosquito at 19 kilos, designed for the heavier paddler is also aimed at river running and playboating. It was felt that the Mosquito was more versatile than the Rapid Fire and would be

suitable for most types of canoeing. More forgiving and faster across the pools than the Rapid Fire, performing well on the waves. The 13.5 stone paddler felt that the volume was more than adequate for his weight. Flat deck sections allow for loops and popouts, the rounded gunwales around the cockpit area proved very forgiving in the stoppers and allow excellent handling. Once again both paddlers struggled with the comfort of the footrest but found the thigh braces in the Mosquito very comfortable. The summing up comment: An excellent boat for all seasons.



For more details on the Rapid Fire and Mosquito contact Eurokayaks/Outdoor Leisure Supplies on 01824 707177.



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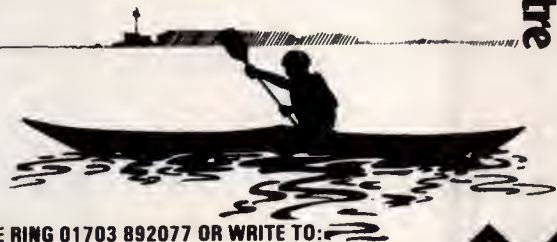
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Ocoee '96... A look
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Atlanta

The 'Bus Trip

Due to lack of space at the race site it had been decided to have two major park and ride sites to transport spectators to and from the event.

This meant that every school bus (yes those yellow ones!) from miles around had been allocated to the Olympic cause. These park and ride areas were situated north and south of the site leaving approximately a 40 minute ride to get you there. This was usually a "good fun" trip.

Each bus had been allocated a guide who had a script with information on the history and development of the Ocoee Valley to pass on. As many of the spectators had travelled some distance to be there(including us!), it proved to be a useful exercise.

This was followed by "Who knows what Canoe Slalom is all about?", and surprisingly few knew anything about the sport they had travelled so far to see. They were "at the Olympics", and that was all that mattered. It was usually at this time that we were found out to be non-Americans and that was when the fun started. These trips were never quiet or boring. What a good start to the day!

The Venue

The Olympics, the major sporting event in the world and on the Ocoee River, Tennessee, with 14000 spectators each day, this was definitely the biggest Canoe Slalom race that had been held since the 1972 Munich Olympics race at Augsburg.

What a race venue this is! With a brand new Centre building at the top of the course, seating for 14000 spectators and facilities to match for Officials, Press and spectators alike, nothing had been left to chance by the organisers. As Albert Woods of the International Canoe Federation(ICF), was quoted "This is without a doubt the most fantastic white water slalom course in the world."

As you entered through the security areas, the sounds of Tennessee Blue Grass music wafted around and you were guided past displays of the history and geography of the Ocoee Valley giving visitors the chance to see how the course had been developed.

Food, drink and, of course the inevitable merchandising stalls were well placed to relieve



you of any hard earned cash. (It was estimated that over 5 million T-shirts were

sold at these Olympics!) As it was vital to drink as much as possible with the humidity and the high temperatures, (low 90's), there were water stations everywhere.

With security at a high level and uniformed marshalls everywhere to help and look after you the Ocoee had a "Buzz" about it from the moment you got in!

The Course

Designed by a 3-man panel, including Dave Mitchell of the USA, it was always going to be a tough, technical and physically demanding course, testing the skill and fitness of the racers.

One or two of the sections on the course had their own built-in hazards. There was "Slam Dunk", the single biggest drop on the course and "Humongous" (named after a character in Mad Max), this being the rough stopper area at the end of the course. Plenty to make the racers think about, whilst giving the prospect of exciting viewing for the 14000 spectators and TV audiences world wide!



Above: Shaun Pearce
Left: Stepanka Hilgertova

The Technology

There were 20 television cameras covering the races, fourteen cameras representing the Atlanta Olympic Broadcasting Organisation, who provided complete olympic coverage world wide. Among their equipment were 2 remote controlled cameras on rocks in the middle of the river, 3 "javelin" cranes to extend a camera up to 25ft. across the water and a camera suspended from a 1600ft. cable that traversed the length of the course.

Highest on the list was the camera mounted on a platform perched 600ft up on the side of a mountain, adjacent to the course. Apparently, a single cameraman climbed the rugged trail to this platform every morning, managed to kill a rattlesnake, spot a black bear and still send out stunning pictures each day!

NBC operated another 6 cameras on site to bring the total to a staggering 20 cameras covering the event. There were plenty of



**Article and
photos by
Joe Mulholland**

you of any hard earned cash. (It was estimated that over 5 million T-shirts were

1996

Medal Winners

K1 Men

Gold	Oliver Fix	GER
Silver	Andraz Vehovar	SLO
Bronze	Thomas Becker	GER

K1 Women

Gold	Stepanka Hilgertova	CZE
Silver	Dana Chladek	USA
Bronze	Myriam Fox-Jerusalmi	FRA

C1

Gold	Michal Martikan	SVK
Silver	Lukas Pollert	CZE
Bronze	Patrice Estanguet	FRA

C2

Gold	Addison/Forgues	FRA
Silver	Simek/Rohan	CZE
Bronze	Ehrenberg/Senft	GER

computer links for journalists and commentators, running scoreboards for spectators, but surprisingly no huge video screen for competitors at the top half of the course to see the drama at Humongous - and there was plenty!!

The Competition

Well, there's nothing that I can say that hasn't been said or thought of before so I see no point in trying now. This was an incredible competition to attend never mind compete in and our racers efforts to win medals were thwarted by better performers on the day, which is one of the lessons of sporting life we all took away from the Ocoee.



A wise old football manager I once worked with gave an astute answer to a supporters plea - "Can you guarantee us promotion this season?" The reply was simple - "The only guarantee you get with sport is



Above: Electronic applause



Above: Eagle eyed camera



Above: Media madness



Above: Savouring the atmosphere



Olympic Slalom Facts & Figures

Proposed changes for Olympic Slalom rules are:

1. A 2 second penalty for hitting a gate instead of 5 seconds.
2. No practice runs
3. Splitting the race into a qualification and a final race as in the World Cup and World Championship races.

The Ocoee Venue:

Is approximately 415 metres long, has a gradient of 9-10 metres and a water flow of 35-45 cubic metres per second.

About 8,155 cubic metres of water flow through the course on a competitors three minute run - that's about enough water to flood the surface of a football field to a depth of SIX FEET !!

58 of the 134 competitors also took part in the Barcelona Olympics and of the 15 athletes who won medals in the sport, 11 are competing on the Ocoee.

Slalom isn't like other Olympic sports, here are some of the differences:-

1. Canoe Slalom is the only sport in which the "field of play" is intentionally littered with rocks.
2. It's the only sport in the Olympics in which the field of play has to be turned on and off.
3. Unlike most other timed events, athletes compete against the clock, not each other.
4. The Ocoee Whitewater Centre is believed to be the only venue where the athletes day village is located in a black bear habitat and is the only medal awarding venue outside the state of Georgia.

Two USA team members, David Hearn and Adam Clawson, both C1 paddlers, were participating members of the nationwide Olympic Torch Relay.

Boat repair service a first for the Ocoee. Andy Bridge (USA) and Gary Barton (CAN) had a boat repair service available at the course from 5th July and estimated that they had repaired up to 70 boats in 23 days!

disappointment.", and so it proved for the team at the Ocoee.

However, apart from the outstanding paddling, some of the lasting memories that everyone took away must have been of the tremendous support for the home racers, the tunnel of noise created by the 14000 spectators blasting out from Slam Dunk onwards and the encouragement given by the large crowd to those who had made the effort to compete despite the unrest and troubles of their home countries.

The biggest cheer for a non American competitor was for Samir Karabasic of Bosnia Herzegovina, who unfortunately terminally damaged his kayak prior to the race. Local Hero Scott Shipley came to the rescue and gave Samir

one of his old race boats. This, naturally, made for good media stuff and so on race day, Samir was cheered all the way down the course for his efforts in making his Olympic dream come true. Nice one Scott!

In summing up this Olympic experience, it was obviously disappointing not to see a British paddler on the medal podium, but that cannot detract from the fact that this was an amazing event. The drama was there till the end of each class with medals being won or lost in an instant of skill, luck or tactical error.

It was, overall, a massive win for the organisers who provided a race venue with facilities which will be hard to match, never mind better.

The BCU Racing section had a team of eight paddlers and three officials in Atlanta, for some it was their first Olympics and they probably enjoyed it immensely. This was my fourth Olympic Games and my first as team manager. Perhaps I have become more cynical over the years, but for me it was impossible to ignore the fact that the sporting events were often lost in the razzmatazz of corporate images and putting on a massive TV show.



Citius, Altius, Fortius: Faster, Higher Stronger.

The important thing in the Olympic Games is not the winning but the taking part, the essential thing in life is not the conquering but the fighting well.

Sadly the above slogans no longer apply to the Olympic Games. With qualification systems and teams selection policies largely dictated by politics many worthy athletes do not even attend the Modern Olympics, and when they do they are outnumbered by almost every other group.

