

# CANOEING

September 1968 one shilling & ninepence



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SCOUT CANOEING  
TOWARDS MEXICO  
COMPETITIVE CANOEING



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# CANOEING MAGAZINE

Vol. 8 Number 10 September 1968

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## COVER PHOTO

Claudia Gruning, a pretty young German canoeist from the Wiesbaden Canoe Club.  
Photo: Mike Clark.

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# editorial

## "CANOEING MAGAZINE" GOES FULL TIME

Many of our new readers may not realise that "CANOEING MAGAZINE" in the past has only been run by a part time staff, a few enthusiasts working all their spare time to produce the issues. However, as from next month the publication will have a full-time editor. During the past months each issue has been getting more complicated, many of the weekends I have been away covering regattas and work has had to be rushed through. Full time was inevitable.

Going full-time is a big step but one that had to be made for the future of our magazine and I believe the future of canoe sport in this country. Canoeing needs a regular MONTHLY magazine that keeps paddlers right up to date with all the fast developments that take place in the sport.

During the past months I have been badgering for many more subscribers, on my travels I have even flagged down the family car carrying a touring canoe to spread the word. I am after more subscribers and in this issue you will find a printed subscription form. I ask each reader to try and persuade a friend to become a subscriber to the only monthly publication devoted entirely to canoe sport. Let's try and double our circulation!  
Mike Clark.

## EVANS FIRST AGAIN

Once again Charles Evans of the Royal Canoe Club has put British L-D Canoeing right at the top by winning - for the third time - the Sella River Race. Other placings were Jackson 2nd K1, Mackereth 1st junior K1 and Beavis/Rogers 2nd in junior K2. Full report next month.

# INTERNATIONAL CANOEING

## WHITE WATER CANOEING IN ARCTIC NORWAY

Endless forests; rocky, lonely valleys; milky-blue glacial waters; mountain rivers; abounding hospitality, these are some of the delights encountered by canoeists in Scandinavia. Such a group of canoeists was the Finmark Kayak Expedition who object was to prospect and canoe many of these 'undiscovered' rivers.

The equipment included two 'Mermaids' and one K.W.2, all of which proved excellent for the waters encountered. These canoes were carried throughout the journey on an old diesel Landrover, the

only available vehicle. However, any vehicle in good mechanical condition and with reasonable ground clearance would stand up to the rough gravel roads of Northern Norway and Sweden. Petrol is 5/8d a gallon in Sweden, (slightly cheaper in Norway? whilst diesel fuel is 2/- a gallon!

As regards camping, the expedition was prepared for bad weather but the summer was drier than in England and the coldest night was on our return home.

The cheapest available crossing to Scandinavia was to Gotenburg in South Sweden we saw numerous lakes and rapid rivers suitable for touring. Entering Norway from Northern Finland we started operations in the Narvik-Tromso region. This is drained by the Malselv and Barduela rivers. The Malselv is fast with occasional rapids and provides an exciting 4-5 day tour, terminating at the 130 ft. Malselvossen Waterfall. The Barduela is incorporated in an hydro-elect-





rical scheme and is thus 'lake-like' in the lower reaches and dry in the upper reaches.

The main interest for the white-water enthusiast lies in the tributaries of these rivers. There is a total of over 40 miles of rapid rivers of Grade II to Grade VI standard. Some rivers such as the Dividal, Sordal, Kirkedal have boulder rapids with short stretches of gorge whilst the Tamokelva and Rostava are out of solid rock. This creates numerous Grade III and Grade IV rapids with some Grade V, VI also some impossible falls!

Further North in Finmark there are three main rivers, the Alta, Reisaely, and Tana. Each is very calm in it's lower reaches and, although we did not inspect them, probably has long stretches of medium difficulty rapids further

upstream. The smaller rivers of Finmark were virtually empty in Mid-September but would undoubtedly provide some difficulty canoeing in Mid-June. On the whole, Finmark is an area for the lake and sea rather than the white-water canoeist.

A major breakdown prevented canoeing further down south in Norway. However, from our brief glimpses of this area from the train windows it could well prove to have even more exciting rivers than those of Troms and Finmark. Altogether, Norway and Sweden offer a wide variety of canoeing waters, within easy reach of the ferry terminals. So, this year, instead of taking a canoeing holiday to the well-paddled waters of France and Germany, why not plan an expedition to Scandinavia?

N.J. Walesby



# SCOUT CANOEING



## TALKING OF SPONSORS

Six young Scouts have been raising money by completing sponsored canoe trips and in just five weeks have raised over £40 - a pretty fantastic amount and great credit to their initiative! The money will go to purchasing an up to date white water kayak. These sponsored trips have taken in covering the whole length of the Thames while the stretch between Marlow and Kingston has been covered many times.

## OLYMPIC TEAM

I would like to give our congratulations to the canoe team that has been chosen to go to Mexico and wish them all luck possible.

At Longridge we were glad to see the large size of the team, it gives young paddlers a bit of encouragement knowing that it will not be just one canoeist is chosen to represent the country.

## STILL ON SPRINT

At Longridge on 17/18th August we held our first canoeing course in the art of K1/K2 paddling and at the time of going to press 20 canoeists from various Venture Scout Units were booked in and we managed to persuade Bob O'Keefe, secretary of the Sprint Racing Committee, to come down and give a talk on the sprint side of canoeing.

## LONGRIDGE COURSES

Longridge courses are pulling in scouts from all over the country and over the weekend 27th July 3rd August some 90 scouts were taught the basic strokes of canoeing and capsize drills. Only eleven scouts failed their 50yd swim in clothes. Scouts came from Newbury, Stoke-on-Trent, Manchester. Macclesfield, 4

Andover, Bristol and Southampton - not a bad coverage.

With the southern half of Britain having had a wet time of it recently the Thames has been in flood and part of Longridge has been under water. "Ferry Glides" have been very well practised!



