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canoeing in Britain

● ANNUAL REPORT

● PROFILE John Woolley

● JAJCE 1963

● CLUB NEWS

● POSTAL BALLOT

DECEMBER 1963

49

The news magazine of the British Canoe Union

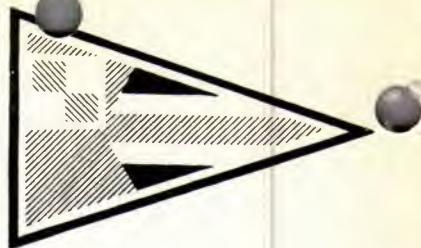


After a long gap, *Canoeing in Britain* makes a reappearance. A new editor means new ideas, different opinions, changes. *Canoeing in Britain* has changed its character; the bulletin has become a magazine, and will henceforth contain a fair proportion of club news, photographs and articles of a general nature, as well as B.C.U. information and a selection of the race results. Some will not approve of this, and I hope they write and tell me about it. But I think that most members will be in favour of developing *C in B* as a magazine, and here and now I invite all readers to submit articles, photographs and information for future issue. Extreme pressure on space has meant that some features intended for this issue have unavoidably been held over.

For this issue of the magazine, I sent a pink form to many canoe clubs, seeking news. This proved popular, and all clubs should receive one before the next issue. Secretaries who prefer to write their own club notes should of course do so. If you didn't receive an invitation to send your club's news to me for this issue, don't worry—you are not being discriminated against. Like most club secretaries at present, I didn't have a completely up-to-date list of clubs, as no calendar was published this year, and, when I took over, time was already pressing. The 1964 Calendar, with addresses and fixtures, will be out on March 10th. If you want to be in it get that subscription paid, and make sure I have your race information, future plans, and so on, in good time.

See you at the A.G.M. in January.

JACK LEVISON.



Where opinions are expressed in this Magazine, they are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect official B.C.U. policy.

Comments, articles, photographs, and reports are welcomed for inclusion in *Canoeing in Britain*. Photographs will be returned after use if requested, provided a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Send to editorial address below by 10th of the month prior to publication.

Canoeing in Britain is published on the 10th of March, June, September, and December, by the British Canoe Union.

Advertisement Manager, C. Hare, 9 Tynebrooke Avenue, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

Editorial address: J. Levison, 11 York Road, Peterlee, Co. Durham

Annual Report of Council, 1963

<i>President:</i>	J. W. Dudderidge, O.B.E.	<i>Club</i>	R.C.C., C.C.C.	<i>Retires</i>	Next Year
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	R. W. Baker		K.T.C.		This Year
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	E. J. Owen		R.L.S.C.C.		Next Year
<i>Council:</i>	C. H. B. Barton		C.P.C.C.		Next Year
	J. A. Bright		O.C.F.		Next Year
	H. G. Bruce		R.M.C.C.C.		Next Year
	G. Marshall		D.C.C.		This Year
	E. E. McLellan		M.C.C., C.C.C.		Next Year
	C. M. Rothwell		M.C.C.		This Year
	J. Spuhler		M.C.C.		This Year
	R. F. Tyas		M.C.C., C.C.C.		This Year
<i>Co-opted:</i>	A. Emus		R.C.C.		
	J. Gould		LI.C.C.		
	H. Thelen		C.F.		

MEMBERSHIP

	<i>This Year</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Individuals	700	119
Clubs	164	157
S.C.A.s	10	10
Associates	29	30

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Your many honorary officials have been very busy this year. The amount of work has grown enormously and complaints have been heard that the service which one has come to expect from the B.C.U. has been lacking.

The B.C.U. has once again received a grant from the Ministry of Education for the maintenance of our National Coaching Scheme, and in July an additional grant was received for an extension of the Scheme and to meet some of the costs of the Union's administration.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We have continued to play an important part in the International Canoe Federation.

Our President attended the quadrennial Sportfest of the East German Sport Federation and was able to establish friendly relations with the canoeing organisation in that

country. Later he attended the World Championships in Slalom and Wild Water Racing in Austria, and the World Championships in Racing in Yugoslavia prior to attending an I.C.F. Board Meeting in that country.

Mr. Thelen, as Chairman of the I.C.F. Committee for Propaganda and Information and Editor of the I.C.F. Bulletin, has travelled widely in Eastern and Western Europe and has attended meetings of I.C.F. Committees. He also attended the World Championships in Yugoslavia and undertook the responsibility of organising the first International course for racing coaches, held in West Germany.

As a member of the I.C.F. Slalom Committee, Mr. Spuhler took a prominent part in the planning and execution of the World Slalom and Wild Water Racing Championships in Austria.

Mr. A. Emus has continued to serve on the I.C.F. Sailing Committee and attended the World Sailing Championships in Stockholm, where he attended a meeting of the I.C.F. Committee.

NATIONAL COACH

The National Coach's tours around the country have continued, and he has visited most regions twice in the course of the year. Demands on his services have been numerous.

The record of what has been achieved clearly has justified the appointment of a National Coach: it is not too soon to say that the tours have been successful and educationally invaluable in that they have made possible the development of sound canoeing standards throughout the country. It is further apparent that the integration of a national coaching scheme in its present stage of development would be impossible without the services of a National Coach. The Coaching Scheme is extremely well served by Mr. Cock whose energy and work deserve our sincere appreciation.

During the year two senior coaches, thirty-nine coaches,

and one hundred and two instructors have been added to the panel. Four hundred and eighty novice certificates, seven hundred and sixty-three proficiency certificates (Kayak), six (Canadian) and ten advanced awards have been issued.

CANOE LIFE GUARDS

During the year a study has been made of possible co-operation between the canoe life guards and other coast rescue services. In connection with this, a conference was convened at Atlantic College when all interested organisations were invited to send a representative. At this conference considerable progress was made over a wide field. Decisions were reached on proposals for Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency Tests for Sea Canoeing, and over the design of a canoeing life jacket which will satisfy the requirements of the British Standards Institution. By the time this report is published it is likely that these decisions will have been studied and ratified by the committees concerned.

SLALOM

The World Slalom Championships held at Spittal in Austria were the highlights of the year in the slalom world. In this event the Great Britain team took third place in the team event, being beaten only by the East German and Polish teams. The efforts of our men in conditions far rougher than ever experienced over here was impressive. Considering the youth of our team the future looks bright.

On the home front the numbers participating are still increasing and there are now almost five hundred in the ranking list. With this increase in entries, slalom organisation has had to become more efficient, and new communication systems and timing gear are in production.

PADDLING RACING

During the year under review the work of the Paddling Racing Committee has been mainly directed at broadening the basis of racing, by trying to attract a greater number of newcomers to the sport and providing better coaching and

training. In both respects it can be said that the year has been reasonably successful. The scope and range of the Youth Championships widened to include Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and the number of participants in both the Area Championships and the National Finals was more than doubled. It was also noticeable that a number of youngsters now competed in the international class kayaks events.

As part of the National Coaching Scheme six courses for racing paddlers and racing coaches were held during the year, and these were well supported. In the autumn a new series of courses for coaches and instructors was launched and it is hoped that at the end of the series the first certificates for recognised Racing Coaches and Instructors can be issued.

A register of racing paddlers and others engaged in racing has been established and has proved valuable in maintaining contact and disseminating information.

Though standards in racing have gone up and techniques improved, international standards have gone up even faster, and therefore our own improvement was outpaced in the otherwise creditable results of the team which represented Great Britain in the European and Extra-Ordinary World Championships held in Yugoslavia.

LONG DISTANCE RACING

The growth of Long Distance Racing as a popular sport has continued. The success of this growth can be attributed to the immense amount of work that the various organising clubs put into each race.

The Committee itself has strengthened its position by appointing two new officers, a National L.D. Coach and a Publicity Officer. These two appointments will be of great advantage to all concerned and it only remains for the clubs to make full use of the new facilities.

The races have been well supported, over four hundred and sixty paddlers having registered with the Race Records

Officer in order to participate in the Hasler Trophy event. This year we are pleased to find that the Royal Canoe Club has won this trophy for the first time, competing against sixty other clubs in fifteen National Ranking Races.

A strong team competed in the Sella Race in Spain and were well placed, the Senior Pair coming third out of a field of one hundred and sixty-six, the best position ever achieved by a British crew.

SAILING

A strong canoe sailing team represented Great Britain in the European Canoe Sailing Championships held in Stockholm. This team succeeded in taking the first three places in the Championship as well as capturing the Viking Trophy for the triangular match between Great Britain, Germany and Sweden.

HOME TOURING

For the first time since the establishment of the Union the Easter Meet had to be cancelled for lack of support. Though touring is as popular as ever there appeared to be no call for the Union-organised trips and there was therefore no Whitsuntide Meet.

Many riparian owners on the Usk have refused on account of bad behaviour of canoeists, to give permission for canoeing, but a group of owners on an important stretch has agreed to permit Club trips approved by the B.C.U. during the close fishing season, and occasional events at other times, provided the application is made through the B.C.U.

Representations were made by the Union to British Waterways about the abolition without warning from January 1963 of the half-rate permits for canoes without use of locks (Class E), but the reply was disappointing. Further representations were made with the support of the C.C.P.R. and the Standing Conference of National Youth Organisations for a restoration of the half-rate in 1964.

A protest was also made to the Institution of Water

Engineers about the mistaken basis on which the Institution's Committee on the Recreation Use of Waterworks had recommended against giving club facilities for canoeing on reservoirs in conditions similar to those that they recommended should be applied to yachting and rowing.

FOREIGN TOURING

In addition to the supporters who accompanied slalomists, racers and Sella River enthusiasts, large numbers of canoeists went abroad this summer in small parties. For the most part these went by car: the popularity of continental motoring has decreased the appeal of club tours with reductions in rail fares. We have heard of canoeists setting out to unusual parts of Europe, but no reports of their adventures are to hand.

SUPPLIES

So far as the "Shop" is concerned 1963 has been a bumper year. Roughly one thousand six hundred transactions have been dealt with, and all items have sold well. The increase in the individual membership has seen a corresponding increase in the sale of badges and pennants. The stock of both British and foreign maps and guides is constantly being added to, and we have been able to reduce the prices of a number of the foreign publications.