These were the Games of the XXVI Olympiad. They were the largest Olympic Games ever with a record number of 197 countries taking part. The helpers and officials, along with the media outnumbered the athletes by about 15/1. On top of this there was a vast army of people just outside the Olympic Village all trying to gain some commercial advantage by cultivating any sort of association with Olympic Athletes. The detractions were immense. It was possible, if one had the stamina, to collect a suitcase full of freebies, all you needed was a map of Atlanta and a week to spare. Needless to say many athletes failed (thankfully none of ours) before the competition even got under way.

For the first time Canoe Racing had an organised (some would argue disorganised) qualification process. This had been hastily agreed between the IOC and the ICF and should have allowed the best athletes to qualify and would offer wild cards to nations who were unable to qualify crews through the two stages of qualification. In brief the qualification system didn't work, the number of qualified athletes after the second round of competition was almost fifty short of the required 350. Many athletes, thinking that they had failed to qualify had given up.

Great Britain's Olympic Racing Team for the Atlanta Olympics consisted of eight athletes, a team manager and two coaches. Andrew and Stephen Train had qualified directly at the previous World Championships with a brilliant 5th place in the finals of the C2 1000 metres. The remaining crews all trained hard

throughout the 95/96 winter in preparation for the second round qualification event at Sevilla. 51 nations were grouped in the European pool which included the African continent and also Australia and New Zealand. To make life even harder, competitors who had already qualified were allowed entry in other events and could even qualify places for other athletes. The regatta took place some ten weeks before the start of the Olympics and just four competitors from each event would qualify for Atlanta.

Our team was well prepared and we felt we had a good chance of qualifying additional boats. We entered 9 events in Sevilla: all our boats made the semi finals, and six boats went on to the finals. There was a small cross wind for most of the final days, this occasionally blew in little squalls and affected the times across the course by several seconds. We were genuinely unlucky with our draws. Almost all our boats being on the windier side of the course. By the end of the regatta we had one sixth and four seventh positions, and went home to lick our wounds.

System had failed

It soon became obvious to the team management that the Olympic qualification system had failed to produce the number of athletes required to make the Olympic competitions viable. It was decided to approach the BOA and ask for support for the K1 and K2 crews who had been close to qualifying. A reasoned argument would be made that these boats could all be ranked as top 18 in the world and as such deserved to be entered in the Olympic Games. Having gained support from the BOA our athletes were informed that there was still a chance of selection and urged to carry on training. Finally with just three weeks left to our planned departure date we were told that our additional athletes had all been accepted.

The first day in Atlanta was a rest day. This gave the team the opportunity to get their bearings in the Olympic village, and also time to collect their Olympic clothing. On day two we were to establish a daily routine of early morning starts to the regatta course. The drive by bus could take up to two hours and occasionally the buses simply failed to show. We had shipped the Trains brothers

C2 out by sea and arranged air freight for two k1s, the rest of our boats were hired from the organising committee.

The regatta would take place over six days starting on the 30th July, this gave us twelve days to prepare. Andrew and Stephen Train arrived in Atlanta on the 22nd July and immediately moved to a hotel in the Gainesville area which was about 15 minutes from the competition venue. This had been planned some months earlier, and proved to be an excellent decision. Redgrave and Pinsent chose to leave the Olympic Village and move into the same hotel.

By the start of the competition everyone was eager to race. Day one saw the 1000 metres heats and we had three crews racing. Ivan Lawler's K1 1000 heat had three of the top four finalists in it. Ivan came in fourth and later qualified for the semi final via the repechage. Grayson Bourne and Paul Darby-Dowman were our K2 1000 crew. They qualified directly for the semi finals by finishing third in their heat. In the heats for C2 1000 Andrew and Stephen Train finished second, this qualified them directly to the final that would take place some four days later.

The second days racing was the 500 metre reps, Andrea Dallaway was our ladies K1 entry. Andrea had a good race but finished 5th in the heat. This would not qualify her directly for the semi finals but did qualify her to race in the repechage where the first four and the fastest 5th would go through. Andrea finished 2nd in a time of 1m 54sec, this equalled her best ever time and she was safely through to the semi finals. Alison Thorogood and Helen Gilby are better known for their marathon achievements. Our claim to the BOA had been that this crew could reach the top eighteen. They qualified for the semi final via the repechage and hoped to improve their final position with a good result in the semis.

Semi final day was the crunch day for all our boats other than the C2 1000 crew of Andrew and Stephen Train who had already qualified for their final. Ivan Lawler had succumbed to a stomach bug on the first day of racing. Although he could still produce the speed over short distances there was no real chance of his progressing to the finals. Grayson and Paul failed to qualify for the final but secured a top eighteen position. As did Andrea when she achieved another good performance in the ladies K1, this time to within a second of her earlier PB. The ladies K2 crew of Alison Thorogood and Helen Gilby tried hard in their semi final beating the British Course record time of 1min 50 secs but sadly failed to qualify for the finals.

Saturday 3rd August was the day for the 1000 metre finals. All our team turned out to support Andrew and Stephen Train in their efforts to win a first ever Olympic medal for Great Britain in Canoe Racing. They had qualified directly for the finals with the second fastest time. Conditions for that race had been ideal, with a small head wind blowing straight up the course. Andrew and Stephen are technically very good, they also have terrific endurance. We had hoped that the light head wind would persist and perhaps even blow a little harder. However this was not to be; the wind had turned! Times would be that much quicker and the larger crews would enjoy the advantage of a tail wind. Andrew and Stephen raced well and produced a personal best time of 3min 36 seconds. This gave them sixth place in the Olympic final. Not as good as we had hoped for, but a terrific result none the less.

Article by

Alan Williams -
Team Manager



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Coquet Canoe Club's 7th Race Around Coquet Island

On Sunday 9th June, the Coquet Canoe Club held its 7th race around Coquet Island in Northumberland. Conditions were considerably better than during last years race, with a wind of Force 3 and a slight sea, and a larger entry of 76 competitors from all parts of the country took part. The competitors in the long race, 13 miles, had some problems with only Joe Stalker of Copeland CC completing the course.

In the short race, 5.5 miles, the Sea Kayak class was won by John Graham of Haven CC in a time of 50m 49s, closely followed by John Baylis of Nottingham Kayak Club. Catherine Baylis was

the first lady home. Malcolm Fawcett of Blythe Kayak Club won the slalom boat class for the second year running (58m 46s) closely followed by 61 year old Don Raspin of Tees Kayak Club.

The entry for the juniors race was larger than usual, 21, with a large contingent of local paddlers, 15, and this produced an interesting race within the harbour. Paul Turnbull of Durham CC first and Graeme Syzbenga of Haven CC second. Heather Rowden of Haven CC was the first lady home.

Once again prizes had been donated by a number of local businesses and many competitors went away with generous gifts.

Thanks to Sponsors: Synpac,

Cancarve, Shark Group, Watershed, Amble Boat Co, Fox and Hounds Marine, Wild Spirit, Captains Locker and Breeze's Bikes.

Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club

Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club moved into brand new premises in May, and on June 16th the building was officially opened by the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford Town Council. Jonathan Calderbank, regional officer of the Sports Council, was also present at the opening on behalf of the National Lottery who provided £65,000 towards the total building cost of £120,000. The remainder of the money was made up from grants from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, East Herts District Council and funds raised by the club.

The club building was designed by one of it's members, architect and keen paddler Ian Abrams of Saffron Walden. This was a perfect opportunity for the club to have exactly what it wanted; it has large canoe storage facilities, an additional store for canoe accessories, separate male and female changing rooms with hot showers, toilets (including disabled facilities) and a club room. The premises are on the banks of the River Stort at Southmill Lock, on the south side of the town.

The club has an active membership of 50+ paddlers with members of ages from 10 upwards, and it runs a few introductory courses each year to attract new members to the club. As well as providing a healthy recreational activity for people of the town and surrounding area, the club is very active in regional marathon competitive events and qualified as one of the Eastern Region clubs for the National Hasler Finals for the fourth successive year. It currently has the Hasler Champions in Div 7/8 K2, Richard Marsh and Joe Surrage.

For further details of the club, contact the Club Chairman, Robin Dromard, tel: 01279 658612

Below:
Class 1 winner Joe Stalker with Peter Roscoe on the right and Joe Brown on the left

Bottom:
John Baylis, Class 2 second placing





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**River Arun
Web Site**

Ralph Buckingham the Local Access Officer for the River Arun in West Sussex has published a booklet about access to the river for canoeists. The information is also available on the Internet. The site has information about access points, tidal constants, camping sites, BCU membership, etc. In future it will include a downloadable Microsoft Excel macro for calculating tide times. The address is http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/raplh_buckingham The snail mail address for a hard copy of the access guide is: **Christian Youth Enterprises Sailing Centre, The 'Gerald Daniel', Chidham, Chichester PO18 8TE. E-mail 101360.3061@compuserve.com.**

Wye We Urgently Need Your Help

There is to be a Public Inquiry which is likely to take place early next year.

- The Environment Agency is preparing a 'Response to Objections' similar to the one they did after the informal consultation last year. This should be available in October.
- We have had an exploratory meeting with the Agency concerning the BCU's objections.
- Come October the Agency will want to reduce the number of contentious issues at the Inquiry and we shall have, and will take, that opportunity to pursue further our objections.
- The Inspector will most likely want to have similar objections dealt with at the same time at the Inquiry.

