

canoeing in Britain



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canoeing in Britain

the news magazine of the British Canoe Union

General Secretary

The British Canoe Union,
Major G. E. Tomlinson,
Room 315,
26/29 Park Crescent,
London, W.1.
Tel: 01-580-4710.

Enquiries regarding non-receipt of magazine, notification of changes of address and general enquiries should be sent, quoting your membership number, to the General Secretary.

Names and addresses of the principal officers of the British Canoe Union can be found in the B.C.U. Calendar and Directory, on pages 8 - 10.

Editor

Jack Levison,
11 Martindale Grove,
Egglecliffe,
Egglecliffe,
Stockton-on-Tees,
Teesside.

Advertisement Manager

Chris Hare,
9 Tynebrooke Avenue,
Hartlepool,
Co. Durham.
Tel: Hartlepoons 66339.

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

Editorial

STAFF

Freda Hare

Lofty Wright

Eileen Levison

Sandy Sanderson

Pevee

Quotation from my circular to all BCU Canoe Club secretaries, dated January 1968, concerning events for the BCU Calendar: "Please do not assume (as some clubs did last year) that the Technical Committees will give me all the necessary details; this can mean that an event is described wrongly or even omitted."

On Page 50 are a number of amendments to the BCU Calendar. We apologise for having published misleading dates—certain of these were taken from a provisional slalom fixture list circulated to us in December. The dates were changed in January, well before our final Copy Date, but apparently neither Committee nor organisers saw fit to inform us.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

In our last issue we published a letter from David Hirschfeld in which certain allegations were made concerning Franz Schulhof (Frank Sutton). The letter and response were published in the belief that Frank Sutton had given his reply for publication; we now know that he was unaware that publication might take place, and that he had merely answered hastily the points raised.

We apologise for any distress which has been felt as a result of this correspondence, and express the hope that the views of the two parties, to each of whom canoeing today owes a great deal, can be reconciled.

The Editor wishes to apologise personally for his error of judgement in publishing the latter part of Mr. Hirschfeld's letter, which was not connected with the topic under discussion.

The Calendar is compiled with considerable care, but can only be as accurate as the information we receive.

Attention, all Ethiopians

A request has been received from a Union member, Mr. Neil Conacher, Alric Hotel, 35 Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex, for "details of the sort of canoeing available in Ethiopia during the months June to September." This has rather stumped our Touring Adviser, who asks that any information be sent direct to Mr. Conacher.

Sportsmanship

We note with some concern that certain members of Richmond C.C. allegedly refused to pay late entry surcharges at the Oxford Univ. L.D. Race, and, having then had their entry fees refunded, proceeded to canoe round the course with the other competitors.

This action has subsequently caused considerable embarrassment to the organisers in their relations with the Thames Conservancy and local riparian owners. It is hoped that the L.D. Committee will see fit to act to discourage such thoughtless acts in future.

Versatile

The new Calendar style has been generally well received. The poster type was in our opinion in danger of losing its impact; stagnation and loss of business support rapidly follow lack of ideas. For those who nevertheless prefer a wall display, the General Secretary offers extra copies of the Calendar for 1s. each post free. Two copies slit up the spine and pasted on to last year's calendar produce a poster *par excellence*.

Easier than a jigsaw (the parts are numbered), cheaper than tenpin bowling—do-it-yourself wall calendars are IN this year.

JACK LEVISON.

Wyedean Canoe Club builds the B.S. Trier

A number of members have undertaken the task of making their own mould in glass fibre from the B.S. Trier plan. It was their first venture in the use of this material, and they met quite a few problems, but are now producing a regular supply of canoes from the mould. They suggest one refinement on the mould-building procedure described in our September 1967 issue—after the hull mould has been made and removed from the "plug", a frame should be made from $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch ply, to fit neatly to the outside of the flange and the inside of the mould. This will save much work later for two reasons:—

1.—The plywood frame could be placed

on the base board in an inverted position and thus facilitate the setting out of the deck mould.

2.—By building a little above the required depth of the hull in fibre glass a neater edge can be obtained. Time is saved if after the fibre glass has become 'gelled' the $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch frame is removed and the surplus material levelled off with a chisel (keeping the cutting edge inclined towards the mould from the inside). Cutting away this surplus material ensures that a 'soft edge' is avoided.

(In September, Bill Saunders, designer of the B.S. Trier, writes on the Care of Glass/Resin Moulds).

Report of the B.C.U. Disciplinary Committee

In the course of our investigation into certain regrettable actions which occurred in Duisburg, it became apparent that all was far from well in the Sprint Racing World.

Further enquiries have shown a steady deterioration in Sprint Team morale over the last three years, with increasing friction between groups of paddlers.

We have therefore re-considered Peter Lawler's appeal against the sentence imposed on him for his behaviour in Duisburg in the context of these conditions and feel that they offer some extenuation for his actions, indefensible though they were. The ban on Peter Lawler taking part in overseas international regattas is therefore lifted to become a suspended sentence for one year. During this time Peter Lawler will be on probation, and should there be any evidence of actions by him detrimental to team discipline, the suspended sentence will be immediately re-imposed.

J. W. DUDDERIDGE, *President*.
J. SPÜHLER, *Chairman of the Competition Committee of the Council*.
R. O'KEEFE, *Chairman of the P.R.C.*

8.3.68

110 Miles of Brown Water . . .

. . . rapids, rocks, sand, bush, mountains, footpaths and heat! This is Paul Dearing's description of the Pietermaritzburg to Durban Canoe Marathon in which he took part with Mike Sutton-Pratt in January this year.

"We just took each day as it came," he writes, "determined as the first overseas entrants, to at least be on the finishing list. Not as easy as one might imagine—one false move and a K2 was so much fibre glass play material for the Zulu children to grab to take into the bush!" The course is along the Umsindusi river until it joins the Umgeni, and then to Durban and the sea. The rivers run through breath-taking scenery known as "The Valley of a Thousand Hills"—and you walk over nearly all of them! In some years the race is won by cross-country runners with little or no canoeing experience, who are lucky enough to survive the rivers' hazards; at other times the canoeists who have trained for portaging their canoes in the hills take the honours. It depends to some extent on the rainfall.

Portages of five miles are the regular thing and in dry years it is not unknown for competitors to carry their boats for twenty miles between canoeable stretches of water. Nearly all the boats are amateur-built either by the competitors themselves or their clubs.

Good News from the World of Sprint Racing

At a meeting of the Competition Committee of the Council of the BCU held at Leamington Spa, a report was received from the President on the findings of the Disciplinary Committee set up to enquire into the Duisburg incidents.

The investigations had made it very clear that all was not well in Sprint Racing and that it was imperative that a study be made of the causes of friction and schism with a view to their eradication. The President was asked to carry out this study, and in pursuit of this he addressed a representative group of sprint paddlers assembled at Bisham Abbey in December for a coaching and training weekend. The group comprised the members of the Olympic Training Squad and about two dozen members of another training group.

The President referred to the bad feeling which had developed amongst sprint paddlers during the last few years, and expressed a conviction that the causes could be very largely attributed to mistakes and misunderstandings. He stressed the point that we could not possibly achieve our maximum effort whilst divided, and he called for a frank recognition of errors, and a determination by all concerned, to clear away these causes of conflict and dissension.

From the comments made afterwards it was clear that there existed a strong desire for a fresh start, and before the weekend was over, an agreement had been reached for a series of joint training sessions. Shortly afterwards there came a stormy meeting of sprint paddlers following the A.G.M. with a number of complaints and criticisms ventilated and the way was further cleared for progress.

We are glad to be able to report continued progress and the publication in our last issue, of the plans for Olympic preparations has been followed by a tremendous enthusiasm. The "Possibles" weekends have proved stimulating times for paddlers and officials. No-one minds hard work when it is purposeful and when all are pulling together.

During the period of Peter Lawler's suspension he continued with his own training programme and gave a lot of assistance with the training of some of the younger paddlers.

SLALOM PLUS SKEG

Frank Goodman

One of the difficulties for the beginner in canoeing is to decide which type of canoe to buy. Similarly, if one is laying down a stock of basic canoes for use by a school or college, the problem of choice of canoe must be solved. Although general purpose canoes are made, most people who become keen canoeists gravitate to one branch or other of the sport, so that by and large, a specialist canoe that can be used by a beginner too, would seem to be the best bet.

The design of a racing canoe sacrifices every consideration to that of speed, whereas a slalom canoe, although it must be highly manoeuvrable, is a compromise between manoeuvrability and speed. One would expect, then, that if you choose a specialist boat for general purposes, a slalom canoe will be a better choice than a racing craft. Certainly, anyone who has taken a group of beginners canoeing, knows that any canoe that likes to go straight, sets off immediately in the direction of the nearest hazard, whereas most novices in a slalom canoe rotate quite gracefully for the first hour or so, and are therefore under the eye of the instructor!

