



DECEMBER 1971

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

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## CANOEING IN BRITAIN

### EDITORIAL 81

by Bill Balmain

Having stepped into the shoes of Jack Levison I truly appreciate the tremendous effort both he and Chris Hare have made to raise this magazine to the standard we see today.

Both Keith Wickham and I do hope to have your support and criticism to further improve on its format and content.

The most formidable task I found in getting this particular issue together was to sift through a mass of copy (a two foot pile of notes, letters etc), bearing in mind some essential information would arrive only days before publication date.

Results of events were overwhelming, so much so that even when reduced they would be unreadable! Similarly, a great deal of useful copy — to be brutal — simply had to be given the 'chop'.

With this in mind I hope you will forgive me if several praiseworthy items are not included. Three clear months before the next edition will enable Keith and I to bring in the new broom which will we hope add our own individuality and perhaps new innovations to the magazine which we have been unable to do in this edition.

I would welcome the opportunity of a greater selection of colour pictures. Although it is not our intention to use only slalom shots. It appears that these are just about the only available transparencies. If you have some good colour shots of any branch of the sport, please send them along and I will be pleased to consider them for future use.

Frequency requested receipt of applications, 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 offices of the British Canoe Union can be found on the B.C.U. Calendar.

The General Secretary,  
The British Canoe Union,  
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Front cover: Lady paddler at Zwickau (G.D.R.) 1971 Photo: D. R. Evans M.Inst.M.

Canoeing in Britain is published in March, June, September and December, by the British Canoe Union. Comments, articles, photographs and reports are welcomed, and should arrive by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Advertisement copy should arrive by 1st of

February, May, August and November for the March, June, September and December issues respectively.

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

# BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION APPEAL 1972

J. W. Dudderidge President

The Inaugural Meeting of the British Olympic Association Appeal Committee for the Olympic Games of 1972 was held on Tuesday Nov. 9th, and this marked the opening of the campaign to raise the money needed to send a fully representative team from this country to Munich next August.

It was in 1936 that Canoe Racing was first included in the Olympic Games programme, and every four years since then we have prepared a team for this quadrennial festival of amateur sport. The 1936 Games were organised by the Berlin Organising Committee, and it is interesting and not completely coincidental that another German Organising Committee, this time Munich, should have the honour and credit of taking responsibility for launching a new canoeing discipline into the Olympic Programme. I refer to Canoe Slalom which in 1972 will be included in the Games and for which an artificial slalom course has been built at Augsburg.

This means that the British Canoe Union will have the responsibility of producing two Olympic Canoe Teams, one for Sprint Racing and the other for Canoe Slalom. The Sprint Team will be operating on the new regatta course which has been constructed in Munich, whilst the slalomists will be out at Augsburg, some 40 kms away.

I have been invited to serve on the Appeal Committee of the British Olympic Association, and I have accepted the task of organising and co-ordinating the British Canoe Union section of the general appeal.

We as an association have been asked to find the sum of £250 as our share of the cost of sending the canoeing team, and all canoe clubs in the B.C.U. (and any outside that come to my attention) will be approached early in the New Year.

I invite all our clubs to organise functions with the proceeds going to the Olympic Fund; dances, whist drives, raffles, sponsored paddles, eskimo rolling displays, and every other kind of device which will bring in the money.

In the clubs there are many members who are not Individual Members of the Union and some of them do not see Canoeing in Britain. This is their loss, for they may well miss important notices. We do urge all club officers to extract from the magazine items of universal importance, such as this Appeal, and circulate them to all their members. In due course I shall be sending around to

members and clubs British Olympic Association Appeal leaflets and donation forms, but I am ready as from now, to receive donations which will be acknowledged.

We estimate that all in all we must have near to 20,000 members in our clubs: If every member subscribed 10p, we should raise £2,000; and 5p per head would give us £1,000 think on this and start collecting in the New Pence.

Cheques payable to British Canoe Union, postal orders and postage stamps welcome: address to me at "Sunny Haven" East End, North Leigh, Witney/Oxon.

### SWAMP MAJOR TOMLINSON!

This rather ominous heading doesn't sound like good news for our General Secretary, Major Gilbert Tomlinson, however, the fact is that Major Tomlinson would be delighted to be swamped — with B.C.U. subscriptions. So, for a practical joke we have decided to arrange a day for posting unpaid subscriptions to the B.C.U. So you've re-joined already? excellent, but you can still take part in the exercise by persuading another canoeist to join for the first time. Every canoeist knows at least one fellow paddler who isn't a B.C.U. member, so persuade him or her to join, posting the subscription to reach B.C.U. Headquarters on 21.12.71. Help create havoc with the G.P.O.! Help to bury Major Tomlinson in an avalanche of letters! Remember — arrange to post to reach B.C.U. Headquarters on Tuesday 21.12.71, and we'll report the result in the next C. in B.

### BRIDGEWATER CANAL BREACH

As you are no doubt aware a very serious breach of the Bridgewater Canal has occurred at Bollington, Cheshire. Mr. Hayman, Manager of the Bridgewater Canal Company, addressed the Lymm Cruising Club meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 1971, to acquaint members of the situation. The most optimistic estimate of the time involved for repairing the breach is one year from the word go. The most optimistic date for the word go is November, 1971, the most likely date for the word go is never. The unsubstantiated estimate of the cost of repairs is £100,000.

Those are the facts in a nutshell. The message came through loud and clear. The easiest way out of the situation is for Mr. Hayman's Board of Directors to do nothing. If this happens the canal will stagnate, through navigation will be lost, a linear amenity area will be lost, fish will die, the wildlife currently living in and around the

Continued on page 89

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1971

**President.**—J. W. Dudderidge, OBE, retires next year. **Hon. Treasurer.**—E. J. Owen, retires this year. **Elected Members of Council.**—Retire this year: P. C. A. Rogers, J. Spuhler, J. Woolley, C. McAllister, C. M. Rothwell; Retire next year: J. Bright, C. B. Manton, Rodney Witter, A. D. Harber, R. N. Castle. **Nominated Members of Council.**—National Coaching Committee: G. Sanders, C. Quaife; Sprint Racing Committee: R. Emes, Rowland Jones; L.D.R. Committee: C. Baker, A. Stoneley; Slalom Committee: Miss M. Bellord, Robin Witter; Touring Committee: R. Tyas, E. B. Totty; Scouting Division, nominated for each meeting; Northern Ireland Division: J. MacIntyre.

**Co-opted Members of Council.**—J. Levi-son; National Youth Officer: R. Steed. **Chairmen Standing Committees.**—General Purposes: R. Tyas; Competitive: J. Wooley; Access: J. W. Dudderidge, OBE; National Coaching: G. Sanders; Finance: J. W. Dudderidge, OBE; Publications: P. C. A. Rogers. **National Canoe Exhibition:** P. C. A. Rogers. **Divisional Presidents.**—Scottish Canoe Association: D. Wining; Canoe Association of Northern Ireland: Captain the Earl of Rodden, RN; General Secretary: G. E. Tomlinson; Director of Coaching: O. J. Cock.

## Membership

Total Individual Membership showed a decrease of 5.51% over the previous year's figures as follows:—

	1969	1970	1971	%Increase	%Decrease
Full	3181	4002	4049	1.17	—
Youth	1172	1341	1062	—	20.80
Family	430	495	406	—	18.00
Total	4783	5838	5517	—	5.51

AS will be noted Full Membership increased by a little over 1% and the main losses incurred were in Youth and Family Membership which was probably due to a combination of the following reasons:—

- The Postal strike early in the membership year
- Resistance to the increase in membership fees. 24.80% of members failed to renew which was 5% greater than the previous year.
- The reduction of the age limit of Youth membership from 19 years to 18 years.
- The phasing out of the Instructor Award. 187 Instructors failed to re-new their membership which was 70 more than the number for the previous year.

Although 58 clubs failed to re-affiliate for various reasons the number of Clubs affiliated to the Union increased from 381 to 402, that is an increase of 5.51%. Figures for the previous three years are as follows:—

	1969	1970	1971
	339	381	402

## Supplies Dept.

Overall turnover for the year was approximately £2,000 — which was about the same as that for the previous year.

Sales of the reprinted "Guide to the Water Ways" continued satisfactorily. Orders were received during the year for 650 copies.

## Headquarters Staff

It is with great regret that on October 31, 1971, we had to say goodbye to Mrs. Janet Gray. During the 2½ years she has worked as Assistant Secretary she has proved a tower of strength and has many friends in the canoeing world.



Dave Mitchell 1971 slalom champion

Mrs. Barbara Boyer, after 12 months as an Assistant Secretary, is now fully conversant with the many facets of the Union's work and we have been lucky to recruit Miss Yvonne McLoughlin to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Janet Gray.

'During the year the pressure on the Staff has been very great and this has resulted in some matters not receiving as prompt attention as we would have liked. We extend our apologies to any who have suffered by this, and express a hope that the situation will improve next year when the administration of the Coaching Scheme is taken over by the Director of Coaching'.