If those who made objections wish to take advantage of the suggestion in the last

paragraph of the Agency's letter the BCU will be happy to join forces with you on any objections we have in common. If you want to do this please contact me.

What Do We Need for The Public Inquiry

- Since May we have been preparing the way including possible funding, advocacy and taking advice on the preparation of evidence that will be needed.
- The Inquiry is legalistic and we will need hard facts and evidence from non-BCU Members and BCU Members.
- My CONTACTS are beavering away to get this evidence - thank you to them from ALL canoeists.
- By the time you read this (written mid-August) things will have moved on.

We Need More Contacts.

If You/your club/ organisation/etc. have ever paddled the Wye or Lugg we need you as a contact. We need letters giving factual information: When and where paddled, how many BCU, how many non BCU, What for (training-touring-competition, etc.) If we do not have evidence our case may well be weakened - only together can we achieve results.

Please contact me: **John Westlake, 33 Golden Vale, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2LU Tel: 01452 531218 LAO for the River Wye in England.**

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Pinger Puppets: Old Town: Prunes are good for your bowels: Captain Flag

Dagger: Werner: P&H: Eskimo: Eurokayaks: Playboater: Azalli: Mega:

New LAO, River Dart, Devon

After many years of fulfilling the unenviable roles of River Dart LAO, Kevin Chamberlain has decided that his work commitments are such that he can no longer keep up with the huge administration load associated with this post although he will still be able to bring his experience to bear in local negotiations and will hopefully be able to maintain the excellent SW Region WWW pages. The new LAO is Icarus Edmunds of Summerhall House, Littleham, Bideford, N Devon EX39 5HG Tel: 01237 475823. Icarus and his wife Fiona will shortly have an email address, but please send all access requests in writing for now. It would save some paperwork if all applications could be accompanied by the administration fee of £1 per boat; no permits will be issued prior to receipt of this fee.

All canoeists are reminded that the Dart is the subject of a formal access agreement which requires all paddlers to have permission and to display their access number on their boat.

Access To Rivers Avon and Nadder - Salisbury, Wiltshire

Would all canoe clubs please note that there is no open access to these rivers, if you wish to paddle these waters please approach the new Local Access Officer, Mrs Joy Purchase, 'Wyletta', 1b Woodstock Road, Salisbury. Tel: 01722 328586, who will then negotiate with the Angling Club, Salisbury Canoe Club and other bodies who have sole rights agreed upon. It has been brought to Joy's notice that paddlers from other clubs have used the Avon and Nadder lately acting upon agreement given them some years ago. Paddling without permission could result in Salisbury Canoe Club losing any rights of access - so please always ask first.

Licence Refused - Chelmer and Blackwater

The BCU approach to the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Company to get an agreement to include their waters in the BCU Licence have been rebuffed. Canoeists in general have earned a bad name with the company.

They complained that local canoeists under existing local licence agreements have been abusing the arrangements.

Let us hope that claims by paddlers to be licensed when they are not will become a thing of the past. If the situation improves in the future and widespread toll evasion ceases, perhaps another request from the BCU for an agreement will be met more sympathetically.

If you want to paddle these waters, apply for a licence to **Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Ltd, Paper Mill Lock, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4BF**

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Article by
Andy Middleton -
Twr Y Felin

Did You Hear What I Said

Figure 1. Cross section of External Auditory Canal, showing progressive Meatal Exostoses.



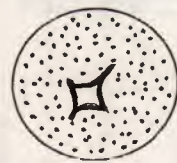
Normal Ear



Early Growth



Medium Growth



Advanced Growth

Stick your finger in your mouth when you're driving along, unwind the window and hold your wet finger out of the window until it gets dry - and colder. Every time your ears get wet from rolling or playing in the pool, lakes or sea, the same sort of thing happens to your ears - they cool down a bit as your head dries. The process is accentuated in cold water or when there is a wind blowing. The consequence?

Surfer's Ear is the consequence. For the uninitiated, Surfer's Ear, as surfers call it, (or Meatal Exostoses of the External Auditory Canal, as the Doctors call it) is the closure or partial closure of the outer ear by bony growths that develop to protect the inner ear from cold damage. The growths are stimulated by cooling caused by a combination of cold water repeatedly entering the ear and by the evaporative cooling that occurs when wet ears are exposed to wind

To the best of my knowledge, surfers, white water canoeists and strong wind surfers suffer worst because they spend a lot of time getting wet. The condition has this effect as it develops:

To research this article, I did some on browsing on CompuServe and the Internet. No-one who has experienced the Bitches or 8' Easky would call anything to do with sitting in front of a VDU surfing but having said that, computer nerds don't get blocked ear canals. I also trawled through the scant literature that exists and talking to hard-of-hearing surfers and paddle-heads.

There are some interesting points:

1. Surfer's Ear can be totally prevented by wearing a tight fitting hat or ear plugs
2. If Surfer's Ear develops, it won't go away by itself.
3. The operation to remove the bony growths that build up on the surface of the inner ear involves using a drill or a laser: "Craig was told that surgical technique was still favoured since laser heat is not totally predictable. Craig was back surfing within about 4 weeks with this procedure and has had no problems." Ron Grimaud

4. The operation is not simple and can cause permanent or partial deafness or facial paralysis: "My friend Ron had the operation in the 1970's, it left half his face drooping for four months from nerve damage- he had the operation again with good results" Mike Richard " They drilled through the eardrum when I had my first operation - at best, I will have lost 10% of my hearing in that ear" Shaun Baker
5. Once a paddler or surfer has had the operation, the ear canal is more prone to further cold water damage: "I had the operation in 88 or 89. Basically good results for about 5 years. In the last two, my eardrums have apparently become weak (doc calls them floppy) and when I dunk under water they scream - sounds kind of like the old radio tuners in between stations. This is intermittent though— sometimes I get out of the water wishing I hadn't gone in (pain), other days everything is fairly normal" Chris Rust, Hawaii
6. One of the problems that occurs once Surfer's ear has developed is that any infection of the inner ear can't be treated easily. Standard lotions or potions are ineffective because the ear is completely blocked.
7. For paddlers who spend most of their cold water time surfing, wind direction makes a difference: "Wind direction is a big factor in ear trouble. West coasters get a problem mainly in the right ear due to predominately north wind direction whilst sitting in the line-up. I've heard East Coasters have trouble in the left ear" Mike Richards, California
8. Surfer's Ear also has a noticeable geographic distribution - it is much less common in cold countries because people don't get their ears wet; much less common in warm countries where there is less damage from water cooling and evaporation. So, the big question is what to do about it. The answer is quite simple, Don't Get Surfer's Ear because it is avoidable. Pragmatists may say "don't

get wet" - that doesn't work for me unless I'm in the house! In reality, keeping your ears dry either means perfecting tube rides, cartwheels and 360s or stopping the cooling happening in the first place. There are two ways of doing this:

A) Stopping entry of water into your ears - use foam plugs, swimmer's wax or Blu-Tak. Blu-Tak seems to work well and is cheap at 99p a pack but be warned - don't use Blu-Tak on your walls after it's been in your ears!

For: Very effective at preventing entry of water into the ear canal.

Against: Tend to reduce hearing.

Easy to lose one of them! Cost: 99p for a pack of Blu-Tak, f2 - £3 for a pair of reusable rubber or foam plugs.

B) Minimise the repeated rinsing of the ear canal with cold water and prevent cooling. A swimmer's hat works OK but does not give much in the way of insulation. Neoprene hoods give greater insulation but have to be well cut to work and eliminate the entry of water. The best product that I've come across in the head wear line is the Playboater Earwig - a Imm skull cap with a narrow chin strap that can be worn under a helmet. The cap works so well because it is very stretchy and well cut. Patagonia's skull cap is thin but not as stretchy as the Imm neoprene; it stops cooling by evaporation, but not cooling. Others that I have tried including Wavelength and Alder surfing hats are warm but do not prevent water penetration.

For: Good insulation, easy to take off (and not lose) when you're on the water. Do not affect the hearing as much as plugs or wax.

Against: Do not completely prevent the entry of water. Cost: £5 for a cheap hat, £20 for the Playboater Earwig or Patagonia's skull cap.

Stick to your guns

If you're reading this article and thinking "maybe I've got this condition too", bear in mind that most GP's who live away from the coast will never have come across anyone with Surfer's Ear. They may not believe you when you tell them that you suffer from something that they have not heard about! Stick to your guns and show them this article if it helps.

After 30-odd years of surf and rodeo kayaking surfing and windsurfing, I have got 50%+blockage in both ears, but luckily, no infections. My recommendation? If you are paddling in cold water, wear ear plugs and a hat in winter and a hat only in summer. If you do both of these you will greatly reduce or eliminate the chance of having to have a difficult, inconvenient operation, spending time off the water and thinking

"I only wish I had listened"

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- 19/20 Student Bash in Polzeath

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- 7 River Rats
- 16/17 Student camping and party, - Dee Tour

December

- 5 River Rats
- 7/8 Training/assessment weekend.
- 15 Santa's Christmas Cracker

Contact Paul on:
0161 833 1500
for more info!!