The "Guide to the Waterways of the British Isles" continues to sell well, and a new edition will be ready some time next year. Our newest publication, a facsimile edition of "1,000 miles in the Rob Roy Canoe," the original canoeing book, is now available, and is selling well.

FILMS

One new film "Canoeing down the Wye" has been added to the British Film Institute Library, and one loop "The High Telemark" added to the twenty-three loops being sold by ourselves. The British Film Institute report shows that

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"I'm not a very good canoeist, an unreliable secretary, just a little shy, and certainly not a dashing sort of chap at all. Having weighed this up in my mind I feel sure that your choice of person is 'way out'." So writes John Woolley in his reply to our invitation to become the subject of *Canoeing in Britain's* first Profile.

To a certain extent these remarks of John's are true, but from this description of what is, after all, an average canoeist, has come great strength to the arm of the B.C.U's youngest sport—long distance racing.

John, who is 33, started canoeing with Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club in 1956 when his interest was in Slalom. He competed in many ranking slaloms, and reached about halfway up the 2nd Division. No one knows what persuaded him to enter his first long distance race, but this was the turning point. His first win came in 1958 and would have turned most people off canoeing in general and L.D. in particular, but not John, who is well-known for his stubbornness. This race was the Birmingham C.C. event over 23 miles with 23 portages. It was March and the canal was frozen over for long stretches. Many competitors were forced to retire with cut canoes, while others made long portages dragging their canoes over the ice. At one point there was a flight of eight locks descending. Here John forged into the lead by running the whole length of the locks—about a mile—along the tow path towing his canoe on a trolley. He had survived the ice hazards and was still in the race, in spite of being sniped at by a gang of youths with air guns. In a state of exhaustion he reached the last portage to be urged on by the cheers of his supporters, winning in a time of 5 hours 53 minutes! Many a L.D. type of today would quake at such a task.

However, undeterred John continued to race L.D. in singles until recently when he changed to doubles. He has the occasional win, which never fails to raise cheers from his many friends. However he still retains an interest in the

PROFILE



John Woolley

marathon type of race, and has assisted as Chief Umpire at the Devizes—Westminster race, giving up his Easter weekends to this task. He has also represented Great Britain at the Sella River Race in Spain on three occasions, once gaining sixth place in this tough international race.

He was for two years Chairman of his club, then he resigned, but was later persuaded to stand again, was promptly re-elected, and is still Chairman. He took the post of L.D. Secretary in 1960 although before that his voice was not unknown at the L.D.R. meetings. From then, through the stormy class-change meetings John's was a calming influence. In these, and in other changes of policy, John has been a crusader, and not afraid to speak out on controversial matters. This young sport's success story, and success story it is, with 15 ranking races, and 1,500 competitors this year, is due in no small way to the unseen work of John. No enquiry is ignored, and he always endeavours to get to new races wherever they may be.

John's house is always open to the unexpected visitor, and he has been known to greet callers in the early hours of a winter Sunday morning with equanimity.

Space is short, and there is much more that could be written, but suffice it to say, John Woolley = L.D.R. —F.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1963

The 1963 National Championships for the short and medium distances were, for the second year, held at Boston, Lincs., and were generally described as the best held for many years. The 10,000 metres championships for K.1, K.2 and K.4 were organised, on behalf of the Paddling Racing Committee, by Birmingham Canoe Club, Worcester Canoe Club and Royal Canoe Club respectively.

Held at Boston—July 27th and 28th, 1963.

K.1 Junior 500 m.

1. G. Palmer	W.C.C.	2.10.7	1. A. Wilson	K.C.C.	2.00.3
2. A. Chapman	R.C.C.	2.13.0	2. E. Cronk	Rich.C.C.	2.07.8
3. J. Kidd	R.L.S.C.C.	2.16.7	3. R. O'Keefe	Rich.C.C.	2.08.2

K.1 Senior Ladies 500 m.

1. L. Wagg	Rich.C.C.	2.22.9	1. S. Jackson	R.C.C.	2.31.0
2. E. Sagan	Rich.C.C.	2.26.6	2. D. Rabjohns	Rich.C.C.	2.36.2
3. S. Jackson	R.C.C.	2.30.5	3. K. Emmerson	Rich.C.C.	2.41.9

N.C.K.1 500 m.

1. R. A. Wade	C.T.C.	2.28.9	1. S. A. Hollier	H.Y.C.	2.20.8
2. S. A. Hollier	H.Y.C.	2.31.6	2. M. J. Parker	L.C.C.	2.22.3
3. B. Brockie	K.C.C.	2.32.2	3. N. White	R.C.C.	2.38.6

K.1 Junior Men 1,000 m.

1. G. Palmer	W.C.C.	4.33.7	1. A. Wilson	K.C.C.	4.15.3
2. A. J. Chapman	R.C.C.	4.38.3	2. R. Lowery	R.C.C.	4.20.9
3. V. Binstead	Rich.C.C.	4.49.4	3. A. Edwards	W.C.C.	4.23.6

K.2 Junior Men 500 m.

1. G. Palmer/A. Edwards	W.C.C.	1.59.5	} Dead Heat
2. A. Kirkby/M. Boshier	R.C.C.	2.00.5	
2. R. J. Lawler/A. Salter	Rich.C.C.	2.00.5	

K.2 Senior Men 500 m.

1. A. Wilson/D. Shankland	K.C.C./L.I.C.C.
2. D. Maycock/J. Marshall	V.K.C.
3. R. M. O'Keefe/T. J. Shenton	R.C.C./Rich.C.C.

K.2 Junior 1,000 m.

1. V. Binstead/J. Marshall	Rich./V.K.C.	4.16.7
2. R. J. Lawler/A. Salter	Rich.C.C.	4.21.6
3. A. Kirkby/M. Boshier	R.C.C.	4.22.6

K.2 Senior 1,000 m.

1. R. Lowery/E. Cronk	R.C.C./Rich.	4.06.6
2. A. Edwards/G. Palmer	W.C.C.	4.09.2
3. R. M. O'Keefe/T. Shenton	R.C.C./Rich.	4.16.2

K.1 4 x 500 m. Relay

1. Midlands Region Team (Wilson/Shankland/Palmer/Edwards)	8.21.3
2. Southern Region B. Team (Lowery/Chapman/Marshall/Colyer)	8.26.7
3. Southern Region A. Team (Cronk/Maycock/Shenton/O'Keefe)	8.35.9

Held at Birmingham, June 30th, 1963.

K.1 10,000 m. Senior Men

1. A. Wilson	K.C.C.	49.18.4	1. G. Palmer	W.C.C.	50.48.6
2. R. Lowery	Royal C.C.	50.8.2	2. A. Chapman	R.C.C.	52.50.4
3. A. Edwards	W.C.C.	50.54.4	3. L. Bolam	R.L.S.C.C.	53.32.0

Held at Worcester, May 11th, 1963

K.2 Senior 10,000 m.

1. A. Wilson/D. Shankland	K.C.C./L.I.C.C.	44.3
2. R. Lowery/J. Dalton	Rich.C.C.	44.49
3. G. Palmer/A. Edwards	W.C.C.	44.15

K.2 Junior 10,000 m.

1. M. Manning/J. Marshall	W.C.C./V.K.C.	46.39
2. A. Kirkby/M. Boshier	R.C.C.	46.40
3. J. Brough/M. Bave	G.C.C.	47.5

Held at Royal Canoe Club, July 7th, 1963

K.4 Senior 10,000 m.

1. Richmond Canoe Club/Royal Canoe Club (O'Keefe/Shenton/Still/Young)	
2. Royal Canoe Club/Richmond Canoe Club (Lowery/Cronk/Colyer/Maycock)	

K.4 Junior 10,000 m.

1. Richmond Canoe Club (Binstead/Marshall/Salter/Lawler)	43.0.3
2. Royal Canoe Club (Kirkby/Boshier/Reardon/Watkins)	
3. Canoe Touring Club/Royal Canoe Club (Stephens/White/White/Springall)	

NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Finals held on the Serpentine, August 10th, 1963

All races over 500 metres

Class "B" (Boys 14-16)

1. I. Grant	Midlands	2.38.9	1. E. F. Hansen	N. East	2.42.0
2. M. Foulger	East	2.43.6	2. M. Mean	East	2.43.8
3. D. E. Smith	West	2.51.6	3. B. Brockie	Scotland	2.44.0

Class "C" (Girls 16-18)

1. H. L. V. Jones	Wales	3.07.0
2. S. Buckett	South	3.13.3
3. E. J. Day	London & S.E.	3.23.0

Relay (Boys—two from class "A" and "B")

1. Midlands (Lincoln Canoe Club)	10.34.6
2. East (Hatfield Youth Centre)	10.38.0
3. Scotland (Kyle Canoe Club)	11.6.4

TANFIELD SKI LOM, OCT. 13th

Division III Modified Average Score 355.6

Best Score Only		Pen.	Tim.	Tot.	%
1. Chris. Webb	Manchester	10	241	251	70.6
2. David Bennett	Manchester	40	231	271	76.2
3. Philip Brownhill	Manchester	40	234	274	77.0

Ladies Division Modified Average Score 525.3

1. Jean Battersby	Manchester	100	297	397	75.6
2. Lesley Calverley	Manchester	180	269	449	85.5
3. Wendy Bayes	Lakeland	170	339	509	96.9

Division IV Modified Average Score 413.8

1. John D. Roberts	Venturer	30	213	243	58.7
2. John MacLeod	Manchester	20	240	260	62.8
3. Mike Adams	Carlisle	40	224	264	63.6

Team Event

	Total
1. Manchester "B"	458
2. Manchester "A"	477
3. Carlisle	479

RIVER URE WILD WATER RACE, OCT. 12th

Masham Bridge to Quarry House, West Tanfield		Mins.	Secs.
1. Martin Rohleder	Manchester & Gt. Britain	52	50
2. Ken Langford	Manchester	53	45
3. Jim Doxey	Midland	53	50

LEVEN WILD WATER TEST 1963

	Club	Date	Corrected Time		Award
			Mins.	Secs.	
D. Mitchell	Chester	March	6.45		Gold
M. Rohleder	Manchester	Oct.	6.51		Silver (1st Class)
K. Langford	Manchester	Oct.	6.59		" "
M. Rohleder	Manchester	March	7.14		" "
I. Pendleton	Forth	Oct.	7.14		" "
R. Witter	Chester	Oct.	7.15		" "
R. Witter	Chester	March	7.17		" "
K. White	Manchester	Oct.	7.17		" "
B. Cook	Carlisle	Oct.	7.17		" "
F. Nelson	Lakeland	Oct.	7.21		" "
W. Holmes	Manchester	Oct.	7.23		" "
K. Langford	Manchester	March	7.26		" "
C. Sutton	Cam. Univ.	Oct.	7.27		" "
K. Langford	Manchester	May	7.28		" "
D. Holmes	Manchester	March	7.30		" "

15 Silver Dippers (2nd Class) were awarded, 9 bronze (1st Class) and 5 bronze (2nd Class).

DATA

Mar. 31st	Water level 9 ft. 6 ins. Time allowance 1 min. 20 secs.
May 26th	Water level 9 ft. 0½ ins. Time allowance 1 min. 47½ secs.
Oct. 27th	Water level 9 ft. 2 ins. Time allowance 1 min. 40 secs.