Canoe Rescue Practice at the Longridge Centre. Photo by: Burchell

## NEW SCOUT RACE

Preparations are going on for a new Scout Canoe Race to be held on the Wey Navigation on 6th October. The race is to be up stream with all classes finishing at Guildford. The senior course for all L-D classes and Soft Skin Touring Doubles will be over 15 miles with 10 portages. Senior Soft Skin Touring Singles, Junior L-D classes and Junior Soft Skin Touring Doubles will race 10 miles with 6 portages. Junior Soft Skin Singles and Ranger Classes will race 6 miles with 3 portages.

The race is open to all Rangers, Venture Units and Scouts. There is to be an Inter County Team Event participants for which must



be nominated by the county prior to the race. Six crews to constitute the team. Details of the race from A.G. Tait, 113, Hillbury Road, Wallingham, Surrey.

#### ARUN KAYAK RACE

On 22nd September almost a hundred kayak crews will compete the annual Arun Race for Scouts.

This year's race is the nineteenth and was originally started by the old Sussex Sea Scout Committee in order to encourage canoe building amongst, in the first instance, Sussex Troops. The first race was held over a course from Littlehampton to Stepham Bridge, about 2½ miles above Pulborough Bridge, where the present doubles races start. There were five double canoes in the initial effort, all, as far as I remember PBKs, and definitely of a touring type.

The troops entering were my own (8th Worthing), 3rd Shoreham-by-Sea and Seaford College. The time taken was 4 hours 20 minutes!

After about the second year, the event looked like folding up, and seeing the possibilities of the race as a Senior attraction, I offered to take it on, at the same time opening it up to any Troops in the Southern half of the country who might be interested. The course was also changed round to its present one and, later, a singles event was introduced.

From there it has grown each year until, in the 1967 race, there were nearly 80 craft taking part, and troops have entered from as far afield as Warwickshire, Bedfordshire and Bucks. This year there is an enquiry from Leicester.

It has always been kept as a Scout event and classes have been added to take into the race the various new and modern types of canoes which are now coming into fashion. New canoes have meant faster times. The doubles record for



Above/Over. Paddlers at the start of the 1967 Arun Kayak Race. Photos: Mike Clark.

the course is 2 hours 27 minutes (Tullett/Gidding) in 1966.

It is interesting to note that some of the names of leading canoeists taking part for their clubs in National Races and International Races appear in the lists of Arun competitors. It is hoped that this race has had some part, if small, in encouraging this type of activity.

THE ADUR RACE - might be of interest to know that this canoe race which we run on the river Adur

at Shoreham by Sea for the under 16s (Sussex only) has, in the past few years, grown in popularity. Originally for soft skin craft, only, classes for hard skin were introduced this year and entries jumped from approximately 40 craft last year to 70 this year.

One of the features of both of these races is the tremendous enthusiasm and following we have from parents and friends.

Ken Suckling



#### COMING SCOUT EVENTS

##### SEPTEMBER

- 7th/8th SCOUT LEADER CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE. Full accomod. 30/-  
9th/13th VENTURE SCOUT CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE. Full accomod. 105/-  
14th/15th SCOUT CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE. 12/16yrs. Full accomod. 30/-  
21st/22nd ALLCOMERS CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE, Own canoes, tent and food. 5/-  
22nd SCOUT CANOE RACE, RIVER ARUN, 19 miles. Venture Scouts and Scouters over 16yrs. Details: Mrs.V. Tullett, 8, Downlands Gardens, Sompting Road, Worthing.  
28th/29th VENTURE SCOUT/RANGER GUIDE CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE, Own tentage only, 25/-  
29th SCOUT CANOE RACE, LAKE WINDERMERE. Details as in copy,

##### OCTOBER

- 5th/6th SCOUT CANOE COURSE, LONGRIDGE. 12/16yrs. Full accomod. 30/-  
6th SCOUT CANOE RACE, WEY NAVIGATION, 15 miles 10p. 10miles 6p. 6 miles 3p. Details as in copy.  
13th SCOUT CANOE RACE, MIDDLESEX. Organised by 16th Twickenham. Details: A.C. Tullett, 25, Chudleigh Road, Twickenham. Middlesex.

# AGE-TRADE PAGE-TRADE PAGE-TR/

## CANOEING MAGAZINE BINDER

Available in the next few weeks is a hard cover binder designed to take twelve copies of "CANOEING MAGAZINE". The magazines are held in place by cords of specially prepared waxed-finished linen thread that are always under tension and cannot be overstretched. However full the binder, every page opens flat and each magazine may be removed or replaced at any time. Ideal for clubs and those readers who wish to keep their "CANOEING MAGAZINES" clean and filed for easy reference.

"CANOEING MAGAZINE" binder is finished in attractive orange and black with the name in gold letters on the spine. Available from the editorial address, priced 15s. including post and packing.



## NEW K1 FROM STREAMLYTE

STREAMLYTE MOULDINGS are introducing to their range of kayaks and canoes, a Long Distance Racing K1. It is intended to race this latest kayak in the International Liffey Descent in Ireland. Built in fibreglass, the 'STREAMLYTE K1' incorporates several new ideas for K1 racing, based on valuable experience gained from the slalom and white water branch of the sport.



## NEW 'LENDAL' KIT PADDLE

WILSON (PRESTWICK) LTD., now have a range of 'kit paddles' in production that are designed and constructed for hard use. The blades are laminated from best quality Redwood and Birch and the stud specially treated with preservative to prevent rotting inside the alloy tube. The alloy tube shaft comes ready covered with yellow PVC coating and drilled ready to take the blade which is fixed in place with stainless steel screw.

Curved or flat blades are available in 'Adult' or 'Junior' sizes and priced at £2.10.0d for unvarnished curved blade kit and £2.2.0d for the flat blade kit. Varnished blade kit is 5s extra and single replacement blades or replacement shaft are also available.

## ANOTHER PAVEL BONE KAYAK

GAYBO LTD. who recently introduced the Pavel Bone "Mini-Slalom" to Britain have now brought over another newcomer from West Germany. This is the Pavel Bone "FUNA" a top continental competition slalom kayak. Other models will shortly be available.