## International Affairs

Our relations with the International Canoe Federation have been cordial and close, and, through our members serving on the Board and Technical Committees of the I.C.F. we have continued to make a positive contribution to the wider development of our sport.

## National Affairs

Our members have served on the Central Council of Physical Recreation and its committees for Outdoor Activities, Sports and Games and Coaching; the Council and General Purposes Committee of the British Olympic Association; the Committee of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents; the Committee of the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards; several Regional Sports Councils and their Water Recreation Committees; Committees of River Authorities and numerous regional and local organisations concerned with the promotion of watersports.

Developments within our own organisation have led to ever greater demands on the time and energy of members of the Coaching Scheme and Technical Committees, and the Sports Council has shown its appreciation of all this voluntary service by its financial support for coaching, competition and administration.

## Access Matters

The pressure on water resources and a growing appreciation of the importance of planning if the facilities are to be used effectively, has made the work of the Access Committee of increasing importance.

During the year many conferences have been held at which representatives of canoeists, anglers, riparian owners, river authorities, local education authorities and other interested bodies have, under the aegis of the Regional Sports Council, examined the possibility of establishing programming in the use of private waterways by canoeists. It has been encouraging to find an increasing awareness of the problem and the justice of our case, and there has been expressed in most areas a willingness to co-operate in efforts to reconcile the needs of canoeists with those of the anglers. Negotiations are likely to be prolonged and we would acknowledge the invaluable services being rendered by a very considerable number of members on negotiating bodies all over the

country. They are working to protect and extend the facilities for canoe tourists, the base of the pyramid of our sport.

## Sprint Racing

A very satisfactory and memorable year for Sprint Racing.

The year has seen the opening of the International Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, which has brought facilities we have dreamed about for so long. The most successful National Sprint Championships ever, were held on this new course in September, giving an indication that when all building has been completed and full benefit of facilities are made available, our paddlers can look forward to racing conditions at least as good as the top European countries.

With a few exceptions, the Sprint Racing Committee considers that at other regattas held throughout the country, the standard of organisation was not as good as it should be. Paddlers were selected for international competition from these events and the committee has, therefore, directed that from January, 1972, all status regattas will require at least two SRC approved racing officials, one of which must be an approved Starter and the other an approved Finishing Judge.

Looking at our performance abroad, a team of three were sent to the Junior European Championships in Rumania and, although we were only placed in one final, all three team members performed to their highest standard. Senior teams were sent to the International Match at Ghent between ourselves, Holland, Italy and Belgium as well as international regattas held in Poland and Denmark. The results obtained, suggested an improvement in our standard on the previous year, giving rise to optimism for the World Championships, which were held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, at the end of August.

This optimism was justified, the team reaching the semi-finals in all but one sprint event. However, the whole competition, in fact our complete international programme for the year, was climaxed by an outstanding performance in the World Championship 10,000 metre K.2 event by Douglas Parnham and Robin Avery (6th in this same event at Copenhagen last year) and gave much excitement to the British team and supporters who were privileged to view the race.

For most of this 40-minute race they were in second place, riding on the wash of the Russian crew and holding their own when attempts were made to shake them off on the turning buoys. They finished the event in fourth place with the U.S.S.R. first, Norway second and Rumania third, producing most certainly our best result ever, in a competition of this standard.

With the opening of the course at Holme Pierrepont and the development of the Espada Youth K.1, the committee anticipates a rapid expansion in the development of Sprint Racing over the next few years. The committee has embarked on several projects in order to keep ahead of these developments.

A start has been made in producing a comprehensive coaching scheme, the first part being an appreciation course. Unfortunately, the 'Pilot Course' has had to be postponed until next March, through lack

CONTINUED



of response. Other projects include the production of a year book and a complete review of the racing rules.

These projects will continue and be added to in the future, but the activities of the executive and sub-committees may be a little curtailed by being heavily involved in the preparation of a team for the Olympic Games in Munich next year.

The Olympic training squad is meeting monthly, at Holme Pierrepont throughout the winter. Then, starting on April 22, paddlers will attend a series of selection regattas, trials and international competitions, with final selections on July 1/2.

### Slalom and Wild Water Racing

Although complete records are not to hand at the time of writing, these will eventually show that 1971 was a year of continued growth for both slalom and wild water racing and new competition venues for both these sports continue to be found. The responsible task of organising these complex events continues to be shouldered by competent and experienced personnel provided by clubs all over the country from Croydon to Aberdeen and representatives from clubs in distant areas attend the two full meetings of the Slalom Committee which are held each winter. From this broad democratic base the Committee derives its main strength and continues to endeavour to improve the administration of the sport and the standard of organisation of all its competitive events. Outside the national divisional system it is gratifying to see new types of competition taking place, notably the Services Championships, the Youth Championships, the Schools Championships recently staged by the BSCA and in some cases, regional, area and county championships.

In international paddling this was again a World Championship year and we brought back from Merano the six bronze medals from the C2 Team Event in Wild Water Racing. At other major internationals our paddlers gained silver and bronze placings and we won our first-ever international gold medal in C2 slalom outside this country at Landeck in August. In their first ever tour abroad a British Youth Team was extremely successful, not only winning gold medals at Skopje and Landeck but also in taking advantage of the excellent training opportunities offered by Alpine rivers.

At home we again staged our own International event at Llangollen with the generous sponsorship help of Rothman's of Pall Mall. This event was once more a considerable success, largely thanks to the untiring efforts of the Witter brothers and their associates. At this event on home water, British paddlers once again did impressively well.

### Insurance

The total income from insurances has continued to increase, and expenses have been kept as low as possible, which should mean a fair profit for the BCU. However, from the under-writing angle, the financial position is worse than ever, as claims are still on the up and up, despite attempts to keep them down in numbers and cost. The Under-writers are obviously going to take a hard look at the scheme at the end of the year before deciding whether they can "carry" it any longer, as they have lost money in increasing amounts every year. There doesn't seem any way of reducing the difference between premiums received and claims paid, apart from charging prohibitive premiums, and it may be that this will have to be tried.

The scheme itself runs smoothly without too many snags from the BCU's point of view. Ninety-five per cent of the business is still in respect of canoe insurance, but various enquiries have been received and dealt with for other forms of insurance.

### Safety Committee

In 1970 there were 16 canoeing fatalities which occurred between the months of March and July. Eight accidents occurred on inland rivers claiming ten victims, the remaining deaths occurred on the sea.

With the tremendous interest being shown in the sport it is, perhaps, not surprising that accidents are occurring amongst experienced as well as absolute novice paddlers who have undergone no coaching at all. This point is illustrated by the fact that of the 16 deaths only two were wearing life-jackets of approved B.C.U. pattern, three others were wearing buoyancy aids, the rest had no personal buoyancy whatsoever.

The most experienced canoeist was a member of Birmingham Canoe Club who had been canoeing for three years and was leading a party on the swollen waters of the Avon. The most unfortunate incident occurred when a canoe overturned and another member of the party swam to rescue the person in the water and was himself drowned.

It is sometimes difficult to get follow up information on incidents from the press cuttings received, but I would like to pay tribute to the hard worked B.C.U. coaching organiser and, in some instances, the police who have strived to get relevant information for completion of the accident form.

### "Canoeing in Britain"

The B.C.U. Magazine appeared quarterly during the year with the poster calendar accompanying the April issue backed up with full colour canoeing scenes. This combined calendar and poster proved very popular.

The April issue was, in fact, the normal March issue which was delayed due to the postal strike.

Over 26,000 copies of the magazine were distributed during the year. Income from advertisements again increased substantially which enabled the production price to be contained in spite of spiralling costs.

It is with regret that we have to announce the retirement of the present production team of Jack and Eileen Levison (Editorial) and Chris and Freda Hare (Advertising).

During the past nine years under their management the magazine has gone from strength to strength.

On behalf of all members we wish to record our gratitude to them for their initiative, imagination, drive and hard work which has raised our magazine to such a high standard.

At the same time we wish to record our thanks and appreciation to their very able band of voluntary helpers without whose assistance the team would not have been able to produce the results they have.

This issue will have been produced by the new team of W. Balmain (Editor) and Keith Wickham (Advertising Manager) and we feel sure that it will speak for itself.

They have a high standard to maintain but we are confident that this is well within their capabilities and they have our very best of good wishes.

### Long Distance Racing

The 1971 season started with a postal strike and its effect proved that communications are essential in any sport such as ours. The

Oxford Race could be quoted as an example of how much a strike could be the undoing of a way of life that our canoeing society enjoys. It set the pattern for the entire season. Attendance at events were generally down and the compensating factor was the increase in the number of races which fact alone, maintained the overall numbers of canoeists who entered in 1971.

The majority of races were well organised and the Executive Committee only took action in isolated instances where poor race administration was the subject of enquiry. For the first time, however, access problems resulted in two races having to be cancelled. This is a worrying factor and must be looked into for the future. The three Committee meetings held in 1971 were reasonably well attended, however representation from organising bodies is not as good as it could be. The Committee forms a platform where problems can be discussed, in particular the management of races and access to water, and it is essential that persons interested in our sport should be represented at these meetings.