Nine dates appeared in the 1963 Calendar for the Leven Wild Water Test but three of these fixtures were cancelled on account of low water conditions and a further three at the request of the Leven Anglers Association. The three remaining fixtures, however, attracted a greater than average number of entries and it was the first year in which every entrant secured an award. Moreover, the times of the first three broke all previous records by beating the seven minute barrier.

What proportion of these improved times is due to the competitor and what to the boat can only be surmised, but in a World Championship year the competitors are expected to be in a more advanced state of training than in the intervening years. On the other hand, the increasing popularity and use of glassfibre canoes is bound to be reflected in the results as compared with two years ago when most of the entrants used folding canoes. A study of the results of certain individual competitors over the past three years might provide sufficient evidence to venture an intelligent guess.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record that our very good friend, the Rev. R. W. Pedder died during the present year after a long illness. He was the owner of the right bank of the Leven and was also Secretary of the Leven Anglers Association. He was always most sympathetic and understanding with regard to our sport and he did all he could to facilitate our use of the river on the dates we selected. We in turn have always done our best to reciprocate and to show the anglers by our behaviour that we have every respect for their sport and have done nothing to impair the good relations established between us. It is believed that Mr. Pedder's family will retain ownership of the land and the new Secretary is well disposed towards us. He

became a member of Lakeland Canoe Club for a short time a few years ago but did not ascend to the ranks of the Dipper. He is a much younger man than the previous secretary and for that reason may not be able to carry the older members of the Angling Association with him.

We expect to be offered similar facilities during 1964 except perhaps during the months of August and September and we have no reason to think that the change of regime will otherwise be detrimental to our interests.



(Photo: Courtesy of Newcastle Journal)

Martin Rohleder

We regret to report the death of Martin Rohleder who never recovered consciousness after a motor cycle accident on Friday, November 1st, whilst travelling to attend the Usk White-Water Regatta Week-end and who died in hospital on the Sunday.

Martin took up serious canoeing at an unusually early age having joined the Manchester Canoe Club in 1955 at the age of 11. He would have been 20 two days after his death. He soon exhibited exceptional keenness and talent and in 1961 was selected to represent Great Britain in the World Slalom at Dresden. This year he was in the successful British team which gained third place in the World Slalom at Spittal.

His loss, only three years after that of Paul Farrant, is a severe blow to British slalom and all members will join us in our expressions of sympathy to his parents.

PADDLE RACING NEWS

Register of Racing Paddlers

Since the beginning of the year the Paddling Racing Committee has been trying to establish a register of racing paddlers and others interested in racing in order to maintain contact in particular with the racing canoeist in outlying areas. Any interested members who are not yet on this register should notify the Paddling Racing Committee as soon as possible.

Racing Newsletter

This specialist newsletter has proved of great value during the past season—in particular there has been a great demand for the Technical Supplements. So far these supplements have dealt with the following subjects :

“The Racing Stroke,” “Interval Training” “Progression and Rhythm in Training,” “Training Schedules,” “Weight Lifting.” Extra copies of these supplements can be obtained from the Paddling Racing Committee, but requests must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (foolscap—4d.).

Courses for Racing Coaches and Instructors

The first of three scheduled courses for prospective Racing Coaches and Instructors, held October 26th-27th at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, Middx., was overbooked. The course dealt with weight lifting and winter training. The next course will be held February 29th-March 1st, 1964, in Leamington Spa and will deal mainly with racing technique and summer training. It has been suggested that the first course should be repeated for those who could not be accommodated in the first course, but to ascertain the actual demand it is requested that interested parties notify the Paddling Racing Committee. Should this course materialise it will be necessary to duplicate the second course since the courses are of a series. The final course at which participants

of all three courses are expected to undergo an examination, will be held during the weekend March 14th-15th at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, Middx. The fee for these courses will be approximately 25/- each. Accommodation and meals will be provided.

With the courses the Committee does not necessarily aim at the racing paddler or at the ex-racing paddler, but at all who might be interested to administer and supervise instruction in basic racing technique on club, local or regional level.

Racing kayaks for instructional purposes

It is hoped that as from next year the Paddling Racing Committee will have at its disposal a small fleet of glass fibre racing kayaks—with trailer—to be used for courses. The Committee is most anxious that these boats will be used as widely and often as possible, and if a club or several clubs in a region wish to organise such courses they should notify the committee well in advance of the proposed date so that the necessary arrangements can be made for an instructor or coach and the transport of the boats.

Regional Racing Committees

The Paddling Racing Committee is a national committee. In order to stimulate racing and coaching activities in the regions, clubs or associations of clubs are asked to elect a regional representative or to form a Regional Co-ordinating Committee which will act as a sub-committee of the national committee. Two such committees have been formed: one for the Thames Valley and the South of England and another for the Midlands area. The address of the former is R. Parker, 6 Blandford Avenue, Ealing, London W.5, and for the Midlands, A. R. Sowman, 4 Landor Road, The Cape, Warwick. Clubs in other areas are invited to set up similar committees or at least appoint a regional representative.

Status Regattas, 1964

The Paddling Racing Committee has become seriously concerned over the way in which some of our regattas have

been run in recent years. For this reason, no regatta will be given ranking status in 1964 unless the committee is assured that it will meet the minimum requirements regarding administration and course. One of the conditions will be that at least one registered official has been appointed by the organisers to officiate in each of the following functions: starters, umpire, finishing judges, timekeepers. Regatta organisers are requested to apply to the Paddling Racing Committee if they want ranking status to be given to their proposed regatta.

Course for Regatta Officials

In connection with the above announcement the Paddling Racing Committee will organise a course for regatta officials on Saturday, March 14th, 1964, from 10.30 a.m. onwards at St. Mary's College, Twickenham, Middx. The course will last all day, and lunch will be provided. The course fee will be approximately 5/-. Only persons who have attended the course and passed an examination will be recognised as registered regatta officials. Early applications from clubs and individuals are invited.

Easter Training Courses

The traditional Easter Training Course of the Paddling Racing Committee will be split next year. Owing to the different holiday arrangements in the Midlands over Easter there will be one course in the South and one in the Midlands. The course in the South will start on Good Friday (March 27th) and the one in the Midlands on Saturday (March 28th). Both courses are mainly for the newcomers to racing. Details, including the venue for both courses, will be announced later.

The National Chine Kayak

It has been suggested to the Paddling Racing Committee that it should reconsider the specifications for the N.C.K. class as laid down in the B.C.U. Racing Rules. It had been stated that, in view of modern building methods, these boats



LONG DISTANCE RACING NOTES—

John Woolley

I have listed the classes as they now stand. The Committee recommend that there be no change of the measurement restrictions until November 1966.

- Class 1 Kayaks within K.1 specifications. This class shall be known as an open class in which Seniors, Juniors, and Ladies may race on an equal basis. Points to be scored in their respective classifications in accordance with Part 'B' para. 9.
- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--|---|
| Class 2a | Seniors | } N.C.K. 1's | |
| 2b | Juniors | | |
| Class 3a | Seniors | } Hard skinned single kayaks with a max. L.O.A. of 15 ft. and a min. beam of 23 in. | |
| 3b | Juniors | | |
| 3c | Ladies | | |
| Class 4a | Seniors | } Folding and soft skinned kayaks with a max. L.O.A. of 15 ft. and a min. beam of 23 in. | |
| 4b | Juniors | | |
| 4c | Ladies | | |
| Class 5 | Seniors | } Kayaks within the K.2 specification. | |
| Class 6a | Seniors | | } Folding and soft skinned double kayaks with a max. L.O.A. of 17 ft. 6 in. and a min. beam of 27 in. |
| 6b | Juniors | | |
| 6c | Ladies | | |
| Class 7a | Seniors | } Hard skinned double kayaks with a max. L.O.A. of 17 ft. and a min. beam of 27 in. | |
| 7b | Juniors | | |
| 7c | Ladies | | |

Three new rules to note are :

Doubles crews comprising members of two different clubs may not score points towards the Hasler Trophy.

In races which are open to lady competitors and where less than three entries are received the lady competitors may be permitted to race with the juniors of the same class on equal terms. Points may be scored as per Part 'B' para 9 of the rules.

Ladies in single classes may be assisted by one helper at portages.

The L.D. "Rules and Recommendations" is in the printing stage. The many B.C.U. members who have written in will be supplied with a copy as soon as they are ready.

Green and Peart (*Viking and Exeter*), Class 5 winners in the Lee and Stort L.D. Race, with their nose in front

(Photo: M. Boesch)

Possibly they will excuse me not replying to their letters, but there was little point in arguing to say that the new Rules would be on the way soon.

It would be a great help if any reader wishing to participate in any L.D. race in 1964 will please send his name (full initials) and address and the name of his club (if he is a club member) to the Race Records Officer: Mr. Nick Barber, 87 Elers Road, Ealing, London W.13.

