

canoeing in Britain

58

Calendar Issue

West Greenland Hunter

Photo: K. I. Taylor



March 1966

1/6



canoeing in Britain

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Editorial Address

Jack Levison, 11 Martindale Grove, Eggescliffe, Eggescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Durham. (Day only: Peterlee 539)

Advertisement Department

Chris Hare, 9 Tynecbrooke Avenue, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham. (Stranton 8239)

Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of individuals, and do not necessarily reflect official B.C.U. policy.

Enquiries regarding non-receipt of magazines, notification of changes of address and general enquiries should be sent, quoting your membership number, to—

The General Secretary

*The British Canoe Union,
Capt. A. R. Kennedy, C.B.E.,
Room 316,
26'29 Park Crescent,
London, W.1.
(LANgham 4710)*

Editorial

Tiny Type

The amount of editorial copy received for *C in B* has always exceeded the available space. We have tried over the past two years to cope with the increasing flow of words by setting more and more of the magazine in smaller type, thus getting extra on each page, until finally the whole thing was in eye-straining 6-point, unpopular with member and printer alike. Last year we decided that something just had to be done to make *C in B* easier to prepare, print and read. We hope you like the result.

Subscriptions Surprise Move

No-one really expected the Annual General Meeting would turn down Council's proposed new membership fees, but the support given by members to Major Jones' amendment for a bigger increase came as a surprise to many. (See report on A.G.M.)

It has been suggested that, had B.C.U. members known about the amendment in advance, a more representative section than the 142 members present entitled to vote might have attended the meeting to decide the issue. Perhaps this is true, but a motion to change the subscription rates was on the agenda, and by the present rules, proposals and counter-proposals were to be expected. Those who do not vote at a meeting, in person or by proxy, delegate by implication the responsibility for making decisions to those who do.

Nevertheless, it would be better in such an issue if all members had an opportunity to express their opinions, not an easy matter when major amendments are introduced out of the blue. It might be considered desirable to have a postal poll on such basic issues, but the cost of such a procedure would be in the region of £50, money which could be better spent.

No list of B.C.U. Affiliated clubs is being published in *Canoeing in Britain* this year. Instead, all Club Secretaries should have received a complete duplicated copy for their personal use, with clubs divided into geographical areas. Individual members requiring details of clubs in any area should write to the General Secretary, enclosing

Manchester C.C. offers a solution in a motion for the AGM in 1967, designed to ensure that subscriptions are not altered to any figure greater than that specified in the agenda, and that no increase should take effect until six months after the resolution has been passed. This would give clubs which automatically enrol all members in the B.C.U. time to amend their subscription rates.

If the new rates are accepted without too many dissentients, the B.C.U. should be in a much healthier state financially, and able to offer an improved service. The crunch may come if our annual increase in membership halts or is substantially reduced, as this could affect our grant from the Ministry, and our effectiveness in negotiations.

Manchester in 1967?

Following the decision to hold the A.G.M. in the provinces in alternate years, a concept enthusiastically hailed by this year's meeting, Maurice Rothwell has begun enquiries for suitable accommodation in the Manchester area for the 1967 meeting. The pattern is to be substantially different from previous years—a full weekend's programme is envisaged, possibly taking the place of the London Canoe Conference, and including a Trade Exhibition. The provisional date for the meeting is 28th January.

Bread and Butter

"*Canoeing in Britain*" always needs good articles, reports and photographs. Experts are often shy of putting pen to paper, but their comments and opinions are of great interest to others, and serve to spread knowledge within the sport. Have you a contribution to make?

JACK LEVISON.

a stamped, addressed envelope, whereupon they will be sent the appropriate area sheets.

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BCU DIRECTORY

- President:** John Dudderidge, O.B.E., 41 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett, Herts. (Radlett 5978)
- General Secretary:** Capt. Alec R. Kennedy, C.B.E., 26/29 Park Crescent, London W.1. (LANgham 4710)
- Treasurer:** Ted Owen, 138 Cubbington Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa, Warks. (Leamington Spa 22954)
- Touring (Home):** Ralph Tyas, 19 Pine Hill, Epsom, Surrey. (Epsom 21665)
- Touring (Abroad):** Betty McLellan, 9 Downsway, Sanderstead, Surrey. (SANDerstead 4692)
- Public Relations:** Peter Rogers, 553 Romford Road, London E.7. (Grangewood 4295)
- "C in B" Editor:** Jack Levison, 11 Martindale Grove, Eggescliffe, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Durham. (Day only: Peterlee 539)
- "C in B" Advertisements:** Chris Hare, 9 Tynebrooke Avenue, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham. (Stranton 8239)
- Stalom:** Julian Shaw (until May: 33 Towersey Avenue, Thame, Oxon.); after May: 4 Green side, Edgcombe Park, Crowthorne, Berks.
- L.D.R.:** John Woolley, 25 Binswood Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warks.
- Sprint Racing:** R. A. Sowman, 4 Landor Road, The Cape, Warwick.
- B.C.U. Supplies:** Capt. A. R. Kennedy, C.B.E., 26/29 Park Crescent, London W.1.
- Sailing:** Peter Wells, 55 Arnison Road, E. Molesey, Surrey.
- Coaching:** Mrs. Felicity Littledyke, 15 Denewood Close, Watford, Herts.
- Youth Championships:** Geoff Law, 18 Kings Head Hill, London E.4.
Mrs. Joan Baker, 33 Titley Close, London E.4.
- National Coach:** Oliver Cock, "Rivertrees," Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.
- Racing Coach:** Ted Cronk, 3 Shaef Way, Sandy Lane, Teddington, Middx.
- L.D.R. Coach:** David Green, 2 Highfield Road, Impington, Cambridge.
- Film Officer:** Maurice Rothwell, 21 Windsor Road, Clayton Bridge, Manchester 10.
- Insurance:** Mrs. Joan Baker, 33 Titley Close, London E.4.
- B.C.U. Holidays:** John R. Mayhead, 12 Holland Road, Ampthill, Bedford.
- Scottish Canoe Association:** D. R. Winning, 1 Ashburn Gardens, Gourrock, Renfrewshire.
- Canoe Association of Northern Ireland:** S. A. Littlewood, 22 Dillons Avenue, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim.

BCU National Open Youth Championships

This scheme aims at initiating young and enthusiastic canoeists into the competitive branches of the sport, with the long term aim of providing a steady influx of seasoned competitors to top flight regattas at home and abroad.

Class A Boys aged 16—18 years

Class B Boys aged 14—16 years

Class C Girls aged 14—18 years

4 x 500m. Relay. Boys aged 14—18 years
(all must be members of some Club or Organisation).

All class races are run over 500 metres. Craft must conform to B.C.U. Long Distance Class 3 and 4, i.e. single seaters of not more than 15 feet in length and minimum beam of 23 inches.

Area Championships are divided into 14 geographical areas, and are organised locally through the Central Council of Physical Recreation Regional Offices. Area Championships will be run where possible on 18—19 June, and the National Finals at Bedford on 17 July.

For further information contact your local C.C.P.R. Office, or the joint national organisers:

Geoff. Law,
18 Kings Head Hill,
London E.4.