Hoping to solve the problem of the beginner's rotary canoe, and to make my own slalom canoe hold its position on a wave when surfing, I decided to try and make myself a skag which could be quickly and simply attached to a canoe and at the same time allow it to slide over sand or even the hard rock, without too much danger of leakage.

The most efficient skag has an aspect ratio of 5:1 with the long dimension vertical. This shape can easily be damaged, so I settled for a horizontal shape that was less efficient, but allowed rocks to slide along its base rather than hit the front. See Fig. 1.

Fixing the skag to the canoe was the biggest problem. I rejected the idea of bolting through the skin of the canoe into a block resined inside, as I didn't want the canoe altered in any way. The first reasonable idea was to make a skag with a loop of fibreglass at the back to encircle the end of the canoe, while at the front a strong line ran the length of the hull and tied off tightly through the front painter hole. See Fig. 2. I made one of these, but found that a draw-

stroke caused a sharp rattle to sound on the hull as the line vibrated violently, however tightly it was hauled. This, together with the fear of the line catching on some underwater obstacle was off-putting. It was then that the penny eventually dropped and I realized that a skag jammed on the stern can be strained forward just as well by a line along the deck, as along the hull.

What a fantastic material fibreglass is. In less than an hour the stern of my canoe was waxed, coated with release agent and a lay-up of 1½ oz. chopped strand mat stippled home roughly to the shape shown in Fig. 3. After cutting out two pieces of blockboard a little larger than the shape of the skag, I lined them with hardboard to give a good surface, and then added spacers to give a thickness to the skag of about ¼-inch near the hull to about ½-inch at its extremity. See Fig. 4. I wetted out four layers of chopped strand mat and squashed them between the boards using a couple of G-clamps, making sure that there were at least two inches of mat protruding beyond the boards on the hull-side, these were then flattened out left and right on to the mat already laid up on the canoe. The whole lot was allowed to gell after lining up the skag fore and aft and holding it in position with two strips of wood lightly tacked to the boards and the bench top—where the canoe lay upside down. See Fig. 5. A strip of mat was wetted out, rolled up and stippled to the top-front of the two bands of glass encircling the canoe, to drill later for the painter.

FIG. 1.

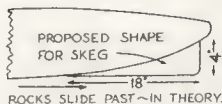


FIG. 2.

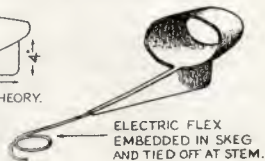


FIG. 3.

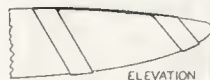


FIG. 4.

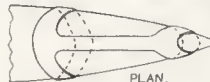
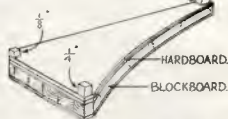
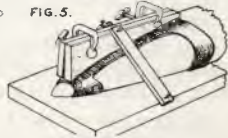


FIG. 5.



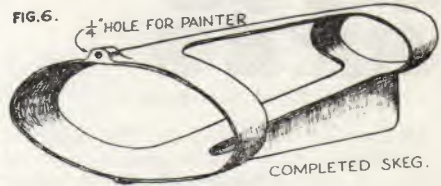
After the resin had gone off, the boards were removed from the skag, and then the whole thing from the canoe (this needed a couple of taps with a hammer and a short end of timber). Half an hour with a

surform and file cleaned the edge to shape, and a bit of work on the lump of fibreglass at the top-front of the deck-band made a squarish block through which was drilled a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hole. The whole assembly is, of course, bound to fit perfectly on to the canoe, and the front painter threaded through the top hole and tied off taut holds it in place most securely. See Fig. 6.

I found that once on the front of a surfing wave it is easy to sit with paddle idle, whereas without the skæg, busy correction with a stern rudder stroke, first this side and then that is necessary. Broadside on, in a breaking wave, the skæg makes virtually no difference to the handling of the boat.

Novies who have tried it, find at last, that they tend to go straight, and for long paddles on calm rivers or choppy sea, the advantages are at once apparent. Since the length of the water-line is increased slightly I dare say the speed of the boat is margin-

ally increased, although this will probably be cancelled out by the increased drag. The whole thing will slide into the canoe when it is not needed, and can be rigged in about thirty seconds.



A slalom canoe plus skæg seems to give as versatile canoe as is possible. For the white water canoeist at least, it will turn a slalom boat into something much more suitable for surfing or longer sea voyages. The only thing lacking is a turn of speed, but that if one insists on going fast I've always felt that the detachable outboard motor is the answer—I'm working on it!

Coaching News

1. Examination Successes

Our congratulations to Ken Rudram who has now completed his 'bag' by passing both the Advanced Canadian and Sea Kayak examinations and is thus entitled to wear the Gold Proficiency Badge.

Our congratulations also to Messrs. A. Hughes and G. A. Lee who have passed the Advanced Sea Kayak and to Messrs. A. J. Woods, C. Gray, J. Hooker and D. M. Owen for having obtained the Advanced Inland Kayak.

Since the last report in the March issue 13 Senior Instructors and 57 Instructors have been added to the Coaching Register and our final congratulations go to Mr. Alan Hughes for having obtained the appointment of 'Coach'.

2. Area Coaching Organisers. The following appointments have been made:—

North Midlands: R. E. GAYS, 55 Conaglen Rd., Aylestone, Leicester.

North-West Midlands: A. W. BYDE, 27 Bredon Close, Albrighton, nr. Wolverhampton, Staffs. (Area: Staffs., Shrops., Wolverhampton).

South-West Midlands: C. E. QUAIFFE, 70 Coopers Rd., Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20. (Area: Warwicks., Worcs., Herefs.).

Hertfordshire: A. J. WONFOR, 90 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

3. Log Books—now needed by candidates for all awards—are available from H.Q. for 3/6d plus 6d postage. A number of Area Coaching Organisers also hold stocks.

4. Full Details of the Coaching Scheme, Tests and Awards, Work of the National Coach, specimen examination papers (state which award), Hints on Instructional Techniques are all available, free of charge, from H.Q., but please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your request.

5. B.C.U. Membership is compulsory for all members of the Coaching Scheme. It is the intention of the National Coaching Committee to circularise the following information to the canoeing and educational press:

- "a. Coaching awards are not valid unless the holder is currently a member of the B.C.U.
- b. There are believed to be a number of people about who claim to be qualified Instructors or Coaches but who, through non-renewal, have forfeited their right to hold Coaching Awards.
- c. The validity of a person's qualification can be ascertained by asking to see the Coaching Award and current membership card of the person concerned or by writing to the Coaching Secretary of the B.C.U. for a copy of the Coaching Register."

6. Coaching Newsletter: Qualified members who have not received their May copy by mid-June are asked to write to H.Q.

The 11th Annual Leamington River Race attracted a record entry of 250 competitors in 169 boats and, as expected, in view of the fact that the entire 30 strong Olympic Possibles Squad were racing, exceptionally fast times were recorded and numerous new record times were established.

TOURING TOPICS

Chris
McAllister

The new Waterways Guide is slowly taking shape, but it will be a long time yet before it is ready to go to the printers. There are still a number of inland areas which have not yet been adequately covered, and information is also required on certain favourite sea-canoeing areas. The more help we get the better the new Guide will be, and the sooner it will appear. Help with copy typing will soon be needed urgently, and volunteers for this chore will also be welcome. If you want to know more, without obligation, please write to me: Chris McAllister, 157 Crow Lane East, Newton-le-Willows, Lancs.

Detailed Regional Guides are going to play a very useful role in the future. They can supplement the information — meagre in some cases, which because of considerations of space it will be possible to include in the new National Guide, especially in regard to smaller waterways. These detailed Guides could also give full access information on each stretch of river. Southern C.C.P.R. led the way with their "Canoeing in the South", the first of the Regional Guides, which is available for 3/6d, post free from C.C.P.R. Watlington House, Watlington Street, Reading, Berks. Now another Guide has appeared; "Canoeing in Yorkshire", produced by the Leeds Canoe Club with the help of a number of canoeists from other Northern clubs. It costs 2/6d post free from B.C.U. Supplies, 26 Park Crescent, W.1, or direct from Leeds Canoe Club, 176 Gladstone Street, Bradford 3, Yorks. It contains detailed descriptions of all the well-known Yorkshire rivers, as well as several much less familiar ones, such as the Hodder, Whitby Esk, Greta, Rawthey, etc. A section on the Yorkshire coast is also included. This is the great merit of a regional guide, that it can open up hitherto virtually unknown canoeing territory.