# TOWARDS



# MEXICO MEXICO 68



## THE BRITISH OLYMPIC CANOE TEAM

Following the Final Time Trials, held at Sharpness on 3rd/4th August, the selection of the Olympic Canoe Team to represent Great Britain in Mexico was made at BCU Headquarters in London on Monday evening 5th August. The team selected is as follows:

### MENS EVENTS

K4. A.Wilson/A.Edwards/  
M.Mean/L.Oliver:

Reserves: P.Lawler/M.Whitby.

K2. P.Lawler/M.Whitby

Reserves: A.Edwards/L.Oliver.

K1. L.Oliver.

Reserve A.Wilson

General Reserve: J.Glavin

### LADIES EVENTS

K2. Miss L.Oliver/Miss B.Mean

Reserve: Miss S.Jackson

K1. Miss S. Jackson

Reserve: Miss L. Oliver

This is certainly the strongest team we have ever sent to the Games, some very fine times put up at the Final Trials confirm this, and with such performances in Mexico our paddlers should gain through to the finals. However there are two months yet to the finals and the difficulties of the altitude to be overcome. I am sure I speak for all paddlers in the country in wishing the team every success and am only sorry that I cannot be there to cheer them on.

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Other Olympic news is the selection of the Dutch Canoe Team which will be: K1 Paul Hoekstra. K2 Paul Hoekstra/Anton Geurts. K4 Anton Geurts/Bram Muussee/Paul Bunschoten/Jan Wittenberg. Reserve Jan Verhaard. Ladies Events: K1 Miss Mieke Jaapies. K2 Miss Mieke Jaapies/Mrs Thea Duif-Bergers.

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ALISTER WILSON, 28 year old canoe equipment manufacturer, has been in competitive canoeing 7 years and competed at the Tokyo Olympics.

LAURENCE OLIVER, 25 year old teacher has been in competitive canoeing for 6 years and Mexico will be his first Olympic Games.

ALAN EDWARDS, 24 years old and works in building management, has been in competitive canoeing 8 years and was once a 1st division slalomist, Mexico will be his second Olympics.

MICHAEL MEAN, 21 year old joiner, has been racing 6 years and Mexico will be his first Olympics.

PETER LAWLER, 27 year old engineer, has been racing 8 years and competed at Tokyo.

MARK WHITBY, 18 year old student and the youngest member of the team has been racing only 3 years.

JOHN GLAVIN, 24 year old Royal Marine Reservist and has been in competitive canoeing only 3 years.

SYLVIA JACKSON, 23 year old secretary, has been in competitive canoeing for 6 years and Mexico will be her first Olympic Games.

LESLEY OLIVER, 19 years old and is a computer operator, has been racing 4 years and is her first Olympics.

BARBARA MEAN, 18 year old despatch clerk and has been in competitive canoeing only 3 years.

CANOE TEAM MANAGER - RON EMES of Birmingham, was manager for both canoe teams sent to Rome and Tokyo.



# NEWS-NEWS-NEWS-IN BRIEF

## INSTRUCTORS COURSES

During October three courses for Potential Instructors and Coaches are to be held in the Southern area, details of these are set out below.

POTENTIAL SENIOR INSTRUCTORS/COACHES  
Bisham Abbey N.R.C., Marlow, Bucks.  
October 18th/20th Fee £3.15.0d  
(residential)

POTENTIAL INSTRUCTORS  
Bisham Abbey N.R.C., Marlow, Bucks.  
October 18th/20th Fee £3.15.0d  
(residential)

Thames Young Mariners, Ham, Richmond, Surrey.  
October 5th/6th. Fee £1.10.0d  
(residential)

Further details of these courses can be obtained from Miss A. Cowie, Technical Representative, C.C.P.R. London & South-East Region Portland Court, 160 Great Portland Street, London W.1.

## OLYMPIC TRAINING FUND - MEXICO RAFFLE

The Olympic Training Fund Mexico Raffle that was due to take place at the BCU National Sprint Canoe Championships at Pangbourne on 10th/11th August has now been moved down to 7th September. The draw will be conducted by Messrs. John Player and Sons at the celebration dance and prize giving of the Long Distance Canoe Racing Championships at the Sherwood Rooms, Nottingham.

## INTERNATIONAL ENTRY FOR L-D

At the time of going to press entries for the National Championship L-D at Nottingham on 7th September were still coming in. Apart from the very large British entry - that also includes the full Olympic Sprint Team - there are entries from Ire-

land, Denmark and Austria.

This should be a fine weekend's sport at Nottingham with the L-D and other water displays on the Saturday and a 500m Sprint Regatta on the Sunday. If you are not competing why not go along to watch what promises to be very exciting racing.

## RESTORATION OF KENNET & AVON LOCKS

Sir Frank Price, Chairman of the British Waterways Board, accompanied by Lord Methuen and General Sir Hugh Stockwell, President and Chairman respectively of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust, and by Members of the British Waterways Board, cruised on the Kennet & Avon Canal on 27th July. Their cruise marked the opening of the restored Burghfield and Sulhampstead Locks. They travelled in "Water Rambler", the Board's passenger-carrying vessel converted from a traditional narrow-boat.

The Burghfield Lock has been restored by the Board at a cost of approximately £12,000. The Trust restored Sulhampstead Lock at a cost of nearly £7,000, raising all the money themselves and using the labour of volunteers, the Services and prisoners who worked under the technical supervision of the Board's staff.

In each case a new steel-piled lock, with new gates, has been built. At Sulhampstead the new lock was constructed inside the old one. At Burghfield the Board's contractors built an entirely new lock just up-stream of the old one.

For a long time the Kennet & Avon Canal has been navigable only in parts but the section from High Bridge, Reading, to the tail of Tile Mill Lock - the section which is now reopened to pleasure craft - is one of the three sections of the canal designated as cruising waterways by the Government in its pleasure cruising network.



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

With all the rain in Southern England there has been no shortage of water coming down the Thames. Seen here finding great sport in the rough water below Hambleden Weir is Mike Hillyard/Mike Ramsey of Chalfont putting a C2 through its paces.

Photo: Mike Clark. Mamiyaflex, 180mm, 1/500 at f11.