Mrs. Joan Baker,
33 Titley Close,
London E.4.

Long Distance Racing in 1966

We are now at the start of another L.D. racing season with 34 races which began with Oxford on March 6th and going on until October 30th at Cambridge, at the rate of at least one every other week.

This year we have kept our seven classes of racing canoes and you may like to note that there is now a Ladies class in the NC 1 section. Generally we would like to see more ladies entering for races, some clubs are already setting the trend with some first class lady paddlers.

We hope that this year you will try your skill at this tough and enjoyable branch of our sport—L.D.R. If you do so we are sure that you will find it an enjoyable experience.

A new copy of the L.D. Rules will be issued this year, possibly before April. Drop a line to Hon. Sec., 25 Binswood Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, for your copy.

**YOUTH
CANOE**

at Exeter
on 14th May
open classes for
boys and girls, age range
of 14 to 21 years

RALLY for all young Devon paddlers

Particulars from Secretary, 78, Union Rd., Exeter

RIVER ADVISERS

The function of the River Advisers appointed by the Touring Committee is to act as an information point to whom members can report objections to canoeing and difficulties over access that they have experienced, and to advise members thinking of a trip on "difficult" rivers (i.e. as regards access, etc.) whether it is advisable to attempt the trip or possibly to put them in touch with others to avoid too frequent usage. The River Advisers' aim is to be helpful, and if they have to advise abandoning a proposed trip their advice should be respected.

They are:

Lake District, Lune, Eden: D. Rushfirth, 28 Eddington Road, Fairhaven, Lytham St. Annes, Lancs.

Ribble, Cheshire, North Wales, including Dee: C. M. Rothwell, 21 Windsor Road, Clayton Bridge, Manchester 10.

Yorkshire, including Tees: C. E. McAllister, 11a Springfield Mount, Leeds 2.

Severn, Lower Wye below Glasbury, Usk, Central and South Wales: C. B. Manton, 13 Fosse Estate, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwickshire.

Upper Wye above Glasbury: C. L. Mortlock, The Woodlands Residential Centre, Glasbury-on-Wye, Hereford.

For other areas, write to the Touring Adviser, B.C.U., 26/29 Park Crescent, London W.1.

Please enclosed a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

General Advice

The legal position on waterways is set out in the Guide to Waterways and in an information leaflet that can be obtained from the General Secretary of the Union. But disturbance to fishermen can be minimised if permission to canoe on private waters is sought in the close season—highly as follows:

Salmon and trout rivers—October to the end of February.

Coarse fishing rivers—March to Mid-June.

On salmon and trout rivers the fishing in the season is often best in spring and early summer, rather than in late summer. This is why in any case Easter and Whitsun may have to be avoided for canoeing.

River Access: Yorkshire Area

Will canoeists who want to paddle the Dales rivers (Swale, Ure, Tees, Nidd, Wharfe) PLEASE confine their activities to weekends when these are in spate, unless they have made other arrangements direct with the riparian owners, angling clubs, etc., concerned. Full details may be had by writing to the River Adviser, C. E. McAllister (see above).

River Wharfe: Linton to Barden Bridge

Permission has been obtained for canoeing on this stretch on a limited number of

dates. See B.C.U. Calendar. The party in question, the Appletreewick, Barden and Burnsall Angling Club say that they are not prepared to consider requests for any other dates in 1966, unless the river should be in spate at the time. This spate water concession does not apply to the trout season (March 31—September 30).

Canoeing Guides/Strip Maps

These have now been prepared for the Tees, Swale, Ure and Wharfe by Leeds Canoe Club, under the supervision of Chris McAllister. They contain most of the addresses of riparian owners, angling clubs, etc. which you need to know. See Small Ads. section.

Coaching Scheme News

Change of Hon. Coaching Secretary

Geoff. Sanders has been reluctantly compelled to resign from his position as B.C.U. Hon. Coaching Secretary due to pressure of work and as from January 1st, 1966 handed over to Mrs. Felicity Littledyke of 15 Dene-wood Close, Watford, Herts.

The Coaching Committee gave a very sincere vote of thanks for all that Geoff. has done to help get the Coaching Scheme so successfully under way and are most grateful that he is continuing as Editor of the Newsletter and Area Coaching Organiser for the West Midlands.

New Area Coaching Organiser Appointments

South-West: D. Kelly has been asked to remain Acting A.C.O. for Bristol, Glos., Som., and Dorset. His address is Little Orchard, Station Road, Nailsea, Somerset.
Yorkshire: E. Hopper, 20 Aspin Oval, Knaresborough, Yorks.

East: L. Gee, 48 Charles Close, Wroxham, Norfolk.

North-West: A. L. Thwaites, West Garth, Rushley Mount, Hest Bank, Lancaster.

Essex: An Area Coaching Panel has been set up under the leadership of Rodney Baker, Dudley Courtman, and Jeff Law, with Mrs. Joan Baker, 33 Titley Close, London E.4 as Area Coaching Secretary.

Qualifying R.L.S.S. Awards

It was decided at the November Coaching Committee meeting that in future no candidates for Senior Instructor or Coach Awards will be allowed to proceed with their examinations until they have obtained the necessary qualifying R.L.S.S. award.

New Hon. Coaching Awards

Congratulations to:

National Coaching Committee Appointment: Senior Coach: G. H. Blackford.

Coach: A. L. Thwaites.

Senior Instructors: R. L. Miller, M. H.

Todd, D. J. Mayes, R. C. Putnam.

FELICITY LITTLEDYKE,

B.C.U. Hon. Coaching Secretary.

Proposed Slalom Speed-up

At the Slalom Committee Meeting, held prior to the A.G.M., dates for the coming season were finalised. These are published, together with the addresses to which entries should be sent, in the Canoeing Calendar and the Slalom and White Water Year Book, which will be sent to all those who were ranked in Divs. I—IV last season. The Year Book is being increased in size to include a revised edition of the slalom rules. These have been deliberated at great length by the Executive Committee to bring them into line with the I.C.F. rules, to remove anomalies which have existed in the past, and to make them easier to interpret. Copies of the Year Book may be purchased from the Slalom Secretary (address in BCU Directory).

A lively discussion ensued when Ken Langford suggested that a sub-committee be formed to investigate the possibility of modifying the present timing apparatus to allow a continuous timing operation—the method favoured by most continental countries. Those who had designed the present system felt that it was capable of improved performance—given more competent operators—but it was pointed out that continuous timing would speed up all events by allowing more than two competitors on the course at a time. Also, as competitors started at fixed time intervals, they had a definite starting time which they knew could be adhered to. It was decided to form a sub-committee consisting of Ken Langford, Roger Hardy and Colin Manton, to see if any improvements could be made to the speed and timing of slaloms.

At a meeting of the Selection and Executive Committee held the following day it was decided that the state of Slalom canoeing in this country had reached the stage where the Canadian classes ought to be encouraged, and that any pair showing sufficient enthusiasm and skill would be included in the 1969 World Championships to be held on the Isère in France. To these ends it was hoped that all clubs would seriously consider the possibility of including C2 and/or C1 events with their slaloms for the 1967 season. It was anticipated that by the end of this year several of these boats would be in this country.