The Upper Wharfe Access Agreement (for want of a better name) should soon be signed between the B.C.U. and various riparian interests upstream of Bolton Abbey. It may very well prove to be a useful model for similar access agreements in other parts of the country. The concessions granted to canoeists are quite generous, and they include unrestricted use of the water in flood conditions, together with a number of previously negotiated dates every season. There will be an obligation on canoeists to liaise with the water bailiff, and they must also identify themselves by painting their names and clubs on the deck of their canoes so that they can be read easily from a distance of 20 yards. The gentlemen in tweeds and waders who stand on our river banks and

watch us go past are slowly realising that with more and more canoeists joining our ranks, controlled canoeing will prove better in the long run than uncontrolled chaos — of the kind that would result from trying to ban canoeing entirely, or to give it too little scope.

Candidates for the Proficiency Test nowadays are expected to know something of River Access, and this is a good thing. It was brought out at a recent Coaching get-together which I attended that there seems to be a good deal worth knowing beyond this elementary level, and that it might not be unreasonable to expect candidates for Coaching Awards to have made a study of the whole question of River Access in some depth. The Touring Committee may be asked to prepare a booklet, or to approve some notes for inclusion in the Coaching Handbook.

Member clubs of the B.C.U. have recently received a copy of the letter below. Individual members not in a club should send their donations direct to R. A. Sowman, 4 Landor Road, The Cape, Warwick.

March, 1968

Dear Sir,

We are sure that you will agree that we should send Great Britain's strongest team to the Olympic Games in Mexico City this year. Our team will number about 275 and will participate in up to sixteen sports. For this, about £175,000 is needed and the majority has got to be raised by Public Appeal, although a grant is being given by the Government through the Sports Council.

Our Sport, Canoeing, has agreed to raise £150 towards this target. The British Olympic Association pays all the expenses of our team members from the time they leave their homes for Mexico City until the time they return.

Will you please help us? You can send a donation from your Club funds, or organise dances, matches, etc., in aid of the Appeal. We are appealing to the Country as a whole but Sport must surely support itself as well. A contribution from your Club, however small it might be, would help greatly in this.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN W. DUDDERIDGE.

President, British Canoe Union.

● **join the B.C.U.!**

**details: The General Secretary,
British Canoe Union,
26/29 Park Crescent, London W.1.**

OPEN FORUM

Membership Problems

Dear Jack,

From various reports, including the Dec. issue of Canoeing in Britain, it is apparent that all is not well with regards to individual membership of the British Canoe Union. This should be deeply concerning the Council if the Union is to be considered this Country's spokesman on the sport. Many of us know that 3,442 is only a fraction of the number of canoeists in the country but this would be acceptable if these members were constant. As it is, with a loss of 1,300 and recruitment of 1,200, every three years could see a completely new membership. Unless there is some stability the Union must suffer when looking for potential Council members.

The Council report admits to the drop in Youth membership and while these canoeists may eventually rejoin, this should not be taken for granted. The adage "once bitten—twice shy" may apply. Also, the increase in the number of affiliated clubs should not be accepted with complacency . . . how many are school groups and, even more significant, how many are clubs compelled to affiliate for the competitive side of canoeing?

As a canoeist of some years and experience I share the Council's concern but wonder if the problem is being tackled in the right way. It is usually recommended that for reasons of finance or continuity it is better to retain existing support than to pour new resources into a leaking bucket. There must be a reason for this loss of support and I think it essential that this be found. It is bad enough if we cannot recruit, but to have recruited and then lost is far more disturbing. May I suggest the problem be tackled by analysing every lapsed membership, checking on the main features (a) length of membership before lapsing, (b) age group, (c) particular interests (shown on membership form).

Are we losing long standing members, indicating dissatisfaction, or new ones, indicating that the Union is not offering what the average canoeist wants? This analysis could be backed up by a reply paid form at next renewal asking non-renewing members to return, with a reason. Before we hear the cry of "what of the cost", remember that every member kept in this way pays for quite a few postage stamps. I might add that this system of analysis was recently used in a commercial unit and proved highly

successful in disclosing a general cause of wastage—and the cause was remedied.

Another feature, unpleasant but true, is that the internal workings of the British Canoe Union, with its sub-committees, does appear unsatisfactory at times and even the long term supporters occasionally have doubts on rejoining. If one considers the delay in a reply from a Council member, there must be doubts.

Possibly other members have these experiences but this is not the place to enlarge on this theme. It does, I feel, come back to a question of being closer to those members the Union has and so encourage recruiting by satisfied members. This means a very searching probe into the cause of non-renewal of membership and then firm action to re-establish the B.C.U. as the rightful spokesman.

For too long, too little has been done in this field, for whilst the British Canoe Union has worked extremely hard to represent British canoeing abroad it has lost real contact with those it represents.

Hereford.

BRIAN WEBB.

Letter from Down Under

Dear Sir,

By a roundabout route I have 'discovered' your magazine and was really impressed with its format and information. We are just getting canoeing established here in the South Island although it has been going for some years in the North.

Could you forward my name and address to somebody who would be interested in corresponding regularly. I am 34 with children and 3 canoes to support (not forgetting the wife!).

In the meantime all the best with your magazine and may all your eskimo rolls be 'first time uppers'.

MURRAY COULTER.

(Anyone wishing to correspond should write to Mr. Coulter at 12 Cranbrook Ave., Christchurch 5, Canterbury, New Zealand).

READERS' LETTERS

Round-up Defended

Dear Sir,

As the author of Slalom Round Up I wish to put a few points in reply to Brian Evans and Stuart Hodgson, who wrote in the last issue of C. in B.

Firstly my 'cloak of anonymity' has now been shed (when taking the job on, originally, I was told that one should write anonymously—I have no idea why). In reply to Brian Evans there is no cause for him to take exception to my statement that the telephone equipment was 'dumped' on Manchester C.C. If I had said 'left to them by the organisers of the previous slalom' the fact would have been exactly the same—and my criticism directed still at the organisers of slalom after slalom, who pass the telephone equipment on, in steadily deteriorating condition, until someone of the unselfishness of Maurice Rothwell gets it and spends hours and hours putting it right.

As far as Stuart and Colne C.C. are concerned, he says nothing to refute my suggestion that lack of manpower was one of the reasons for cancellation of Pont-alt-y-Cafan. (Two clubs organising one slalom is a possible solution here, I feel).

His protestations of having warned all entrants by post of the cancellation were accepted and Stuart will remember that I was one of the Executive who voted in favour of Colne running another slalom—why then are they not doing so? (Lack of manpower?).

Leamington Spa. RODNEY WITTER.

Death of a Slalom

Dear Sir,

Could you please print, in your next issue, that the Bevere 3rd division slalom scheduled for 9th June has had to be cancelled due to lack of permission. The farmer having the grazing rights considers his fields have been unnecessarily cut up; people have wandered indiscriminately over land for which permission was not given; and will not consider giving permission in the future. Slalom canoeists take note and treat sites with respect or the sport will soon die out.

D. PATRICK DONCASTER,
(Sec. of Worcs/Leamington Slalom
Worcester. Organisation).

Calendar Approved

From the Secretary's postbag.

Dear Major Tomlinson,

I have very recently received a copy of the British Canoe Union Calendar and directory for 1968 and wish to take this opportunity of complimenting you and the

members of the British Canoe Union on a very well presented publication.

P. K. LAWRENCE,
Programme and Training Department,
The Scout Association.

London

Dear Jack,

Many thanks for the inclusion of our Potential Instructors Sea Canoeing Course in the B.C.U. Calendar—we have had numerous enquiries and several applications as a result of this.

I am wondering if it would be possible to have 6 copies of the March C. in B. (and the Calendar) for Sale or Return at this time.

Penzance.

ALEX ALLAN.

(It is usually possible to supply small quantities of magazines for courses on a sale or return basis.—Editor).

B.C.U. Slalom Equipment

Dear Jack,

I feel that I must reply to your recent correspondence on the subject of timing and telephone equipment.

I have recently taken on the job of equipment officer and must point out that the job is purely honorary and entails a good deal of expenditure of personal time and money.

Your correspondent says that the B.C.U. should appoint someone. He must surely know that it is really a matter of finding someone mug enough to do the job.

Our two main problems are:—

(a) Misuse.

(b) Lack of effective maintenance organisation.

Misuse I gather ranges from lighting bonfires over the telephone wires and using them to pull trees down to submerging the entire equipment.

We would like to set up a maintenance system with officers distributed around the country but cannot because of lack of people.

At the moment a ludicrous state of affairs exists in that something like 15 telephone headsets and up to 1,000 yards of wire have disappeared during the '67 season.

I would be grateful if members who used the equipment in the '67 season would let me know what quantity of phones, etc., they used. The problem of replacing equipment is not really money but manufacturing time.

Coventry.

COLIN MANTON.