1963 L.D. CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Senior Singles (Individual Challenge Trophy)

		Wins	Score
1. S. Smith	Worcester C.C.	8	20
2. R. Wade	C.T.C.	7	20
3. S. Hollier	Hatfield Y.C.	6	20

Senior Doubles (Pairs Challenge Shield)

1. L. Oliver/M. Parker	Lincoln C.C.	9	20
2. R. Still/A. Young	Royal C.C.	6	20
3. J. Campbell/P. Pye	North Sea Camp C.C.	4	20

Junior Singles (Sella Cup)

1. I. Grant	Lincoln C.C.	7	20
2. M. Mean	Hatfield Y.C.	4	20
3. R. Watson	C.T.C.	3	18

Junior Doubles (Bruce Challenge Cup)

1. M. Manning/M. Thomson	Worcester C.C.	4	20
2. Jupp/Wickings	R.A.S.C. J.L.R.	2	16
3. R. Green/R. Grundy	Hewell Grange C.C.	1	14

HASLER TROPHY RESULTS

	Points		Points
1. Royal C.C.	209	13. Chester C.C.	27
2. Worcester C.C.	121	14. Gailey C.C.	24
3. Lincoln C.C.	114	15. Sunderland C.C.	23
4. C.T.C.	111	16. Hewell Grange C.C.	18
5. Royal Leamington Spa C.C.	86	17. Eastbourne C.C.	15
6. Hatfield Y.C.	83	18. Harrogate Army App. Sch.	14
7. Hartlepoons K.C.	76	19. Chelmsford C.C.	13
8. North Sea Camp C.C.	60	Birmingham K.R.C.	
9. A.A. J.L.R.	56		
10. J.L.R. R.A.S.C.	43		
Viking K.C.			
12. Richmond C.C.	31		

461 paddlers from 60 Clubs competed in the 15 ranking L.D. races and scored a total of 1,445 points.

JAJCE 1963 Alistair Wilson

In August of this year 450 canoeists from 25 nations met in competition at the 8th World Championships in Jajce, Yugoslavia. The majority of the British team made the 1,200 mile journey by car or minibus. The journey itself, although very picturesque in places, was rather tiring. Fortunately it had been arranged that we would have about five days to recover before the regatta commenced.

Pliva lake where the canoeing was held, is perfect for racing. It is about two miles long and is surrounded by high tree-clad hills. The water is very deep and throughout the whole regatta, only an occasional zephyr breeze ruffled its surface. There was certainly no excuse for slow times.

The course itself was beautifully laid out with starting rafts and lines of red and white buoys. When sitting at the 1,000 metre start it seemed an incredibly long way to the finish where the buoys in your lane seemed to merge in a point. The stand and finishing tower were cut out of the steep hillside and both commanded a splendid view of the whole lake. The photo-finish equipment installed in the tower was in constant use since most of the racing was extremely close. For example, in the 1,000 metre singles final the final was so close that it was several minutes before anyone knew the final result. In fact, the difference was 0.02 of a second; about 3 inches.

The teams stayed in two hostels about three miles from the lake. The beds, although hard, were quite comfortable, but the food was rather greasy and quite insufficient to fill hungry canoeists. I could not get used to meat, potatoes and vegetables in place of my customary porridge, first thing in the morning. Every evening we invaded the cafes in Jajce to refuel with gateaux and chocolate.

The racing itself was first class and times were very fast. I think we acquitted ourselves well as a team considering our inexperience, but we all have a tremendous amount of hard training to put in before we can hope to compete successfully in World-class paddling. In my short experience of International racing it has been brought sharply home to me that to have a chance to reach the top echelon, years of training must be carried out; remember one is dealing with the Herb. Elliotts, etc., of the canoeing world. Reaching the top is a slow process and the body must be tuned over the years to really demand hard work. I think the key lies in winter training; paddling endurance and speed just cannot be built on a shaky foundation of fitness.

A lot of people argue: "what chance do we stand against the other big canoeing nations—they are government assisted and therefore have no financial worries regarding purchase of boats and expenses to regattas, etc." This is a big factor since a direct result of this is a tremendous wealth of racing experience. In one year most of them attend probably as many top-class regattas as we do in ten. Also many countries have annual training camps where athletes receive top-class instruction and do nothing but train, eat and sleep for anything up to a period of six months before a big event. In fact, we spoke to a Russian officially in the army, who had been in a training camp for two years. This concentrated effort must undoubtedly produce results. However, I for one would not relish the thought of being treated like some factory product.

I am convinced that we have top-class material in Britain and with this potential all that is needed is the right attitude of mind, perseverance in training and a lot of self-sacrifice. We in Britain are not offered the state assistance made available in some other countries, but perhaps from lack of it a spirit is bred which could accept the challenge and make the achievement of top honours doubly rewarding.

EUROPEAN AND EXTRA-ORDINARY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paddle Racing. Jajce (Jugoslavia), August 23rd-25th, 1963

K.1 500 metres Women

M. Tucker came eighth and last in her heat in time 2 min. 19.41 secs. which was won by M. Shubina of U.S.S.R. in a time of 2.08.78. This was the fastest heat of all. M. Shubina won the final in 2.15.63.

K.1 500 metres Men

A. Wilson came third in his heat in 2.03.30, and fourth in the fastest semi-final, in 1.56.99. Winner A. Vernescu of Rumania in 1.53.69 who also won final in 1.51.88. The times of the nine competitors in the final ranged from 1.51.88 to 1.57.97, which gives indication of how much times have improved. Though 500 metres is not Wilson's strongest distance he paddled extremely well.

K.1 1,000 metres Men

A. Wilson first in his heat in 4.23.12, and fifth in his semi-final. We thought Wilson had a good heat with no strong opposition, but if he had been in previous semi-final with the winner of the final (Erik Hansen of Denmark) he would, with his time, have made the final. Hansen's time in the final 3.56.30. Wilson made good impression in both events—as also in Relay.

K.1 10,000 metres

R. Lowery was in very good form and paddled very well. He was nicely placed in one of the first bunches when, after the 3,000 metre mark he was hindered by another boat and capsized.

Briefly . . .

Harold Barton, 40 Esmond Gardens, London W.4, has written to let me know that he has taken over the job of Enquiries Secretary for the B.C.U. (from Mr. Marshall).

Percy Blandford tells us that his moulded veneer canoe, P.B.K. 59 will shortly be marketed both as a complete canoe and as a hull for finishing. In the meantime he intends producing several canoes and hulls from the original mould. Some are for local friends, but if anyone would like one they should write to him about it. He is not going into commercial production in competition with the trade, but there should be a few hulls or complete canoes available.

We have received a copy of *Canoe Venture, 1963*. Published by the Oxford University Canoe and Kayak Club, it is the best 2/6 worth we have seen in years. Designed to take the parochially minded away from his mud flat, it gives a very interesting picture of canoeing in other parts of the world. I look forward to the 1964 edition.

The Ladies Slalom Championship has again been won by Heather Goodman who now finds that cup polishing is the most time-consuming domestic chore.

DATES AND EVENTS

1963 DEC. 15th Dee Rapid River Race (Manchester C.C.). C. M. Rothwell, 21 Windsor Road, Clayton Bridge, Manchester 10.

1964 JAN. Over 14's Canoe Building Evening Class (Hope Valley Canoe & Sailing Club), The F.E. Tutor, Hope Valley College, Hope, Sheffield.
11th-12th Training Weekend (Chalfont Park C.C.) G. Bolt, 36 Shepcote Road, Harrow.
19th. Dee Rapid River Race (M.C.C.).

FEB. 10th. Deadline for articles, reports and photographs, etc., for the March issue of *Canoeing in Britain*.
16th. Dee Rapid River Race (M.C.C.).
23rd. Leven Wild Water Test (Lakeland C.C.) E. Totty, Hoff Bank, Appleby, Westmorland.

MAR. 14th. Canoe Touring Club Annual Dance. (Mrs. B. Fish, 47 Onslow Road, Richmond, Surrey).
22nd. Leven Wild Water Test (L.C.C.).
1st and 2nd Division Slalom, Grandtully. (Date not advised).
30th-April 11th. Canoe Camping in S.W. France (Clwb Canw Gwersyll Glanllyn). Open to all Welsh-speaking youth aged 15-25. All-in cost £25. E. Huws, Welsh League of Youth, Suyddfa'r Urdd, Aberystwyth.

APRIL 12th. Leamington Spa L.D. Race.
26th. Thames L.D. Race (Canoe Touring Club).

MAY 17th. Ranking L.D. Race (Lincoln C.C.). Date provisional.
18th. Welsh Harp Regatta.
31st. Worcester L.D. Race.

JUNE 6th-7th (or 13th-14th). Midland Championships (possibly in Hereford).
14th. Chelmsford L.D. Race.
21st. Bradford-on-Avon L.D. Race.
21st-22nd. Regional Youth Championships.
27th-28th. Birmingham C.C. Regatta.

JULY 4th-5th. Richmond C.C. Regatta.
11th. Royal C.C. Regatta.
19th. Hartlepoons L.D.
25th. Hampton Court and Dittons Regatta.
26th. Southampton Water L.D. Race (Southampton C.C.).
White Water Expedition (King Edward's G.S. Camp Hill School C.C.). Date not advised.

AUG. Cruising in Ireland (Windsor & Dist. C.C.). Date not advised.
1st-2nd. International Regatta in Duisburg.
7th-8th. Serpentine Regatta (including National Youth Championships).
9th. Paddling Challenge Cup Race (Royal C.C.).
15th-16th. National Championships (possibly at Pengbourne).
15th-16th. Sunbury Regatta.
16th. Cleethorpes L.D. Race.
22nd. Teddington Reach Regatta.

SEPT. 13th. Exeter L.D. Race.
26th-27th Gt. Britain v Denmark Racing Meet in Copenhagen (in conjunction with "British Week" in Denmark).

OCT. 4th. Lee & Stort L.D. Race.
20th-22nd. Olympic Canoeing Regatta in Tokyo.