As we go to press we hear with sincere regret of the death of slalomist R. Barrett whom we understand was drowned whilst touring with the Leeds C.C. on the Ribble.

Canoeing with the Y.H.A.

Each year the Y.H.A. runs a series of organised holidays for canoeists. Beginners aged 16 and over are trained in single-seater fibre glass canoes on the River Fowey in Cornwall. They stay at Lostwithiel youth hostel at a fully inclusive cost of £11.10s.0d. per week.

"Having offered my services last year for one week I speak from experience when I thoroughly recommend the job of leader/instructor or assistant ditto to any B.C.U. instructor who is looking for a free (all expenses and accommodation paid) holiday, offering the opportunity to experience river harbour, estuary and sea canoeing all in one week", comments B.C.U. Youth Officer Jack Travers.

Staff are paid their fare, or, if using their own car, an allowance for petrol including mileage whilst on the course. Accommodation at the hostel is in dormitories and the meals are excellent. Drying facilities are good. There is a special canoe room for course members in which to hold lectures and discussions and for the display of charts, books, etc.

The equipment is well maintained, the Warden being an experienced water man, and consists of ten Moonraker canoes complete with spray decks, lifejackets, paddles and waterproof kit bags.

The weeks which still require staff are those commencing on Saturdays 23rd July (assistant leader only), 30th July, 3rd and 10th September. (See Small Ads.)

Another holiday, using double touring canoes, takes participants from the middle reaches of the Wye at Hay to the mouth of the river at Chepstow, staying at hostels on the way, cost £12.5s.0d. a week inclusive. Similar holidays are arranged for boys and girls aged 11 to 15. All applicants must be able to swim at least 50 yards.

Among YHA Holidays abroad is a canoeing tour along the Danube. With qualified instructors and an Austrian leader, this holiday is ideal for beginners who can swim 200 yards. Four nights are spent in Vienna and the all-in cost is £41.15s.0d. for 16 days.

Details of all the above holidays may be obtained from YHA, Trevelyan House, St. Albans, Herts.

BCU Calendar — Amendments

- April 3. Dinckley Slalom postponed to July 3 (provisional).
- July 10. Poole Harbour Race date confirmed.



The trophy winners pictured at the A.G.M.

Photo: Stewart Fraser

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Holland Park School, Airlie Gardens, London W.8, at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 29th January, preceded by Technical Committee Meetings which were well attended. The attendance at the A.G.M. itself was a little disappointing, only about 200 members being present.

The President opened the proceedings by welcoming members, the Minutes of the 29th meeting were read and agreed and the President dealt with the Annual Report. He particularly emphasised the development of Government interest in sport and the necessity for canoeists to participate in consultation at all levels. He also referred to the success of the BCU Insurance Scheme and congratulated Mrs. Baker on the organisation. The Annual Report was accepted.

The Hon. Treasurer, in introducing the accounts, said that although expenditure was covered by receipts he was not entirely happy about the fact that we were unable to build up our reserves. The accounts were accepted.

The results of the Elections were as follows:

Hon. Treasurer: E. J. Owen.

Elected Council Members: C. M. Rothwell, P. C. A. Rogers, J. Spuhler, R. F. Tyas, C. B. Manton.

D. E. Dancer was again elected Hon. Auditor.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to him for all his work on our behalf. At this point in the meeting the Trophies were presented and a photograph was organised in an adjacent room.

The motion to hold the A.G.M. in the provinces every alternate year was passed unanimously. The meeting then discussed the Council's proposal to raise subscriptions. Two amendments were put forward, the first, to postpone the date of raising subscriptions until the 1st September, was defeated on a show of hands. The second amendment, which was to raise the full subscription to 15/- and the Youth subscription to 7/6, was narrowly defeated on a show of hands. A poll was demanded on the grounds that some members were still absent in the photograph room. After lobbies had been arranged and full members' credentials had been checked, the amendment was carried by 80 votes for and 62 against.



After this exciting episode matters moved smoothly, and the Council amendments to the Rules, designed to clarify classes of membership and the responsibilities of Technical Committees were carried unanimously. The new Rules changed the name Adult to Full Member and allowed youth members who wished to do so to become Full Members. The Technical Committees now elect the Chairman and Secretary on alternate years for a two-year term and

clubs can only send members to the Technical Committees if they take an active interest in that aspect of the sport.

A final motion authorised the Council to nominate BCU Representatives to Regional and County Sports Associations. It is hoped that clubs in Counties and Regions will get together to brief their representatives on what is wanted locally for the benefit of canoeing.

A rather long meeting closed about 8.00 p.m. A film show organised by Maurice Rothwell followed and an enjoyable evening finished just before 10.00 p.m.

An excellent Trade Exhibition was available at the back of the hall during the whole afternoon. This was evidently a great success from all points of view.

**CLUB NEWS**

While the rest of the country was still recovering from its hangover, 4 members of CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY C.C. celebrated the new year on a swollen and rampant Usk. One thought the leader had gone through a vast stopper where Spuhler's Folly ought to be, but realised his error after running two miles barefoot to find his boat pinned against the bank by the others. "On a different scale, we can heartily recommend the Honddu, especially to those who like swinging from barbed wire or rolling under trees," writes A. J. M. Stonely. "With a record membership of over 90, trips are planned for every weekend. A new 12 boat trailer, a minibus and a Land-Rover should solve the transport problems that have limited us in the past. We have managed to obtain free use weekly of a large indoor bath at a local school, in return for teaching some of their boys to roll. Perhaps other clubs could try making similar arrangements. We have initiated an Inter-University L.D. Race which will be held this year at the Oxford race. Seven universities have expressed interest so far."

When choosing your tours for the summer, you might care to remember part of the SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION's leaflet "Canoeing in Scotland", sent to me recently by Duncan Winning: "The canoeist in Scotland is fortunate in living in an ideal country for his sport. No matter what type of canoeing in which he wishes to participate, Scotland can provide the setting. It boasts some of the finest rapids in Britain, providing the canoeist with first-class sport, e.g. Thistle Brig and Grandtully rapids on the River Tay.

For those canoeists who do not wish to practise their sport on the rivers and rapids, there are many fine lochs on which they

may enjoy endless cruising. Perhaps the most famous of these is Loch Lomond where canoeing has been enjoyed since the 1870's, if not before.

The best cruising Scotland can offer is on the West Coast with its innumerable islands and deeply indented sea lochs, where in the long daylight of the northern summer the canoeist can find remote campsites, forget all about the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and enjoy the fresh air and the tang of the sea."

Stuart Jarvis, secretary of BRAYFORD C.C. wrote recently, enclosing a vast pile of photographs and information about Brayford's activities. They have three original designs on the stocks at present—a single, double and treble, which are being built aboard their HQ Barge Vixen. A generous offer of help or accommodation is extended to any member of the BCU who is touring in the Lincoln area. Any number within reason possessing sleeping bags can be housed in "Vixen".