Slalom Practice

Dear Sir,

Could I put forward a viewpoint on the apparently vexed question of course practice at slaloms? At my first B.C.U. slalom at Swarkestone on 4-5th May, one practice run per competitor was allowed on the Saturday morning. A second pair of 'illegal' runs was possible if one entered the team event. After the team event, some kind soul rushed around with a petition requesting (or was it demanding?) more practice. Finally, late on Saturday, the course was opened, but with most of the gates pulled up clear of the water.

The organisers argued that restricted practice was essential because:

(1) Free practice among 130 competitors would be both chaotic and potentially dangerous.

(2) It was fair to all, especially late arrivals.

To these might be added the arguments heard around the site that—

(3) It sorts out the competitors of differing ability.

(4) It ensures that no 'non-competitors' use the course (i.e. down with Div. 1—but why not learn by watching?)

To me, these arguments seem irrelevant to an alarming degree. The slalom was for Div. III, novice, canadian and ladies; hence many of the K.1 entrants were inexperienced slalomists, and prime candidates for extensive course practice. I met several people who had hardly canoed before, let alone been down a course. Isn't it ludicrous to expect such people to get sufficient practice even to start enjoying slalom, from one run at each of perhaps four slaloms in one year?

Let me make it clear that I intend no disrespect to Midland C.C.; the case is a general one, and they did a good job, given

the rather unfortunate situation. But I would think that a more realistic argument is as follows:

1. At all Div. III/novice slaloms, practice should be *encouraged* as much as possible. Presumably we wish to raise the standard of slalom (and thereby general) canoeing in Britain—how better to start at the large end of the pyramid? Restrict Div. I practice if you will—their water gets lethal if crowded anyway—but let novices practice and practice.

2. Potential danger because of overcrowding is a serious hazard (viz. some Thames weir slaloms) but surely a simple rota system would solve this problem.

3. Fairness: a bit of an empty argument at least in novice slaloms. There are usually one or two hard men just 'starting' slalom who are going to win anyway. Late arrivals shouldn't be late. If you're really insistent, then leave some gates up, or even change the position of some gates just for practice.

4. Why shouldn't canoeists from different Divs. use a course? There are few enough slaloms to divide around as it is, without being petty. If these people are prepared to travel to a slalom they can't enter, just for practice, then good luck to them.

I can already hear rumbles of I.C.F. rules in the background, but surely we must endeavour to *train* canoeists, not just assume that people are born in boats. Anyone who has tried to tie, with numbed fingers, a bit of sizal and two twigs over some Welsh rapid on a Sunday morning will agree with my view that the only way to learn *slalom* is to practice it on a proper *Slalom* course. If one takes the opportunity to practice away from the novice, he will either go away and take up golf, stay a novice, or break the rules amidst frayed tempers and bad language.

JOHN HARRISON,
Vice Captain, Bristol Univ. C.C.

Bristol 8.

SLALOM RULES ON FILM

A new film—"A Judge's Lot" has recently been added to our library handled by the British Film Institute and is available for hire in 16 mm. colour with optical sound, charged as a half reel. It demonstrates the rules of Canoe Slalom, and is accompanied by a guitar song to the tune of "A Policeman's Lot" from "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan. Copies are also available for purchase to order from C. M. Rothwell, 21 Windsor Rd., Manchester 10. Prices (subject to confirmation) approximately: 16 mm optical

sound £15, 8 mm magnetic sound £10, 8 mm silent £8 2s 8d. Cinetape matched to silent film: details on application. Maurice Rothwell can also provide copies of the words so that you can get your own guitarist to sing them to the silent 8 mm version.

The British Film Institute are increasing their hire charges to 12/6d per reel for 16 mm black-and-white and 16/0d per reel for 16 mm colour, 5/6d per reel for 8 mm black-and-white and 7/6d per reel for 8 mm colour. "A Judge's Lot" will be rated as a half-reel and will therefore be charged 8/0d in 16 mm colour.

Council News

Council held its first meeting in 1968 on 9th March at 26 Park Crescent, London W.1.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed two new members, namely Capt. H. Gledhill representing Long Distance Racing and Mr. Rodney Baker re-elected, after a break in service, at the Annual General Meeting held on the 27th January, 1968.

Mr. J. Spuhler was elected Vice-President for the ensuing year and Standing Committee Chairmen were elected as follows:

Competitive Committee—

Mr. J. Spuhler (Vice-President).

General Purposes Committee—

Mr. R. Tyas.

Finance Committee—

Mr. J. W. Dudderidge, O.B.E. (President).

Access Committee—

Mr. J. W. Dudderidge, O.B.E. (President).

Publicity Committee—

Mr. A. L. Williams.

Publications Committee—

Mr. P. C. A. Rogers.

Messrs. C. M. Rothwell and J. Travers were appointed Film Officer and National Youth Officer respectively.

The meeting lasted for six hours with a short break for tea and amongst the many matters discussed perhaps one of the most important to members was the question of the venues and dates of the Canoe Conference and the Annual General Meeting.

Council decided that the Conference and Exhibition would again be held at the Crystal Palace in February 1969 and the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 25th January in a provincial city, probably either Leicester or Sheffield. The final decision has not yet been made.

The most likely date for the Conference is 8th February, 1969, but further details of both events will be published at a later date.

Reports from Standing Committees were received and Council was pleased to note that all Committees had been active in furthering the interests of Canoeists with particular reference to the National Coaching Committee and the Access Committee.

Council agreed that membership numbers must be entered on all entry forms for competitions and that failure to insert the number could justify the entry being disqualified.

Further meetings of Council are scheduled to take place on the 11th June and 28th September at 26 Park Crescent, London W.1 and at the Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree on the 30th November.

CANOE SAILING

Now that the B.C.U. Calendar is set out so that we may pick out the Sailing events without difficulty the discerning will have noted that there is an Open Event each month from April to October inclusive. There is an additional event at Lee-on-the-Solent on Sunday, 21st July, by kind invitation of the Lee-on-the-Solent Sailing Club who have an up and coming IC fleet of their own. There will be an overall points competition for these open events and we hope that this will give an opportunity for our scattered fleets to meet together once a month and encourage the loners to come along too—other canoeists who would just like to know what IC sailing is all about are welcome, too!

The Royal Canoe Club Summer Meet and National Championships will be held in Falmouth Harbour by kind invitation of the Restronguet Sailing Club. The IC fleet had a warm welcome from the locals when we were there in 1965 while the harbour provides good sailing water even in bad weather. The new European Champion, Lars Nicklasson of Sweden, has promised to attend to defend the Murphy Howard Cup—no doubt he also has his eye on some of our more distinguished silverware also!

Encouraging news from the West Country—a batch of glass-fibre hulls are under construction overlooked by the experienced eye of Dick Marks. Canoe sailing has been introduced to Chew Reservoir and it is hoped that it may be possible to hold the West of England Trophy here in future years.

Four canoes to the Proctor Mk III design are under construction by a group of enthusiasts from Lee-on-Solent.

A second IC has gone to Denmark and we look forward to seeing representatives from this new canoe sailing country in 1969. Japan has ordered a complete canoe with a view to building. At the request of the Japanese a short "how-to-do-it" guide to canoe sailing has been prepared. It will be ready very shortly in duplicated form and it is intended that this will form the basis of a more elaborate publication in the B.C.U. Handbook series.

Following the publication of the letter to B.C.U. canoeists in the March issue of Canoeing in Britain, several personal donations have been received, these have been acknowledged with thanks and will help to achieve our target.

All B.C.U. Clubs are respectfully reminded that the closing date for the return of donations and forms is Monday, 10th June.

Thank you all.

R. A. Sowman,
Chairman, Sprint Racing Committee.

NYC Youth Championships

For some considerable time now, there has been some concern at the apparent disinterest shown generally for the Youth Championships, particularly by the Education and allied Authorities.

As the National Organiser, I have made considerable enquiries about this lack of support, and among the facts which emerge is the problem of inequality of the various canoes available for the event, all of which rejoice under the category of Class 3. Education and Youth Authority entries were often in craft borrowed, or of pretty ancient vintage, which fared poorly against the later and more sophisticated craft which were submitted by our more committed members in canoe clubs. This could, and often did, result in the event becoming something of a farce. Loss of support followed. Another factor is the shoestring budget within which many authorities have to work.

These two points I feel are really at the crux of the whole problem. Consequently, the National Coaching Committee ratified the following proposals in April:

1.—There is a need for a one-design boat to be called the B.C.U. Cadet—14 ft. 6 in. to 15 ft. long, 23 in. beam, some rocker, removable rudder, capable of carrying camping kit—a true general-purpose boat.

2.—Two plans of fibre-glass canoes have been submitted by David Green and Dick Gays.

3.—A report on prototypes will be submitted to the National Coaching Committee in November.