# THE MONTH AHEAD

WHERE TO GO - WHAT TO COMPETE - WHAT TO SEE

Mon. 2 9 16 23 30  
Tue . 3 10 17 24 31  
Wed . 4 11 18 25 ..  
Thu . 5 12 19 26 ..  
Thu . 6 13 ..

## SEPTEMBER

- 1st GRANDTULLY SLALOM, 1st Div. Details: J. MacLoed, 9, Prestwich Park South, Prestwich, Manchester.
- 1st EXE ESTUARY L-D RACE, All. P2. Details: P. Lee, 11, Shelton Place, Heavitree, Exeter.
- 2nd/7th CANOE SAILING WEEK, FALMOUTH. Details: P. Wells, 55, Arnison Road, East Molesey, Surrey.
- 4th/15th CANOE SURFING WEEK, BUDE, Details: O. Cock, "Rivertrees", Wargrave Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon.
- 7th/8th NATIONAL L-D CHAMPIONSHIPS, NOTTINGHAM. Details: A. Witham, 16, William Road, Westbridgeford, Notts.
- 8th WEST TANFIELD SLALOM, 3rd/N. Details: J. Slater, 42, Queens Ossett, Yorks.
- 14th INTERNATIONAL LIFFEY DESCENT, IRELAND. Details: E. Lawrence, 301, Lr. Kimmage Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.
- 15th LUNE SLALOM, 2nd Lakeland CC. Details: Mrs. A. Evans, Nuns Cottage, Gib Lane, Houghton, Preston, Lancs.
- 21st/22nd INTERNATIONAL L-D DENMARK. British entries to L-D Secretary, 2, Highfield Road, Impington, Cambs.
- 22nd LEE AND STORT L-D RACE, B12 P9. Details: Miss E. Waight, 6, Hawkenbury, Harlow, Essex.
- 28th/29th BOSTON SPRINT REGATTA AND L-D. B15 P3. Details: F. Royle, West End, Bennington, Boston, Lincs.

## OCTOBER

- 5th/6th APPLETREEWICK, WHITE WATER RACE AND SLALOM, 2nd. Details: M.J. Markham, 22m Wrenbury Crescent, Leeds 16.
- 13th TRENT L-D RACE B19 P3. Details: Miss M. Baker, 8, Dorothy Grove, Ainsley, Nottingham.

### COMPETITIVE KEY

Long Distance Racing. "A" - Open or Tidal Waters. "B" - Rivers. "P" - Portages.

Canoe Slalom. "1st" First Division. "2nd" - Second Division, "3rd" Third Division. "N" - Novice Division. "C" - Canadian events. "T" - Team events.

Entries for Long Distance are usually required one week before event. Entries for slaloms are required eleven days before



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***NEW***

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**E LIFFEY DESCENT**

# MIKE CLARK on competitive CANOEING

## LONDON SPRINT REGATTAS

During the last half of July Richmond and Royal Canoe Club held their annual sprint regattas on consecutive weekends in fine weather on the Thames.

By far the best - and incidently one of the best British regattas for some time - was the Richmond Regatta held on 20th/21st July. The course used was the same as last year, the almost straight reach a quarter mile upstream from the club, with 1000m starts at Eel Pie Island and all finishes at the Ham Launching Ramp. However, all the organisation side, boats, paddlers and cars were moved to a spacious car park just below the 1000m start, a vast improvement on last year but the removal of signs by the police did cause a little confusion to those who had not been to this regatta before and unfamiliar with the area.

Richmond decided their regatta was to be run for the pure sport of racing no prizes were given and entry fees for the events were reduced to 2/- a seat. This certainly paid off for the entry was around the 70 mark - exceptional for a sprint event in this country. Not only was the regatta well attended by the paddlers but also by members of the selection Committee, including the BCU President John Dudderidge, O.B.E. and Hein Thelen. Also I was very surprised and pleased to see at Richmond, Mr. de Jong, the President of the Dutch Canoe club, 'Quo Vadis'. Mr. de Jong and

his wife were over here for a short holiday as guest of the Army Canoe Coach.

The racing was exciting and with such a large entry there were plenty of events with a full programme starting at 10 a.m. finals during the afternoon and a K2 10,000m events run at 7 p.m. - in fact it was the first time I have known paddlers to complain that they were having too much racing!

In senior events L.Oliver of Lincoln Canoe Club was in fine form to win in all he entered, taking the K1 1000m with A.Wilson in second and M.Whitby third (in this event there was a "A" and "B" final) Oliver paired with A.Edwards to win the K2 1000m from Whitby/Lawler and beat this Richmond pair again to win the 10,000m event. With A.Wilson of Ayrshire stroking the K4 of Oliver/Edwards/Mean, the crew again took first from the Richmond crew of Lawler/Whitby/Glavin/Avery.

Richmond with some 14 juniors competing gave good account of themselves. Although Bennet/Brookes of Viking won the K2 1000m event Blackmore/Kidd of the host club gained second place, while in the K1 1000m Kidd came second to a fine win by C.Baker of Royal but went on to win the K1 500m with Blackmore second and as pair also won the K2 500m. Miss S. Jackson of Richmond won the ladies K1 in a very close race with Miss L.Oliver of the Southampton club, the latter having stopped paddling for some four strokes after mistaking words of encouragement (from guess who!) as shouts of a mis-start. However, in the K2 Miss Oliver with Miss B.Mean won from Mrs Lawler/Miss Baumeister of Richmond and produced the same result in the K2 5000m. It was interesting to see Miss Pauline Squires, one of our top slalom ladies, competing in sprint racing. By no means was she outclassed and it is only a pity that she did not start earlier in the year training for sprint. Slalom, L-D, Sprint, there seems

no end to this young ladies talent.

On the Sunday morning there was a very fine race in the K1 men of the 'Richmond Tens' with Wilson taking first from Oliver after much of the pace had been set by J.Glavin of Royal Marines Canoe Club. Certainly it was a very fine weekends' sport at Richmond, plus an excellent lunch on the Saturday at a local pub that Richmond Club gave for the number of distinguished visitors - I don't know how your reporter managed to get an invite!