The philosophy of LEEDS C.C. since winter began can be stated roughly as follows: "Why put our boats away for four months every year?

However cold the weather gets, the water can't get any colder than 0°C. 'cos then it's ice, and then, anyway..." Leeds, situated in the Pennine foothills, has plenty of rough water on its doorstep, and the club aims to make the most of it, especially during the monsoon season.

The procedure goes something like this: The Secretary telephones the R.A.F. Met. Office on a Friday evening to check on the rainfall for the weekend, then gets to work with slide rules and maps to find out which rivers will have risen most by Sunday. Following the club's rolling session on Friday night, everybody adjourns to the round the corner, where final plans are prepared to the accompaniment of swilling beer and munching potato crisps, then in the grey light of dawn the Minis race up the Dales roads. For the Leeds club, it has been an incredibly active winter; hundreds of Rough Water/Paddler Miles logged since November.



The Annual General Meeting of the CANADIAN CANOE ASSOCIATION was held on 26th November 1965 at Richmond Community Centre. It

was decided to purchase a new and larger die for the association's badge, the present stock having been exhausted. The need for a larger badge in which the design was highlighted was emphasised.

In order to encourage cruising further afield, it was decided to ask members for information concerning accommodation for

crews and canoes within reach of the members' residences. Ron and Jennifer Flowers immediately offered facilities on the Thames at Laleham in Surrey.

A letter from Ken Littleddyke announced two new Canadian Canoe designs—one for a novice, a simple 16ft. x 32 inch double chine with stable hull, and the other a modified, more stable, "Voyageur".

GROUP ONE C.C. have splashed out non-existent funds and purchased a 12-seater minibus. This commitment means that ingenious methods have to be used to maintain a bank balance. "Top Scorers" have now raised £12 for Club funds, and waste newspaper from the December Collection raised seventeen shillings for 4 cwt. . . . Total for Christmas card sales, over £15.



In December the CHALFONT C.C. members and friends enjoyed a pleasant dinner at the Riviera Hotel, Maidenhead, followed by a showing of members' films and slides, plus two documentaries by Oliver Cock.

The Club's winter programme is going well. The rolling sessions at Seymour Baths are being well supported, and the monthly slalom training weekends at Hambleton are also proving very popular. The February one was especially good, with mild weather and superb water. Even Sophia Loren and her husband stopped by on a stroll along the river bank to admire the fine canoeing.

Harold Barton organised an auto-slalom, in which only a few drivers risked their cars, but next time they hope this good idea gets the support it deserves. Participants enjoyed this off-beat entertainment, held in a small wood (and not on water, just in case someone else would like to try the idea).



From the LEICS. ASSN. OF CANOEISTS' magazine "On the Water" comes a description of the Serpent's Tail on the Dee: "The Plas Berwyn rapids provide some really good, fairly difficult water. Straight in, no messing, a few near misses, a violent recovery stroke, and six L.A.O.C. chaps all upright joined Manchester who were still sorting out the rapids victims.

Next the Horseshoe Falls, where quite a number of Manchester types portaged, as did the Blonde, which goes to show not all Blondes are dumb. Below the Horseshoe we passed the Chain Bridge Hotel where some of the finest symmetrical standing waves I've seen stood guard. Big five footers, some twenty feet apart. Things were building up to a climax, the dreaded Serpent's Tail.

Why this magnificent fall is called the Serpent's Tail I do not know. With huge sharp rocks jutting through the waves like

fangs, Serpent's Jaws would be more appropriate! Here the river enters a sort of funnel, being a boiling mass of all-white water. The spout of the funnel is only some nine feet across, no longer white but still quite fast. The rock formation on the right hangs over the water at head height, and just to make things more awkward, the water spirals through the gap like a corkscrew, all the surface water going towards and under the overhang. Try as you might, you can't keep left. Out of some three dozen canoeists, about 30% made a difficult portage at the Tail, and rightly so. But even as these wise souls struggled down the rocks, others clambered up for a second go at the Tail.

How do you describe the shooting of a heavy rapid? All you can see is head, shoulders and paddle tips, then the upturned hull at the bottom. When it was all over, someone remarked that the Tail won 17—9."



Carel Quaife reports on BIRMINGHAM C.C. "The winter is proving to be our most active season. The white water types have been out most weekends, on the swollen local river, and we have taken the opportunity to canoe on normally uncanoeable water—including Bewdley High Street! On the larger meets we have had plenty of practice in rescue techniques, but we did nearly have one nasty accident. One of our younger members narrowly avoided being run down by a Morris Minor which drove across a ford without sounding its horn! In the immediate future we shall be giving a rolling display during some National Swimming Championships, and we shall also be helping to staff the RoSPA stand at the Birmingham Boat Show."



The ROYAL CANOE CLUB, the first canoe club in the world, celebrates its Centenary this year. A number of events are planned during the year to commemorate this historic landmark. On May 6th the Centenary Dinner and Dance at the Winning Post, Great Chertsey Road, Twickenham will provide a social gathering to start the season. The Sprint Regatta at Teddington on July 23rd is the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the date of the Club was formed—July 25th. One Club Officer has suggested that the day itself should be celebrated by paddling 100 miles in the day. "With continuous development of training and paddling technique no doubt his successor will paddle 200 miles on our 200th anniversary!" writes Peter Wells.

In August they will be joined by canoe sailors from Sweden and Germany for the International Centenary Regatta at Hayling Island while on September 25th it is the turn of the Long Distance enthusiasts who are staging a special 50 miles race to finish at Trowlock Island.

The House Committee have been making heroic efforts to put the Clubhouse into a shipshape state worthy of this historic year. At times the heaps of broken matchboarding piled to the ceiling might have daunted the fainthearted, but now order has been restored and the final coats of smart new paint are being applied. There is now an enlarged and improved clubroom and a splendidly appointed bar to welcome visitors from home and overseas.



LAKELAND CANOE CLUB news. A 'Hard core' of Lakeland Canoe Club members has been canoeing regularly during the winter—actually most are soft and wear wet suit tops. Even one of the most scornful members was converted by the loan of a pair of wet suit socks on a bitterly cold day!

The Upper Ribble was investigated at Christmas, and was found to be quite hair-raising. From Horton to Helwith Bridge the river was easy, but then comes a dramatic change to a drop of 80 feet per mile for the next 1½ miles. The river is extremely bouldery and the worst part was portaged. Even so it provided difficult canoeing down to another portage at Stainforth Falls. It continued very lively down to Settle, where the description in the B.C.U. Guide starts. The party was surprised to find a grade III-IV fall just below Settle Bridge—not mentioned in the Guide.

In January was held what was probably the first legitimately organised cruise on the River Hodder, a notable angler's preserve, tributary of the Ribble. There was just enough water in the river—which in dry weather becomes impossible due to a reservoir at its head. It proved to be well worth while with a grade three stretch including a rocky fall.



The regular gang of paddlers from the **WEST YORKSHIRE C.C.** are spending the winter exploring various rapids made hairy by the British Rainfall, whilst not forgetting their obligation to bring on the less experienced members of their club. The set programme for the club is designed to do just this, for they believe that once a paddler has seen some 'baby' rapids, his appetite will be whetted (if that is the right word) for bigger stuff. "Our coast weekends are designed for surfing, but with or without surf we shall enjoy ourselves," comments their correspondent, who modestly refrains from giving his name and address.