With a boat such as this we can offer to the uncommitted a canoe which will allow young people to try the various aspects of our sport out, and will act as a stepping stone from our excellent coaching scheme into competitive canoeing and on (dare I say) to the 1972 Olympics. J. LAW.

DEVIZES - WESTMINSTER RACE 1968 OXFORD UNIV. L.D. RACE 3 March

Senior Class	
1. Pagnelli/Evans, 63 Sqn RCT	21.38.00
2. Peyton/Tomlin, Royal Marine	21.56.30
3. Lee/Allen, Royal Marine	22.54.30
Designers Trophy	
H. Vardy	
D/W Team Trophy	
Royal Marines Canoe Federation	
The Fred Bartlett Trophy	
T. T. Davis/M. Purchas	
The D/W Civilian Trophy	
T. T. Davis/M. Purchas	
The D/W Services Trophy	
P. Pagnelli/R. Evans	
The Tyne Challenge Cup	
D. T. Weaving/K. V. Marafono	
Junior Class	
1. Greenaway/Whitby, Richmond	19.40.13
2. Wilkie/Wilkinson, Met. Police Cadet Corps.	20.45.14
3. Avery/Hare, Met. Police Cadet Corps.	20.48.38
Designer's Medal	
A. Snell	
The Junior Team Trophy	
The Met. Police Cadet Corps.	
The William Bird Trophy	
B. Taylor/G.M. Anderson	
The Civilian Trophy	
H. Greenaway/M. Whitby	
The Police Trophy	
D. E. Wilkie/M.L. Wilkinson	

SCOUT RAPID RIVER RACE, RIBBLE 5 May

Juniors	
1. C. Harrison	1.16.00
2. R. Corbett	1.20.55
3. D. J. Oliver	1.21.25
Seniors	
1. W. Howarth	1.11.25
2. D. Milbramham	1.12.35
3. A. Howarth	1.13.00
Ventures	
1. D. Yates	1.06.25
2. D. Helm	1.08.28
3. D. R. Horrocks	1.08.40
Double Scouts	
1. Rimmer/Blundell	1.10.42
2. Shorrocks/Howarth	1.10.43
3. Pilkington/Smith	1.14.53
Double Ventures	
1. Corner/Maitland	1.06.06
2. Greenhigh/Roberts	1.06.47
3. Leggett/Ward	1.09.08

Class 1a	
1. S. Kitson, Harlow	1.50.02
2. G. MacKereth, Harlow	1.51.30
3. A. Chapman, Royal	1.51.31
Class 1b	
1. J. Radford, Exeter	1.28.43
2. S. Weaver, Lincoln	1.31.07
3. D. Glanville, Riverside	1.32.25
Class 1c	
1. B. Mean, Harlow	1.31.24
2. L. Oliver, Southampton	1.39.20
3. R. Worth, St. Luke's Coll	1.48.50
Class 2a	
1. Polan/Mean, RLS/Harlow	1.35.47
2. Gardner/Roberts, Riverside	1.41.21
3. Hollier/Wade, Royal	1.45.17
Class 2b	
1. Lockwood/Wesley, Notts City	1.22.57
2. Harris/Peake, Hythe Venture	1.25.30
3. Sallis/Neve, Waterside	1.26.33
Class 2c	
1. Jackson/Emerson, Royal	1.25.31
2. Bosher/Huskinson, Royal	1.29.16
3. Bull/Choat, Outward Bound	2.04.11
Class 3a	
1. D. Clarke, Cambridge Univ.	1.56.15
2. I. Spence, Loughboro Univ.	1.56.49
3. N. Fielden, Cambridge Univ.	2.01.55
Class 3b	
1. G. Jackson, Harlow	1.32.05
2. M. Carpenter, Exeter	1.35.16
3. C. Tatam, Nevham	1.37.07
Class 4a	
1. Smith/Milley, Lincoln	1.54.56
2. Dalrymple/Whitlock, Ithen Valley/Soton	1.56.15
3. Naden/Sefton, Royal Signals	2.02.01
Class 4b	
1. Taylor/Anderson, Hythe Venture Scouts	1.35.14
2. Mitchell/Ferris, J.L. Taunton	1.35.45
3. Ross/Wilkins, Bradford/Avon	1.39.09
Class 4c	
1. Tandy/Webster, Bradford/Avon	2.01.25
2. Bainton/Gunning, " "	2.04.50
SHEPPERTON SLALOM 6/7 April	
Div. II	
1. R. Davis, Ithen Valley	56.6
2. M. Thomas, Manchester	57.5
3. J. Freeman, Chalfont	71.6
Div. I	
1. G. Dinsdale, Chalfont	80.3
2. J. Sibley, Windsor	84.2
3. M. Ramsey, Chalfont	91.1

COMPETITION

C.2	
1. Hillyard/Ramsey, Chalfont	84.0
2. Gray/Woods, Notts. City	90.3
3. Sibley/Snell, Windsor	97.4
Team	
1. Shepperton 'B'	354
2. Windsor 'A'	457
3. Soar Valley 'B'	470

CLYDE RIVER RACE 17 March

1. R. W. Crane, HMS Caledonia	13.41
2. K. Bryce, Kyle	14.02
3. P. Brown, Forth	14.34

TAMAR L.D. RACE 21 April

Class 1a	
1. C. Evans, Royal	1.54.14
2. M. Giddings, Royal	2.00.06
3. K. Perfira, Richmond	2.02.45

Class 1b

1. J. Radford, Exeter	1.35.00
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Class 2a

1. Peeny/Lee, Exeter	
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Class 2b

1. Jones/Cripps, Newbury Waterside	1.26.01
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Class 2c

1. Dustan/Greiner, Saltash Wesley	2.02.33
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Class 3a

1. G. Hulland, Westland	2.21.49
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Class 3b

2. B. Pluthero, Canoe Tours	2.22.35
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Class 3c

3. B.W.R. Taylor, Saltash Wesley	2.22.36
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Class 3b

1. M. Carpenter, Exeter	1.31.33
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Class 3c

2. B. Coles, Penzance	1.38.23
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Class 4a

1. C. Allan, Penzance	1.42.10
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Class 4a

1. Harris/August, Westland	2.11.25
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Class 4a

2. Cottell/Vare, Bradford/Avon	2.15.25
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C.2 Touring

1. Choat/Hamerton, O.B. School Devon	1.41.15
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by **RODNEY WITTER**

Photo: W. J. Richmond

What to report? I was hoping to be able to make an assessment of the re-arranged slalom divisions in this issue, but the lack of events, due to cancellations, makes this impossible. Only one ranking slalom has been held so far—at Shepperton for 2nd Division and the main point of interest at this event was the entry for the C.1 class. This was the first C.1 event to be held and no less than eight people entered, of varying standards. Geoff Dinsdale won in the Jaycee Cobra and he is obviously of a very competent standard. The first ranking C.1 event is to be held over Whit at Grandtully and some really good competition can be expected.

As for the cancelled slaloms, it seems that Marsh Lock was lost due to political manoeuvring between the owner of the island and the Thames Conservancy. We can only hope that this will be sorted out and we shall not lose a valuable site which provides very good water for our junior paddlers. As for Bever, it seems that this site has been lost for good due to strained relations with the farmer. (Though surely Leeds C.C. has taught us how to handle landowners—the Appletreewick farmer receives about £50 and Christmas whisky for his trouble).

What on earth has happened to the Calendar this year? So many dates and organisers' addresses wrong—I hope the other sections are not as bad as those referring to slalom. Perhaps it was more expensive but I personally much preferred the simple sheet which had the great advantage of

being able to be spread out on the wall of a club-house or home: surely nobody carries the new calendar around in his pocket with him?

Now a plea for everyone to help: We are all proud of Dave Mitchell's Silver Medal at the 1967 World Championships and would like him, and all the British team, to do even better next year. To help them achieve this the Slalom Committee is running a raffle to aid the International Fund. Now, I know there are people who think it scandalous that the Slalom International Fund should receive only about £100 from the B.C.U., whilst thousands are spent on the coaching scheme and £250 has just been allocated to modernise the film library. Whatever our thoughts on this, we must be prepared to help ourselves, and therefore this raffle, which has six canoes and all sorts of paddles and lifejackets, etc., donated for prizes, deserves our best support. The tickets at 2/6d each or £1 for a book, will soon be circulating—the draw being at the Chester slalom in Llangollen Town on 20th Oct.

The team sent to Zwickau at the beginning of May brought home some creditable results: Ken Langford came 6th in the Men's K.1, which was won by the World Champion, Jurgen Bremer. In the Men's team event the British team (Langford, Skellern, Wickham) did well to come 5th out of 17 entries whilst the Ladies (Squires, Goodman, Keerie) bettered this and came fourth.

Let us now hope for some good canoeing unbedevilled by foot and mouth, irate landowners, faulty equipment or testy organisers.