DATES TO BE ARRANGED LATER :

Chester L.D. Race
Devises to Westminster Race

Royal C.C. Thames L.D. Race
London River Race

Tour of the National Coach, 1964

The programme, as it has been made up so far, is below:

North Midlands	January	10th—January	22nd
B.C.U., A.G.M.	January	25th	
East Midlands	January	29th—February	18th
West Midlands	March	4th—March	24th
N.W.P.E. Assoc.			
Annual Easter School at Blackpool	March	28th—April	4th
North-West	April	14th—April	28th
North-East	April	30th—May	12th
Northern Ireland	May	28th—June	3rd
Scotland	June	5th—June	10th

London, South-East and South Regions	June	18th—July	3rd
Coaches' Course	July	4th—July	11th
S. Western Region Coaches' Course,	July	20th—July	29th
Plas y Brenin	August	8th—August	15th
"Polzeath"	September	12th—September	20th
South Wales	September	24th—October	7th
Yorkshire	October	9th—October	20th

Applications for the services of the National Coach must be sent to the nearest C.C.P.R. office. For Scotland, applications should be sent direct to Oliver Cock, "Rivertrees," Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. Finally, applications for the two courses at the National Centres must be made to the Headquarters of the C.C.P.R. at 6 Bedford Square, London W.C.1.

CLUB NEWS



LEEDS CANOE CLUB states "Following the radical rejuvenation of the committee which took place at the end of 1962, Leeds Canoe Club has regained its former strength really fast, and is happy to report that 1963 has been its most successful season to date. The only thriving adult canoeing group in Yorkshire, it is based within easy reach of the rapid rivers of the Pennines with their great training potential for Wild Water competition. Members have come in first in slalom events at Carlisle and Grandtully, won three Silver Dippers and one Bronze on the Leven, have been abroad, have been surfing on the Yorkshire Coast and in Pembrokeshire, or have been busy building new canoes. The club has organised several important events, including a Ranking Slalom at West Tanfield. Rolling at Kirkstall Road Baths every Friday at eight plus rapid river runs most weekends."

Leeds have a very nice line in maps which they issue on the back of race entry forms, an example which other clubs could well follow.

"We canoe every weekend whatever the weather—mostly on the Wye between Glasbury and Beachley." Not every secretary can make such a boast about his club, the brave lads in question are the Army Apprentices of BEACHLEY CANOE CLUB. Last summer this enterprising group went canoe-camping in France, at Dordogne. They report Grade I and Grade II Sections.

They are building slalom canoes this winter, and are planning camping cruises on the Usk for January. Any volunteers for ice-breaking?



The main item of news from CHESTER CANOE CLUB secretary Dave Maloney is that member Dave Mitchell (also a member of Manchester C.C.) is the 1963 National Slalom Champion, for the second year in succession. Incidentally, Dave Mitchell was highest placed of the British team in the World Slalom, and has also proved to be invincible in rapid river racing.

"Our object is not only to provide our members with the joys of canoeing in the summer, but to provide facilities to keep them together and off the streets during the winter." To this end, 137 (AYR) SQUADRON A.T.C. CANOE CLUB offers its members table-tennis, aeromodelling, chess, monopoly and television in winter, as well as facilities for canoe building. As a club, they are not interested in racing, but the gift of a 17 foot sailing craft with trailer is going to enable them to organise expeditions further afield next year.

In September, CHELMSFORD BOATING CLUB CANOE SECTION took part in a cruise on the river Stour organised by the Inland Waterways Association, to exercise the right of navigation. The club is to hold a series of fund-raising activities throughout the winter, the money to go towards permanent headquarters. Discussions on this subject are being held with the Borough Council. They bought a canoe trailer at the beginning of the season; this has meant that the club could take part in more external events than ever before.

Those who braved the rain on October 4th saw KING EDWARD'S CAMP HILL SCHOOL C.C. take first place in the under-15 Singles and Doubles events over a 2 mile course in an Inter-school L.D. Race on the Grand Union Canal. They also took first place in the over-15 Doubles and Singles, this time over a distance of 4.1 miles. Six schools from Birmingham and District sent representatives to this race, which gave Camp Hill School its first taste of success in L.D. racing. We will, I hope, be hearing more of these boys in the future.

LLANDUDNO YOUTH CENTRE CANOEING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB. Humphrey Smith reports: "Our canoeing season finished at the end of September with a total of 450 individual outings since Easter. We had 26 boats in use, of which five have now been sold to the CCPR centre—Plas y Brenin in Snowdonia, making a total of ten which we have passed over to the Centre in the past two years. These are being replaced by a more ambitious type of boat, and for the winter we have just started the building of eight new ones. Our main activities are now in the field of mountaineering and many of our members spend the weekends camping in Snowdonia, no matter what the weather. Our Club Room at the Centre is the focal point of our activities, and is fully occupied for five nights each week. Later this month we have our annual Parents' Night when the year's work is shown by

slides and a small exhibition. At Christmas comes our annual dinner. All our building of canoes must this year, be completed by the end of February, as the Education Authority is then starting a major re-construction of the Centre as a whole and while this is in progress our space will be much curtailed."

Mr. Smith also states; "The club is however fairly unique in that it is an all male affair and the fact that it is combined with mountaineering." Any comment, other clubs?

Thirteen people, 11 canoes and one dog represented the CANOE TOURING CLUB at the club holiday at Dawlish Warren, South Devon. Some good surf. Member Bob Wade won the Rhodes-White trophy in his first season as a Senior, and a scratch crew won the C8 race at the Serpentine Regatta.



The 15th ABERDEEN BOY SCOUTS went down the River Spey from Craigellachie to Fochabers Bridge at the beginning of November. Water conditions were perfect for speed and excitement. A stopper wave below the island near Rothes flung the canoes sideways, and the whole trip was excellent

training in watermanship for the six boys on the trip.

It has become a troop tradition that each second year the troop summer camp is a trip down the Wye. In 1962, twenty-eight boys took part—in 1964 it looks like there will be forty.

One of the first White Water Regattas to be run in this country was held on the River Usk from Talybont-on-Usk to Nantifyn last month. Over 40 competitors turned up for this event, organised by the CHALFONT PARK C.C. on November 2nd and 3rd. It was rainy on the Saturday, and low water conditions for the team events, but on Sunday flood water and excellent conditions prevailed.

There was not much water at Hambleden on October 26th-27th, and only one sluice was open. Five gates were erected and competitors were timed round the short course. This was the first of their monthly winter training weekends, open to all slalom clubs in the Thames Valley. Not many slalomists turned up, but all interested will be cordially welcomed at future training events.

UPPER WORTLEY CANOE CLUB. Peter Binns, Club Organiser and Secretary writes: "The past season has once again been a successful one. The club has had a large influx of new members from Leeds and the surrounding areas.

Despite intensive training under the expert guidance of a A.A.A. Senior Coach we didn't do too well in the Yorkshire Regional Youth Championships. We won all our heats, but were let down in the finals when John White, last year's Yorkshire Champion, capsized in the under-16's final while leading the field. We came 2nd in the boys' 16-18 yrs. section.

Early in September the club entertained the newly formed Halifax Youth Association at the boathouse for several days' camping, and a large number of boys from the Halifax district were introduced to canoeing.

A trip is planned to visit both the National Boat Show and the Camping and Outdoor Exhibition early in the New Year."



October 13th was an unlucky date for WINDSOR & DISTRICT C.C. to choose for their Tideway Trip from Woolwich to Gravesend in October. A combination of a strong beam wind and a neap tide made the water quite choppy, and their night's sleep at the boathouse was interrupted by a police patrol complete with dog, searchlights and truncheons!

Later that month they ran a car treasure hunt in the Chilterns, which was won by a team consisting of the treasurer and secretary, to the consternation of the younger hot rods in the club. They are holding a Christmas Dance on January 11th, which you must admit is original.

In August, OXFORD UNIVERSITY C.C. spent ten days in search of white water on the Spey, Avon and Tay, in what they describe as "usual Scottish weather" with "some sunshine." The water level was slightly higher than average for August, and they had an excellent run



A Canadian Course in the North East

(Photo: G. Field)

on the Avon (a tributary of the Spey flowing in the Cairngorms. (Rocky Grade III).

Some white water activity on the Wye at Builth Wells at the beginning of October was distinguished only by the large number of capsizes. "The Rocks" became congested on the Sunday, at least two other canoeing parties being present.

KYLE CANOE CLUB reports that its membership includes the Scottish Men's Singles Champion Alistair Wilson, and also the Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Mixed Pairs and Junior Singles Champions of Scotland. B. Brockie is the Scottish Canoeist of the Year. But all is not bright north of the border, because their clubhouse has been demolished by the Town Council, and as yet they have not obtained new headquarters.



The loft at the "Oddfellows Arms" is the LINCOLN C.C. clubhouse. Not content with this, they have their boathouse in a converted stable at the "Horse and Groom." This excellent arrangement probably has nothing to do with the fact that Lincoln C.C. counts among its members the Senior Doubles and Junior Singles

L.D. Champions for 1963; even so, the club will be the envy of many a thirsty paddler.

A note from the NORTH SEA CAMP C.C. gives the information that 86 members were introduced to canoeing in the 1963 season. They hold training courses each week on the local river.

If you happened to pass Penkrudge Camp site on the first weekend in November, you may have seen twelve of the members of the STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE OF COMMERCE C.C. who were camping under a cloudy but fortunately dry sky. The purpose of the camp was to introduce new student members to canoeing, and most of the time was spent in teaching basic techniques. The club has a wide assortment of canoes, and new members are invited to try them before deciding to buy or make one.

The secretary, Alan Toplis, is also secretary of the Walsall Youth C.C., and although this double job must take up a tremendous amount of his spare time, he nevertheless managed to send in reports on both clubs. Thank you, Alan—other secretaries please copy.

Concerning WALSALL YOUTH C.C., he writes, "A site has been found for a new boat house and we hope to start building next year. The main aim of the club is to introduce canoeing to members of youth organisations in the area. Training courses are run at frequent intervals and qualified instructors are always available to give help to members." The present membership is 70.

BENTALL APPRENTICES CANOE CLUB reports that after finishing an exhausting 10-mile trip down the River Deben (Suffolk) at

low water, with obstacles and portages every half mile, they discovered that the river was a commando training course!

They seem to enjoy doing things the hard way. Not so long ago a boat in the club room caught fire (how?) and a valiant attempt was made to put it out by throwing on a bucket of petrol...