The National Championships at Worcester showed that even without sponsorship, clubs and canoeists can promote and support a worthwhile event. It has been decided once again, to hold the Championships for 1972 at Worcester, by which time it is expected that any snags will have been ironed out and canoeists can look forward to a first class weekend's sport.

Internationally, our teams achieved some excellent results and they are to be congratulated on their standards of performance. In the Spanish series they attained something like 14 places individually and a number of team prizes collectively.

At the Liffey International they achieved five individual places and the Nations Cup.

The results from Denmark were not quite as good, but this is a different type of race and considering the difficulties the team was well placed.

1971 saw the advent of the Espada canoes entering into Long Distance Racing and it is gratifying to see the fruits of our labours resulting in young people participating in National events. There is no doubt that the initial momentum is slow, but it is reassuring to know that a great number of these canoes are in the process of being built and we should see them in greater numbers and at many more events next year.

Looking forward to next season, we have 29 National Ranking Races on the calendar and a number of additional non-ranking races which are worthy of support. Anyone who troubles to read our constitution will see that the Committee is fulfilling one of its stated functions "to encourage National and International long distance events".

To counter the fall off in attendance, the Executive proposed and the Committee accepted a Divisionalisation system for K1 classes and this will come into effect in 1972. It was also felt by a majority of the Executives and accepted by the Committee that to encourage more competitors in the Touring Classes (3 and 4) equal points should be awarded to all classes. The Committee felt that as a further encouragement to the Touring Classes (3 and 4) they should be allowed to race in these classes at the National Championships starting in 1972. We hope that this will stimulate competition and increase the numbers entering in both National Ranking Races and the National Championships.

It is with regret we announce the resignation from the Chairmanship of the Long

## ANNUAL REPORT CONTINUED

Distance Racing Committee, of Mr John Woolley, after 14 years of association with this branch of our sport. He feels that changes are good for a committee provided they do not occur too frequently, and he thanks those with the interest and well-being of Long Distance Racing at heart, for their support and help.

John Woolley will be difficult to replace, but it is gratifying to know that his experience, knowledge and wise counsel will not be lost to canoeing. We look forward to seeing and hearing a lot more of John Woolley in the councils of the Union.

### Coaching Scheme

The past year saw the introduction of the new Tests and Awards which came into operation on January 1, 1971, and on the whole these have been well received.

The number of Coaching Award holders on the current Register now stands at a total of 1,216 as follows:—

Senior Coaches	17
Coaches	78
Senior Instructors	286
Instructors	819
Examiners	16
	<hr/>
	1,216

The Coaching Committee has appointed four part-time National Coaches. Three for general coaching and one to be responsible for competitive aspects of the sport.

Proficiency and Advanced Certificates issued from the January 1, 1971, totalled 1,109 in the following categories:—

Advanced Inland	25
Advanced Sea	9
Proficiency Inland	832
Proficiency Sea	237
Proficiency Canadian	6
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	1,109

Our congratulations go to C. J. Mortlock on his appointment as a Senior Coach.

The year saw the commencement of a reorganisation of the Coaching Scheme. Mr. Oliver Cock was appointed Director of Coaching to take effect from May 1, 1971, with the task of administering the Scheme from Offices at Henley on Thames.

Although his previously arranged commitments as National Coach have had to be fulfilled he has found time to prepare the foundations on which the revised scheme will work, and has toured the country extensively arranging and consolidating Areas and Localities under Area and Local Coaching Organisers and the panels of Coaches.

Whereas in the early stages of the scheme the only way to get it off the ground was for the National Coaching Committee to make the appointments of Area Coaching Organisers and the policy now is to encourage the personnel of the Areas and Localities to elect their own organisers.

### COACHING NEWS

In pursuance of the policy to appoint a number of part-time National Coaches the National Coaching Committee made the following appointments with effect from the dates indicated:—

Mr. C. A. Gray	July 1, 1971
Mr. C. E. Quaife	July 1, 1971
Mr. C. H. Hare	July 1, 1971
Mr. John Fazey	November 1, 1971

Mr. Fazey's primary function will be in connection with the competitive aspects of the sport.

The date on which the responsibility for administering the Coaching Scheme will pass from the General Secretary to the Director of Coaching will be January 1, 1972. Address: 'Rivertrees' Wargrove Rd., Henley on Thames, Oxon. RG9 3JD.

Apart from his essential administrative duties the Director will arrange to attend as many Training Courses and Assessment Courses as possible, in particular the latter. He will also allot time for attending National and International Championships of the several competitive forms of canoeing as well as essential Conferences and Committee meetings.

### Log Books

A new edition of the Log Book was issued during the year incorporating the New Tests and Awards. The colour of the new book is green.

### Coaching Handbook

The current edition of the Coaching Handbook went out of print in October and a new and revised edition is in course of preparation.

It is hoped that the new edition will be available by the date of the National Canoe Exhibition at the Crystal Palace on February 19/20, 1972.

### Films

Sales of Film Loops increased by 28 per cent on the year, but bookings of library films were down by nearly 30 per cent (25 per cent in commission) on the latest figures available from the British Film Institute (to June 30th). It remains to be seen how their increase in charges from June 1 will affect a full year.

Much of the decline, however, may be due to the fact that the library is getting very out of date and we are pleased to report that one new film "Competition" has just films dubbed with English sound — may be available almost as soon as this report become available and two others — German appears.

Sales and Bookings compared with the previous year were as follows:—

Loops: Sales to Oct. 31st 1970/71, £36.21; 1969/70, £28.50. Library: Bookings to June 30, 1970/71, 117; 1969/70, 167. Commission to June 30 1970/71, £72.58; 1969/70, £97.30.

### Touring

The large number of enquiries received shows that in spite of problems of access to waterways, canoe touring continues in popularity. Although it does not receive the publicity given to the several competitive sections, it is important as the solid base from which competition springs.

To judge from the enquiries, foreign touring is increasing and members are travelling further and further afield.

The River Advisory Service has been in great demand and the Union is indebted to our Hon. River Advisors for the work they have done, extending the help provided through the Guide to the Waterways.

### Sailing

The major event in the International calendar was the European Championship in West Germany. The British team brought back the gold medal against strong competition from Sweden and secured 4th and 7th places.

Following the adoption by the ICF of a one design hull the most important project this

year has been the development of a g.r.p. Sailing Canoe hull. As an intermediate step a g.r.p. hull with conventional plywood deck was demonstrated at the European Championship. The complete g.r.p. version is now at an advanced state of development and it is hoped that it will be in full production next year. By adopting a one design hull the possibility has been opened up for using modern production techniques to reduce costs and make sailing canoes more readily available to many more people. The Sailing Committee is guiding and encouraging this development and seeking ways to ensure that the sport will benefit from it to the greatest possible extent. We continue to play our part in International affairs and meetings were attended in Sweden and West Germany.

### The Corps of Canoe Life Guards

The past year commenced with the frustrations of the Postal Strike which did much harm to recruitment. A most encouraging number of enquiries were made at the Corps stand at the Canoe Exhibition which would undoubtedly have produced several new units had the facilities been available for a quick follow up.

Even so the Corps is expanding and three new units affiliated in the Autumn.

Three events were highlighted during the year. The first was the Corps Championships held in July at Weymouth. On this occasion we were favoured with a Reception by the Mayor and a visit to the local Summer Variety Show as guests of the Council. Secondly, the Corps has received the approval of Council to become an integral part of the B.C.U. structure as a technical committee. This means we shall have closer working with our parent body. The third event was a training week-end held on the last week-end in October at Aberavon under the auspices of the National Coastal Rescue Training Centre. This was our second visit to this excellent centre. But we were overjoyed to find that 60 bodies attended for instruction. Thanks to the hard work of the Staff at the Centre we were able to spend nearly ten hours in the pool and six hours in the sea.

The Corps looks forward to the coming year as one in which it expects to expand faster than at any time in its 14 years existence. It is becoming more and more obvious that local Councils are appreciating the work of the Corps and giving units not only moral but financial support. Of the latest recruits, two units will operate on behalf of local council and another unit expected to join in the coming year, will function on this basis also.

The Corps will be presenting a stand at the Canoe Exhibition again and will also be giving life saving displays in the pool on each day.

### Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the C.C.P.R. for its assistance with the administration of our Coaching Scheme and the organisation of the National Canoe Exhibition at the Crystal Palace; to the Wardens of the National Recreation Centres for providing facilities for courses; to the Sports Council for its encouragement and financial support; to commercial enterprises who have made possible, through sponsorship, the promotion of international competitions; to manufacturers of canoes and equipment for their unfailing support of our work.

On behalf of the Council of the  
British Canoe Union  
**J. W. Dudderidge**  
President

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

### Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 22, 1972, at the University of London, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, which is particularly convenient to Euston and King's Cross Main Line Stations and it is hoped that we will have a record attendance.

Full details will be found in the special leaflet enclosed with this issue.

The various Technical Committees will be holding their own A.G.M.s during the day prior to the main B.C.U. A.G.M. in the University Buildings.