The **NORFOLK SCHOOLS S.A.** led a successful expedition to Luxembourg last July, and are in the midst of organising a similar trip to the Ardeche and Mediterranean Coast in September next. The Luxembourg trip was particularly noteworthy for the friendly reception received everywhere. "We camped at Esch-sur-Sure," writes

Patricia Landamore, "and on our arrival at the campsite found M. Mondy Engel, president of the Luxembourg K.C. waiting to welcome us. He arranged with the controller of the barrage above Esch to let enough water through for us each day, and members of his club, including their international team, came with us on an expedition on their day off.

The water for the Sure comes from a Lake above the barrage and is the same temperature summer and winter—4°, as members of our party discovered when they capsized. The river varies between Grades II and III, with several good weirs to shoot.

The local inn at Esch feted us with Champagne before we left, and there were smiles and gifts from most of the local shopkeepers. A lovely place, I hope we shall go again."

★ *There were many other interesting Club reports, but until we get more pages, we can print only a selection of those received. Editor.*

Briefly . . .

- ★ The River Stour Action Committee of the Inland Waterways Association is holding two cruises (in May and September) in support of their campaign to secure official recognition of the public right of navigation on this attractive river. The London and Home Counties Branch of the Inland Waterways Association have now published a handbook on the river. Unlike others in the series, it is intended primarily for the canoeist, is illustrated and includes a map.
- ★ We hear that three 18ft. Canadian canoes are being built to compete in the Devizes—Westminster race this Easter. Instead of just muscle fatigue it could be housemaid's knee with a vengeance!
- ★ Seen at the Boat Show on the W. Championship holders stand was Shrike III, with Alan Emus in attendance on Friday and Saturday evening to explain the points of 10-sq. metre canoe sailing. By the way, why was Alan Emus not included in the British World Champions group in the Sportsview Personality of the Year programme 1965 on B.B.C. T.V.?
- ★ Bob Vardy of Avoncraft tells us that he is now completing an order for K1's and K2's for the Canadian racing clubs. Evidently over there a number of clubs have formed themselves into a limited company to overcome importation problems.
- ★ We hear on the grapevine that Streamlyte Mouldings are now sending boats to Australia. Is Great Britain now becoming the centre for the best buys in boats?

ADVANCED CANOEING WEEK 1966 in surf and rough water at Bude, Cornwall

10th September—18th September

Arranged by the BRITISH CANOE UNION in co-operation with the CENTRAL COUNCIL OF PHYSICAL RECREATION

The week will be under the direction of Mr. Oliver Cock, the National Coach to the British Canoe Union. Those attending will be required to observe strict discipline concerning safety precautions, so essential under conditions that are intended to make for the greatest possible efficiency of the individual who wants to use his ability subsequently to help others who find themselves in difficulties under adverse conditions.

PURPOSE. To learn how to handle canoes in rough seas—and the Atlantic rollers may be expected to provide such conditions!—to study methods of life saving through surf, and to examine further possibilities of using canoes and other craft as a means of surf life saving.

It is hoped also to run a small GALA, when such events as sprint races, shore to shore round a buoy at sea, rescue races, surf slaloms and manoeuvring competitions could be held. This would be on Sunday the 11th, entries on the day.

ACCOMMODATION. A camp site has been arranged under the protection of a hill to the

south of Summerleaze Beach at Bude, overlooking it. Local hotel accommodation is available for those who prefer this, but such people are asked to make their own arrangements.

ELIGIBILITY. All taking part must be good swimmers, and should bring their own canoes—preferably singles, with paddles and full equipment. A few Eskimo Kayaks will be available. A condition of acceptance is that all members MUST be able to roll, and should indicate ability and experience on their applications.

FEES. The charges are 2/6d. per head per day for participating adults, 2/- per head for young people under the age of 19, and 1/6d. per head for all "camp followers". The money will be collected on the site.

All applications should be made in the first place to Mr. Oliver J. Cock, at "Rivertrees", Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon., who will send enquirers full particulars of the situation of the camp, and of the course.

Chris Hare tests the Cleveland WET SUIT

Although it is accepted by all canoeists nowadays that if you want to stay warm, wear a wet suit; there have been two disadvantages to wearing them. If you had long sleeves they kept you warm but restricted the expansion and contraction of the forearm muscles and biceps, whereas with the short sleeves you got freedom of movement but suffered from the cold. Cleveland have experimented with sleeve design and have come up with a sleeve which gives you the best of both worlds. Full length to keep the wrist warm and thereby the arm, and yet space inside to give the muscles a chance to work freely. This is done by having a double layer of neoprene at the shoulder, elbow, and wrist, and single for the outer cover, giving space for movement. I tested these special sleeves fitted to my suit and the results were as follows.



panions wore a short sleeved wet suit, the other an anorak and innumerable clothes. The anorak man gave up after 10 minutes because of the cold, the short sleeved man after 30 minutes. After 1½ hours of surfing and rolling I was wetter than usual but still warm and comfortable, and with no muscle fatigue more than normal. The suit did cool down more rapidly while standing around on the beach.

December 19th: Paddled 9 miles in Hartlepool Bay. Strong S.-W. wind, rough conditions, cold. No rolls, and as a result the suit was quite dry except for perspiration. I found the upper arms seemed to drag after a while but no muscle fatigue was felt and I landed quite fresh.

December 30th: Paddled 15 miles on the River Tees over the Hartlepoons L.D. Race course in a K1 at as near as possible racing speed. The air temperature was freezing and the drops from the paddle froze on the deck. There was a lot of ice floating down river. I seemed to get a drag on the upper right arm after 7 miles but it quickly wore off. During the run I tried two 500 metre sprints and found that the suit did not hamper my movements. Finished the course dry and warm.

December 4th: Surfing at Whitley Bay. The weather was extremely cold with a N.-E. wind blowing, heavy surf. One of my com-

(continued at foot of next page)

Record Canoe Conference

The one-day Canoe Conference held on November 27th, 1965, at Garratt Green School in South London, attracted a record paying audience of over 600 from all over Southern England and the Midlands. This can be attributed to the B.C.U./C.C.P.R. policy to keep the price of ticket entries down, to make the lectures and demonstrations as lively as possible, and to publicise widely.

Rectifying a mistake made in the past, no lectures or demonstrations clashed with one another, and time was given for the audience to look around between events. After an introduction by John Dudderidge, Oliver Cock took over with Brian Davis and the Brandon St. Boys' Club (B.C.U. Lifeguards) to give basic and advanced instruction in the baths. This was followed by George Andrews and the Hounslow School of Life-saving, who gave an outstanding display. To finish the morning's activities, Surgeon Commander Davidson added his wide knowledge of life-saving for the canoeist to George's expertise in life-saving generally.