FORTESCUE HOUSE C.C., Twickenham, was formed about two years ago, its aim to provide an interesting and worthwhile activity in this residential school for boys from broken homes. It certainly seems to be a most successful club. The members have built twenty canoes and a sailing dinghy, and two major tours of one week's duration have been completed on the rivers Wye and Severn.

A number of boys have won the Bronze Medallion Life Saving Award, and have passed the B.C.U. Proficiency Test. They are then recognised as a club lifeguard, and have actually been on duty at local regattas. Six members have been successful in winning the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award, and four of them are now attempting the Silver. They plan to take an expedition down the Medway next spring. Four of the lifeguards took part in the Flood Relief Exercise organised by Oliver Cock.



John Allen, secretary of SOAR VALLEY C.C. sent his club's report, commenting, "We have had a difficult year with many problems." Internal differences, resignations, lack of co-operation and financial problems have taken their toll, and their workshop was burnt down by a firebug. A man who was caught is to be prosecuted.

John continues, "The club has presented two opposing faces to the world, like the two faces of drama, comedy and tragedy. There have been several very enjoyable social events, the bonfire and fireworks, the New Year Party, a barbecue, a beatnik social, and a country and western camp fire. The club activities have been limited by the lack of transport... but we have managed to organise transport for several visits to Trent Lock, and two trips to the Derwent. We held a most successful regatta which was not taken too seriously by the competitors, and also a sports day which was taken even less seriously, but was most enjoyable. This winter, we have been lucky to obtain the baths for training in water safety." Already seven members have gained A.S.A. Bronze Survival badges.

Three people with a P.B.K. 20 fully rigged to plan tried canoe sailing at Lancham Ferry in October. The three, all members of the HOPE VALLEY COLLEGE C.C. found that a Force Four beam wind gave good sailing both with and against the combined current and tide of the Trent. River tankers, they say, need watching.

Nine other members of the club are preparing a tape recording to synchronise with a colour slide show of last July's Wye Valley 23-mile canoe-camping trip.



It took a Rover to get COLNE CANOE CLUB'S heavy trailer up to Scotland this year for their river touring. Slalomists will be relieved to hear that they are now building a new, light trailer which can be towed by a car. The treasurer and secretary, I understand, have just got engaged, proving once more that romance and canoeing go together.



A large party from the ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA C.C. attended the B.C.U. Annual General Meeting last January and the Club strongly opposed the changes to B.C.U. membership put forward by the Council. All B.C.U. fees will be paid from club funds out of subscription income, and this has been achieved without raising Club subscriptions. Membership of the B.C.U. is not a condition of Club membership, but the Club will continue to pay the fees in respect of members, as has been done since first affiliating.

There has been a very encouraging rise in membership, (now over 90 members) this has been due largely to good relations with the local newspapers, which have given very good coverage to Club events.

During the early part of the year, members were busily engaged moving the Club to new premises at Adelaide Road. Abdul Sowman reports: "We now have storage space for 100 canoes, a clubhouse large enough to accommodate the members with catering facilities, changing rooms, toilets and an office for the secretary. Water and electric light have been laid on." The premises were made available by the Town Council, the rent is £25 a year, and rates £31. 19s. 3d.

Amongst its many activities this year, the Club has organised a ranking L.D. race which attracted a record number of competitors, and staged the Midlands Region Youth Championships. A club "Canoeist of the Year" trophy has been instituted; points being awarded for races, slaloms, regattas and tours. Their newsletter contains a tongue-in-cheek request for a crossword puzzle in *C. in B.* If they can compose a good one, I'll print it.



MANCHESTER C.C. has arranged a series of four Rapid River races from the Horseshoe Falls or Chain Bridge to a short distance above Llangollen Bridge (approx. two miles) on Sundays. The first was on 24th November, and others are planned for December, January and February (see Dates and Events). There is a 5/- entry fee, and entries will normally be accepted only from those qualified for 1st or 2nd Division Slalom. All must wear life-jackets and crash-hats, and boats must be fitted with buoyancy and lines.

Fourteen members took part in a continental tour for a fortnight in August. They managed a visit to both the World Slalom at Spittal, and toured on the rivers Verderrehin, Llns and Salza.

The Tay, Tweed, Spey and its tributary the Avon provided sport for twelve of the M.C.C. members this year. Maurice Rothwell thinks it may be the first year that the Spey has been canoed. As Oxford U.C.K.C. have also been down the Avon this year, I expect we shall see something about it in the next edition of the "Guide to Waterways."

M. Milner, for SHOTLEY BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH CLUB, writes: "Canoeing is a new venture for the club, but is proving popular even though we have to travel about thirteen miles to get to our canoeing site. This means we camp out overnight or sleep in the hut we share with the Y.M.C.A. Next year it is hoped to arrange for six boys to go with the Royal Marines on a canoe holiday, though nothing is definite as yet."

The Rhone and Ardeche rivers in France provided excitement for the CLWB CANW GWERSYLL GLANLYN this year. High, fast water on the first day on the Ardeche followed three days' heavy rain at the source. Several capsizes resulted. From Pont d'Arc to St. Martin, ideal water abounded. It is a marvellous river, they say, with breathtaking views, good rapids and interesting problems.

The club holds courses in basic canoeing every weekend, from September to March. Some 200-250 young people have attended these courses, and about 35 have since become members of the B.C.U. Their own membership has now increased to 78, and is still expanding.



The Commodore of DOGGER BANK C.C., Lieutenant Tracy, is at present engaged in making the prototype of a K1 from specially stiffened, waterproofed paper. The advantages of this revolutionary method are obvious, he states. The basic material is cheap, and after use, instead of having to be hosed down and stored on racks (as in many clubs), the dirty canoe is simply crumpled up and thrown away. If successful, it will be marketed in boxes of twenty-five.



The HARTLEPOOLS KAYAK CLUB has enjoyed a good season's racing, and reports that its policy of encouraging K.1 racing in the area is now bearing fruit, with five in the club and more on the way. They won every event in the Youth Championship Regional Regatta, and E. Hansen (H.K.C.) won the Class B final on the Serpentine. Also they won the North East Canoeing Association L.D. Trophy for the third year running.

Durham County Council's grant has been put to good use, providing two 20 ft. work benches and a trailer capable of carrying nine canoes. Already preparations are going ahead for next season's racing, with weight training sessions.

Membership of the ROYAL MARINE SCHOOL C.C. is restricted to the pupils at the school. Their canoe building programme covers the full range of Kayak kayaks and canoes and to date they have completed the staggering total of 120 craft. They have twice weekly sessions in their own swimming pool, rolling and performing the Wiggle and Wriggle tests. Canoeing is offered by candidates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award up to the Gold Standard.

WARREN C.C. is doing quite a bit of fibreglass work just now, and has just finished repairing a fibreglass Klepper 62 which met with an accident and was broken into two complete halves.

The VENTURER C.C. is for older Scouts, Rovers and Rangers. Jack Cuthill, their Commodore, writes, "The Venturer Canoe Club is rather an unusual one in that it has only about half a dozen members whose job it is to encourage canoeing among Scout Troops, Rover Scout Crews and Ranger Companies. We provide coaching, transport to canoeing waters by Dormobile, and two trailers for six canoes each. There is an expert boat builder who advises on canoe building."

The club is affiliated to the B.C.U. through the Scottish Canoe Association. Members are therefore able to take full advantage of such membership and can take part in all official regattas, fly the B.C.U., S.C.A. and Venturer Canoe Club burgees, obtain advice on foreign travel as well as help in planning trips in Scotland and England. The V.C.C. is also in a position to help scouts and guides with canoe building by advancing funds for the purchase of materials and for storing canoes, etc. All enquiries for membership should be made to the Purser, Eric Sprigg, 25 Liberton Brae, Edinburgh 9.



From LAKELAND CANOE CLUB we hear that the last Leven Wild Water Test of the year, on Sunday, October 27th, attracted several spectators on this fine, sunny day. There was some very good water, and the results are given in this magazine. The Lakeland Slalom, held at Carlisle, was held under flood conditions in September. Chris McAllister of Leeds C.C. came first in Div. III, Roger Stacey (Carlisle) was first in Div. IV, and Heather Goodman of Lakeland came first in the Ladies' Event.



After the Exe Estuary Race, a small Track-suit was found, and so far it has not been claimed, writes the Secretary of EXETER C.C. The name of the maker on the top is Artima (L), and the legs (inside) measure about 29 inches. Anyone who raced at Exeter on 8th September and lost such a garment is asked to write to 11 Shelton Place, Heavitree, Exeter.

Reports were also received from :
Hollisley Sports Canoe Club
Broadlands County Secondary School
Somerdale Youth Club
Tottenham Canoe Club

Carlisle Service of Youth Canoe Club
Haberdashers' School Canoe Club
Southampton Canoe Club
Llandaff Canoe Club
Manchester University Canoe Club
Widstone Technical School for Boys Canoe Club
Widbury Youth Centre Canoe Club
Wade Deacon G.S.C.C.
Lancing College Canoe Club

FROM THE COACHING COMMITTEE

GEOFF. SANDERS, Hon. Coaching Secretary

The coaching scheme has now been in existence for over two years. It is, I believe, the only one of its kind in the canoeing world and we have every reason to feel pleased with its progress so far. When originally established there were 34 members in the scheme: now there are over 160 on the books, with some coaches and instructors from as far afield as Australia and Hong Kong. The following table gives some idea of the distribution of our members. The figures in the brackets indicate the increase on last year's figures.

	Sen.			
Region	Coach	Coach	Instructor	Total
L. & S.E.	7		12 (+12)	19
South	4		4 (+2)	8
South-West	3		29 (+21)	32
Wales	8 (+2)		3 (+2)	11
West Midlands	7		20 (+10)	27
North Midlands	1		—	1
East	1	4 (+3)	13 (+13)	18
North-West	—		9 (+4)	9
Yorks.	—		6 (+5)	6
North-East	1	4 (+2)	23 (+15)	28
Scotland	—		1	1
N. Ireland	—		—	—
Hong Kong	1		—	1
Australia	—		1	1
TOTALS (8/11/63)	2	39	121	162

The awards themselves have received general acclaim and the standards set for the Instructor's and Hon. Coach's examinations have been well maintained. Area Coaching panels have already been established in the North-East, West Midlands and South, and Area Coaching Organisers appointed by the National Coaching Committee to arrange coaching activities in these regions. With the present rate of growth of the scheme it is hoped that new panels will soon be set up in other parts of the country.