The National Coaching Committee will also be holding a Committee meeting scheduled to commence at 11 a.m.

### National Canoe Exhibition

A separate leaflet is also enclosed giving the programme and full details of the Exhibition which will take place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday and Sunday, February 19 and 20, 1972.

It is difficult to understand how the Com-



mittee manage to improve on their previous year's standard each year, but this year they have again done so to a very considerable degree.

The Swimming Pool events promise to be most spectacular and there will be a much greater number of stands in all categories, i.e. Trade, non-Trade and Clubs.

Twenty-three teams have entered for the National Canoe Polo Championship and arrangements have been made for preliminary rounds to be played off by January 15, 1972.

The quarter finals will take place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday February 19, 1972, and the semi-finals and Final on Saturday, February 20.

Dr. Roger Bannister, Chairman of the Sports Council, has kindly agreed to present the Trophies.

### Membership

From the Annual Report which appears elsewhere in this issue it will be noticed that with regret we recorded a decrease of 5½ per cent. over the past year.

However, the 1972 year has started full of promise and we hope by this time next year to announce a very substantial increase. Please help us to fulfil this ambition by renewing your membership if you have not already done so as soon as possible and also encouraging canoeists who have not yet joined to send in an application form.

The more numerous our membership, the greater our strength in negotiations, in particular on problems of access, where we have to compete with anglers who claim current membership of 2,806,000 and confidently expect 3½ million in a few years' time.

To those who have not yet renewed please do so as soon as possible and avoid our having to send reminders. Postage is becoming a very major item in our budget and is using up monies which could be much better spent in other directions to the benefit of all canoeists.

## GUEST EDITORIAL CANOEING AND THE PUBLIC by P. C. A. ROGERS

The competition Committees of the British Canoe Union are constantly asking for money in the form of sponsorship of events, buying of equipment, or for help in sending canoeists to compete abroad. All of us have to ask for permission from some member of the public to cross the land in order to canoe on a stretch of water. So we canoeists have some sort of image to the public, whether as a sponsoring firm, an individual or the tax-paying public. What do they think of us? How do they come by this point of view? and how can we influence them into helping us as a sport to get the support we need?

Mr Average Man in the Street will remember seeing some dangerous canoeing down rapids either on the Box, or in the Press. He might have seen a long distance Race, or less likely a Sprint Regatta or Canoe Sailing; and certainly along the line, he will associate canoeing with Messing about on the River. Unfortunately those members of the Public with whom we have a more regular image, may not be so favourably disposed. The locals at Grandtully were always delightful, including the Laird, who once asked a number of us for Drinks; we turned up in an assortment of ski and camping clothes, as well as one pair of jeans held up with string. Comic certainly; but also understandable. What is not helpful is broken lampposts, as some slalomists found to their cost, and their action almost lost us this valuable site.

### Bloody Nuisance

Or take this year's L.D. Championships at Worcester. Basically well organised, with the Minister of the Environment in the Honoured Guest position; a useful man the Minister could be for Canoeing. As a spectator, I thought the massed start on the Saturday was a shambles. Why? Because someone from Exeter had not brought up the starting gate, but also more seriously, because a number of top paddlers took it upon themselves to have a staggered start and thus ruined what would have been a marvellous spectacle.

Finally, for a number of fishermen and riparian owners, we canoeists are just a

Bloody nuisance. Agreed it takes two to start a row, and further that many of these people are intransigent to our requests. Let the B.C.U. Access Committee, appointed by Council, whom you elect, sort out those characters and policy in particular but you, as a canoeist, have a responsibility not to muddy the waters for the next chap down. Find out about the Water before you set out and behave properly. A soft answer turneth away wrath.

### Improvements for 1972

Now to improving our image for the good of each one of us. At grass roots, the Clubs, and this normally means the hard-pressed Secretary, can promote themselves through the local media, who are always after news, whether it be of events, of an individual who may be paddling for Great Britain, or of trips abroad. It is more up to the individual PRO's of Competitive Committees to arrange National Coverage, suggest new films for purchasing by the B.C.U. Film Officer, and see that their side of the sport is fully represented at the B.C.U. National Exhibition and at other Shows.

The National Canoe Exhibition is, perhaps, the one time in the year, when the Canoeing World puts on its best suit and invites the world in. Opportunity is given for Clubs to exhibit, as well as voluntary organisations connected with the sport. Next year it is intended to have a special B.C.U. stand depicting all aspects of the B.C.U. with particular reference to the 1972 Olympics. A brochure on the Exhibition is enclosed with your copy of Canoeing in Britain; if you can't help in any way, come along to see what Canoeing offers in 1972, and support the team you want to win the Finals of the National Canoe Polo Championships.

Saved for last, but not because it is least, but contrariwise, because it is so important for the health of the sport, is our own magazine, Canoeing in Britain. Produced highly professionally by 'amateurs' (if they will forgive use of the word) Jack Levison and Chris Hare to a very high standard with many hours of midnight candle, Canoeing in Britain now has a new Editor, a professional

in his own right, Bill Balmain, with Ad Man (also in his own right) Keith Wickham, getting in the Goodies. Bill will initially rely on Jack and Chris, to whom no small debt is due from us all, but he will also rely on all of us to send in photos, reports, and write-ups. This is our magazine, it is also the image we portray of Canoeing to the Public. Make it professional!

## REDUCED RATES CONTROLLED BY WATERWAYS BOARD FOR BCUCANOEISTS ON WATERS

The B.C.U. have managed to gain reductions from the British Waterways Board for canoeists who are members of the B.C.U. and who apply for their permits through the B.C.U.

**Adults (Individual and clubs) and Individual Youths—B.W.B. Rate: £3.50 per year per canoe. Concession Rate (for B.C.U. individual members or B.C.U. affiliated clubs): For licensing 1 canoe £3 per year, two more canoes £2.50 each per year.**  
**Sponsored Youth Organisations (i.e. incl. schools).—B.W.B. Rate: £3.50 per year per canoe. Concession Rate (for B.C.U. affiliated groups and B.C.U. qualified members of Coaching Scheme whose canoes are used for instructional purposes): For licensing 1 canoe £2.50 per year, two or more canoes £2 each per year.**

### Notes

1. All permits allow free use of locks.
2. Licence discs need not be attached to canoes, but must be carried by the canoeists, being available for inspection as requested. Plastic holders for the discs will be provided.

continued on page 84

## Reduced Rates

continued from page 83

- Although it is considered desirable that canoes should have names clearly marked on them, British Waterways will not insist on this being done. Licences for unnamed canoes will be made out in the owner's name.
- All licences are issued subject to the conditions of the British Waterways Board.
- Concession licences will run for a calendar year and will thus expire on Dec. 31st, regardless of the date of purchase.
- Licences for periods of less than one year are to be obtained at the standard rates from The Pleasure Craft Licensing Office, British Waterways Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA. (Weekly permits are available for 50p; monthly £1; three-monthly £2).
- B.C.U. Concession Licences can only be obtained from The British Canoe Union, Canal Licences, 26 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4DT. Please ask for a B.C.U. Canal Licence Application Form, enclosing a stamped addressed foolscap envelope with your request.

### River Navigations

B.W.B. Rate: £1 per year per canoe (50p for

15 days; 75p for one month).

**Concession Rate (available to B.C.U. affiliated clubs): £1 per canoe for a three-year permit. Please apply to The Pleasure Craft Licensing Office, British Waterway Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA and NOT to B.C.U.**

### Notes

- Holders of B.W.B. Canal Permits, purchased through either B.C.U. or B.W.B. have free access to B.W.B. controlled River Navigations.
- All permits allow free use of locks.

### Competitive Events, Regattas, or Rallies

Special terms are available for organising clubs. Club Secretaries should write to The Pleasure Craft Licensing Office, British Waterways Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA, in good time prior to such events being staged, giving as full details as possible, e.g. date and time of the event, section of waterway to be used, number of competitors expected and, if possible how many of these would already be covered by a pleasure craft licence. An appropriate lump sum figure can then be formulated for the particular event. **Applications can only be received from B.C.U. Individual Members and Officers of B.C.U. Affiliated Clubs and Groups.**

## RIVER ADVISERS

Please note that there have been changes in the River Advisers for certain rivers from those given in the 1971 Canoeing Calendar. **Tem**e above Ludlow: John Brown, 15 Rosafield Avenue, Halesowen, Birmingham, Tel. 021-422 6502. Ludlow—Severn: Robert Stobbs, 9 The College, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 3DL. Tel. 068-45 61129.

**Rest of Severn area:** Colin Manton, 11 Stepping Stones Road, Coventry, Warwicks. CV5 8JT. Tel. 0203 51688.

**Teifi and Towy:** Colin Mortlock, sogar, Manorbier, Tenby, Pembrokeshire.  
**Upper Wye, Monnow, Usk:** Colin Green, Woodlands, Glasbury-on-Wye, Hereford.

## CLUB TRIPS ON RIVERS WITH ACCESS DIFFICULTIES

The Touring Committee will be meeting on the day of the A.G.M. in January, 1972.