After lunch—tea and sandwiches were provided by the school—David Sutcliffe and Alan Bye combined to give probably the best lecture with slides of sea-canoeing that has ever been given. Taking white water inland, spectators at the baths then saw Chalfont Park C.C. members perform slalom and white water techniques under the eye of lecturer and Chalfont president, Bill Horsman.

On then to racing techniques and advice on canoe training, the latter not by any means solely of interest to the paddle racer. Dr. Watkins and Ted Cronk gave an excellent lecture and managed to answer several highly technical questions fired from the audience. Finally, Oliver Cock showed films, some old and some new, on many aspects of canoeing. All-in-all a successful exhibition from the viewpoint of spectators, but frankly, the school was too small. We must expand.

The pilot scheme for B.C.U. regional associations "B.C.U. in Essex" has now been running for about a year. It is rather too early to evaluate the experiment as yet, though we hope to report on it later. Last November, a "B.C.U. in Yorkshire" scheme was proposed in a meeting called by the local C.C.P.R., and a sub-committee set up to draft a constitution based on that of the B.C.U.

(Wet Suit Report—continued)

At first the upper arm pieces feel strange but you soon get used to them. The sleeve modifications to the suit are first class and will allow you to paddle long distances without undue fatigue or discomfort.

* * *

Sprint Racing Notes

At the P.R.C. meeting prior to the A.G.M., Major Dan Jones announced that he felt unable to stand for a further year in office as Chairman. Jack Thomas was duly elected as the new Chairman.

The controversial Christmas Draw organised by Ron Emes showed a profit of approximately £200, which frankly is well worth a controversy. The promoter, Training Squad members, officials and P.R.C. members who worked so hard to raise this money are to be sincerely congratulated.

In the discussion concerning international regattas for the forthcoming season, it was noted with concern that the D.K.V. felt unable to invite British racing paddlers to compete in any of their international regattas this year, as the standard of racing in this country is not considered high enough, and evidently our paddlers are not considered suitable opposition.

The Femina Trophy

Miss Marianne Tucker, distinguished member of the Richmond Canoe Club who has represented Great Britain in Olympic, World and European Championships and many international events, has very kindly donated a trophy for ladies. It is mainly intended as a source of encouragement for girls who are not yet winning races but who show promise. We take this opportunity to thank Marianne for this kind gesture and hope that more young ladies will be encouraged to race in sprint events.

Promotions

To Senior Status: L. Oliver and M. Parker, Lincoln C.C., L. D. Bolam, Leamington C.C., P. Gardener, Riverside C.C.

To Junior Status: J. D. Moore, K.E. VI Camp Hill School C.C.

Trophies were presented at the A.G.M. follows:

McGregor Paddle—Richmond C.C.

Lightcraft Trophy—Lincoln C.C.

Dexter Trophy—L. Oliver, Lincoln C.C.

Unwin Bowl—A. Edwards, Worcester C.C.

Farnham Cup—A. Wilson, Kyle C.C.

Richards Cup—L. Oliver, Lincoln C.C.

Thistle Cup—The North.

Femina Trophy—Lesley Oliver, Southampton C.C.

Comment from Gerry Maughan at Cleveland Marine:

We do not envisage any extra price, if canoeists specifically state they want the suit for canoeing. It must be understood that the canoeing wet suit is not suitable for skin diving, though the trousers alone would be all right.

MY COLUMN



Oliver Cock

I was at a get-together of coaches and others, not so long ago, in Durham. Every time I go into the North East they arrange this. How I wish something similar would be organised in other parts of the country. Not only are they good fun, but also we have excellent discussion and argument, which is always good for the soul if done cheerfully.

This time we also enjoyed a jolly good meal and, as so often occurs on these occasions, we came to discussing our adventures in these realms on the continent. Your editor suggested that, since so many of you go abroad nowadays for your holidays, and the B.C.U. is organising coachloads of people, followed closely behind by trailer-loads of canoes, all heading for foreign parts, it might be an idea if I told you how one can Live (capital L there please, printer) as one wanders down-river.

So many of the continental rivers flow through wine-growing country, that it seems almost impossible to avoid tasting the local vintage. I have a hunch that the old adage: 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do', also refers to eating and drinking. Certainly "The local brew" tastes better and seems to do one more good than if you take the same brew away and drink it somewhere else.

As a matter of fact we were enjoying a jolly good bottle of Burgundy, and I thought of that curious river, the Saône, which flows through the Southern half of the region where they grow this wine. You won't drift down stream very fast on the Saône. In fact the Romans' maps show it as flowing in the wrong direction! Further south, however, you will find the Rhone,

with excellent vineyards near to hand, and this river certainly does move. In fact you need not do a hand's turn, yet still cover quite a nice mileage each day.

It was on one of the tributaries of the Rhone, the Durance, that I had a very happy chuckle over wine. It is always my habit, when I am in a part of the world about which I do not know an awful lot, to ask for the local wine. It arrives in a water jug, and probably scrapes the skin from the roof of your mouth as you drink it; but somehow it seems to do you good. If the scrape is too rough, you can always dilute it with water.

On this occasion I wanted to go and reconnoitre the Verdon, a river of fantastic scenery to the South. We had drunk, and liked, the local wine, at about 15F. the jug I suppose; but the rest of the party decided they would drink "something really good" while I was away. They paid some 200F., and later confessed it tasted like vinegar. It probably was! Oh, well!

We went to Merano once, on the Adige, as camp followers of the British Slalom Team. (It was after this championship, in 1953, that I started to coach the team.) The local Italian organisers had thought up all sorts of fun and games to keep us camp followers happy. One of these was a race down the Adige, during which the competitors had to carry out some projects on the side. I think we had to go about five miles down river, and I remember we had to draw a picture of the local view at one point, and taste some wines and say which was the local one, at the finish. There were other tasks, but I am afraid I cannot remember what they were.

Well, of course, this was a cinch, because Dave was a jolly good artist and I was a wine taster. We enjoyed our run enormously, especially the finish, and were glad to be taken home by a bus. But we did not do as well as we had hoped because, although Dave's picture was judged by far the best, my wine tasting was easily the worst. However, they gave us Third prize (I think there were only three teams competing). The prize consisted of a Thermos flask, for any of us who chose it, and I got it in the end, an electric shaving machine, for Dave who had a beard, and a bottle of Italian Gin, presumably for me.

The gin turned out to be so excruciatingly nasty, with a taste strongly reminiscent of an ancient and over-fermented haystack (which of course is what it may have been made from) that, when we were asked to declare our contraband at the Customs at Dover, we produced this with a flourish, said we did not want it and would the Customs officer care to take it as a present. He put his nose to the bottle, said No, he didn't think he wanted it, and we could

The Canoa Club Milano, biggest canoe club in Italy, is organising several rapid river races this year (see calendar), including one on the Sesia (Grade IV-V), pictured below. They state that any foreign visitors who wish to take part in their events will receive special attention and facilities both in travelling and accommodation.



take it through free of duty. It was one of the few times I have seen one of our Customs officers really caught off his guard.

I forget what happened to the gin in the end. I think it went to help light a fire somewhere.