So there we were, rolling onto the Colour Line Ferry out of Newcastle, and just as we are on the ramp England score, then the car radio goes dead. One nil, and the games only just started.

The car parked we rush upstairs to find Germany has already equalised, and every Brit. is glued to the TV in the bar. We settle down to enjoy a few overpriced beers while watching the football, 9.15pm its full time and the score is still one all, and we have to take our seats in the restaurant, it closes at 10. An excellent meal is timed to perfection, we can watch the penalty shoot-out between courses. With the penalty scores at 5 all it's now sudden death, Germany saves our 6th attempt then scores with theirs, and we're out. Oh well, let's get dessert, no more football patriotism for another couple of years.

Well we've had a drink, enjoyed a meal and gone out of Euro '96, and only another 14 hours to spend on the ferry. This time is spent walking around, visiting the sauna, walking around some

Results

Men's K1

- 1 Simon Westgarth
- 2 Flemming Schmidt
- 3 Ronny Hansen

Ladies K1

- 1 Veronica Holmes
- 2 Line Morch

K1 Junior

- 1 Tor Hakon Inderberg
- 2 Erik Martinsen
- 3 Lars George Paulsen

C1 Decked

- 1 Peter Orton
- 2 Uwe Fischer
- 3 Lars Schmidt

C1 Open

- 1 Uwe Fischer
- 2 Peter Orton
- 3 Ronny Hansen

Members of the trip were

Colin Broadway, Lee Gould and myself, Peter Orton.

more, having a coffee or five, sleeping, going to duty free and playing the fruit machine (I won £80) and finally we land at Stavanger.

Expenses paid trip

Heading out on the mountain road to Evje, we are struck by the size of this country, huge granite cliffs in almost every direction, streams tumble in deep gorges that obviously see massive flows in the spring melts. This is truly breathtaking country. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention, we are here because Colin Broadway at Mobile Adventure rang us and said, anyone up for an expenses paid trip to Norway, to paddle Dagger Canoes and Kayaks in the "Dagger Classic Rodeo" on the Otra River? Norway's

Dagger

Classic Rodeo



Norway

first rodeo, and all we have to do is paddle with the Norwegians on the Friday before the event and teach them Rodeo.

Four hours out of Stavanger, including several stops trying to take in the surroundings we arrive at our campsite. Sorry, did I say campsite, actually I mean Log Cabin, well it sure beats a tent. Within a few minutes the event organiser arrives Stein Eian, along with his staff and helpers. Settled in, we drive for five minutes up the road to check out the Rodeo site. The river is wide with several good holes, although most are quite shallow, some good surfing waves and an impressive falls up stream. After a little while spent drinking coffee and chatting with the locals, Uwe Fischer arrives with his girlfriend S. Bunny a long legged, blonde

Swede. Uwe and I have fought it out before, and what's he got on his roofrack? It's a CPM. The RPM is Daggers new 270cm Rodeo machine, so new that at the time of writing there are only two in the UK and Lee Gould has one of these with us. Apparently Uwes arrived early in Germany and he converted it, and I've got to paddle against him in a full sized decked Dagger Cascade. Still I have my cut down Ocoee for the Open event, and Uwe only has a full size model. Another Germany England Battle, this could be interesting.

Back to the campsite, which is a little lower down the river, and while the others check out the beer, I can't wait any longer and check out the CPM. What a boat, tail squirts, one arm bandits and rock splats all come so easy, the fun is endless,



that could put a rocket into space. All the usual drunken activities are undertaken ending with a bit of late swimming, but not before a visit to the local disco for some arm wrestling and sad music. I wake up with my head pounding, Lee who missed out on the Disco

decides he needs something to wake himself up, so we drive to the falls just above the Rodeo site. Even though they are rafted daily they still make an impressive site, the line being off a large slab straight into a big hole. Lee and Uwe take their boats to the top, Colin and I take our cameras to the bottom. They both manage to make the run down seem deceptively easy, and after one final play in at the Rodeo site it's time to go. We say our good-byes to Tim, Simon and Peter at Troll Rafting and set off. We have two days and a night to reach the ferry four hours away, so pick what we think is the most scenic route, it doesn't disappoint as we travel over mountains, along fjords and follow rivers. As it gets dark, we follow signs for cabins, they're full but the owner phones around and finds us another cabin park. Meanwhile Lee is totally smitten by the daughter, and can't stop talking about her.

Reindeer Meatball

The cabin we arrive at is very plush with all mod cons, including a Dishwasher, yet only £7.00 a night each, the price of a pint and a half of Norwegian beer! After a meal of Reindeer Meatball stew we settle down for a good nights sleep. Next morning we head towards Stavanger, still only 4 hours drive away, by the longest route we can find, (the ferry leaves at midnight), passing many falls waiting for their first descents. We meet up with Stein and his wife Inger Line, for a final traditional Norwegian meal before boarding the ferry home. The time on the ferry we spend reflecting on a great trip, new friends and future plans.

Guide and safety boater for Troll Mountain, a Norwegian raft company based 50 metres from the site shows some fine style using Lee's RPM. Obviously his time spent in the States with fellow Team Dagger Paddler Mark Lyle was paying off, along with his local knowledge. However, he is pushed all the way by local paddler Flemming Schmidt, and third placed Ronny Hansen.

Uwe and I don't have things entirely our own way in the canadian classes, with third places in both being particularly good Norwegian paddlers, just the wrong boats. We'll have to watch out, they placed orders for new boats that night. In the final I edged Uwe out in the decked class, and he managed the same in the Open. Wow, Deja Vu, England-Germany one all again. Time for a penalty shoot out, so with a wall for a goal, a mini football and C1 paddles to propel it, the final score 5-3 to England, with National pride upheld the event continues.

Other notable results came from Veronica Holmes (Norway) the Ladies winner paddling a crossfire, particularly good as she has only just taken up white water paddling, and beating her teacher into second place. The doubles class should also be mentioned, a Solo Whitewater Open Canoe with two paddlers against a Duo Tupelo, very entertaining

Great credit

The event is a great credit to the organisers, everyone seems happy with the prizes, and for once the judges, Colin Broadway (UK), S Bunny (Sweden) and Harald Rishovd (Norway) are also happy. It's time for the party. It starts at the raft camp, with the duty free running out - so out comes the moonshine, a clear liquid that tastes like a cross between meths and sake, with a punch



well until my legs went to sleep (and this was all on flat, hardly moving water). Time for a beer, we sit about until the early hours of the morning, waiting for it to get dark (it did for a short time at about 2am) chatting with new faces.

Water being quite shallow

Friday morning brings a heavy head, and practice and training day. First impressions are that the hole is very hard to get to, especially in canadians with the water being quite shallow, making the scope for vertical moves limited, but offering plenty of potential for blasting, surfing, flat spins and low cartwheels. During the day we hold a number of sessions encouraging the Norwegians and trying various moves, generally having a good time. A quiet meeting before the paddlers briefing at 10pm and we have a format for the event, basically British style with heats, semis and a final. With separate heats and finals for squirt, ladies, decked C1's, open C1's and even an event for doubles.

Saturday dawns and the event runs smoothly with some excellent paddling. In the Men's Kayak event, Lee makes it as far as the semis paddling his RPM. In the finals, Simon, a Brit, working as a Raft



Thanks

Many thanks to Stein of Eian Fritid and his wife Inger Line for their hospitality, Harald for site organisation, Tim at Troll Rafting for the use of facilities, Colin for setting up things at this end and driving and of course to Dagger for supporting the event.

Local Contacts:

Stein Eian of Eian Fritid, Strandvelen 8, 3050 Mjondalen, Norway
 Tel: +32 87 69 22
 Tim of Troll (Rafting) Mountain AS, 4660, Evje, Norway,
 Tel: +37 93 13 34

Everybody must have seen it by now, well, actually you really can't miss it! The Citroën slalom boat.

Article by Helen Barnes

How Do They Do That?

Helen Barnes sponsors, Citroën, designed the artwork as they wanted something different that would get noticed, well, they certainly got it.

The deck artwork takes a whole day . . . first, Helen measures and cuts about 30 chevrons in different sizes. Each chevron needs to be exactly the same as Citroën's logo. The mould is cleaned and waxed, and boatbuilder, Perran Shreeve, starts the painstaking task of masking around every single

chevron with fine tape (a job which has speeded up over time as this is the 5th boat he has built for Helen and Citroën).

The chevrons need to be placed in the same positions as the original design and each one has to be measured carefully to get the correct distance between each pair and to make sure the points go exactly down the centre of the boat.

Perran then hand paints white gel coat on the 2 main chevrons, followed by spraying the rest of the chevrons in

sections. A large sheet of cardboard is used to cover the chevrons not being sprayed to enable 8 different colours to be used.

A prepreg hull is used to keep the boat light as all the colours add on an extra couple of kilos. The total weight of the boat is 8.2 kilos and costs £1000.

The end result . . . probably the loudest slalom boat on the circuit (ever!). Unless of course you know different!