A standing agenda item is the exchange of information about such trips, so that dates can be co-ordinated.

Please have a club discussion about 1972 programmes and brief the club representative on the Touring Committee to discuss it at the Touring Committee meeting.

## TRADE REVIEW

### DIOLEN — A NEW MAN-MADE FIBRE

GAYBO LIMITED and JAYCEE GLASSFIBRE PRODUCTS are working together and finding out the technique on the new material Diolen, which has been used for some time on Continental competition canoes. A number of canoes and kayaks in this material are being tested at the present time, and Gaybo and Jaycee Glassfibre will be producing boats made of Diolen, but like all good things it will be more expensive to produce.

This material is especially good for competition craft as the advantage of Diolen is that when given a severe blow it does not fracture, but is extremely flexible; a combination which you do not get in ordinary fibreglass.

### OLYMPIC CANOEING POSTER

One of the latest of the official Olympic posters to come from Germany is that for the Canoe Slalom at Augsburg (as illustrated). It is printed in five colours, but the majority is of silver and greens. The posters are to a size of 33 inch by 23 inch on cartridge, and by August of 1972 all 23 sports will be available in poster form. At present only six sports have been illustrated.

At eight D.marks a copy it is a little expensive but a number have been imported by Canoeing Press and available at 90p each (all posters produced so far are in stock — Canoeing, Standard, Gymnastics, Athletics, Equestrian, Yachting, and Basketball).

**THE CANOE CENTRE** announce SIX new models for their 1972 range, all of which will be on show at the Crystal Palace Exhibition.

**KLEPPER**  
*Loisach*  
**TOP COMPETITION SLALOM KAYAK**

The KLEPPER LOISACH is the long-awaited new slalom kayak from Klepper Werke. Thirty of these new kayaks have been supplied to the Organising Committee for the Augsburg Slalom as a pool of kayaks for use of competing teams. Manufactured either in Dielene or glass re-inforced plastic.

The new racing kayaks for 1972 are the glass RANGER K1 and glass WINNER K4.

The RANGER K1 is an exact copy of Jorgen Sampsen's original with the exception of a raised cockpit, making the kayak "drier". The glass WINNER is another exact copy of the original; this time the Canoe Centre have used the sandwich technique giving the same rigidity as a veneer K4.

KLEPPER MUNCHEN 72 — this is a new slalom/white water training kayak, and is envisaged as the ideal kayak for Outward Bound Activity Centres, Education Authorities, for basic and advanced slalom/white water training. Klepper also, via the Canoe Centre, have modified their TRAMP TOURING kayak which now has a larger cockpit, re-designed deck and optional rudder fittings. This has made the kayak more versatile, being ideal for touring in white water, or on the flat using the rudder fitting.

Lastly, introduced for the first time in the range is a TOURING CANADIAN canoe, manufactured to the Canoe Centre's usual high quality.

### Bobby Moore Action Pants!

In these days, when men's and women's fashions are so closely linked, many men will be glad to know that Sunarama have designed a product especially for them — the Bobby Moore Action Pants.

These tights, made for sportsmen, spectators and any other chilly gentlemen, are revolutionary in more than one way. Made in Monsanto's new "breathing" nylon, Ultron, they will keep you warm and comfortable all through the winter months, yet can be worn under a City suit as easily as under a track-suit.

Of course, certain men will need convincing . . . Start with the sizing. This has been carefully evolved so that Action Pants will fit just about any shape conceivable.



And, of course, there will be no more wrinkly socks, Action Pants stay up, not down. Ultron's anti-static property means they will resist soiling too, and the Wear-Dated label guarantees them for 12 months. There is also a final touch in comfort and ease — a zip!

For those still not convinced, look at the name on the packet. Bobby Moore certainly knows how important comfort is on a cold morning. If he recommends them, they must be good!

# 1971 AVONCRAFT 1971

## THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF BRITISH HARDSKIN RACING & TOURING KAYAKS

As Britain's largest kayak mould and kit service, AVONCRAFT introduce a number of new kayaks to their range which now totals a choice of 8 kayak types.

\* "SUPER BAT" A complete redevelopment of the 'Byde-Bat' complete re-styling and streamlining. Greater versatility for Bat Polo, Bath Training and now Surfing.

\* "MISTRAL" Touring Single. Highly suited for adventure training, High Speed, Sea or River Canoeing, Surfing and Rolling.

Other craft available in mould service are:—White Water Kayak, Junior Kayak, K.1, K.2, Touring Double and the best known of all, The "Gnat" Mk. III which this summer successfully descended The Grand Canyon with the British Expedition.

### NEW FROM GERMANY FOR 1972

Avoncraft are pleased to announce a distinctly new range of kayaks from Germany. These will include: K.1, K.2, Slalom and W.W. Kayaks.

Construction incorporates new materials and some unique methods of manufacture. This in turn adds tremendous strength and additional stiffness to the structure whilst maintaining extreme lightness.

The K.1 and K.2 craft both won Gold Medals at the German National Sprint Championships, this being the first occasion that a glass kayak has taken first place to a wooden craft. Full details and production commence in early December.

The new Slalom and W.W. Kayaks will be available in the New Year and the complete range can be seen at the Crystal Palace in February, 1972.

- \* Glassfibre raw materials and tools service at the most comprehensive prices.
- \* New paddle kit and paddle range for touring slalom & L.D.
- \* New range of Canoe Trailers and racks.



Slalom & G.P. Kayak  
Successful descent  
Grand Canyon  
1971

### SUBA WET SUIT

A complete range of jackets,

Trousers and Shortie Kits,  
marked or cutout. Sheet sizes:  
9ft. x 4ft. Nylon lined or Sharkskin.

Complete Range of Accessories: PADDLES, LIFEJACKETS, all BUILDING MATERIALS

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Suppliers to H.M. Forces, Schools & Education Authorities.

# Access notes

(J. W. Dudderidge, Chairman of the Access Committee)

Since our last issue, a number of meetings have been held under the auspices of the Regional Sports Councils, and in the majority of cases the representatives of riparians and anglers have accepted the need for the maximum use of available water, and have shown a willingness to consider ways of reconciling the needs of canoeists with the rights of riparian owners and anglers.

The picture across the country is very varied. In some regions where few real problems are encountered, it is felt that to set about programming the use of certain rivers would serve merely to arouse a lot of sleeping dogs and possibly produce objections and restrictions where few exist at present. The West Midlands is a case in point, and it has been agreed that for the time being there is no case for programming on the rivers Teme and Vyrnwy and other tributaries of the Severn.

In several parts of Wales and in the North Country, working parties and sub-committees have been set up and attitudes of owners are being investigated. Progress is likely to be slow, for even if representatives come to an agreement on the terms of a river use programme they are not in a position to make a deal. The recommendations must still be agreed by constituent bodies and owners, and ratification might well take a long time to achieve, particularly if some owners proved awkward and had to be persuaded by the others, for the general good.

Since the promotion of a registration of canoeists on a voluntary basis is linked with a viable set of programme agreements, we shall not attempt to introduce the registration scheme until we have enough agreements to justify the expenditure of time and money on its administration. It is unlikely that canoeists, as a body, would support registration unless it was obviously in their interest to do so.

## Important notes for Organisers of Slaloms and Long Distance Events

Although all the regular organisers of slaloms know the correct procedure when planning a competition, there appear to be some of the smaller clubs who do not. Recently I have had complaints from the Engineer to the Dawley U.D.C. that on two occasions, Bank Holiday and a weekend in October, canoe clubs have arrived in Ironbridge on the Severn, and set up slalom courses using the bank which belongs to the Council without having sought or obtained permission from anyone. This jeopardizes the future use of this water for others, particularly those clubs who request and obtain permission and whose behaviour has been irreproachable. The Council is most anxious that there shall be the fullest use of the water by anglers and canoeists, and only asks that, in order to avoid friction the Engineer is consulted when canoe clubs wish to use the water, to enable the anglers to make other arrangements.

We fully endorse all that the Engineer says in this matter, for if canoeists and anglers arrive simultaneously with the intention of staging a competition, there can only be trouble, for their intentions are patently incompatible.

Let no-one protest that the River Severn is an open river with a right of way for navigators. What I have said about organ-

ising a competition has nothing whatsoever to do with the passage of a canoe or other boat; the right of simple passage up or down a river does not confer on the canoeist any right to land, except at a public landing stage; any right to loiter and become a nuisance to other water users (as for example having a session of eskimo rolling in the middle of a pool being fished); to monopolise a stretch of river for a competition without previous arrangement with other users.

The situation is similar to that on the public highway where you may pass but are not permitted to hold a dance, stage a football game or loiter to the inconvenience of other road users.

I am asking the Secretary of the Slalom Committee to produce a circular for club slalom organisers indicating the procedures which should be followed when planning the organisation of a competition. What I have had to say about slalom also to some extent holds for Long Distance Races which can cause considerable dislocation along the route of the race. It is imperative that all people affected at the starting and finishing point and at the portaging places have been prepared and given their agreement. Damage and dislocation can be caused as much by an invasion of spectators (with or without cars) as by the actual competitors, and these considerations must be borne in mind if we are to get co-operation from the public, the anglers and the authorities to the wider promotion of all branches of our sport.

