

# CANOEING IN BRITAIN

15p

Dec  
1972

The magazine of the British Canoe Union



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# CANOEING IN BRITAIN

15p Dec 1972

The magazine of the British Canoe Union

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Names and addresses of the principal officers of the British Canoe Union can be found on the B.C.U. Calendar.

## EDITORIAL

During the past month or two — indeed the more of our canoeing friends I meet — the more I become aware of the many unusual stories and incidents which must surely be of interest to you. Oliver Cock canoeing at sea through a host of migratory butterflies, the effect of translucent plankton seen by night paddlers, strange rivers, amusing anecdotes. Perhaps we could build up a page of such notes. If you have a comment which you can condense into a paragraph or two, 50 or 75 words say, let's have them.

Now folks let's have a break on complaints re the lateness of publication. I've put this edition to bed on time but if there's a power strike; our printer gets held up because a dock strike cuts down his inflow of paper, make a bid to get me elected Prime Minister and I may be able to help. At the moment I'm only the editor. Please bear in mind Ads should be received on the 1st of the month and editorial on the 10th of the month prior to publication otherwise publication can not be guaranteed.

As you may note we are paddling our own canoe re advertising. Keith Wickham has left for pastures new and liaison between editorial and advertising must be close. Thanks to so many people for their help and of course to Keith for his past support and effort.

## GENERAL SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Members of the Union will, I am sure, learn with regret that Mrs. Barbara Boyer will soon be leaving us — even though it be for the best of reasons — she will have been with us for just about 2½ years, during which time she has contributed a great deal to the efficiency of the office. We wish her and her husband joy in their family.

Will all correspondents please note that we are having grave trouble with postal deliveries and be particularly careful to write the office address correctly and legibly. Unfortunately even this does not guarantee correct delivery but it does help.

Finally, may we wish all our members and readers the compliments of the season and the best for 1973.

**D.P.H.T.W.,  
General Secretary**

### Cover Picture:

*Mike Jones loading up a .45 on the Blue Nile.*

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SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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## ADVERTISERS!

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# SLALOM ROUNDUP



ROTHMAN CONSULATE  
INTERNATIONAL 1972

by Rodney Witter

This year's Rothman Consulate International Canoe Slalom was clearly a splendidly organised affair. First and foremost one must give credit to Keith Wickham for the excellent work he did in bringing together all the threads of organisation so successfully on the day, to produce such a well organised slalom.

The entry list had been looking very slim for some weeks before the competition, partly, no doubt, as a reaction to the excessive amount of travelling and competition undertaken by all competitors in the months before the Olympics. However, Keith was able to obtain the reigning World Championship team and the Olympic silver medallist, Norbert Sattler, from Austria. This, together with a trip to Holland the weekend before the International by Chris McAllister to drum up further entries, ensured wide international support. The Irish sent a very substantial team of some twenty paddlers. Unfortunately their newcomers were not quite up to the standard we have come to expect from the Emerald Isle, and made the competition look rather, as some observers remarked, like a multi-lingual first and second division slalom.

If the competition was not one of the best we have seen, the organisation left little to be desired: the new organisers' approach was in evidence everywhere. Firms were hired to provide timing equipment, to supply radio links, to erect floodlighting and, most useful of all — to put up a proper cabin for control. All this led to a slickly run affair which was most noticeable when one watched the television broadcast the following weekend. In the past the cameras have chopped and changed from person to person, with the viewer left bemused as to what it was all about, or who was leading whom. This year only one team or crew was on the course at a time during the telerecording, leaving the producer free to follow each paddler or team right through from top to bottom. Skilful editing later produced a coherent story of four or five C2 runs disputing their event and about the same number of kayak teams battling it out for their honours. An additional advantage was the elapsed time ticking away in the corner of the screen. This was usually updated with the addition of penalties whilst the competitors were still in camera at the finish — not even the television from the Augsburg Olympic course managed that! The finished programme ran for about 40 minutes, showing the C2 individual runs and the kayak team events, and must be judged the best bit of slalom television yet shown in this country.

As for Saturday's events, it was a pity that the only real international competition was in the men's kayaks: the junior team event had to be incorporated with the Senior kayaks, whilst in C2's the only foreign pair was the van Stipdonks from Holland who put up a game show. The women's team event was won by Britain from scratch teams and a couple of Irish trios, whilst in the C1 team event, Britain took the first two of four places from a good West German team and a lashed up international team.