Royal Canoe Club Sprint Regatta was held the following weekend but there was nowhere near the amount of racing, and for the first time in a number of years there was no events for Canadian classes. The class has never got off the ground in British sprint racing, unlike the "C" classes in slalom that this year introduce the C1 to the steadily growing number of C2 crews.

There was a very large entry for the Paddling Challenge Cup 10, 000m K1 race held on the Sunday morning at Royal and proved an interesting event. Oliver, Glavin and Whitby soon made a break from the main pack and tussled for the lead round the course. Again it was Glavin forcing the pace and was only on the last turn that Oliver made his effort to pass the Marine. For the second year L.Oliver of Lincoln Canoe Club won the oldest paddling trophy in the country.

Miss Pauline Squires the only lady to race this event gained a fine 17th place out of the 32 starters.



Top/A smiling Miss Lesley Oliver of Southampton at Richmond Regatta. Bottom/ The start of the Paddling Challenge at Royal Canoe Club.

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Canadians on the Isere.  
Rodney Witter.

That Britain has got a long way to go, as far as Canadian canoeing is concerned, can hardly be doubted when one looks at the entry at the Bourg St. Maurice 'mini' World Championships, held on the Isere at the beginning of August. There was an entry of 59 men's kay-17

aks, 26 men's C.2 and 28 C.1, thus Canadian paddlers outnumbered kayak paddlers by 80 to 59 - the ratio being greater if one includes the mixed C.2.s which competed.

By far the greatest national team was that of Czechoslovakia who sent a contingent of 75 in two buses with trailers for 30 canoes behind. Unfortunately, the East Germans were suffering from a lack of money and could only send Jurgen Bremer for men's kayak, Helga Luber for ladies' kayak and Grabo/Franz for mixed C.2. Great Britain entered two C.2.s (Court/Goodwin and Witter/Witter) and one C.1. for the very first time, it being considered that Geoff Dinsdale's experience and ability warranted a place in the team.

The competition itself was spread over four days; the Thursday and Friday being devoted to the river race and slalom practice, whilst the slalom itself was on Saturday and Sunday. The river race was something of a failure for Britain since Witter/Witter were unable to start, having written their boat off in practice, and Court/Goodwin only completed half the course before their boat sank and had to be abandoned. This sort of thing should not happen in the future when there are some British down river C.2. racing boats available. It is rumoured that one or two manufacturers are preparing designs so the winter racing season should be very interesting.

The river Isere can be controlled to a very exact degree by the dam which is only half a mile above the slalom course. For the race 25 cubic metres/second were released and this produced some good grade 4 rapids in about 3 places. For the slalom, however only 16 cubic metres/second were used and this meant that a fair number of rocks got in the way for the unwary. Also the shallow water prevented one taking a full stroke with a Canadian blade in many places

and this led to many broken paddles, in some cases a capsize and abandoning of the boat which was usually wrecked. The top part of the slalom course was a grade 4 rapid with a, technically, very difficult sequence of gates laid out on it. The C.2.s were able to do better than the kayaks on a number of occasions at this place, but also a number of capsizes resulted on this rapid.

In the men's C.2. event the World Champions, Valenta/Stach, had quite a slow time and had to be content with 10th place. Their team mates Kalas/Brejscha, were the winners whilst Witter/Witter, were 23rd and Court/Goodwin 25th, having capsized on one of their runs.

In the mixed C.2. event, there were only seven competitors, four of them being Czech! The ex-World Champions Grabo/Franz had a very fine run until, in capsizing and rolling up again, they missed a gate. The current World Champion, Milan Svobada, paddling with a new partner, Traplova, had a superb run with only 10 penalties, and was the ultimate winner. His ex-partner, Kracdlova, who is now married and paddles mixed C.2. for France as Lutz/Lutz, had to be content with 7th place whilst Josef and Jirina Sedivec were 3rd.

The C.1. event provided the predictable result of the World Champion, Wolfgang Peters (West Germany), coming first with only 10 penalties. Geoff Dinsdale proved the wisdom of his selection by putting in some very polished performances, his times, however, were a little slow and he finished 19th.

Judging by the way the C.1. class is catching on, there should be enough talent available next year for Britain to send its full quota of four boats. Whether this will be the case or not with the C.2. class, remaining to be seen but a number of crews are training very hard with The World Slalom Championship, Bourg St. Maurice 1969 as their goal.

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# COMMENT *Letters to the Editor*

"How is it that the latest two issues of 'Canoeing' have contained, for my money, two of the most inflammatory letters that I have seen for some time.? Anyway, I hope my reply to Charles Evans' letter inflamed a few more of the fast movers. One cannot reason with people about matters which are akin to religious belief... either one believes in lifejackets, or one does not.

Point two. David Cook, writes about Coaching Awards. He has a point. A little personal history. I trained to be a teacher although I was already a civil servant with a reasonably good job, so that I could more closely pursue that way in life which I seek. I enjoyed it, every bit, and I'd do it all over again. Such training, so far as technical competence in canoeing was concerned, was almost totally irrelevant. During the training I was required to read and write about matters to do with educational psychology, maths, english, poetry, children's books, and a whole lot more. I'm not the same now that I was. I don't say I'm better, I'm just different. At least I thought about what I was doing, and I still think, and so long as I have the power to think I'll live my life

Mr. Cook challenges street walking Hon. Coaches to stay in his ten year old clapped out K1 (were they made in GRP then) for a couple of hundred yards, whilst paddling forward (significant word, that forward) You are dead right, Mr. Cook, I'll join you in that bet. I doubt if I could... So what? Mr. Cook can... big deal.

The point at issue is this. If you want to teach minors, then you accept the burden of duty as a parent toward that child. If you wish to teach in a school, you must have a teaching certificate at

least. Mine shows a credit in maths, but I teach English. If you wish to teach young people under the auspices of some EA how to handle a racing canoe, and to go fast in a straight line, then the basis of the Coaching Award may be irrelevant to the techniques used, but the onus of proof of your suitability as a Coach is on the BCU, not on the EA, and not on yourself.