## Request for help

1. When we do succeed in obtaining programmed use of private waters we shall need to establish facilities at points of access to the rivers, for launching, and for disembarking at the end of a trip, and these will be needed at a number of points, for not all users will be canoeing the whole length of a river. We shall also need to establish a standard procedure at essential portage points and all this will call for negotiations with the owners or controllers of the river banks at the affected points.
2. On the longer rivers it will be useful if we can establish one or two camp sites which will call for negotiation with farmers.
3. When all the people affected by our programmed use of the river have been consulted and procedures have been agreed, the details will be published in the booklet issued as part of the scheme, and possible sources of friction and dissatisfaction will be removed.

The compilation of this information will take time and call for some diplomacy on the part of those who undertake to collect it. Will any member who is willing to help with this work (here is a job which may appeal to the touring canoeist) get in touch with me, giving me an idea of which rivers he has knowledge and would like to adopt, and I will put him or her in touch with the Access Negotiator concerned with that river, and they can build up a team. This is important work and if it is done now we shall the more quickly be able to get under way if our negotiations succeed. Furthermore, even if we do not succeed in obtaining programmed use of a river, we shall still be using that river, and it is a great help in the planning of a trip to know in advance the best launching points and who controls them; whether there is vehicular approach and whether a car and trailer can be left at the site for a day or two; whether there are facilities for camping to facilitate a morning start; and similar information at the end of a trip. It is particularly



Canal lock portage.

helpful to have the names and addresses of the people to whom an approach should be made, for an owner usually responds better when addressed by name and, of course, the name is essential if communication is by post or telephone. Another valuable part of our river dossier consists in the list of riparian owners along its course. Sometimes these can be got from the River Authority, sometime even they do not seem to have all the answers. HELP PLEASE.

## Finally the SEA and COAST

Please do not forget that I want to be informed of all restrictions members meet in their use of the sea, and I suggest the following headings: Information on

1. **Harbour Boards** which charge canoeists for embarkation or disembarkation on their property (and, if charged, what facilities are provided for the charge made).
2. **Local councils** which own beaches and place any restrictions on launching canoes from their beaches:—
  - a. Actual restriction in the form of a ban
  - b. Charge for using the open beach for launching and, if a charge is made, what facilities are provided
  - c. Where a charge is made, whether it is made under a specific byelaw. If so, a copy of the byelaw would be useful, but if we know about it we can send for a copy.

It should be borne in mind that the ownership of a beach by a local council does not in itself confer on the council the right to make a charge. The demand must be by the authority of a byelaw.

The B.C.U. cannot take action unless it has the facts.

There are many club members who are not individual members of the Union and who do not normally see Canoeing in Britain. The B.C.U. Magazine goes to all club secretaries, and it is their responsibility to draw their members' attention to matters that concern them in the field of access to, and use of, waterways.

J. W. Dudderidge  
Chairman, Access Committee

# CLUB CHAT

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The President of the Association, Mr. J. H. Hogan (Deputy Education Officer, West Riding County Council), in his first address to the Association since taking office, called for a greater integration of Outdoor Education within the Education service as a whole. Mr. Hogan thought the Association could fulfill a vital role in co-ordinating the work of the various groups of people who were at present working in isolation from each other. The Association MUST set the standards which will be required in the future development of the work in Centres, schools and the Colleges, and seek to be regarded as the Authoritative body in this branch of the educational system. It must be an Association that carries conviction and merits respect in the school and in the Education Office.

Mr. Hogan congratulated the Association on the excellent progress it had made in its first year, having reached a membership of about 300. He deemed it a great honour to have been invited to be the Association's first President.

The Conference was addressed by Mr. John Disley who spoke on Alpine Village projects, and the integration of ski-ing with environmental education. Mr. Rawdon Goodier of the Nature Conservancy, talked on the aesthetical aspects of Adventure in the environment. A Lecturer of the I. M. Marsh College of Education, Mr. Ron James, spoke on the training of teachers for work in Outdoor Education, and used his own College course as an example. This interesting and very well presented address was well received by Conference delegates, as was the talk given by Colin Mortlock, the

Association's Chairman, who used Adventure as his theme.

'Adventure' was, in fact, the central theme of the whole weekend and on the Saturday Delegates attended a forum of Adventurers who included Mr. Eric Sipton, mountaineer and explorer; Mr. Bob Bond, National Sailing Coach; Mr. Ben Lyon, Warden of the National Scout Caving Centre; Mr. Ken Langford, International Canoeist, and Mr. Ron James, Rock Climber.

From 1(BR) CORPS, O.B. CENTRE (KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY). During the season a further 90 students have joined the BCU and 120 passed their inland proficiency. Although this is an Army school we would be glad to give advice on purely canoeing matters to any BCU member planning to canoe in Norway. Next year Lt. Mackenzie will be taking over from Lt Crawford as Canoeing Officer.

The annual Chelmsford Youth Canoe Race organised by the CHELMSFORD BOATING CLUB as one of the series of the national "Avoncraft" series of youth races was held on Sunday, October 2, and had an almost record entry of some 70 paddlers. For the first time that the Club has held a national event, most of these paddlers came from local clubs with entries from Brentwood School, Sheffield Scouts, Galleywood Scouts, Police Cadets as well as the host club. From further afield came entries from Norwich and Amersham.

This year the race was held over a new course with the canoeists starting below the Kings Head Meadow sluice and paddling downstream to Stoneham Lock near Boreham and then returning to the Club headquarters. In all the paddlers, whose ages were between 13 and 18 covered 8 miles.

There were a number of close finishes with paddlers desperately attempting to draw ahead of their rivals in the last few metres of the race. Surely though, the Brentwood crew who capsized eight times were the most plucky.

A well deserved win after a year's hard paddling went to Spencer and Lewis (Chelmsford) who have now transferred to a K2 kayak (the first in the Club) called "Fisherman's Nightmare". In winning they qualified to compete in the "Avoncraft" series finals at Bedford.

CHALFONT PARK CANOE CLUB will hold the second River Usk White Water Regatta on January 29/30, 1972. The Paul Farrant Trophy, originally presented to the winner of the Hambledon Division 1 slalom, is to be presented as a perpetual trophy to the winner of the River Usk series, in the Men's K1 Class.

The Regatta is to be held under I.C.F. rules and stringent safety rules will be enforced. To qualify for entry a paddler must appear in the 1970 White Water Racing ranking lists or be a member of slalom divisions 1 and 2. Enquiries to Mike Hilliard, 29 The Drive, Potters Bar, Herts.

In a very full newsletter, the members of BIRMINGHAM CANOE CLUB have recounted many of the past year's expeditions and tours. Grandtully on the Tay, and some exciting sport on the N. Tyne at Keilder are a few of the many activities reported. Surfing at Polzeath and a circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight, are also included in the newsletter along with some interesting accounts of mountaineering and pony trekking!

The club has a full winter diary and Bat Polo will be an integral part of the weekly bath session.

## MUNICH '72

Since 1966, such liaison between the I.C.F., the German canoeing organisations and the Organisation Committee for the Munich 1972 Olympic Games has taken place. The result of this combined effort is a well thought out regatta complex for the Olympic Canoe Racing events.

Many natural lakes around Munich were examined from a geological, meteorological and technical aspect, paralleling examinations into the possibility of a man-made complex. From the results, it was discovered that none of the natural lakes would adequately fulfill the necessary requirements. This led to the decision to build an artificial regatta complex in an area north of Munich.

Work on the project commenced in September, 1969, and was to the plans of Eberl and partner, one of 12 architects who submitted plans to the committee.



### Sport and Competitor Facilities

The section for competitors consists of a separate building containing a training hall, conditioning room, sauna bath, changing and shower rooms, surgeries and also a restaurant. Thirty-five boat houses with workshop and storage facilities are also provided.

### Facilities for Organisers

These are housed in the Jury building, located near to the finishing stand. Included in the buildings are a conference room for 100 persons and a committee room for 30. Various passages lead to the finishing line, boating ramps and referee boats as well as to the guest of honour seating arrangements. This should ensure an undisturbed traffic of organisers and judges.

### Guests of Honour

One thousand special seats, placed near to the finishing line have been allocated for the guests. The seats have all been arranged so that an unrestricted view of the action on the water is possible.

### Spectator Facilities

Four thousand covered seats, 4,000 open seats, and 16,000 standing places have been provided. There are also many other facilities; snack bars, restaurants, etc.

Situated 7½ k.m. north of the Olympic village, near to the Schleissheimer Palace, the complex is served by special transport for the competitors and officials while spectators can either travel by car or on special fast trains made available by the organising committee.

The regatta course measures 2,230m. long by 140m. broad and is 3.5 metres deep.



A 65m. wide stretch has been kept clear on either side of the pool to ensure that wind conditions will be the same in all nine lanes. The water for the course is provided by artesian wells with an overflow channel at one end.