The kayak team event was a different matter however, providing an excellent competition disputed by sixteen teams. The favourites were, of course, the champion Austrian team of Sattler, Schlecht and Presslmayr. However they didn't hit form and it was left to a German club team (containing the junior paddler Steffen Trach no less!) to win by a mere two tenths of a second from Britain's best — the B team of Mitchell, Thomas and Swallow. This close result was clearly brought out on television. With the Germans already having recorded 237.6 clear, the British team was seen dashing through the final few gates, clear up to that point, with the clock ticking away nearer and nearer to 237. The third man, Mike Thomas was seen reverse ferry gliding between the last two, staggered, gates to ensure clearing them but allowing the clock to reach 237.8 as he crossed the line. Such is the unfairness of television that one can say of poor Mike 'if only he had gone direct between those gates at least two tenths would have been saved', whereas in honesty we know that the run may have equally been lost in other places down the course by any of the trio.

Came Sunday and the Junior and Senior Kayak events were disputed together with the C1's and women's kayaks. In the C1's last year's bronze medallist, Sepp Schumacher was the winner in 257.3 with the ex East German paddler and current world silver medallist, Wulf Reinicke in second place with 261.3. Third was Great Britain's Rowan Osborne in 263.1. The women's competition was won by Pauline Squares-Goodwin (Britain) with 257.2 from Margared Nutt of the USA, currently working in Britain, who had 261.8. Third was the Dutch girl Ria van Stipdonk with 272.2.

The premier event, the men's kayaks was won predictably enough by the Olympic silver medallist, Norbert Sattler, with a splendid clear round in 200.4. Second was the British paddler, Mike Thomas, also clear, with 211.2, whilst third was Ray Calverley with a total of 217.2.

Perhaps the most encouraging of all the events at the competition was the junior kayaks in which Britain took the first four places. In top position was Alan Edge with a clear round in 204.2 — good enough to have given him second place in the senior event, ahead of all the British paddlers. Second was

Chester's Nicky Wain with 217.3 whilst third was Robert Hignell in 227.3. These juniors are beginning to reap the rewards of all the hard work put in by themselves as a separate group, and by their manager, Mike Colgan. These will be the people we will be looking to if we are to select an Olympic team in 1976.

The prize giving had been in some danger, owing to the loss of the special Llangollen medals — stolen when my car was broken open the week before the competition. Fortunately the day was saved by John Woolley who was able to rush through a batch of the special B.C.U. general purpose medals which have been in preparation during the year, but would not have otherwise been ready in time. National Anthems were not played this year at the medals ceremony, a locally produced fanfare being substituted.

So the prizes were distributed and the competitors departed for their ferries carrying with them, we hope, memories of another successful Llangollen International. Certainly it was successful as far as the British paddlers are concerned: the best ever publicity for slalom, the best ever British organised event and surely a substantial profit to the coffers of the Union.

## WILL THE SLALOM COMPETITION STAY IN THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME?

This question was under discussion already in Augsburg and Munich.

The first Olympic Canoe Slalom was undoubtedly a great success and impressed visiting members of the International Olympic Committee. However, they were disturbed at the high cost of the Augsburg Course and expressed doubts whether some cities awarded the staging of the Olympic Games could provide such a course.

It will now lie, in the first place with the Organising Committee of Montreal, and the President of the I.C.F. accompanied by the Chairman of the I.C.F. Slalom Committee are to visit Montreal before the end of 1972 to study the situation and give their expert opinion on the possibility of arranging an Olympic Slalom in the vicinity of Montreal, and without the need for constructing an artificial course. If the inspection satisfies them that it can be done, a request for it will be presented to the I.O.C. by the I.C.F. supported by documents, and the Organising Committee will be given every support. In this situation all National Federations will be asked to give their support so that this spectacular branch of canoeing shall stay in the Olympic Games Programme. J.W.D.



Llangollen International Canoe Slalom  
*The British 'A' Team of Men K1 Team on the top of the Mill Fall at the Llangollen International Canoe Slalom.*  
 Photo: Canoeing Magazine.



Norbert Sattler, Olympic Silver Medallist competing on the Town course at the Llangollen International Canoe Slalom where he easily gained first place.  
 Photo: Canoeing Magazine.

# CORRYVECKAN WHIRLPOOL

This event took place on 14th and 15th October and at the time of going to press I have yet to learn of the outcome.