My sympathy with Mr. Cook in his refusal to take an irrelevant exam is less than deep. If he does not want to do it, he need not. Meanwhile I understand that Ken and Felicity Littledyke are compiling sets of questions for all the Coaching awards, and I believe that they will welcome constructive advice and the submission of suitable questions from those who are interested in the matter.

Further, Mr. Cook wishes to take the exam, but he won't. That is a dilemma he must resolve for himself. Should he wish to take the examination with me on the terms of the Coaching Scheme, I should do my best to see that he received a thorough examination, and I'll give up a whole weekend to do it.

What's important? Man's wounded pride, or the determination of people less than perfect to make the canoeing experience less imperfect? Yours sincerely,  
Alan Bye.

---

I admired Charles Evans's speaking out in reply to John Griffin's letter on the wearing of life jackets, in your correspondence column. However, he has made some fundamental errors in his arguments. Most of these are commonly held beliefs; so, in order to put the discussion in its right perspective, I hope you will allow me to give



## MORE ON COACHING AWARDS

the corrections.

"The only useful effect of a life jacket is to keep its wearer afloat". No. It also places him in the best possible position to survive, should he be incapable of looking after himself (cold, injury fatigue, etc.) It also protects the neck and back of the head, and keeps them as warm as circumstances allow.

"Life jackets are clumsy and uncomfortable..." Only in the sense that a new pair of shoes is clumsy and uncomfortable, or that a new car, motorcycle or crash helmet is uncomfortable. It takes a little while to get used to it. Nobody that I have met, who has put a life jacket, of the type approved by the British Canoe Union on properly and stuck to it has ever gone on complaining about it.

"There are situations in which a life jacket can be dangerous, for example in the event of a capsize in very cold water when survival can depend upon reaching the bank quickly...." In very cold water the faster one moves through it the more body heat will be lost and the faster will unconsciousness and death occur. The one thing one must do is to **REMAIN ABSOLUTELY STILL IN COLD WATER**. The argument has been put forward: "What do you do if you are alone?" The answer is that only a fool would canoe alone in such weather conditions.

"In the event of a capsize above a weir a slow swimmer could be swept over." So could a fast swimmer. So can a canoe! It has happened, even the right way up. A swimmer is probably wiser, gauging his swim so that he goes cleanly over the weir and swims out below it, perhaps under water if there is a stopper wave. Again, this has been done, with a B.C.U. life jacket on.

Yours sincerely,  
O.J. Cock, (National Coach)  
(Member of B.C.U. Safety Committee)

I too, like Mr. Cook, want to qualify as a BCU Coach but cannot agree that the general coaching award is irrelevant to coaching of racing canoeists.

I have been canoeing for 17 years, probably many of your readers well exceed this, and consider it is time I made a real effort to put something useful back into the sport. In that period I have instructed many beginners but now realise that I am not doing my best - and my pupils are trusting me to do my best.

My approach, which Mr. Cook might consider, was to undergo the Proficiency Test and despite being able to sit a Kl and having competed in the D-W Race 4 times, I found it a stiff but well-balanced test. Then I joined a course for would-be instructors. Both this test and the course was willingly laid on by the Area Coaching Organiser and if such people are prepared to voluntarily provide these facilities we should gratefully accept them. There maybe flaws in the Coaching Scheme but opting out because we do not like them is no answer. We who "want to qualify as Coaches" should recognise our limitations, correct this and then try to improve the scheme. More Instructors mean more Coaches mean more knowledge to be pooled.

In any case, if we have no general coaches we have no canoeists to need the attention and advise of racing coaches. Coaching is just not "knowing" - it is imparting knowledge, surely this is the first step. First learn to instruct, then specialise.

Perhaps Mr. Cook did not have instruction as a beginner, I didn't but I am sure we would both have benefited from instruction by a BCU qualified Coach. If not, why does Mr. Cook want to coach?  
Yours sincerely  
Brian Webb.

# BOOK REVIEWS



THE OLYMPIC GAMES by the Editors of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED. 128 pages, 78 pages of photographs. PRICE 16/6 (Time/Life Books)

'With 78 pages of dramatic photographs, THE OLYMPIC GAMES captures the spirit of this athletic competition that dates from the dawn of Hellenic civilisation. From the legendary struggles of Herakles at Olympia to U.S. Marine Lieutenant Billy Mills' upset victory in the 10,000m race at Tokyo in 1964, this 128 page book tells of the magnificent triumphs, the stunning losses, and the fascinating upsets that have been the hallmark of the Games.' is how the Press Release described this fine book from Time/Life Books. There are plenty of exciting photographs both in colour and black and white. The first section of the book is devoted to the origins of the Games - extremely interesting - while the major part is of the athletic events and history of the track from 1896. I failed to find a mention of canoe sport (introduced in 1936) but in the rear of the book is an interesting table of all winning times of the canoe events. A very worth while book if you are interested in sport generally.

CANOEISTS GUIDE TO THE RIVER WYE by A.R. Greenhill and R. Shoesmith. PRICE 3/- (Greenhill, Youth Hostel, Staunton-on-Wye, Hereford.)

A very useful guide this, covering in detail a hundred miles of the River Wye from Glasbury to Chepstow. Almost every obstacle down the river is mentioned along with mention of all the places of interest for the visitor to stop and see. 14 campsites are listed and clear line drawings give layout of towns in relation

to the river that the canoeist will pass through. Extremely good guide but a pity it could not include higher reaches for the white water tourer.

AQUATICS HANDBOOK by M. Alexander Gabrielsen, Betty Spears, B.W. Gabrielsen. 256 pages, liberally illustrated. PRICE 79/6d (Prentice Hall International).

An American book covering every water sport from show water Skiing to bait casting, from scuba diving to swimming pool construction, surf board riding to synchronized swimming.

Certainly a useful book for schools and youth clubs having a number of water activities. Of great interest would be the section on camp aquatics program and swimming activities, and lifesaving techniques.