CALENDAR Additions & Amendments**JUNE**

- 16 Shepperton Slalom Div. III (from Marsh Lock) (70)
- 23 Carlisle Slalom Div. III, Carlisle C.C. (from 16th June).
- 30-5 July. Canoe trip, Saarijärvi, Finland. T. Ikonen, Kangasniemi, Finland.

JULY

- 6-13 Finnish Canoe Assn. Tour, Otava—Lahti. A. Virtanen, Salpakankaantie 5 A 23 Salpakangas, Finland.
- 20-4 Aug. Arctic Canoe Camp in Finland. T. Ikonen, Kangasniemi, Finland.
- 21 Canoe Sailing, Lee-on-Solent.

AUGUST

- 17-18 Canadian Canoe Races (49).
- 24-25 Canadian Canoe Races (49) (not 7 Sept.).

SEPTEMBER

- 28-29 R.A.F. Junior LD and Slalom events, R. Wye. (Sqn. Ldr. P. F. Williams, R.A.F. Cosford).

OCTOBER

- 5 London River Race (Juniors) (49) (not 7 Sept.).
- 6 London River Race (Seniors) (49) (not 8 Sept.).
- 6 Appletreewick Slalom Div. II, Leeds C.C. Entries now to M. J. Markham, 22 Wrenbury Crescent, Leeds 16. (N.B. — Key letter misprinted in Slalom Year Book).
- 13 Trevor Rocks Slalom Div. III — Organiser as in BCU Calendar, not as Slalom Year Book.
- 26 R.A.F. Canoe Assn L.D. Champs., R. Wye. (Sqn. Ldr. P. F. Williams, R.A.F. Cosford).
- 27 R.A.F. Canoe Assn. Slalom Championships, R. Wye. (Sqn. Ldr. P. F. Williams, R.A.F. Cosford).

NOVEMBER

- 13 Serpent's Tail Slalom Div. I—Date confirmed (delete 19-20th Oct.).

Event Organiser No. 44.

Entries for the Llangollen Town Slalom (20th Oct.) should be sent to D. Maloney at 62 Earlsway, Curzon Park, Chester. Please amend list in B.C.U. Calendar accordingly.

A 23-year-old American theology student, George Carillet, hopes to make a 60 day crossing of the Atlantic from Plymouth, Mass., to Plymouth, Devon, this month in a 17½ ft. kayak.

**Latest Olympic News**

In order to provide the Olympic selectors with information regarding the relative performances of paddlers, a rather complex system of 'Pools racing' has been devised, which ensures that every paddler races every other paddler in the various events in which they are concerned, and this has not only provided invaluable racing experience to all 'Possibles' but has also produced an extremely accurate ranking list for each of the weekends' racing.

In addition to the appeal that has been made by the Chairman of the S.R.C. to Clubs for donations to the Olympic Training Fund, the Chairman of the George Williams Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Sharpness, Glos., has very kindly agreed to promote a draw, which if successful will produce ample funds to meet all the expenditure that will be involved in providing adequate pre-Olympic Training for our canoeists.

Prize—two tickets to the Olympic Games, plus B.O.A.C. air fare and accommodation, or £600 in cash. If only one in every 20 members of the B.C.U. sold one book of 5 tickets for this draw, it would be a 100% success. Write for details to Ray Hollins, 188 Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, Warwks.

Formation of the R.A.F.**Canoe Association**

Inter-Station slalom and long distance racing, Inter-Command and RAF Championship events, RAF Youth School Championship, facilities for coaching youth and adults in the RAF were items discussed and planned at the first meeting of the Royal Air Force Canoe Association held recently at the Ministry of Defence.

In his address the President of the new association, Air Vice Marshal W. G. Morgan, C.B., C.B.E., spoke of the need of the RAF to provide the opportunity of competition between Commands, schools, stations and individuals in what had become one of the most exciting of sports. The Secretary is: Sqn. Ldr. P. F. Williams, Royal Air Force, Cosford.

One dark night in March amongst the floods of Swaledale a canoeist was able to assist the Richmond (Yorks.) police, when several sheep became cut off by the river overflowing its banks. Two were rescued and the rest herded to high ground before the water began to recede. The police expressed their appreciation and consider the services of canoeists in such situations "very valuable".

To Zwickau and Back

May 5th, at Zwickau, East Germany, our International Slalom Team thrashed through heavy water to take places in the top half of the finish lists. Unconfirmed reports put Ken Langford 6th out of 65 competitors, with Chris Skellern 10th and Keith Wickham 23rd. Heather Goodman came 10th out of 30 lady competitors, and Pauline Squires and Audrey Keerie took 14th and 17th places.

However, the real excitement came on the way back to the border on the Saturday evening, round about midnight. Ian Pendleton's Land Rover was chugging merrily along with its accompanying trailer when one of the nine occupants pointed out some marks coming from the back end. Inspection revealed one wheel and suspension

unit missing from the trailer — they were running on the brake disc! With only a few hours left before their visas expired, quick decisions were called for. So half the group loaded about a ton of personal equipment aboard the Land Rover and dashed for the border with cries of "We'll be back!" The useless trailer was abandoned. The next problem was a camp-site, a roundabout in the middle of the autobahn seemed as good as anywhere. Five hours later Ken Langford arrived back with the Land Rover and loaded seven canoes and assorted bods aboard. Once through the barriers they left six slalom kayaks, a C.1 and C.2 in yet another petrol station, and headed for Dover where Ian Pendleton contacted the A.A. to ask them to help. At going to press we believe there is every chance of the canoes being returned.

Why can't we canoe on our rivers? OLIVER COCK

(continued from our March issue)

To gain an action the owner must first catch his man and bring him to court. If the owner wins his case, the trespasser has an injunction put upon him not to do it again. If he does, and is again caught, then an action for damages can be brought. If a club is indicted, then the injunction is put upon that club. That injunction is imposed upon all the members of the club. Similarly with an Association or Union. But if the owner can only catch individuals then he must go on bringing cases against each individual — which would become expensive, and hardly worth his while unless much money was at stake.

There are many anglers who will say that we are no hindrance to their fishing. In fact we can sometimes even improve it. Please collect their names and addresses for us, they may come in useful!

The anglers are becoming aware that their selfishness is making them unpopular, and this alone is scaring them from taking action. They also know that if we plead that they are preventing the youth of this country from gaining their recreation, etc., etc., they will become even more unpopular. They may win their case but they might easily lose all popular support and thus all future cases. Besides, just as we are not sure what evidence they can produce against us, they are not at all sure what evidence we have in claiming the right of way. This alone will hold them back, because for them to lose a case sets a precedent for future cases and they may lose all the lot. Remember that it is for them to take us to court in

the first place. It is for us to prove our right once we are in court.

And finally, and really by far the best, instead of talking battle in court, is negotiation through Sports Councils. These bodies are set up to make sure that everybody gets his fair share of what is — or should be — available. We have been asked to state our requirements, and our Access Committee has prepared a paper as a basis for negotiation. In one or two areas things have already been more or less sorted out, and we are again able to canoe on waters that we have not been able to go near for years. It will be through these Sports Councils up and down the land that we are eventually able to return to these rivers. There may be restrictions and new regulations; but these will only be framed so that *everybody* gets his fair share of what is his by right.

Please help your Access Committee all you can, by giving them all the information you can that they ask for; by not going on waters if they ask you not to; by reporting all instances of difficulty experienced with people on the bank, saying whether you think they were at fault, or you. The more information you can give them, the better are they placed to argue our case. The more members you can bring into the Union, the greater the numbers they can quote as being behind them. It is very often the "free" canoeist, one who is not a member of anything, who is the greatest worry and menace to our future hopes. Therefore the fewer "free" canoeists there are, even more are our own chances of working an agreement which is fair to all.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Membership

With only half the year gone we have already passed last year's total which can be considered very satisfactory.

However, that is no reason for complacency—there are still far too many of last year's members who have not yet renewed their membership. I wonder if they appreciate that without a current membership they are not entitled to wear the B.C.U. badges or to fly the pennant. They will not be reading these notes unless they manage to borrow a copy of 'Canoeing in Britain' but if you know of any, help the Union and yourself by encouraging them to end in their subscription.

Membership figures as at the 8th May, 1968, compared with the same date in 1967 were as follows:

	1967	1968	% Increase
Full	1,739	2,234	28.47
Youth	674	881	30.09
Family	239	337	40.10
Total	2,652	3,452	30.01

B.C.U. Supplies

Stocks of ties, blazer badges and lapel badges have now been replaced and ample supplies are available. The silver wire badges are extremely smart and durable at only 37/6d each.

The Leeds Canoe Club have produced a Regional River Guide called 'Canoeing in

Yorkshire in 1968' which is very comprehensive. Copies are available from the Supplies Department at 2/6d each, including postage.