Focus Reviews: Book & Video

White Water Europe - Book Two South Alps

Compiled by Pete Knowles
ISBN 9 780951 941324 Price £12.95 plus p&p available from Mobile Adventure

This book is the companion to the guide White Water Europe - The North Alps, which was reviewed in the August edition of Canoe Focus. Once again, the text is accompanied by a selection of high quality colour photographs and sketch maps of the river sections with the major rapids and other landmarks highlighted; cartoons and drawings adding to the overall attraction of the book. The guide has also been completed using up to date research and the rivers covered are grouped by white water centres (i.e. Bourg St. Maurice). From a personal perspective, I have been fortunate enough to paddle a number of the rivers covered by this guide and the information given is accurate and up to date. However, please remember that rocks in glacial fed rivers do move around a bit! Like the first book, this guide is a must for all Alpine paddlers, it would also make good reading for those armchair enthusiasts who only dream of paddling in such wonderful places. (War stories could be greatly enhanced by using this guide). The author is to be congratulated on producing such a high quality product which will undoubtedly be a valuable asset for Alpine paddlers for many years to come.

Review by John Anderson E2 and level 5 coach

Introduction to Paddling

Canoeing Basics for Lakes and Rivers by the American Canoe Association
ISBN0-89732-202-9 available from BCU Supplies

Interactive programmes on computers are all the rage, now meet the interactive book. Despite the fact that this is an American book for the American market it has crossed the

Atlantic very well indeed. Clear and instructive diagrams with regular worksheets/reviews, keep your interest and even though it is aimed at the novice market it is impossible not to have a go at the worksheets. Yes I did learn a few things! It's approach is to introduce paddlers to Canoeing through safe and enjoyable paddling. Safety is evident throughout the book without being intrusive as it is presented in an enjoyable and informative way. A good review of strokes and moving water is the meat of the book. It does cover quite a respectable amount of material that will be of interest to instructors and their pupils. As suggested it would be of most use when backed up by a course of instruction. Some of the material is excellent but not presented in an obvious progression e.g. strokes, sweep, draw, pry, come before forward and backward paddling and no mention of trimming. However it is an excellent book, particularly for the price, that should be on the shelves of all who are involved in teaching Canoeing and those that are learning.

Review by Nigel Timmins -
Level 5 kayak coach, level 3 open canoe

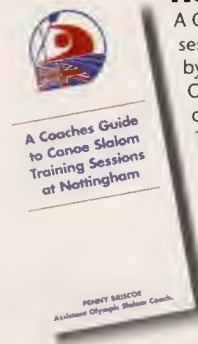
Holme Pierrepont Guide

A Coaches Guide to Slalom training sessions at Nottingham has been written by Penny Briscoe. Penny was Assistant Olympic Slalom Coach on a 6 months contract, leading up to the games.

This neatly produced leaflet, covering 2 sides of A4, provides useful hints and ideas for making the best of the course, and includes a sketch map of the site, identifying the key locations.

John Gregory arranged for its production which was sponsored by Keith Goddard of KJ Associates, who provided the typesetting and printing without charge. It is available free to members upon receipt of a sae at the BCU office.

Geoff C. Good, Director of Coaching



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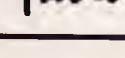
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Project

As a young lad I was much inspired by the film "Cockleshell Heroes" and I would play "Commandos" with my friends whilst growing up in Scotland during the late 1950's.

Our dry-land canoes were wooden bread boards borrowed from a heap left lying in the rain in the local bakers yard. In these trusty 'two-man canoes' we would launch ourselves in pairs down a nearby hill with the objective of destroying the imaginary German warships moored in the field at the bottom. 'Canoes' were always returned to the bakers' 'boathouse' each evening as we could not bring ourselves to scuttle them, as real Commandos would have done at the end of the day's 'raiding'. The bakers knew what we were up to but would never prevent us from borrowing the bread boards. As a boy I had little thought that many years later as an adult I would paddle the same route taken by those Commandos in 1942 together with one of the original "Cockleshell Heroes".

Daring raids of World War II

William Sparks D.S.M. is the last living survivor of the 12 Royal Marine Commandos who, in December 1942 launched 'Operation Frankton' one of the most daring raids of World War II. Only 2 of the team who took part in the raid survived to tell the tale, 'Bill' Sparks and 'Blondie' Hasler. Of the 12 men; 2 did not launch their canoe

**Article by
John Wright**

as it became damaged in the submarine, 1 was drowned, 1 was listed as "missing believed drowned" and 6 were captured, tortured and executed by the Germans. Having destroyed half of the fleet of armed merchantmen moored in Bordeaux harbour, Bill and Blondie escaped on foot across the Pyrenees to Spain and then home to Britain. As Major Blondie Hasler, the originator of the raid and the team leader died some years ago, Bill is now the "Last of the Cockleshell Heroes". he has written a book by the same name and it is currently available from Pen & Sword Books Ltd. Tel: 01226-734222.

Klepper folding canoes are the modern day equivalent of the "Cockle" canoes used by the Commandos on 'Op

Frankton'. The interest in this type of craft has been supported by Kirton Kayaks Ltd of Devon who are the UK distributors for Klepper Canoes and Spares. In view of this and the fact that 1995 was the Anniversary Year of the end of the war in Europe I decided to contact Bill Sparks and suggest a symbolic re-enactment of the canoe journey in Kleppers to commemorate those who did not return. Bill said he would be delighted to come over with us and offered to paddle too. At this stage I had 2 paddlers. I then sent a circular to various Canoe Clubs and

Organisations looking for volunteer paddlers. The ones which turned out to be "worth their salt" were the men of the Artists' Rifles Canoe Club (ARCC).

We discovered that the 10 paddles which we had been supplied with were mostly unserviceable. Whereupon I contacted Lendal Products of Prestwick and asked if they could help. They agreed to lend us 10 new paddles with custom-made extended shafts, all in black for the task. In the event these were subsequently purchased by ARCC at the end of the trip, so everyone was happy.

It was a gallant gesture by Lendal Products and at short notice. Their paddles made an enormous difference to the purchase, control and power we had over the big Kleppers. This was especially useful in very lumpy waters during the night phase with the tide pushing us along at a cracking pace. A 2 man Klepper weighs 120lbs unladen and dry, imagine it soaking wet and loaded with kit plus 2 large men onboard (average height was 6'2"). This is when good paddles can really help - and they did.

One of the Kleppers used on the trip

Slimboat



Bill gets the freedom of Bordeaux in front of Blondie Hasler's sumner

The Route

In 1942 the Commandos were dropped by the submarine 'Tuna' 9 miles offshore near the

the raid and who did not return. The mayor made a speech and one of our paddlers played a lament on the pipes just before the canoes

Let us remember that we would not have people trying to kill us along the way, nor were we going to be paddling in freezing conditions.

mouth of the estuary. In 1995, there being no available submarines for our little 'country outing' we travelled by road and ferry. We launched into the rocky estuary at the mouth of the Gironde near the little town of St Georges de Didonne. There is a memorial to the Commandos just beside the lighthouse and we felt this would be an appropriate place to start. We were helped on our way by the mayor and some local dignitaries from the town. Just prior to the launch we held a short service for the Commandos who took part in

were put in the water.

For safety and to conform to local regulations we took a large Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat (RIB) with twin outboards, GPS

It is awe inspiring to be bobbing around on the surface in the dark and to watch a "steel apartment block" churn by at close quarters.

Navigation System and Marine Net Radio Link. The Gironde/Garonne is tidal and also a

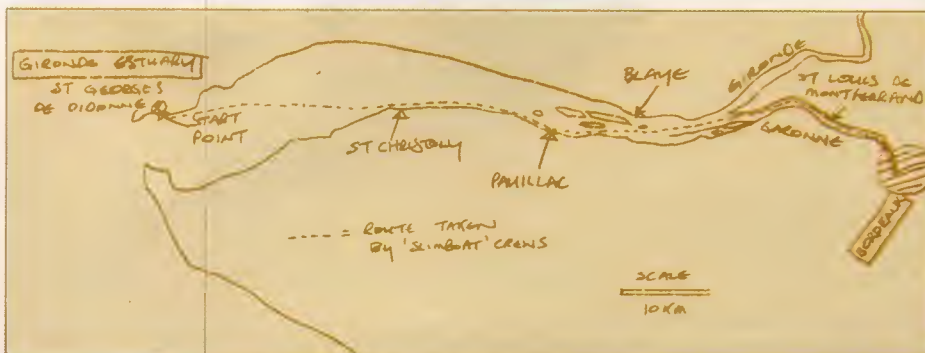
major shipping route, accordingly we were required to obtain permission from the French authorities to use "unpowered small craft" on the rivers. This was agreed but when I explained to the local authority that we planned to paddle through the night, dodging between the oil-tankers and merchant ships as they ploughed the waves - he almost had a seizure. ~"I seenk you plan to kel yourzelves" he said. I suddenly had a vision of a 30 foot propeller from an oil tanker coming towards me in the dark with the Frenchman at the helm now wearing Dr No clothes and saying "Good-bye Meester Bond".... Back in his office he listened to my plan asking me to plot our positions at various points on his navigation chart on the office wall. I felt like I was on trial for something I hadn't yet done. Finally he beamed and said he would waive the normal ban on night paddling in view of the commemorative reasons for the trip. "We get so many crazies over ere who weesh to play on zee reever. I don mine eef zay keel zelmelves but not make my sheeps to crash". I got the message

We decided to use 3 tides to cover the 95 Kilometres as it was not to be a race, more a wreath-laying ceremony. Also we wanted to get all 5 canoes to the end together which had been the goal of 'Op Frankton'. In 1942 only 2 finally made it to Bordeaux. Let us remember that we would not have people trying to kill us along the way, nor were we going to be paddling in freezing conditions. Similarly, we only had to carry emergency supplies in each boat. The Commandos had to carry, Silenced Sten Guns, Colt 45 Revolvers, 12 Limpet Mines, rations and ammunition for a week.