The canoeing section deals with basic canoe strokes, and I emphasize CANOE strokes for it deals only with strokes applied to the Canadian type canoe and not the kayak that enjoys much greater popularity in Britain. Nevertheless this book is worthwhile for its instruction on the first essential of canoe sport - the ability to swim confidently.

CANOEING IN YORKSHIRE 1968 by Leeds Canoe Club. PRICE 2/6 (Briggs, 176 Gladstone Street, Bradford 3. Yorks)

Duplicated guide of 26 pages covering 13 rivers in Yorkshire will be of great interest to the white water touring canoeist for most of the rivers covered have grade II upwards. Unlike the Wye, permission is needed for canoeing almost any of the Yorkshire rivers, and in this guide are details of agreements

reached with the many landowners and where to apply for such permission. Strictly for the 'canoeing type' and not for the quite tourist, no mention is made of places of interest other than the rivers. Recommended if you are looking for excitement.

others in the area. In the meantime the Minister of Transport has included within the pleasure cruising network sufficient of the Birmingham Canal Navigations' system to enable pleasure cruisers to travel between the South-East, the North-West and the South-West.

"NEWS IN BRIEF" continued from page 10

### BICENTENARY OF THE BIRMINGHAM CANAL NAVIGATIONS.

Sir Frank Price, Chairman of the British Waterways Board, announced that he was communicating with Alderman C.V.G. Simpson, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, to propose that the City and the Board should join together next year in arranging a joint celebration of the Bicentenary of the Birmingham Canal Navigations.

The canal system played a very important role in Birmingham's history and the success of the city and the great industrial complex surrounding it, and it is thought therefore, important that the Bicentenary should be recognised.

In a recent speech in Birmingham, Sir Frank Price described the Birmingham Canal Navigations as "a unique complex of waterways" and stressed that the Waterways Board desired to get a realistic blueprint for the whole system, length by length, as soon as possible. This will involve consultation with the local authorities, industry, voluntary bodies and

About 110 miles of the Birmingham Canal Navigations are navigable. The system was built up over a number of years and engaged the attention of some of Britain's greatest engineers, such as Brindley and Telford. The first of the numerous private Acts of Parliament involving the system was obtained in 1768 and work was begun in the Spring of 1769. Ten miles of canal were opened in the Autumn of that year, the speed with which this first length was accomplished demonstrated the importance attached to building up the canal system at that time.

The Hasler Trophy points remain the same as last month, the full results from Tamar, Royal and Southampton L-Ds have not yet been sent by the organising clubs to the Race Records Officer.

### HASLER TROPHY

Positions of the TOP TEN leading clubs from best eight races.

HARLOW CANOE CLUB	66	50	32	49	53	35	52	63	TOTAL	400
RICHMOND CANOE CLUB	49	66	54	22	46	24	36	52		349
ROYAL CANOE CLUB	56	30	24	42	34	28	44	36		294
NOTTINGHAM CITY CC	28	36	26	20	40	26	35	37		248
BRADFORD ON AVON CC	30	08	35	02	50	22	20	01		168
LINCOLN CANOE CLUB	18	56	10	26	25	04	10	11		160
CAMBRIDGE CANOE CLUB	13	15	24	12	41	24	12	16		157
EXETER CANOE CLUB	22	05	12	45	20	21	06	00		131
HYPHE VENTURE SCOUTS	30	24	20	14	00	08	19	00		115
NEWHAM CANOE CLUB	11	18	10	16	08	14	12	19		114

Points from races up to Orwell but excluding Tamar and Worcester.

# RESULT ROUND-UP



## RICHMOND SPRINT REGATTA, 20th July, 1968.

SENIOR EVENTS. K1 1000m "A" 1/ L.Oliver, Lincoln CC. 2/ A.Wilson, Ayr KC. 3/ M.Whitby, Richmond CC. 4/ J.Glavin, Royal Marines. Final "B" 1/ P.Lawler, Richmond CC. 2/ A.Edwards, Worc. CC 3/ D.Jordan, Royal CC K2 1000m 1/ Oliver/Edwards, Lin/Worc. CC. 2/ P.Lawler/M.Whitby, Richmond CC. 3/ Avery/Glavin, Richmond CC. 4/ Mean/Bolam, Har/L.Spa CC.K4 1000m. 1/ Oliver/Edwards/Mean/Bolam. 2/ Lawler/Whitby/Glavin/Avery.K1 10,000m 1/ A.Wilson, Ayr KC 2/ L.Oliver, Lincoln CC 3/ J.Glavin, Royal Marine. 4/ A.Edwards, Worc. CC.

JUNIOR EVENTS. K1 1000m. 1/ C.Baker, Royal CC 2/ J.Kidd, Richmond CC. 3/ R.Beavis, Southampton CC. K1 500m. 1/ J.Kidd, Richmond, CC 2/ D. Blackmore, Richmond CC 3/ A.Chapman, Royal Marines. K2 1000m 1/Bennet/Brookes, Viking KC. 2/ Blackmore/Kidd, Richmond CC. 3/ Rogers/Beavis Southampton CC. K2 500m. 1/ Blackmore/Kidd, Richmond CC 2/ Lawler/Head, Richmond CC. 3/ Roger/Beavis, Southampton CC. K4. 1/ Pereira/Blackmore/Avery/Kidd, Richmond CC. 2/ Dawson/Dawson/Greenaway/A.N. Other. Richmond CC.

LADIES EVENTS. K1 500m. 1/ S.Jackson, Richmond CC. 2/ L.Oliver, Southampton CC 3/ B. Mean, Harlow CC K2 500m. 1/ Oliver/Mean, South/Harlow CC 2/ Lawler/Baumeister, Richmond CC. 3/ Boshier/Squires, Royal/Leam. CC. K2 5,000m 1/ S.Jackson, Richmond CC 2/ L.Oliver, Southampton CC. 3/ B.Mean. Harlow CC K2 5,000m. 1/ Mean/Oliver Harlow/Southptn. CC. 2/ Lawler/Baumeister, Richmond CC. 3/ Emerson/Jackson, Richmond CC.