I have been very impressed with the reports of services undertaken by members of our coaching scheme and I would like to take this opportunity of offering them the sincere thanks of the National Coaching Committee for all they have done.

The B.C.U. Youth service is now administered as a part of the coaching scheme. It is expected that area coaching panels will work closely with local youth organisations and education bodies in informing them of coaching services that can be made available.

It is planned to implement an Education Information Service for schools and youth organisations in the New Year. A folder, containing information to guide teachers and leaders who are interested in taking up canoeing, will be made available on request.

NOTICES

1. National Coaching Committee Appointments

The following *Area Coaching Organisers* have been appointed:

North East: A. W. Byde, 4 Allergate Terrace, Durham City.

West Midlands: G. Sanders, 33 Orchard Avenue, Solihull, Warwicks.

South (Hants/Wilts): N. N. Brown, 31 Hillside Road, Winchester, Hants.

National Youth Officer: J. D. Travers, 12 Downs Road, Beckenham, Kent.

2. Test Entry Fees

Only B.C.U. individual members will now be entitled to pay the reduced fee (3/- instead of 5/-) for entry to the B.C.U. Proficiency and Advanced Tests.

3. Proficiency Test (Kayak) Amendments

- (a) The test may now be taken on still water.
- (b) The clause relating to ferry glides will now read: "He will demonstrate the principles of the Ferry Glide, as though facing (a) downstream and (b) upstream."
- (c) The clause relating to paddling strokes will now read: "He will demonstrate the following paddling strokes: (a) Sweep, (b) Draw, (c) Recovery (of balance by slap support), (d) Sculling for Support and (e) Sculling draw (Sideways)."

4. Hon. Coach Award Amendments

- (a) Candidates must be individual members of the B.C.U.
- (b) Candidates will be required to give a short talk (e.g. lasting five minutes) on a canoeing subject of their own choice.

5. There will be a meeting of coaches and instructors and those interested in becoming members of the coaching scheme on the afternoon prior to the A.G.M. (January 25th 1964).

6. Coaching Newsletter

It is regretted that copies cannot be sent to non-members of the coaching scheme.

7. Details of Proficiency Tests, Coaching Awards, National Coach's Tours can be obtained from G. Sanders, Hon. Secretary, B.C.U. Coaching Scheme, 33 Orchard Avenue, Solihull, Warwicks, Tel. Solihull 4493. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated!

BCU agm Jan. 25

The Twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the British Canoe Union will be held at Star Cross School, Sidmouth Street, London W.C.1, on Saturday, January 25th, 1964, at 5.30 p.m. John Dudderidge the President will take the chair.

During the afternoon the L.D.R., Slalom, Racing, Coaching and Touring Committees will meet at 2.0 p.m. These meetings are open only to the delegates of the affiliated clubs. HAVE YOU APPOINTED YOURS ?

This year the B.C.U. invites any member interested in Canadian Canoeing, particularly delegates from clubs, to an informal meeting to discuss how best the B.C.U. can encourage the growing interest in these canoes. The meeting will start at 2.0 p.m.: Jack Frampton of Royal Canoe Club has kindly consented to take the chair.

Once again Charles Ranshaw and his helpers from C.8 Development Committee will be running the buffet will be serving light refreshments from 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Harold Barton and Jeff Lamb will be helping me to collect subscriptions from both individuals and clubs. Warning !

Whilst only B.C.U. Adult Members may speak and vote at the formal meetings, Family and Youth Members will receive a warm welcome as will all canoeing friends.

The evening will close with a film show run by Maurice Rothwell. Howard Oakley will show his River Verdon films.

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President.
2. Minutes.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Adoption of the Annual Report.
5. Adoption of Accounts.
6. Declaration of Receipts.
7. Appointment of Officers.
8. Appointment of Auditors.

A Thousand Miles on the Rob Roy Canoe

By J. Macgregor, M.A.

B.C.U. Supplies—10/6

Published jointly by B.C.U.

and Canoeing Publications

This book is the log of a journey in the Summer of 1880 by the author on the rivers of the continent. To sum it up in a word—fascinating.

I have seldom read a book dealing with canoeing in which one can identify oneself more than this one. Considering that it is 83 years since this voyage took place the style is relaxed and enjoyable. My criticism here must be that in the first chapters he tends to describe the scene rather than actual canoeing. However he soon changes to a more practical style. The Reuss was

say that I hope this will not be the only venture of the publishers—personally “Rob Roy on the Baltic” is a must for me.

C. HOWIE

Annual Report of the Council, 1963—continued

they have had over two hundred bookings over the year, mostly for several reels. Our sales of loops has suffered a small decline which is quite understandable in view of the lack of advertisement in “Canoeing in Britain.”

“CANOEING IN BRITAIN”

We wish to express our appreciation of the long service of Mr. Thelen as Editor of “Canoeing in Britain” and are glad to report that a new Editor has now been appointed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We cannot close our report on the progress of canoeing in 1963 without paying tribute to the work done by the C.C.P.R. to further the sport in all its forms. We also wish to thank the *News of the World* for their sponsorship of the Serpentine Regatta, our shop window for international canoeing. We also wish to put on record our appreciation of the support we have received this year from the Ministry of

WINDERMERE

RAPID RIVER TRAINING WEEKEND

CCPR

Every year for some years there has been a rally of slalom and rapid river canoeists of all grades from experts to novices. New techniques and equipment have been evolved and tried out and a great deal of information collected and passed to newcomers.

Again this year there will be a rally at Windermere and it is hoped that this venue will attract experts and novices alike from clubs all over England, Wales and Scotland.

The programme of discussions, practical work and sessions on technique will be sent to all attending.

VENUE: Scorr's Hall Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere.

DATE: April 10th-12th, 1964.
(Arrive Friday evening—depart after tea Sunday).

FEE: £2. 15s. 0d. A card will be issued to denote receipt of fee and acceptance on the course.

You should bring your own canoe. You will also require canoeing gear, cowls, gym shoes, change of clothes and toilet requisites.

ENROLMENT: Please complete the application form and return to The Regional Secretary, CCPR, 26, Brazenose Street, Manchester 2, with fee and stamped addressed envelope.

BISHAM ABBEY

WEEKEND SLALOM COURSE

BCU

This course is designed to teach the slalomist everything from the fundamentals right up to the most advanced techniques. Bisham Abbey is at Marlow on the Thames and the course will run from supper on Friday, February 28th, to approx. 4.0 p.m. on the Sunday. Fees are 45/- for the whole weekend and all must provide their own slalom boat. There are only 44 places and priority will be given to those in 3 and 4 division. Please send in your application together with £1 deposit as soon as possible.

WINDERMERE

RAPID RIVER TRAINING WEEKEND

CCPR

Name

Fee

Address

Card

Age, if under 21..... Daytime Phone No.

Experience :

Expected time of arrival.....

Fee £2. 15. 0d. enclosed. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to The Central Council of Physical Recreation.

To be signed by all applicants. It is understood that the organising authorities are under no liability whatsoever in respect of any loss or injury which the applicant may sustain.

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

(A parent or guardian should sign if the applicant is under 21)

BISHAM ABBEY

WEEKEND SLALOM COURSE

BCU

To J. D. SHAW, 33 Towersey Drive, Thame, Oxon.

Please enrol me for the Bisham Abbey course on February 28th—
March 1st. During 1963 I competed in division...../did not compete.
(Delete as necessary).

I enclose £1.

Name (Block letters)

Address

Signature

HINTS FOR BETTER BOATS

Fitting P.V.C. plastic fabric skins Percy Blandford

A fabric coated with P.V.C. plastic gives a much faster and tougher skin than painted canvas, but some canoe builders have had difficulty in fitting the stouter grades without puckers. The answer is heat.

For at least a day before covering, put the roll of material in a warm place—an airing cupboard or the plate rack over a cooker. Work in a warm room if possible. If the job has to be done in a garage, have at least two electric or paraffin heaters, preferably of the convective type. Put the inverted framework on trestles and drape the material over it. Put the heaters underneath and leave for half an hour. Tack to one end post, then stretch as much as possible at the other end and tack there. If the amount of stretch achieved does not seem to be much, leave the job again to absorb heat, before removing the tacks at one end and pulling again. Put more tacks along the centre of the hog at about 10 in. intervals, and turn the canoe the right way.

Have the heaters at the sides where they can heat the fabric being worked on. Start near the centre of the canoe, preferably with a mate on the opposite side. Pull up with both hands and a good strain, then bend over the top of the

gunwale and down inside. The upward pull before bending over is important—trying to put on sufficient strain after bending the fabric over is ineffective. If the material is warm, hand pressure is all that is needed: such aids as upholstery pliers not being advised. Work from the centre towards the ends, putting tacks inside at about 3 in. intervals, and keeping the work on opposite sides in step. If working alone, do about 12 in. at each side in turn. Trim off excess material as you go, and notch around the tops of frames. A better fit can be achieved if there is little spare material to be handled.

Keep the pull at right-angles to the centre-line of the canoe. Tacks may be squeezed in with pliers. If a hammer is used, support outside opposite the tack.

Towards the ends, use plenty of heat to avoid getting a baggy fit. Give a good upward pull, even if slight vertical creases occur in the last 6-12 in. Trim the surplus to the shape of the end post with enough to wrap over. Put adhesive on the skin and wood, then use pliers to pull the material across the end, working from the bottom upwards. Fix with tacks or small nails into the end. This will pull out any vertical creases and make a tight end. Trim off the surplus and wrap the other side over in the same way. Bagginess, particularly around the stern post, can have a very adverse effect on speed or the effort needed to propel the canoe.

Long-distance racers. New tourers
Moulded veneer canoes

For up-to-date information send stamp for lists

PERCY W. BLANDFORD

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CANOEING MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Paper folded, 5s. 0d. net

INLAND CRUISING MAP OF ENGLAND

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*Please write for list of Stanford's Coloured Charts for
Coastal Navigators*

EDWARD STANFORD LIMITED

12-14 Long Acre, London W.C.2

**Keith White
writes about**

SPITTAL Aug 1963

The slalom world championships staged at Spittal this year can be remembered as one of the best championships from all points. The weather was good and the little rainfall which occurred did not alter the water level unduly as was first feared by the organisers.