Consider also that they had to use wooden, collapsible assagai-shaped paddles, whereas we had the latest Lendal blades especially made in black for the event. As the Commandos could only paddle at night they used S tides and hid-up during the day. They also had to dodge the big ships but unlike us they could not afford to be spotted by them. In contrast each of us wore personal emergency

lights fixed to our bodies at night. Our safety boat, provided by Amphibious Skills Training (AST) of Devon had 2 highly qualified skippers who were also French speakers. They were able to contact the Port Authority Stations along the route to advise them of our positions. More importantly, to receive information and radio frequencies of any big ships creeping up on us from behind, in the dark. Jon Taylor of AST and his co-pilot Dr Jan Falkowski did an excellent job by also contacting the big ships to let them know exactly where we were. It is awe inspiring to be bobbing around on the surface in the dark and to watch a "steel apartment block" churn by at close quarters.

The Route





Bill Sparks and Jon Taylor on the safety boat.

We originally planned to break the journey down into 3 phases of 30Kms, 30Kms and 35 Kms. These stages being (see map) St Georges de Didonne, St Christoly, Blaye and Bordeaux. The weather was fine during the first phase and we decided to make the most of it and get some distance-under-our-belts as insurance for later. We pressed on to Pauillac which was 45 Kms from the start point. We were rewarded for our efforts. Pauillac is the home of Mouton Cadet wine and there was a wine festival at Pauillac on the evening we arrived. Needless to say we had a good "run ashore".

Throbbing French resort town

When the time came to leave it seemed crazy to be leaving a throbbing French resort town offering free wine and food, warm dry bistros filled with friendly sports-people. Most of them had run in the Pauillac Marathon that day. By contrast we were pulling on our cold wet gear and slipping into a black river for 6 hours of blood, sweat and tears. I was close to a 'sense of humour failure' as someone had eaten my rations and quaffed all my fluids. I decided to go on a crash diet at that point. 'Crash' was an appropriate word for the next phase. Whereas the river had been millpond flat that day. At night it all changed, we had 3 ft waves breaking over the bows at some points. The spraydecks which had been optional during the day were compulsory at night. The tides had increased and the pull together with our stroke rate meant that we were surfing along at 10 knots on occasions. Keeping on course was difficult too as the currents pushed the stern round the second you took the power off the paddles. The Kleppers were very forgiving of all this and their built-in inflatable tubes saved us from

grief on more than one occasion.

Again we made better time than expected, the journey for which we had allowed 6 hours took only 4. We put in at St Louis de

Whereas the river had been millpond flat that day. At night it all changed, we had 3 ft waves breaking over the bows at some points. The spraydecks which had been optional during the day were compulsory at night.

Montferriand only 14 Kms from Bordeaux. We could have pressed on for 2 more hours and made it in 2 tides (our average speed on that phase was 9Kms/hr). However that would have upset our arrangements for allowing Bill

to paddle the last section with us. Also we had planned a reception committee of local dignitaries, press and ex-pats who lived in the area for the afternoon. So we stuck to our 3 tides plan. The 3rd phase was a breeze by comparison and we achieved our deadline with half an hour to spare. Bill paddled with us as planned and someone shouted to him as we pulled into the harbour amongst the big ships "A bit easier than last time eh Bill?".

In Bordeaux, Bill was presented with the freedom of the city by a personal representative of the French Prime Minister. We also managed to re-unite him with the former member of the French resistance who helped him escape back to Britain via the Pyrenees over 50 years before, Count Maurice de Milleville. Bill and Maurice enjoyed a few drinks together with us that evening, a perfect ending to the event.

A word of thanks must be said to all the sponsor Companies who helped us to make this possible, too numerous to list here. One of them, a Flour and grain Company from London, provided a large truck for transporting the Kleppers and kit. As we re-loaded the canoes into their truck in France it reminded me of returning the bread-boards to the Bakers Company in Scotland at the end of our "canoeing". If only those bakers had realised that they were the unknowing

sponsors of my early training so many years before. It may have taken me nearly 40 years to say this, but nevertheless


Many Thanks Gentlemen!



Klepper crew on the Garonne section. The river was like glass here.



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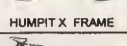
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
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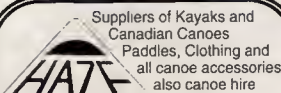
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M1335 x-link, yellow, full plate footrest, airbags, drain bung, £125 ono, contact Mark 0850 096604 eve's or 01394 420693 w/e (Reading/Woodbridge)

Neoprene kayak boots, blue size 8 £5. Hi Tec 50 Peak walking boots size 8 £15, Palm black paddle trousers medium £20 Palm Colorado cag Tactel p/b medium £30 Tel: 0181 644 2717 postage free.

Nordcapp HM Sea Kayak, 3 hatches, C-Trim rudder, Chimp hand pump, knee tube, compass recess, flame red deck, white hull, VGC £525 ono, also Blenheim Marathon K1 VGC £200 ono Tel: 01708 438994

Nordcapp HM Sea Kayak, vgc, 3 round hatches, C-Trim rudder, Chimp hand pump, knee tube, compass recess, flame red deck, white hull, vgc £525. Blenheim marathon K1 vgc £200. Old slalom kayak £40. Childs Avoncraft GP kayak vgc £50, Thule roof bars to fit Mazda 626 £30. Goretex drycag needs new seals £20, realistic offers considered Tel: 01708 438994 Essex.

Nordkapp, 2 hatches, pump, knee tube and various deck fittings £300 contact Phil Mountain Bat, arline, aqua £330 (with neoprene spray deck) Cumbria 015395 31743 (eves)

Old Town Discovery 146k, open canoe, c/w 3 paddles, excellent condition and little used on still waters only £400 ono (Glasgow) 0141 637 4956

Perception Mirage Club, centre foam buoyancy, footrests, thigh braces, hardly used, stored in garage. Palm Spraydeck to suit, Perry-Harishok buoyancy aid/jacket (size small 34"-35" 6-10st) £200 the lot. Circle One, one piece wetsuit, neoprene/rubber, colour purple/black, size Med/short, will suit person around 5'6"/9-10st £40 ono. Tel: 01787 373435 (Suffolk) after 6pm. Due to shift work you may need to leave a message but I will ring back asap.

Perception Mirage Mk2, ww spec, sound condition £125 ono. Gaybo Sanna Slalom, sound condition, good beginners boat £45. Peugeot 205 (5 door) manufacturer's roofbars, good condition £25 Tel: 01227 721589 or 01737 226887 (Canterbury)

Perception Reflex, plastic, good condition, ideal boat for starting slalom, full white water spec, including air bags £200. Perception Reflex, kevlar, good overall condition, Italian racing seat, a fast light boat £200. Tel: 01279 652308 (Bishops Stortford, Herts)

Prijon Gambler good condition, excellent technical river boat £275. Pyranha Creek VGC responsive river runner £300 wedding fun forces sale, will both be sadly missed Ring Nick or Lou on 01926 435829 (Leamington)

Prijon Gambler kayak white water spec, purple, stored indoors, vgc £300 ono Tel: 01580 713910 (Kent)

Prijon T Canyon (Cerise), 1993, full plate footrest, airbags, declines, end cap, fitted with eskimo seat (original also included) in very good condition £250. Also a Wildwater white water expedition buoyancy aid with built in chest harness, size XL £45 Contact Bruce on 016977 41696 (N Cumbria)

Prijon T Slalom, good condition, front & rear airbags, & spraydeck. Good boat for beginner or clubs £200. Contact: Derek 01895 441665

Purple Dancer in excellent condition, inc full plate footrests and air bags. Also, AP3000 helmet, nylon deck, Ainsworth paddle and Palm throw bag £225 for boat, £325 for all, ono Contact c/o Mark 01392 873828 (Glos)

Pyranha Acrobat 300 yellow with airbags, bow cap, full plate foot rest, hip spacers and neoprene spraydeck £250 no offers. Also paddling kit incl long and s/sleeve cags, paddles, w/suit shorts, socks, pogies etc... Sailboard Windsurfer, ideal for beginner with 2 sails £150 ono for more info ring 01670 353700

Pyranha Master, yellow, ww spec incl, air bags. Excellent condition. Suit paddlers from beginner to expedition standard £200 ono Tel: Iain or Julie 01703 324144 (Southampton)

Pyranha Stunt Bat full ww spec, 2 years old £250 Contact 01905 612725 Worcester

Ranger K1, old but sound, o/stern rudder £70 ono. Granta Wooden sea kayak, good condition £35 ono. Granta folding 2 man kayak - sensible offers for this unusual boat. Tel David on 01823 698562 (h) 01823 623718 (w) Somerset

Savage WWR, Spheratec/keviar/epicrion construction, big decked wvr. Clear deck and hull, in reasonable condition, a few knocks, but pretty stiff and has been repaired £400 ono Tel: Andrea 01506 883404 (H)

Sea Tiger, yellow, 1 man sea kayak, good condition, 2 hatches, large bulkheads, declines, drop skeg £210 Kirton Lancer K1, fair condition, over stern, blue £95 ono Tel: 01822 810690 (Plymouth)

Slalom K1 North Shore Delta £144 ono. Relatively stable, medium volume competition boat. Optimum paddler weight estimated to be in the range 7 to 10 stone. Gloss black with diagonal red bands on front and rear decks. End caps. Pillar buoyancy.