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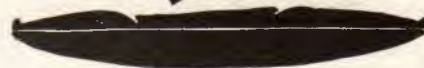
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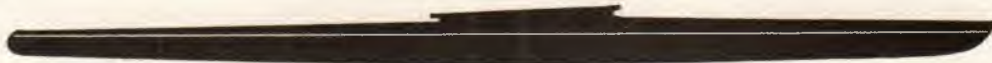
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# AUGSBURG SLALOM WILD WATER RACING - OLYMPIC TEST

From the old fast flowing canal at Eis, 38 miles from Munich, the Olympic Organising Committee has constructed a canoe slalom complex that rivals any other yet built in the world. Indeed, Augsburg not only rivals the few man-made courses, but is better than many of the natural slalom venues that have been used for international events in the past. The Eis Kanal has been doctored to provide a sufficiently 'rugged' course and a large number of artificial rocks have been added, giving a length of around 600 metres, of which only half is the original canal. To beautify the course, four bridges have been built over the Kanal, plants, trees and shrubs being added and the area extensively landscaped, presumably to make it as 'natural' as possible. Many facilities have been laid on for both competitors and officials; administration block, workshops, restaurants and storage facilities etc.

The course itself, however, takes on a less rosy view when considered from the competitors' position. To quote Sue Witter, writing in 'Canoeing Magazine', "The water flow down this new course is extremely strange. Far from being stable, it hunts and surges in the eddies out of the main stream, rather like a Thames weir". All due, the writer says to the vertical sides of the channel, "A natural river with sloping banks gives far more stability to the water flow".

Perhaps the Augsburg course, with its freakish ways will become the model for future slalom courses and the sheer difficulty of the water coupled with the technical difficulty of the gate arrangement will be the yard stick for a new level in International competition.

## Slalom and Wild Water Racing Olympic Test Slalom in Augsburg

On August 21-22, an international slalom was held on the new Olympic slalom course in Augsburg in which 17 national federations took part. Also here the intention was to enable competitors to get acquainted with this new, artificial course and to try out the organisation.

All competitors described the course as very difficult, but not as dangerous as has been claimed in some Press reports. One competitor, from the Federal German Republic even managed to complete the 30 gates course without penalties.

Part of the requested improvements had already been carried out, but after the non-stop training the team leaders and the Jury decided to ease the course for the ladies by eliminating two gates. The greatest difficulties, due to the comparatively narrow course on the concrete basin, were encountered by the Canadian pairs, but also in these events there were substantial differences in the standard between various teams.

Contrary to this year's World Championships in Merano the competitors from the Federal German Republic took the leading places — no doubt largely due to the fact that they had been able to familiarize themselves better with the course.

As requested by federations from abroad the German Canoe Federation (DKV) will negotiate with the Olympia Construction Co. — which is responsible for the course until it is handed over to the Organising Committee of the XX Olympic Games — in order to arrange during 1972 a number of training weekends which, in due course, will be

notified, in the form of a training calendar, to all federations in the ICF. However, since all the construction work is not yet completed and also the water of the Eis Kanal during the week is required by several factories, it will not be possible to provide sufficient water supply at all times and, therefore, the course can be used for training only during certain periods.

## 1973 SLALOM AND WILD WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

### AGAIN IN BOURG ST. MAURICE France

As already announced in the last issue of the ICF Bulletin, the Czechoslovak federation has notified the ICF that, owing to an unexpected delay in the start of the necessary, very comprehensive construction work at Lipno, the 1973 Slalom and Wild Water Championships cannot be held in the C.S.S.R. An ICF delegation visited recently Skopje, in Jugoslavia, where the 1975 Championships shall be held, in order to ascertain whether their date could be brought forward to 1973, but this proved to be impossible. Therefore, the Board of Management has, subject to formal ratification by the next Congress, accepted an offer from the French federation to hold the 1973 Championships again in Bourg St. Maurice, the venue of the 69 Championships.

Useful contacts have also been established with Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Portugal and Israel, and it is hoped that these contacts soon will lead to the formation of new federations in these countries.

Continued from page 79

Bridgewater Canal will disappear, all the effort involved in the restoration of the Cheshire Ring will be wasted, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal will be almost severed from the Waterway system, and Lymm Cruising Club would fall apart as a result of inadequate and foul water in which to cruise. In general, a particularly sorry state of affairs.

Your committee has elected an action sub-committee to launch an all-out campaign to resist the possible closure of the Bridgewater Canal. This sub-committee will lobby all possible support throughout the length and breadth of the nation to oppose the Bridgewater Canal Company taking any decisions which would not lead to the restoration of the Bridgewater Canal to full navigation in the shortest possible time. This committee will contact members of Parliament, local councils, County Councils, the national and regional press, television and radio, recreational canal users, canal societies, fishing organisations, statutory undertakings, boat-owners and all interested parties.

What can members of Lymm Cruising Club do to help restore navigation? The answer is quite simple. Donate 25p to the cause together with a small amount of your time. Please write ten letters at 2½p postage stamp each, to the most influential sources you can find. Write to the Manchester Ship Canal Company, Bridgewater Canal Company, your Member of Parliament, your local Councillor, your local Council, British Waterways Board, the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Transport, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Sport, the Warrington, Runcorn & District Water Board, the Mersey and Weaver River Authority, Cheshire County Council — the list is endless. Please don't sit on your backside thinking that someone

else will do it. It is already happening to you, and someone else will not write the letters for you. If 400 members of Lymm Cruising Club write ten letters in one week, and each of those 4,000 letters rebounds on the Bridgewater Canal Company, the strength of our position will be greatly increased.

Your club committee can only hope to organise a campaign which by its very weight and support can force the Bridgewater Canal Company into restoring Navigation as soon as possible. We must have your support, so please sit down and write those letters right away. Your club needs your support now more than ever before — the whole future of the Bridgewater Canal is in the balance.

## SLALOM JUDGING

As most people realise, judging at a slalom is a necessary duty that has to be undertaken. There are not many people who enjoy judging since it is often a cold, wet and miserable task with the likelihood of having to face penalised competitors who think they were 'clear'.

However, not enough judges appreciate the competitor's point of view. Today, top slalom is an extremely athletic and serious sport. The top canoeists spend practically all of their free time training hard and seriously and incidentally, spending most of their hard earned cash in the process. It is small wonder, therefore, that these competitors expect to be judged with the same skill and determination that they are applying to try and win the event.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, therefore, judges should carefully note the following points:—

- 1) With modern paddling techniques, many canoeists pass the blade of their paddle underneath the poles, thus lifting a volume of water up under the poles causing them to move although the poles are NOT, in fact, touched by boat or paddle.
- 2) Many paddlers now dip the sterns of their boats under the poles. This action also displaces a volume of water onto the deck of the boat and this water, NOT the BOAT, can displace the poles very convincingly.
- 3) When staggered gates are set up on flat water, fast flowing or otherwise, it is possible to adjust the poles down very close to the water. A canoe travelling fast will produce waves several inches high. Consequently, travelling at speed through these gates can cause the poles to be displaced easily, not only by the stern wave which moves the poles after passage of the canoe, but also by the BOW wave which can move the poles when the boat is still in the gate line, especially if the boat has been moving fast and slows up to go through the gates thus allowing these waves to overtake the boat.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SEE THE POLES MOVING, THE JUDGE MUST SEE THE BOAT, PADDLE OR PADDLER ACTUALLY TOUCH THE GATE

- 4) The sound of a paddle hitting the boat or even a rock often sounds remarkably like the boat or paddle hitting a pole. A judge must NOT penalise on hearing this sound alone, he must see contact between the boat or paddler and the poles.

### Golden Rule

If there is any doubt, the paddler MUST be given the benefit.

# OPEN FORUM

Dear Sir,

Nig Morley's long letter on Canoe Polo and disconnected jottings surely needs to be seen in perspective. As he writes as the Team Manager, Slalom, so his observations have a distinctly parochial tinge. For the sport of canoeing embraces all aspects of canoeing and they must cater for all B.C.U. members. As an ex-Division 1 slalomist, I laud Nig's cry of consolidation in the competitive field; however, he must be appraised of the reason behind the decision to ask the Competitive Committee to organise Canoe Polo. He, and other like-minded B.C.U. members should also be made aware of the efforts made by B.C.U. Council members in regard to the five points that he has raised.

Canoe Polo has been played at the National Canoe Exhibition for the last two years to the evident enjoyment of thousands of spectators, canoeists and prospective canoeists. This event has contributed in no uncertain measure to the profitability of the Exhibition, which pours hundreds of pounds annually into the B.C.U. coffers with the slalomists benefitting therefrom. And, dare I say it, the Exhibition is run in a highly professional manner, reflecting the B.C.U. as an outward looking well organised sport. This is due to the hard work put in by members of that Committee on behalf of the Canoeing fraternity. The Committee has no brief, however, to run the sport of Canoe Polo per se. As properly organised heats have to be run before the Exhibition, it was decided that the relevant body to set up an infra-structure for such heats be the B.C.U. Competitive Committee. A logical conclusion, I submit.