The following publications have recently been added to the Book List:

Canoeing Skills and Canoe Expedition Technique for Teachers and Leaders by Squadron Leader P. F. Williams, R.A.F. Price 25/-, plus 1/- postage.

Camping Sites in Britain and France 1968, published by the Practical Camper, price 3/6d plus 6d postage.

Copies of 'Canoe Kayek en France', which has been out of print for some time, are now available at 20/- each, plus 1/- postage to non-members. Two further increases have had to be made to the price list due to the publishers increased production costs and devaluation. These are:

German River Guide. 25/- plus 1/- postage.
I.C.F. Blazer Badge, 12/-.

Correspondence

Please put your current membership number on your letters when writing to Headquarters. If you don't you are liable to receive in reply an application for membership form for completion which may not cover your query. We just haven't the time to check to see whether a correspondent is a member (and therefore entitled to our best services) or not. Non-members who request voluminous information are normally invited to join the Union.

(cont. on P. 56)

angling
Brian Watts



Squalls ahead

VERY FEW ANGLERS seem to know of, much less realise the implications of—the new Countryside Bill now before Parliament for its second reading.

But if it is passed as law—and there seems little resistance to it—it will permit local authorities to take over sections of rivers as water parks, with access for various forms of water sport—not limited to fishing. In fact, the bill seems to be sponsored by the canoe people.

Many anglers were out after the Tees trout last Sunday but although the river was down to a nice level, it was still fairly murky, with strong breeze, and a

than quality, with a 1lb fish topping the bag. Both the Swale and Esk are very good weekend for fishing, and with a

There is although League of Richmond house at 8:

The new have already fishing of the the an ably bich of or ar,

NO COMMENT

(from the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette
4th April, 1968).

Stockton A.C.'s water provided a spot for A. Johnson last Thursday, though in quantity rather

year. The fish was returned to the water, while a 56gm fish will be a specimen.

Although poor gear week, with interested

ACCESS and the COUNTRYSIDE BILL

We described in the March 'Canoeing in Britain' the amendments moved (on behalf of the Union) by a group of M.P.s, in the clause in the Countryside Bill, including rivers in the categories of land that could be included in access agreements or orders made by county councils for the purpose of open air recreation. We had some assurances then from the Minister, but had to wait to see the outcome.

In the small hours of Wednesday, 10th April, Mrs. Eirene White on behalf of the Government moved a long amendment to Clause 12 which (1) added "any expanse of water through which a river . . . runs", (2) added a strip of adjacent land on both sides of the river etc., and between it and an adjacent highway (for launching, etc.) and (3) specified that the strip should be wide enough to let the public walk alongside the water, picnic, etc., and provided that special regard should be had to "the interests of persons using small boats who must circumvent obstacles or obstructions on the water by passing around on foot with their boats".

This falls short of our first three proposed amendments only in that the "strip of land" mentioned consists of agricultural land, and does not include the curtilage of buildings (such as mills).

The Bill with this amendment has been passed by the House of Commons and is now in the House of Lords. It remains to be seen what alterations are made there.

Bookshelf

CANOE BUILDING Part I: Soft Skin and Moulded Veneer Canoes (British Canoe Union, 3/-).

This is the first of two booklets designed to help the home-builder. The authors, Percy W. Blandford and Ken Littlelycke are, of course, recognised as experts in their respective fields. The book is well written but badly laid out with all the illustrations at the end, thus frustrating the reader with constant references to the end section. The soft skin sections and the Kayel construction sections are easily followable, but the veneer section is far too skimpy and difficult to follow. Also if the reader tacks his soft skin along the hog as suggested on Page 14 he will finish up with a leak! Too little is said of potential suppliers of equipment and plans, especially B.C.U. plans, and the publishers should really take a long hard look at their layout. With this form of printing far higher standards can be produced.

Rating★★★★

CANOE BUILDING Part II: Glass Fibre Canoes (British Canoe Union, 3/-).

Written by Bill Saunders, one of the foremost amateur glass fibre people in this country, this has 42 pages of technical data. Frankly, having read it, I would need a course on the subject before daring to set out and build my own. Forty-two pages of unrelieved type once again reveal the publishers' inadequacies. Illustrations would have been the answer to the problem of trying to describe mould making, patterns, etc., and I cannot understand why none are included. Despite this I found the booklet extremely informative and a great help to those who wish to learn more of the sticky art.

Rating★★★★

COACHING HANDBOOK (British Canoe Union, 6/-).

This could better be described as a "Miscellanea of Handy Things a Member of the Coaching Scheme Might Like to Know". Duplicated sheets inside a folder, typed on two different typewriters does not give the B.C.U. Coaching Scheme much of an image when this gets into the hands of the uninitiated. While it catalogues tests, rules, etc., it cannot go wrong. On films from the British Film Institute it should be more explicit and say that 90% of these are pretty much out-of-date, otherwise the reader is in for a big sell! There is little mention of demonstration lessons; the guidance to examiners only covers proficiency tests; the sea canoe chapter has masses of words but very little constructive help, not even mentioning buoyancy. This I didn't like. It has, however, some very good chapters on Teaching Technique, Canoe Training in the Swimming Pool, Regatta and Slalom Organisation and Rescue Methods.

Rating★★★★

PEOPLE OF THE DEER, Farley Mowat (Sphere Books, 7/6d).

An extremely interesting book about the dying race of Eskimos in North West Canada. It deals with the men who hunt the deer in the Barren Lands of North West Canada, and strangely hunt them by kayak as well as on foot. Their problems and the problems of other primitive peoples are dealt with, and it gives an insight into the difficulties and cures surrounding them. A very worthwhile buy.

Rating★★★★

Reminder — last date for receipt of articles, photos, news for September 'Canoeing in Britain' — 10th August

Canoeing in Great Britain

a brief history

by Oliver Cock

(Continued from the March Issue of 'Canoeing in Britain').

In 1953 began another revolution. We had not yet got down to holding our canoes properly. Erik Seidel was sitting on a bag full of sawdust which he had beaten into the proper shape by bouncing on it! Should we in fact have a proper seat? Should we have knee grips? We now have both, and the ordinary tourist is beginning to appreciate the value of these comforts to him also. Nevertheless in 1959, six years later, Paul Farrant, the F.I World Champion Slalomist that year, had to make his own knee grips and foot rest. These things were still not generally accepted.

One other child we must look at before we finish this brief history. This is the Corps of Canoe Life Guards. The idea was first germinated when Rear Admiral D. J. Hoare, C.B., R.N. (then Captain Hoare) began to work as a voluntary helper in a London boys' club. He taught the boys canoeing. In 1958 he took the first party of boys on their Gold Expedition in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He began to see that the boys and their canoes could be of service to the community. He discussed his forward-looking ideas with others, and in 1960 Air Marshall Sir Lawrence Davall, K.C.B., M.C., suggested that the Admiral's ideas might be incorporated into a national scheme. The British Canoe Union was invited to back it, and the Corps came into being. It got off to a slow start, largely because the adult population of the country would not believe that young people in canoes could carry out the tasks set. It is indeed difficult for older people to accept new ideas, but there is no doubt in the minds of the younger ones. The Corps is now beginning to blossom.

But even now new ideas are still being born. Perhaps the latest is the canoe specially developed for Swimming Baths. For some time now a special breed of canoeists which never goes out of doors has been developing in those few, lucky places where access to swimming baths can be maintained throughout the year, and trying to get a full sized canoe through the twists and turns of a swimming bath entrance has never been easy. Therefore in 1965 the

Newham Education Authority asked Bert Keeble, the Warden of the National Sailing Centre at Cowes, to design a simple, small canoe that could be kept all the time in the baths. This he did, and I tried it out in the Crystal Palace swimming bath in 1966. Now, many more are beginning to appear, and, what is more, some decently scaled small canoes are beginning to appear, for the youngster of under twelve to paddle about. Everything else in the world seems to have gone "mini" at the moment, so why not "mini-canoes"?

But the baths canoe and the miniature canoe for the youngster are not the same, anyway at the moment. The latter is a properly proportioned and designed miniature canoe. The former is an odd little chap, developed for the job of learning as much as possible about the techniques of canoeing in a swimming bath.

The great leap forward which was brought about by the new technique in kayaking has been much assisted and accelerated by new methods of manufacture, especially the use of glass fibre. This first began to make itself felt in the canoeing world about 1959. It suffered from a certain amount of teething trouble, but then what doesn't? All the best babies suffer from this. By 1961 glass fibre was beginning to be "in". By 1963 it was. We were away to a new and vastly exciting era of canoeing in which this country leads the world. It has been a rapid revolution, more rapid, and greater than in any other sport. It is hardly surprising then, that older people, who "had a canoe when they were young", do not quite understand what is going on.