Bedford area close to Cardington Artificial Slalom Course. Can be seen "test driven" by arrangement. Tel Nigel on 01234 741 529

Struer Cleaver X K1 veneer in excellent condition £800 Tel: Peter 01803 314742

Stunt Bat, full ww spec, good condition, pink £285 Tel: 0181 450 2095

Stunt Bat ww spec, good condition, aquamarine, includes neoprene spray deck £290. Also small long-john wetsuit £20 and cag £15 Tel: 01734 785625 (Reading)

Stunt bat, full ww spec, £200 ono Tel: Roy 01757 248899 (S Yorks)

Summer Sale 8 Poly Pippins £15 each, 1 Sabre good condition £100, 1 Aquabat, good condition £100, 1 Coleman Canoe £15, 2 Artung fibreglass kayaks £10 each, 2 Rob Roy suitable for disabled £10 each, 1 fibreglass polo boat - I think Free, 1 heavy homemade kayak Free, 1 fibreglass Input needs a bit of work £10. Interested, then contact Dave Bateman Tel: 0121 771 4448 (Birmingham)

Surf Ski Impact 7' 10" suit medium build. Ankle strap, quick release belt, short paddle, good condition £195 Tel: Cardiff 01222 691045

Vitesse K2, o/stern rudder, no seats, fair condition £125. Mirage K2 o/stern rudder, no seats £80 Tel: 01784 740484 or 01932 845544 ext 5642 (Staines)

VW Roof Bars to fit Mk 2 Golf/letta etc. used only twice £25 Tel: 01568 611914 (Herefordshire)

Wave Ski Palm Laser 7ft 9", excellent condition, fast mover, colour green/red/white, adjustable footstraps and seat belt, excellent starter ski £210 ono. Also AQII colour sky blue, very good all rounder, one of the best surf boats ever made, good condition only £200 ono Tel: Andy 01582 457628

Wooden AzzeIs £15, split paddle £15, Pro Blades 220 £15, flights 220 £20. Krakatoa, fibreglass polo canoe plus two spray decks, helmet and buoyancy aid £70 the lot ono. Tel: 0121 733 6741 (eve) ask for Pete.

WW Spec Rotobat £250 ono 6 months old, excellent nick and Yak deck, blue fun boat. Vinta 330 intermediate board and rig (5.5 and 6.5 battened sails) £200 ono vgc. Overseas job forces sale. Delivery possible Tel: Julian 01341 250469 (mid Wales) 40 mins from Bala.

£125 will buy a Laser 2 - 350 kayak complete with foot rests and sea, very clean and well looked after boat, 18 months old and kept in garage. used mainly for teaching in local pool. Ideal for first or second boat Tel: Phil Waller 0181 642 2357 if buyer local will give a free lesson! (BCU instructor)

Wanted or Swap

Acrobat 270 or Kendo wanted, also seat and cockpit rim for Spud (Topolino) Tel: 01580 713910 (Kent)

All purpose kayak wanted, (preferably not a play boat) and equipment, suitable for use by a 3 star proficiency level kayaker, on grade 2-3 white water. Must be in good condition and for sale in the North Eastern area. Contact Jayne on 01325 730812 (Darlington)

Are you looking for an enthusiastic, adaptable and versatile voluntary instructor to work for you for up to 1 year, in the UK or abroad? Then look no further. I have just completed a GNVQ in outdoor education at Craven College and I want to broaden my experience. Please contact: Paul Lister, Keswick House, Applegarth, Westgate, Pickering, n Yorks YO18 8BB

Canoe/Kayak Trailer braked, to accommodate up to 8 open canoes or 7 plus a storage box. When not carrying open canoes, it needs to be able to carry kayaks. Will buy or swap for a Hauling trailer able to carry 18 kayaks with storagebox in good condition. Tel: Pete 01732 363995 day or 01732 367897 (eve) Tonbridge, Kent

DW Boat. Eager and enthusiastic paddler, wishing to participate in the Devizes-Westminster requires a boat! If anyone can loan, preferably a K2 if not a K1 for training prior to the event and for the race itself it would be gratefully received. I am willing to collect. If you can help, please contact Karen on 0171 542 7427 (day)

Granta/Ottersports Explorer double touring kayak with large open cockpit or very similar. Tel Joan McConn 0181 549 8424 (Surrey)

K1 wanted, for marathon descent racing any make or condition considered Tel: 01798 873904 (W Sussex)

Kirton Pacer K2, light weight preferably kevlar, over stern rudder. Tel: Peter 01803 314742

Old Stratched canvas over wooden framed kayak. Anything considered Tel: 01928 572729

Open Canoes good condition, will consider buying in bulk, will consider trailer and paddles etc and will collect Contact Ken Hughes 01434 685374

Please forward all adverts to appear in the Members Classified direct to: BCU Headquarters in Nottingham. MEMBERS ADS FREE

Open Canoes Wanted, shorter length preferred for solo/tandem use. Any condition, model considered. Can collect Tel: Archie 01388 528847 (Co. Durham)

Prijon Invader Canyon, ww spec, declines, airbags, neoprene deck £250 or px or swap for sea kayak, anything considered Tel: 01922 613637 (Walsall)

Pyranha Creek must be in good condition. Contact Jayne on 01325 730812 (Darlington)

Pyranha Masters, Dancer XS's etc, 2 wanted for enthusiastic juniors. WWR spec if possible, South of England preferably and not too costly. Ring Martin 01243 775890 (Chichester)

Roof Rack, for SAAB 9000 Tel: 01692 651341 (Norfolk)

Sailing Dinghy small similar to Optimist, part exchange for canoe suitable for intermediate paddler 14 stones weight Tel E Soloex 01323 763922

Solo Canadian, Summersong, Starlight, Independence, Slipper or similar. Also Double Canadian touring, Hudson, Mad River, McNulty, must be lightweight with wood trim and seats. Excellent condition. David 01253 777669 (Home) or 872653 (work) Fleetwood, Lancs

Spuds Two Spuds required, battlescattered but buoyant, must be cheap and preferably black Tel: 01277 823921 eyes (Hendon)

Swap, I have a Prijon T Slalom in vgc and will swap for a Prijon T Canyon, lightweight preferred but not essential. Ring Lester on 01384 258492

Talisman K1 or Discovery K1 Wanted Tel: 01784 740484 or 01932 845544 ext 5642

Stolen

Expedition Sea Kayak P&H Sirius hf carbon/keviar - a light and very pretty version. There will be a £50 reward for information that leads to the recovery of this most precious boat. Please report any sightings to Chris at Leisure Lakes Windsurfing 01772 815896. Its distinguishing features are a non-pigmented carbon/keviar hull, a pale lavender coloured deck and a red and mauve P&H logo on the foredeck; its real owner is not very distinguished at all, and very sad.

Pirouette Supersport - Blue with white nosecap sealed with green silicon. Yellow Rotobat and MK2 Mountain bat engraved with BCKC inside. Schlegal topline paddle r/h stolen 17th July near Bury any information please contact Patty Day 0151 933 2707 Eve 01706 824872

Stolen from a garage in East Devon 1 purple YAK buoyancy aid, 1 pink Nookie dry bag, 1 yellow Prijon helmet, 2 x 15 metre red throwbags, 1 orange snorkel and mask. It is all marked with my name, if you know anything about them please contact Richard Marpole on 01298 71906

Stolen on 26 June from Reading, Pyranha Magic Bat White Water spec kayak (colour red with fitted spraydeck release strap, drainage plug and yellow carrying handles) from Reading area on 26th June, serial number PETU504BA-1. Any information contact Peter Swynford on 0118 961 7388 or ring Reading Police Station on 0118 953 6000

Situations Vacant

Editor required for the Eastern Region Newsletter. This is an honorarium position but a small fee, plus expenses will be paid. For more details contact Ron Hodgson 01992 628403

Isley

Venue of variety for novice to expert and everything in between

When you tell people you've been to Islay they're not quite sure where it is. I certainly don't know many folk who have paddled there and it's definitely not as popular as some of its more illustrious Hebridean neighbours.

beach and whilst we were there it seemed as though the surf went on forever. Big, green, long and mean too! On one occasion large enough to loop the sea boat. It's even possible to check out the waves from some of the beds! A morning ritual quickly developed....Alarm goes off...rustling of sleeping bag...rubbing of eyes...grunt..."Surf's up" and then either in and at it or roll over for more shut eye as the inclination dictated. The whole trip could easily have deteriorated (impossible!) into a "Middle aged fogies surf bum tour." and I had to get a grip of the situation from time to time. It really would have been a sin to miss out on some of Islay's other highlights. Jutting out of Islay's southwestern corner, for example, is The Oa whose

Midwinter's time honoured pastime of scrutinising the maps and charts made the appeal of this relatively southern island more and more enticing. The Plas Dol-y-Moch annual sea kayak trip is generally geared not for the marathon focused, salt encrusted, puffin eating, week in week out enthusiast but more towards those who have perhaps tried kayaking a time or two and who fancy a week of coastal exploration, acquiring new skills, finding out about the marine environment or just being away with a bunch of like-minded people keen to have some fun. It's always been a popular trip and interest is often from those who perhaps prefer a more all encompassing type of kayaking experience geared to get the most from each day rather than being shackled to one objective such as a circumnavigation.