As a postscript to keep Canoe Polo "on its correct level", canoe polo has been played in West Germany since the 1930's. It is now a competitive canoeing event in Germany, often played by youth; and it could well become an International event in its own right.

On other points:

- 1) Access. A tremendous amount of voluntary work, not to mention financial assistance is being put in by B.C.U. Council and other members, in particular our hard pressed President.
- 2) Production of more Trainers and Coaches. I agree entirely and that is precisely what is being done in the B.C.U. coaching scheme. Walk first, run afterwards!
- 3) Creation of better facilities. Holme Pierrepont has been under discussion ever since plans were formulated. Provision was made from the beginning for a slalom site. Whilst Llangollen may progress no further due to fishing intransigence, such places, better in many ways, as the Clywegog, are under discussion locally and nationally.
- 4) & 5) The creation of more money and a contingency fund. How much help has the slalom world given towards the B.C.U. National Exhibition which helps Slalom financially? How much has the slalom world done to become self-financing? Their annual balance sheet has often been less than adequate in information and in

producing a balanced account. With regard to subscriptions, I can only ask whether with higher subscriptions, the non-competitive B.C.U. member will get his money's worth.

Finally, to throw down the gauntlet, if Nig Morley and his colleagues feel that the B.C.U. Council is directing the sport in the wrong fashion, why not then stand for election for the next B.C.U. Council? I am certainly not in favour of bickering as there is too much work to do for canoeing.

P. C. A. Rogers,  
B.C.U. Vice President

London.

Dear Sir,

Two letters in the September issue of our magazine, those from John Mathers and Nigel Morley, have reinforced the horror and repugnance towards competition which have been growing in me over the last few years, and I thank God, earnestly, that I got out of top-class competition in this country when I did.

A little while ago I was discussing sport as a whole with a Senior Lecturer from a College of Education. We were wondering whether sport was being properly taught in all places of education, when he said, with some horror, that students arriving at his college were so imbued with the determination to win that they considered it correct to cheat to gain this end.

More recently I watched the starts of the Long Distance Racing National Championships, and I do not think I have ever seen such grossly bad manners as were displayed by some competitors there. A similar spirit has been apparent in other competitive sections of our sport over the last few years.

Not so very long ago the International Olympic Committee slated the competitive world for this growing tendency. With a very few other sports the Committee mentioned canoeing as remaining clean. Can we honestly say that we are still? Would the I.O.C. still make the same conclusion now?

One of the few joys left in watching international competition nowadays, is in observing the good behaviour of our friends from the other side of the Iron Curtain. There was a time when they, too, behaved badly in competition. They still win. Have we got to go through the whole, hard cycle before we, too, learn that bad manners do NOT pay and that dedicated training and good manners do? It is in appalling sign of our times that we should ever have thought otherwise.

Incidentally, Nigel Morley refers to Surfing as being "a fun sport that will make the status of canoeing rapidly deteriorate". It may interest him to know that we have recently been honoured by the Coastguards and Lifeboat Cox'ns, no less, as knowing more about the behaviour of the sea close inshore than anybody else at all. Therefore, we are being consulted on this subject by those who wish to make our coastline safer. But then I don't suppose Mr. Morley thinks this worthy of consideration.

O. J. Cock  
Director of Coaching

Henley-on-Thames.

P.S. In reference to David Rushfirth's letter in the same issue, it is interesting to note that one of the Metropolitan Water Board's reservoirs near Staines is shared by anglers and water skiers. After a spell of absence by the skiers, the anglers wrote and begged them to return as the fish

were ailing through lack of oxygenation of the water. There is always another side to the story, and, properly controlled, power boats can be of benefit even to the anglers. But then, it is fashionable to dislike 'being controlled' nowadays. It is more fun to be rude, and obstructive, and throw stones at policemen and so on. Association Football fell into the same sort of error, and look at the struggle it is now going through to clean itself up. How long, oh Lord, before we come to our senses? Or am I wrong, and is it only a noisy minority who behave in this way? I sincerely hope so.

Dear Editor,

I have just read the report — "Little Progress on Access", on p.62 of C-in-B. I feel strongly about a number of points raised.

- 1) It seems incorrect that registration should be a prior condition for discussion, since this is one of the few cards we have to play and it would certainly be regretted by a large number of canoeists if it had to come about eventually.
- 2) I suggest that any possible scheme must involve all who wish to canoe on rivers etc. and that (a) they must all become members of the B.C.U., and that (b) the B.C.U. membership card should be the registration in itself (in a plastic case to be carried on the person, if required).

Once people are within the B.C.U. it is possible to control them. More numbers are unnecessary — some of us use several boats and change them often . . . they are covered with competition data anyway. (Anglers don't have huge numbers all over them!).

Any scheme must cover all members, even if this involves a rise in subscription . . . voluntary schemes can only end in chaos.

We had some preliminary talks with the local Sports Council and the inconsistency of the original proposals was made clear to us by them.

I think that the above ideas represent the views of many very active canoeists with whom I have spoken.

M. J. Markham

Leeds.

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to notice the poor prizes that were given out at the Guildford Slalom on September 11.

J. Cubby and myself were the winners of the C.2 event and for our trouble we received two medals, 1½ inches by 1 inch, without any engraving. The very same objects were presented to the third place winners in the kayak event and also to the kayak novice event winners. The winners of the two previously mentioned events were awarded small plaques that would normally be given to second or third place winners.

I was disgusted with my prize, and my partner has sent his to Chris McAllister to ask if he thinks it a just reward.

If other clubs are prepared to spend a little of the entry fee on decent trophies, then I fail to see how Guildford should get away with spending so little.

If Guildford's answer to my enquiry is 'Am I interested only in the prizes or in the sport of canoeing?' then I feel that they should ask themselves the same question.

Very poor show, Guildford.

S.A.C. Bryne

R.A.F. Benson,  
Oxford.

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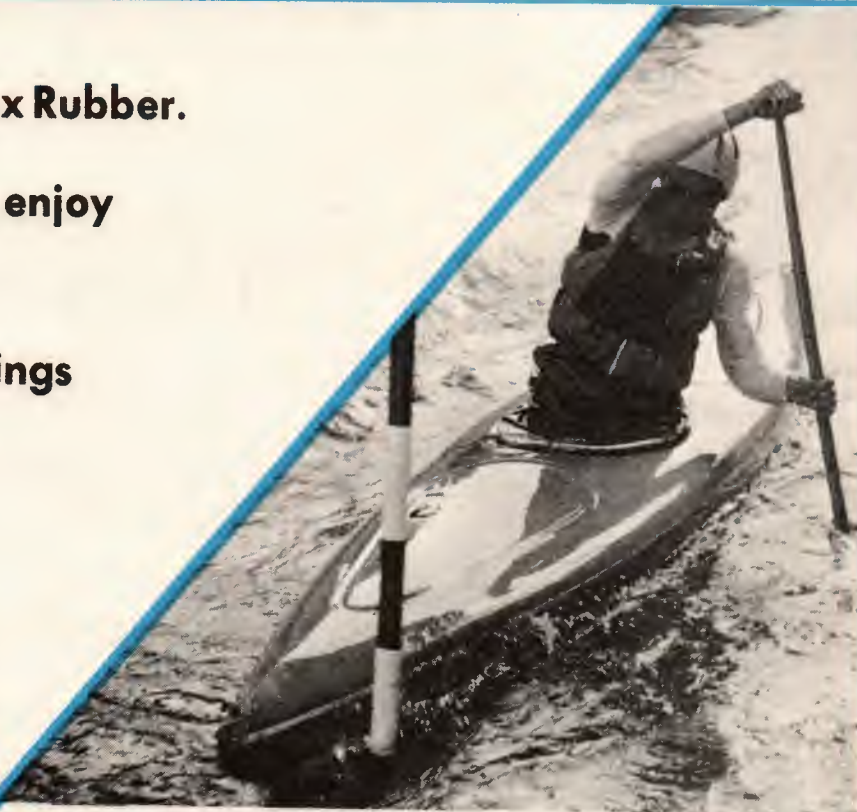
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# Autumn Weddings

Canoeists who married recently include:

Jon Goodwin and Pauline Squires, two internationally successful slalomists, at Coventry in September.

Rowan Osbourne and Marguerite McIntosh, coinciding with Rowan's clinching of the 1971 C1 slalom championship, at Kingussie in October.



Above:—On Saturday, 25th September, Melvyn J. Skeet married Jennifer Stocks in Ipswich. Melvyn is a founder member of the Ipswich Rescue, Jenny is a hockey player for the local Y.M.C.A. (Yes, Y.M.C.A.).

## THE "SMALLS"

B.C.U. MEMBERS: Rates 1½p per word — minimum 20p. Trade and non-members 5p per word — minimum 30p. A P.O. or cheque made out to the British Canoe Union must accompany all items appearing in "The Smalls." Advertisements for this section will not be accepted unless pre-paid. B.C.U. Number must be quoted when claiming special rate. Keith Wickham, 36, St. Mary's Place, Newcastle upon Tyne.

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## FILMS

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