This has been a somewhat confused "history", I know. The difficulty is that so many forms of canoeing have been developing side by side, as well as the growth of the sport as a whole. To have tried to keep everything in a chronological order would have been even more confusing, as all the sections would have been muddled up together. A lot has been left out, but I have done my best to keep all the important and relevant facts in. As I said at the beginning, if anybody else can spot, and confirm, any errors or omissions, do please let me know and we will have them put right.

While I am writing, may I mention one or two corrections which I have received from Geoff Sanders.

The coaching scheme honorary secretaries were: 1962-65 G. Sanders; 1966 Felicity Littleddyke.

From January 1967, Captain Kennedy took over, and incorporated the work into our headquarters.

Geoff Sanders also queries whether Messrs. Jicwood were at Croydon, suggesting that they were in fact at Weybridge. Can anybody please confirm which town this company was in?

Secretary's Notes — cont. from P. 53

B.C.U. Calendars 1968

The 1968 B.C.U. Calendar in its new book form has received a very favourable reception if members' comments are to be believed.

If you want additional copies ample supplies are available from Headquarters at 1/- per copy. Order now as last year we had a big demand and ran out very quickly.

All back numbers of "Canoeing in Britain" from No. 49, 1/9d post free from Editorial address.

Additions to the club colours register should be sent to the B.C.U. Secretary. Please avoid duplicating an existing design

RIVERSIDE CLUB (OXFORD)

White vest with three royal blue bands. Paddle blade with three royal blue stripes.



HASTINGS & DISTRICT C.C.

Yellow vest with two red bands. Paddle blade with two diagonal red stripes.



UNIV. COLLEGE OF N. WALES C.C.

White vest with pink pentapetal cherry blossom on back. Paddle blade inscribed "U.C.N.W."

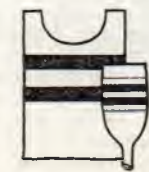
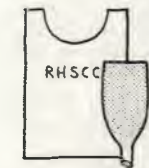


HARROW & WEALD-STONE VENTURE SCOUT UNIT

White vest with dark blue hoop. Paddle blade with dark blue tip and centre line.



B.C.U. REGISTER OF CLUB COLOURS



CHALFONT PARK C.C.

Royal blue vest with yellow badge. Neck and arm openings trimmed yellow. Paddle blade striped yellow, royal blue, yellow.

LEEDS C.C.

Amber shirts trimmed royal blue at neck and arm openings.

CHELMSFORD B.C.

Scarlet singlet.

RICHMOND HILL SCHOOL C.C.

White vest inscribed "R.H.S.C.C." in red. Paddle blade yellow with paddler's initials in red.

Amendment—delete entry in C. in B. No. 66.

READING K.C.

White vest with two blue bands. Paddle blade striped white, blue, white, blue, white.

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26, Park Crescent, London W.1.



B. Taylor and C. Anderson of Hythe Scout C.C. winning crew in Class 4, Leam River Race. Photo: R. Hosey.

Around the clubs



The main news from BIRMINGHAM C.C. is that the Rowing Club project to build a boathouse at Edgbaston Reservoir is now going ahead. They are going in on the scheme with the Rowing Club, and hope that it will provide the base upon which to rebuild an interest in sprint and L.D. racing. This will satisfy an important need as the Birmingham Kayak Racing Club, which has been inactive for a year or more, is now winding up. Planning permission has been obtained and an appeal to industry for £10,000 has been launched.

Sunderland L.E.A. Centre at Portinscale, Derwentwater, was the venue of 42 people for the N.E. COACHING PANEL weekend on May 4th, 5th and 6th, reports Chris Hare, Area Coaching Organiser. Bob Chaplin converted quite a few to Canadian paddling in conditions which proved very good with the sun doing its best during the day, and rain all night to bring the river up. Keeness was the keynote, and one chap travelled 200 miles to get there, drove another 200 miles to attend an all night party on the Saturday night, and returned to the Centre for the Sunday. "Just didn't want to miss anything", he said. The centre ideal for this type of weekend, and it was noted with pleasure that the anglers on the river had to move their rods because the canoeists "owned" that stretch.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE have held a national canoeing course in Wales attended by some 25 Officers and Instructors from different parts of the country. They have recently revised their Award Structure within the Brigade and, commencing on 1st September, 1968, they will be introducing a new Canoeing Badge. This badge will be undertaken in three stages, after which it is hoped that those interested in the subject will go on to gain the B.C.U. Proficiency Certificate and then progress even further. Having examined a copy of these tests, we congratulate the B.B. on their excellence.

Pictured above are two juniors of HYTHE SCOUT C.C. winning Class 4 at Leamington Spa L.D. Race, chalking up their fourth win of the season, having taken 1st place in the Oxford L.D., the Thames River L.D. and also the Junior Home Built Class of the Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race. It is the club's first year in competition. They have certainly lost little time!

Recent years has seen a considerable growth in the junior section of LAKELAND C.C., largely centred on two schools in the area — the County Secondary School at Sedbergh, where George Carroll has given the boys an excellent start in canoeing; and St. Michael's College, Kirkby Lonsdale, where Father Dolan introduced the sport. (Is there any other club that can lay claim to a priest in the slalom ranking lists?). These schools run regular inter-school competitions, and their names are gradually working up the slalom tables.

Their usual winter plans for "rolling sessions" were stopped by the council authorities who control the local swimming pool. Incidentally there is only one pool open during the winter months to serve the whole county!

Another club uses the Trier plans — the LLANDUDNO YOUTH CENTRE & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB started work before Christmas on the construction of the mould for making the Bill Saunders' "Trier" Glass Fibre Canoe. The services of a master plasterer were called in to help in the shaping of the plaster casts and from these, two moulds were constructed. Since then three canoes have been made and appear to be quite successful.



CHELMSFORD BOATING CLUB regret to announce the death of their Commodore Mr. R. A. Nightingale, who had

been in the Club for about 15 years and was Club Commodore for the past 5 years. Until he had a serious illness several years ago Bob Nightingale had regularly taken part in events.

As a permanent memorial the Club is intending to provide a trophy in his name, to be competed for in one of the canoe racing events organised by the Club.

GUILDFORD CANOE CLUB was formed last September and has already canoed in Wales and Ireland for White Water, Dorset and Devon for surf and been sea-touring along the Sussex Coast. Their next outing will be an attempt at the crossing from Dover to Calais. They are interested in building a canvas C.2 and Terry Lavender, 10 Cherry Tree Avenue, Guildford, would be glad to hear from anyone who has plans.



CHALFONT PARK C.C. is becoming more active once again. The club has a strong surfing section and some fine rides and amusing wipe-outs were seen from the malibu-board performers at Rhosilli Bay. Geoff Dinsdale has been surfing his C.1 and assures us that it is a highly interesting game. Please note that the club no longer has parking rights in the grounds of Hambleton Mill: the mill grounds are private property and anybody parking there or gaining access to the water from them, will be trespassing.



On the 5th May a race was run down the Ribble from Edisford Bridge to Ribchester, for Scouts from the whole of Lancashire. It attracted an entry of about 150 boats, everything from the latest slalom boat down to a 6ft. 6in. long Eskimo Kayak which capsized after the first 3 strokes.

The river was at a moderate level and some of the more dangerous features were under water. A new weir is being built across the river about one mile up-stream from Mitten Bridge and was on the day too dangerous to shoot and, therefore, involved all the boys in a compulsory portage.

It is hoped to establish the race as an annual event, as this will undoubtedly attract young people into the canoeing world.

The event was attended by Mr. P. K. Lawrence from the Programme and Training Department of the Scout Association, Head Quarters, and in his speech following the event, he advised all who were interested in canoeing in the Scouts to join the B.C.U.



LEEDS C.C. are encouraging members to paddle together in teams, by paying their team entry fees. Radio Leeds is going on the air on 24th June and they intend to use this medium as far as possible to popularise the sport.

BRIGHTON C.C. has been holding Canoe practice and training sessions in Worthing Corporation's new swimming pool, the Aquarena—this is the first time pool canoeing in Sussex has been open to all canoeists.

We hear that **GROUP ONE C.C.**, which was temporarily disbanded in August, 1967, has now recommenced activities on a very limited scale, but **EASTBOURNE C.C.** having been priced out of their H.Q. are now in a state of suspended animation.

Press coverage in Sussex is still an uphill struggle, although the Brighton and Hove Gazette prints some reports. Now they have their own radio station — Radio Brighton, they have been able to get news items over the ether—very good for local coverage.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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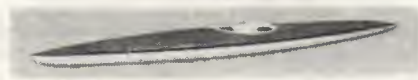
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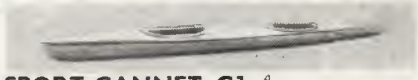
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