Surf went on forever

With these considerations in mind it's logical to hire a bunkhouse or self-catering cottage and use it as a base from which to go on day trips that suit the aspirations of the group and match the weather. I got to hear about a place at the end of a 6 mile surf beach on the west coast of Islay between Bowmore and the impressive headland called The Oa. It's a relatively new bunkhouse with most of the amenities for a comfortable existence and there's even a bar/restaurant right next door.

The greatest abiding quality, however, is the fact that the structure is literally 80 yards from the

Article by and photos by Phil Eccles



fascinating cliffs began right next to the bunkhouse and ran continuously for about 17

Anchored rafted rescue - capsize in swell Sanaigmore, Isley.



kilometres to the Carreg Fhada lighthouse at Port Ellen. The rock architecture is pretty stupendous to say the least with an abundance of through caves and stacks. Committing stuff too as you gaze at the cliffs disappearing into the distance in the knowledge that the tidal stream zips round the bottom end at up to 5 knots!

Atlantic Grey seals

If you can force yourself past the distilleries of Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg (all within 2 miles of each other!) there's a charming archipelago of broken islands that guards

Laphroaig Distillery in background (makes your hair go funny!). Paul Houghton paddling.



Islay's Southeast corner. There's wildlife in abundance, especially Atlantic Grey seals, sheltered water in almost any conditions, rugged offshore rocks offering all sorts of rock hopping possibilities and gentle wooded

foreshores which are carpeted with bluebells in May. Bivouacs...picnics...playing with seals...I could have stayed a long, long while. Duns, forts, castles, standing stones and ancient crosses are testament to those who passed this way in the mists of time before our time. What would they have thought about our folly? But I digress...it's that sort of place.

Real playground

For the explorer of lonely coasts the northern tip would be quite a pilgrimage especially if that was combined with a jaunt over to Jura. For the white water enthusiast there are some rip roaring races and Orsay on the western tip is a real playground. Portnahaven is regarded as the prettiest of Islay's villages and the speed of the tide can be seen from its only street which wraps around the gut of a harbour like an old woman's shawl. Locals were eager to watch us getting ready for the fray and warned of the dangers of the sea. One man informed us that in the sound right next to Portnahaven the tide went north for 11 hours and south for 1 hour. And he was right. Sometimes there's no substitute for local knowledge. Two hundred yards off Orsay's southern coast there's a truck sized rock named An Coire (which surprise, surprise, means The Cauldron) and the water belts across that at 8 knots. What the Pilot doesn't tell you is about the race between Orsay and its immediate neighbour Eilean Mhic Coinnich. On a flooding tide the water is squeezed between the two islands setting a steep and meaty front wave with attendant break outs to the side. Rodeo Heaven?. Beyond and away there's lots of bumpy water all the way past Frenchman's Rocks and the chart makes for interesting reading.

Everything on Islay felt so accessible and of course that meant less time driving and more time paddling. Living right besides the sea also meant that folk could play in the waves for as long or as little as they wanted

Dave Smith practising boat handling.



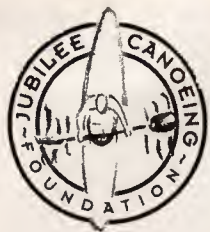
then nip off for a shower or a pint or whatever. This handy convenience also meant that in the evenings we could sample the delights of the Islay Festival which was in full flow at the end of May. Ceilidhs, films, Whisky tasting, slide shows...I'm surprised we made it home... but even that didn't feel too far!



Cost of ferry (Van, trailer and 10 people) £269 return from Kennacraig

Cost of bunkhouse (7 nights, 10 people) £ 385 excluding electricity
O.S. 1:50,000 sheet 60
Admiralty Chart No. 2168

For Details or Bookings of the Bunkhouse, contact:
Mr MacTaggart,
Kintra Farm,
By Port Ellen



The Jubilee Canoeing Foundation supports and promotes ventures for youth canoeing and canoeing for disabled people. At their recent meeting they agreed to support Matthew Sykes to the sum of £250 in recognition of the potential role he has as an inspiration to other paddlers with a disability, who might otherwise consider a career in competition out of their reach. Here is Matthew's story.

Article by Matthew Sykes
Photo Credit: Mark Richards

Jubilee Canoeing Foundation

My name is Matthew Sykes, I'm 23 years old and was born profoundly deaf. I am a student at Blackpool College, an associated college to Lancaster University, studying for a BA Hons. Degree in Technical Informational Illustration.

I first became interested in canoeing at the age of 11 after a school adventure holiday, near Swindon. One of the activities on offer was canoeing. A few weeks later the canoeing instructor, John Macdonald wrote to me and asked if I would like to join him on a canoeing course in Lechlade and do my BCU 1 Star. John and Dean were very good instructors and over a few days I passed my BCU 1 Star.

I loved canoeing so much and soon after, my family and I joined the Banbury Canoe Club. I enjoyed general paddling but I wanted something more exciting and I liked the idea of paddling on white water. Other members of the club where involved in canoe slalom I only saw it once and immediately decided that it was what I wanted to do. I was 12 at the time.

My first slalom was at Stratford Upon Avon. At that time the water at the top of the weir was used as well as the river at the bottom. In order to get the downstream gate at the bottom of the weir I had to go over it backwards and my mum was terrified!

From that moment on I have been thoroughly hooked on slalom and in one season I was promoted from Novice (now Div. 5) to division 3.

I loved everything about canoe slalom, especially in the early years of taking part in the British Schools Championships in Bolton and the Interclub Championships.

When I was in division 2 I went for selection at Holme Pierrepont and was over the moon when I gained a place on the under 16 Great Britain Squad.

My hero right from the start was Richard Fox. Richard always had time for me, helping and encouraging me whenever he could. He always took part in the Interclub Championships even after he was World Champion!

I realise now what a wonderful ambassador for canoe slalom he is. It seems a shame that today most of the top paddlers don't compete at events like the Interclub Championships or



attend lower level division events to inspire younger paddlers.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Brian Fuller (Olympic Slalom Team Manager) who has always been there for me, encouraging and advising me on my training. He still remains very supportive today and he, Peggy, David and Andrew are good friends to my family. Anne and Andrew Dancer were also very helpful when I started canoeing, explaining about all the rules and advising on the best equipment to buy.

On the whole most people in canoe slalom know me and although they will nod and say hello not many will actually stop and hold a conversation with me. I think they are afraid that I won't understand them or they won't understand me but I am a good lip reader and I wouldn't get upset if they didn't understand my speech.

However, some people in canoe slalom have always made an effort to communicate with me right from the start. Peter Jones, the Fuller family, the Richards family, the Dillingar and

McDermid families are all wonderful people and see me as a person first and never allow my deafness to bother them. My family have had some great times with them at events.

It seems a pity now that I'm in the Premier Division that there is less time for the social side of canoeing that we all so enjoyed in the lower divisions.

I have always been keen to help other paddlers when ever I have time. When I was at school I took the first and second year pupils for canoeing lessons to the level of BCU 1 star and have trained, helped and encouraged many other paddlers.

I wish that more deaf people would take up the sport.

I still very much love my canoeing - I enjoy the challenge of the white water. Although I don't have the opportunity to train on white water like many of the top 20 paddlers, due to the pressures of college work and lack of funds to pay for a coach I am still as determined as ever.

It is my dream to paddle in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney where my older brother lives. I only have one more year left to complete my degree and I'm really hoping that I can then concentrate more on my canoeing. Then I will need a lot of luck in order to find sponsorship and hopefully a coach who will be willing to learn British Sign Language and have enough faith in my ability to help reach a high level.

Lastly, none of this would have been possible without the tremendous support and encouragement from my Mum and Dad.

BBC 'See Hear' programme a special programme for the deaf will be filming and interviewing Matthew during this summer and then filming him paddling at the Premier Slalom on 5th & 6th October at Holme Pierrepont.



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Richard Fox - designer



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Colin Hill rowing the gear raft down the Rio Upano in Ecuador for the Adrift South American exploratory. Photo: Matt Horder