At Ljubliana, on the Sava, in Jugoslavia, I was lucky enough to get an introduction to a local wine shipping firm, and we called. As a matter of fact an introduction isn't really necessary in these places. Everybody is always very friendly—you can't help it if you drink good wine—and a visit to the vineyards and cellars is always worth while. One member of the party however, was a confirmed and very outspoken beer drinker. We induced him to taste some of the wine, but he pulled such faces and made such excruciating noises we all thought he was about to throw a fit. And I had to explain in my very bad French what this phenomenal behaviour was about.

My French only gets good, and I can have arguments, when I've emptied a bottle of the local wine. Funny how much less inhibited one is in convivial company. I remember we played bar billiards, and other pub games with the locals far into the night on the side of the Marne some years ago. We were rather late getting up the next morning, but we were remarkably fit and soon made up for lost time. I heard once of a party who stepped ashore to look at a chateau on the banks of the Loire, and were greeted by the owner beautifully dressed in straw hat, frock coat and white duck trousers. He took them all round his estate, and insisted on entertaining them to luncheon.

Yes, even the local food is more reliably good over there than it is here. Any inn will give you an excellent meal, and with the local wine you'll live like lords, for remarkably little as well.

What fun we discover canoeing!

As a result of a request for volunteers to assist occasionally in the B.C.U. office, four "useful" members (I quote the General Secretary!) have come forward to offer their services.

A rapid river canoeing course on March 25-27th is to be held at Derwent Hill Centre, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumberland. Anybody over 16 years and interested is invited to drop a line to the C.C.P.R., Ralli Buildings, Stanley Street, Salford 3.

New Magazine for Lifeguards

Units of the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards are so scattered that the problems of unity and communication are great. As a step towards greater contact, the occasional magazine "Lifeguard" is now being produced. It is edited by Harold Barton, who has succeeded Oliver Cock as Secretary of the Corps, and he requests that any contributions be sent to him at 11 St. James's Avenue, London W.13.

The development of a "Skyak", a cross between a canoe and a surf ski for beach rescue is mentioned in the first issue. The principle is to produce a craft with the ski's advantage of a flat deck behind, on which exhausted bods can lie, and the canoe's advantage of control. Surgeon Commander "Sandy" Davidson has come up with a design which is at present being built by Bob Vardy of Avoncraft. After testing, it will be sent to Atlantic College for trials.

The Corps is pursuing the matter of distress flares with the firm of Schermuly. For various technical reasons, no-one has yet made a suitable signal for canoeists. It should be capable of being set off in the water, produce a bright and sustained flare, and also go off with a loud bang to draw people's attention to the flare. It is the introduction of the bang which is giving the headaches.

Club List Amendments - No. 2

Alterations—

Section II (N. Midlands)

Soar Valley C.C. Transfer to Open Section.

Section III (East)

Norfolk Schools Sailing Assn., Mrs. P. Landamore, "Torrens," Hoveton, Norwich, NOR06Z.

Section V (Southern)

Chalfont Park C.C., c/o Miss H. S. Hodges, The Lodge, Hillingdon, Middx.

Section IX (Wales)

Llandaff C.C., 20 Thompson Avenue, Victoria Park, Cardiff.

Key to Club Facilities

- (1) denotes facilities for coaching new canoeists.
- (2) denotes facilities for coaching Youth Members.
- (3) denotes facilities for dealing with very young members (under 14).

Note: Clubs are only listed as Open when membership is open to anyone above a reasonable lower age limit. Youth Clubs and Clubs with an upper age limit are listed as Closed.

Coaching Get-together at A.G.M.

What sort of canoe do we advise beginners to buy? This is a question which must have worried many canoeists, especially those engaged in instructional work. It was one of the many discussion points to be raised at the 'Coaching Get-Together' held on the afternoon of the A.G.M. Unlike the other committees it is difficult for the National Coaching Committee to meet on this afternoon as, apart from anything else, many of its members are actively involved in the business of the specialist committees. It has become the tradition, therefore, for this get-together to be held . . . and normally advanced publicity has been given to invite all interested in the teaching of the sport. As they qualified members of the Coaching Scheme or not, to come along. Unfortunately no clear announcement was made this year . . . mainly because I, in the midst of handing over to our new Coaching Secretary, Felicity Littleldyke, forgot! I extend my humble apologies, therefore, to any who would have come to our gathering if they had known about it. However we did attract a room full of people and I only hope that they enjoyed and gained as much from the discussions that took place as I did!

Well, what sort of canoe is it to be? Specialist or 'general purpose'? The latter term was discussed, and many attacked the kind of canoe that can thus be labelled on the grounds that general purpose means that it is not good at anything. Slalom and racing enthusiasts were present and the discussion was lively and thought-provoking. We didn't reach a conclusion . . . or might you have guessed!

It was possible to find agreement on less controversial subjects. Expenses of examiners and fees for instructors employed by authorities were considered and it was

suggested that more guidance might be given on the latter after research had been carried out through the medium of the Coaching Newsletter. Books stocked by B.C.U. Supplies were mentioned and it was agreed by the meeting that it was desirable, if administration allowed, that as wide a range of books as possible should be offered on canoeing and subjects directly relevant to the sport. It was hoped that the present practice of stocking foreign books could be extended. Mention was made that the system of 'starring' recommended books, as used in this magazine, was most helpful and that it might prove practicable to issue lists of recommended books to enquirers.

Dick Gay's system of awards for canoe construction was discussed and a number of useful points made. Generally it was felt that the time was not ripe for such a detailed scheme and that Area Coaching Organisers (now appointed for most regions), by knowing the capabilities of the members of the coaching scheme in their areas, could usually ensure that appropriate help was given when required.

It seemed to me, as Chairman of the meeting (and therefore biased!!) that the discussion was interesting and valuable. I like to think that the meeting reflected a quality of liveliness which I feel (and hope!) characterises the Coaching Scheme at the present time.

GEOFF. SANDERS.

The Wrockwardine Canoeing Organisation, a new group in the instruction/holiday field, has taken a really new approach. They provide boats, camping equipment and an instructor on water of your choice. The courses run for one, two, or more days and are angled at the novice and intermediate standard in the river and white water field. See advert section for more details.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Affiliated Club Lists

1986 Affiliated Club Lists have been circulated to Clubs. These lists are arranged in Regions and Counties and sub-divided into Open and Closed Clubs. Where possible we have indicated what training facilities are available in Open Clubs. Will Secretaries please check and let us know of any alterations. Will members who wish to have copies please send a 3d. stamp and state whether the full or Regional list is required.

Individual Membership

New 'Canoeing with the British Canoe Union' forms (Membership Application Forms) have been printed. These are coloured green. Please destroy all BLUE forms which have the wrong membership subscription and the wrong Supplies prices

and sometimes even the wrong address. Please ask for new green forms and give them to any non-member canoeists you know.

B.C.U. Supplies

A new price list has been published. I am afraid some prices have had to go up. Please help by using the new price list and save correspondence over prices.

B.C.U. Supplies is anxious to help by obtaining foreign maps and guides for members contemplating Tours abroad. Besides the maps and Guides which we stock we have French and German Lists of European maps and guides, and if any particular river is available on this list we are prepared to order it for you. Please state membership number as this facility is for members only.



we remain good friends. He even came to the A.G.M. with me. I had to have the only seat in the place with chewing gum on—didn't I?