The course itself, which looks shamefully tame from the road 25 ft. above the river, flows through a small gorge. On getting down to the water level it is soon realised how large and powerful the River Lieser really is. However, our team had conquered this initial fear the year before and the practice on the Norder Rhein before our arrival at Spittal proved invaluable.

The course was designed in the true name of slalom; a fast, uncomplicated downhill run which tested more on speed and endurance. This is not to say that it was without technical difficulty, but compared with previous events the emphasis seemed to be more on speed.

The British team showed that their skill and control in the water was equal to that of the best continentals but all they seemed to lack was that little restraint to avoid penalties and a little extra speed. This is all that separates them from the best in the world. The team race was held before the individual runs and it was a very fine run which earned our team a bronze medal. At last we had managed to break the 5th place barrier in a team event.

The individual runs which were held the next day were disappointing from our point of view but the speed of the winners was too much for our fastest man. We must get

into the habit of slaloming faster. I did get the feeling that our boys had the skill to go faster but were holding back either by being a little over-cautious or by a lack of fitness. The latter may be true to some extent but is not the sole contributory factor. We cannot be too far behind in fitness when one studies the Wild Water Race results, bearing in mind also our handicap of competing in slalom boats.

From our team's performance at Spittal we can look forward to more successes in future international events.

The National Chine Kayak—*continued*

were too heavy. The committee has decided to reduce the minimum weight as follows :

	<i>Present minimum weight</i>	<i>New minimum weight (in 1964)</i>	<i>Minimum weight (from 1st January 1965)</i>
N.C.K. 1	35 lbs.	30 lbs.	12 kg.
N.C.K. 2	55 lbs.	47 lbs.	18 kg.
N.C.K. 4	70 lbs.	66 lbs.	30 kg.

It will be noticed that there will be a transitional period in order to bring the weight down in stages to the weight of the international class kayak.

The Paddling Racing Committee has approved a new N.C.K. 1 design by Percy Blandford which will be marketed as P.B.K. 60. We understand that Percy Blandford will have a design for a N.C.K. 2 (P.B.K. 61) ready by the end of December.

All communications concerning the Paddling Racing Committee should be sent to its Chairman: Mr. H. Thelen, 13 Campden House, Harben Road, London N.W.6.



A PAGE OF COMMENTS

We are not in the ordinary way a canoeing club, but . . . we use canoes along with boats, rock-climbing, etc., as a means of providing a challenge to young men with no experience of these activities.

In respect of canoes we are dealing exclusively with beginners and introducing them to the techniques and we hope, to the subsequent rewards of the sport.

While, as indicated above, we use canoes as a means to an end, we still hope that our students will become interested enough to carry on when they leave us and many do in fact contact your club.

It would be to our mutual advantage if we were able to put boys directly in touch with a club when they leave us.

—B.C.

The Calendar will be published early in March, and it will contain the name and address of the secretary of every B.C.U. affiliated canoe club in Britain.

Grouse: The ever increasing amount of time it takes the B.C.U. to answer correspondence, especially requests for application forms for membership, a function which I feel requires no original thought on the part of anybody as all that is required is for somebody to place a form in a letter and send it off.

—P.J.

Rodney Baker replies: Criticism accepted. Please see **Annual Report** on another page. Due to overwork of honorary officials and the complete failure of our Enquiries Service over the first seven months of this year, the B.C.U. service has been

very poor. New officials looking after enquiries and a prompt service is now in operation.

Your idea of the form is excellent, and would wish you every success. We feel a bit isolated here in Aberdeen but we enjoy our canoeing.

—B.B.

It's nice to know that the Club Activities report form is appreciated. If anyone wants to know what the canoeing is like on Speyside, I suggest you write to Bob Barnett, 35 Thistle Lane, Aberdeen—it might make him feel a little less out of the swim.

Corps of Canoe Lifeguards

At a recent meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that probationers should, in future, be accepted into the Corps up to the age of 20 and that all probationers must have qualified as full Life Guards before their 21st birthday. The previous age limit for this was the 20th birthday.

It was also agreed that adults would be accepted into the Corps directly as Life Guards, so long as they had the necessary qualifications.

As a reminder, a probationer must have a Junior First Aid Certificate, a Bronze Medallion of the R.L.S.S., and the Proficiency Certificate of this Union. Life Guards must have an Adult First Aid Certificate, the Award of Merit of the R.L.S.S., and the Advanced Certificate of the British Canoe Union.

THE RHODES-WHITE TROPHY

is awarded this year to Bob Wade of the C.T.C.

The Rhodes-White Trophy was presented to the B.C.U. in 1962 for perpetual competition amongst single canoeists in the Senior Class and is awarded annually to the competitor who has scored most points in any four of the ranking races, provided he has not in any previous year been placed in the first three in the Individual Challenge Trophy. The first winner of the Trophy in 1962 was Stan Smith of Worcester C.C.

continued on page 26

Oundle School C.C.

EXERCISE CHATEAUX

Flight Lieutenant J. G. T. Kelsey, R.A.F.V.R.(T).

The Aim of the Exercise

To use the skill and watermanship required to paddle eleven canoes from Orleans to Tours in as short a time as possible and return to Oundle. The round trip to take ten days.

The party, consisting of two officers and ten cadets left Oundle at 17.30 hrs. on July 25th, 1963, in the school vehicle (Ford Thames, 12-seater minibus) with a trailer designed in the school workshops to carry eleven canoes. Fears that the vehicle would not be powerful enough for twelve persons, baggage, equipment and laden trailer had been proved groundless in the Northamptonshire area some weeks before, but nevertheless, most inclines required the use of bottom gear, although in general, the towing capacities of the vehicle proved to be good.

The first leg of the journey ended just outside Dover and the party made a temporary camp for the night in the fields off the road.

The crossing of the Channel, which had been arranged through the A.A., was completed without difficulty and on disembarkation the party drove straight to Versailles where camp was made for the night. On this and all subsequent nights in France, it was decided to make use of official camp sites in view of the great numbers of tourists in the area, the convenient situation of such sites (often on the water's edge) and their provision of water and facilities (e.g. showers).

On July 27th the journey was continued to Orleans, tents were erected and the canoes inspected and touched up prior to being used. Contrary to certain hints received beforehand,

it was not at all difficult to find a suitable place for the start of the canoeing; there was ample water along most of the stretch to be covered by the expedition.

Canoeing started on July 28th. It was decided by Lt. Oram (i/c Canoes) to transport the canoes some 15 miles upstream to Chateauneuf and paddle back to Orleans, partly because that stretch of water was said to be interesting, and partly in order that the first day's work could end at an already established camp.

From July 28th to August 2nd the canoes were paddled each day downstream to a new camp site reconnoitred by Flt. Lt. Kelsey while the canoes were en route. The staging points were able to be made much as previously planned viz.: Orleans, Beaugency, Blois, Chaumont, Amboise and Tours. The total distance canoed was in the region of 80 miles.

The expedition proved valuable both from the point of view of canoeing training and also from the general educational aspect.

Canoeing on the Loire requires constant exercise of judgement in picking out the main channels, since the river abounds in sand banks and very shallow water. It says much for the skill of the party that on no occasion was a "portage" required and only on one occasion did a canoe run aground—this on a submerged rock under a bridge where the water appeared quite deep enough for even a boat of deeper draught than a canoe to pass.

A valuable lesson learned on the river was in the exercise of the discipline needed for a large party such as this. Spacing on the water improved greatly through the week, and the dangers of racing ahead or allowing a cadet to lag too far behind became more and more apparent to all members as the journey continued. It was also notable that if someone did lag too far behind, there was always someone else who took it upon himself to drop back and send word

continued on page 26

CANOE COACHING—WHICH CANOE ?

Long ago, the point was made to us that, except for special cases, single canoes were the answer when it came to teaching the techniques of the sport. Some coaches who had had their introduction via solid, beamy doubles, were not sure about this, particularly in connection with beginners. We were able to put this problem to the test quite often and an example (typical of many) will serve to point some conclusions. This concerned a group of beginners who were having a week's introductory course. Equipment included beamy doubles, a less beamy double, a general purpose single, a less beamy single, two slalom type canoes and two eskimo kayaks. After the first day, we noticed little discrimination but on the third day we had quite a job getting all the course into canoes—they all wanted the *slaloms* or the *eskimoes* !

Which brings me to a more recent course and another canoe. On this introductory week-end we had one general purpose double, general purpose singles, slalom and two canadians. It was a toss up between the slaloms and the canadians as to which were the most popular—with perhaps a leaning to the canadians. Was this popularity due to some inherent qualities of the design or was it due to the fact that the canadian is not so common as yet or (the course members were youngsters) was it a romantic association of ideas ?

Anyway the photograph on page 14 shows some of the boys enjoying their introduction to canadian work.

—BILL SAUNDERS

The Rhodes-White Trophy—continued

The Trophy, a bronze figure holding a paddle in his right hand, is mounted on a base on which is engraved every L.D. race in which Ron Rhodes and Peter White took part. Mr. Robert Thomas, A.R.C.A., A.R.B.S., the well-known London sculptor, designed the figure and it was presented by the Canoe Touring Club, on behalf of the members of the Club and the many friends of Ron Rhodes and Peter White, who both lost their lives so tragically in motor cycling accidents within six months of each other.

We're Sorry

that your copy of *Canoeing in Britain* was late in arriving, but the proofs and original copy, despatched on time by the printers, were lost in the post.

At the time of writing, they are still missing.

If there is time, however, we would like to wish you a

Very Happy Christmas

and All Best Wishes for 1964



Exercise Chateaux—continued

to the leader, and on the grounding occasion referred to above, Cadets Rogers and Irving showed great efficiency in carrying out repairs under the middle arch of the bridge without having to step into the river at all.

It was noticeable in the very hot weather, the cadets did not find the going too easy, and the self discipline with which they kept going was quite praiseworthy. From the general educational point of view, it was apparent that all the cadets' fluency in the French language and their knowledge of French history in this district of historic houses, showed considerable signs of improvement.

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