NOVICE K1 500m. 1/ H.Baker, Harlow CC. 2/ G.Martin, Bourne Youth 3/C. Clements, Leics. CC.

ARTHUR AVERY 500m 1/ J.Fartling, 2/ L.Smith, 3/ A.Spencer (restricted to Richmond CC)

## ROYAL CANOE CLUB SPRINT REGATTA, 27th/28th JULY.

SENIOR EVENTS. K1 1000m. 1/ L.Oliver, Lincoln CC, 3min 48 sec 2/ L. Bolam, Leamington CC 3.50.1 3/ M.Mean, Harlow CC 3.50.4 K2 1000m. 1/ J.Glavin/M.Whitby, Richmond CC, 3.33.8 2/ L.Oliver/A.Edwards, Lin/Worc. CC. 3.37. 3/ M.Mean/L.Bolam, Harlow/Leam. CC 3.37.3 K4 1000m, 1/Argonauts, 3.11.5 2/ 16th Para 3.16.5 3/ Richmond 3.22.2

JUNIOR EVENTS K1 1000m. 1/ S.Kitson, Harlow CC, 4.03.5 2/ A.Chapman, Royal Marines, 4.08.5 3/ C.Baker, Royal CC, 4.10.0 K2 1000m 1/ Day/Kitson, Harlow CC, 3.45.8 2/ Mackereth/Leah, Richmond CC 3.47.2 3/ Baker/Giddings, Royal CC 3.49.6 K4 1000m 1/ Richmond 3.25.4 2/ Royal 3.26.0

LADIES EVENTS K1 500m 1/ S.Jackson, Richmond CC 2.08.9 2/ L.Oliver, Southampton CC 2.09.1 3/ B.Mean, Harlow CC, 2.14.9 K2 500m. 1/B.Mean/L.Oliver, Harlow/Southtn. CC, 2.10.2 3/ K.Emerson/S.Jackson, Richmond CC 2.17.1 3/ P.Squires/W.Baumeister, Leam/Richmond CC 2.26.1

YOUTH K1 500m 1/ G.Martin, B.Y.W. 2.22.2 NOVICE K1 1/L.Head, Royal Marines OPEN DASH K1. 1/ M.Whitby, Richmond CC.

PADDLING CHALLENGE K1 10,000m 1/ L.Oliver, Lincoln CC, 45min 54sec. 2/ J. Glavin, Royal Marines, 45.58 3/ M.Whitby, Richmond CC, FIRST JUNIOR S.Kitson, Harlow CC 6th place. ONLY LADY, Miss P. Squires, Leam CC 17th place.

INTERNATIONAL CANOE SLALOM - BOURG ST. MAURICE, 1st/4th August.

RIVER RACE 1/ Kast, West Germany. 5/ Bremer, East Germany. 6/ Presslmayer, Austria. 10/ Young, Great Britain. 23/ Langford, Great Britain. 35/ Skellern, Great Britain.

SLALOM - MENS K1. 1/ Bremer, East Germany, 216. 2/ Peters, West Germany, 227. 3/ Raysz, West Germany, 229. 8/ Langford, Great Britain, 239. 13/ Skellern, GB, 252. 15/ Woodhouse, GB, 253. 20/ Calverley, GB, 261. 42/ Wickham, GB, 319. 54/ Young, GB, 409.57/ Jenkinson, GB 519.

LADIES K1. 1/ Kapplova, CSSR, 279. 2/ Polesna, CSSR, 287. 3/ Korner, West Germany, 298. 8/ Goodman, GB 394. 17/ Keerie, GB 799.

MENS C2. 1/ Kalas/Brejscha, CSSR. 2/ Janousek/Horyna, CSSR. 3/Mestan/ Mestan, CSSR, 23/ Witter/Witter, GB. 25/ Court/Goodwin, GB.

MENS C1. 1/ Peters, West Germany, 270. 2/ Sodomka, CSSR, 273. 3/ Prelovsek Yugoslavia, 274. 19/ Dinsdale, GB, 373.

Mixed C2. 1/ Svoboda/Traplova, CSSR, 286. 2/ Grabo/Franz, East Germany, 299. 3/ Sedivec/Sedivecova, CSSR, 314.

FINAL OLYMPIC CANOE TIME TRIALS - SHARPNESS, 3rd/4th August.

MENS K1 1000m

R. Avery,	3. 59.6	J.Glavin,	3.56.5	L.Oliver,	3.52.3
L. Bolam	4. 06.8	B. Jupp	4.07.1	Stimpson	4.26.0
Clow	4. 18.3	P.Lawler	3.59.5	S.Warren	4.17.9
A.Edwards	4. 01.8	M.Mean	3.54.5	M.Whitby	4.02.2

MENS K2 1000m.

L.Bolam/M.Mean	3. 47.5	J.Glavin/R.Avery,	3.39.7
A.Edwards/L.Oliver	3. 37.2	J.Glavin/P.Lawler	3.39.0
Jupp/Warren	3. 47.7	J.Glavin/M.Whitby,	3.38.6
Clow/Stimpson	3. 50.1	P.Lawler/M.Whitby	3.37.6

MENS K4 1000m

J.Glavin/M.Whitby/ P.Lawler/R.Avery	3. 17.5	A.Wilson/L.Bolam/ M.Mean/L.Oliver	3. 16.1
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A.Wilson/A.Edwards/ M.Mean/L.Oliver	3. 13.6	J.Glavin/M.Whitby/ P.Lawler/A.Wilson	3.18.0
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L.Oliver/A.Edwards/ L.Bolam/M.Mean		Jupp/Warren/ Clow/Stimpson	3. 22.0
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LADIES K1 500m

K.Emerson	2.18.3
S.Jackson	2.10.5
B.Mean	2.14.8
L.Oliver	2.11.9
P.Squires	2.15.0

LADIES K2 500m

K.Emerson/S.Jackson	2.02.5
L.Oliver/B.Mean	2.01.0
L.Oliver/S.Jackson	1.58.4
B.Mean/P.Squires	2.03.0

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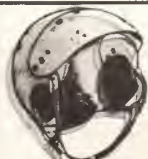
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