Sincerely,

NICK HUTCHINGS.

Nick does, of course, qualify for membership of the Fingal Club—and here he is pictured at the B.C.U. A.G.M., wearing the Club tie. We look forward to hearing from other prospective members in due course.

Editor.

Dear Jack,

You asked me, at the A.G.M., to give you a story concerning Fingal. Well, as I said, Fingal has been a close associate of mine on many occasions, and many are the little jokes we shared. It takes some thinking to know which was his prime effort. However, one incident seems to stand out, perhaps because it was the coldest swim I've ever had.

It happened last Easter, which, if you remember, was cold, wet and very windy. Bristol C.C. was canoeing on the Towy over the weekend, but on Sunday we decided to go for the rather bigger stuff on the Irfon. Most of us took to the water, but Chris Baddeley and a few others drove alongside the river to film us—at least that was their story.

Anyway, there was one special rapid that Chris had sworn to film us on, so when we came to it, we waited for him to get into position with the camera, then shot it—doing it beautifully—and it was only afterwards that we found Chris had had a mishap, and hadn't got there in time to film it. So, for his benefit—and for the sake of seeing ourselves on film—we went round and did it again. This, of course was just too much for Fingal. Now that the camera was there to record his handiwork, he decided to put a rock in my path which tipped me the wrong way just as I was broadside to the main current—oops!—and I was swimming over the main fall, with a look of terror on my face that shocks me every time I see the film. When, some seconds later, I re-surfaced, I had a 50-yard swim with a water-logged canoe to negotiate before I could get out, which was also faithfully filmed for future laughter—"Make a good frog, wouldn't he? Ha! Ha!"

And so the most spectacular capsizes I have ever done was put on film, in detail, except that Fingal, being what he is, carefully hid the rock that did it, so my excuse looks rather lame. But I know, and Fingal knows, that rock was there, but will Fingal bear me out? No! But, of course, I know Fingal, and so I won't hold it against him—

Canoe Sailing Commentary

The Sailing Committee have put considerable effort into bringing the sport of canoe sailing before a wider public this winter. Following the convincing demonstration by John Biddle at the Weymouth single-handed sailing trials in September, Shrike III, world championship winner, was displayed at the National Boat Show, Earl's Court. An International 10 sq. metre Canoe was shown at the London Canoe Conference in November and aroused great interest. 10 sq. metre Canoes will also be shown at both the London and the Southampton Dinghy Conference and Exhibition—on the same day, March 6th.

There is news from the Continent that a 10 sq. metre Canoe will be shown at the Berlin Boat Show, while the French are reported to be interested in starting a fleet of International Sailing Canoes at Maubuisson near Bordeaux. It is hoped that France will act as host for the 1967 European Championship.

The I.C.F. Sailing Committee has invited us to stage an International Regatta at Hayling Island this summer, 1st—6th August. There will be team racing in International Canoes between Gt. Britain, Sweden, and Germany, as well as between the two latter countries in their national canoes. This will form part of the celebrations of the Royal Canoe Club centenary, the Hayling Island Sailing Club kindly agreeing to organize the event in conjunction with the Royal Canoe Club.

Soar Valley C.C. Handicap Race 1966

1. J. Allen; 2. D. Arbon.

Manchester C.C. Dee Races 1965-66

I II III IV Final

1. K. Langford,
Man. 87.6 93.8 87.7 90.2 73.5

2. C. Skellern,
Worcs. 88.7 — 86.1 93.1 74.3

Leics. Assn. of Canoeists Winter Race, Jan. 2

m.s.
1. F. Taylor 26.15
2. G. Goosey 28.30

Bookshelf

The Eskimo Roll (British Canoe Union, 2/6 to members)

The revised version of this handbook must be described as first class, and the times that I agree completely with a publication are as rare as snow in summer. Complete with helpful diagrams it explores thoroughly the Pawlata, Steyr and Screw and (briefly) various others. A must for the bookshelf. But why don't the B.C.U. print the names of the editor and artist who put in so much hard work?

Rating: ★★★★★

Choosing a Canoe and its Equipment
(British Canoe Union, 2/6 to members)

Compared with the last edition of this booklet, it is very good, but it still has some odd ideas. For instance, two rugby football bladders are not my idea of adequate buoyancy, and in the days of courene and nylon, whoever heard of letting your painter soak in water before use? The booklet could also do with a number of illustrations to enliven the descriptions. However, it is still a good buy for the beginner.

Rating: ★★★

The Watney Book of Inland Cruising—
Viscount St. Davids (Queen Anne Press, 8/6d.)

This is an extremely well-written book, and one which will appeal to most readers of 'Canoeing in Britain'. Although not written from a canoeing angle, there is much in it that the boat enthusiast should know about Britain's waterways—rules of the road, working of locks, boat handling. There's a chapter on boat buying, too, for the prospective purchaser. Thoroughly recommended for general reading.

Rating: ★★★★★

White Water (Quarterly, 2/6)

As we go to press, we hear that White Water is now approaching the B.C.U. to become the official publication of the Slalom Committee. Official or not, the first edition came out in December as a witty and interesting publication, carrying on very much in the tradition laid down by successive editors in the past, but less parochial in attitude. Some good meat in this first issue—Ian Pendleton will do well to maintain this standard of copy. (Note: We do not use our ★ Ratings for assessing periodicals.)

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INSTRUCTORS

EXPERIENCED CANOEISTS required as Instructors for all periods, April-September, 1966. Young ladies also required as Cooks on canoe camping holidays. Details from P.G.L. Holidays, Hole-in-the-Wall, Ross-on-Wye.

INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED for Youth Hostels Association. All fares and accommodation paid plus remuneration of £3 per Senior Instructor and £2 per Assistant Instructor per week. Weekly cruising courses along the River Wye and training courses at Lostwithiel on the River Fowey. For further details and application form write to Peter Hall (C/B), Y.H.A., St. Albans, Herts.

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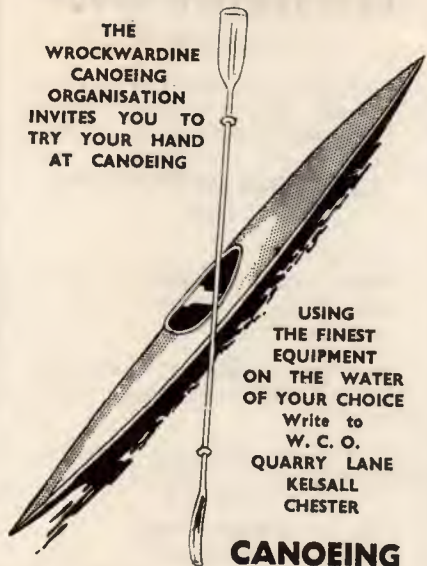
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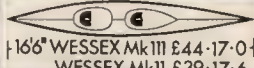


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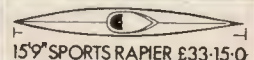
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