This expedition with basic party and guest canoeists must have been one of the strongest canoeing groups to visit the area.

I was looking forward very much to publishing the story of the St. Mary's College Advanced Sea Expedition 1972 — its objective to record on film the world's second largest whirlpool 'Corryveckan' at various stages of the tidal flow and also to circumnavigate Scarba off the west coast of Scotland.

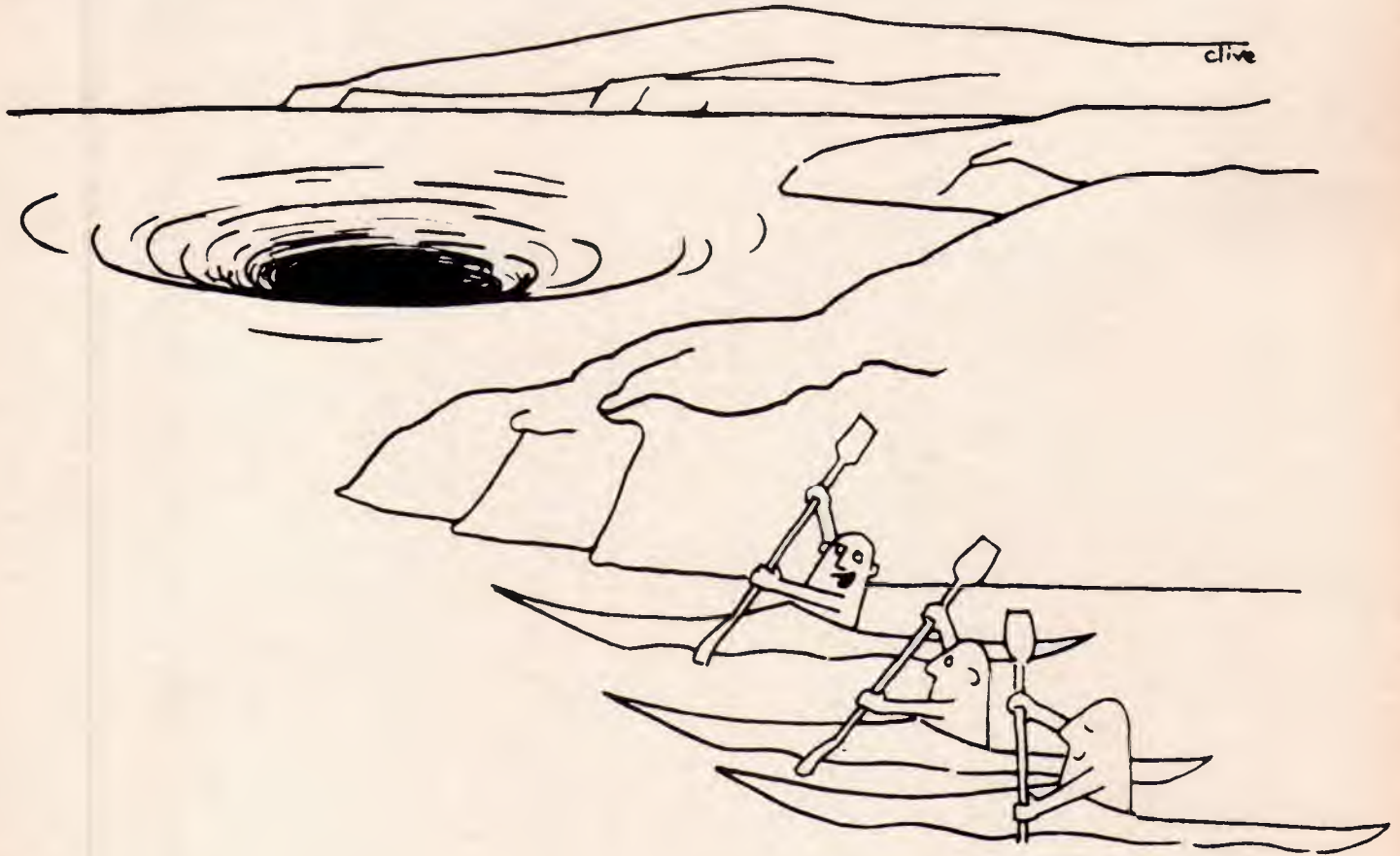
The whirlpool is caused by three major

factors:

1. The speed of the tidal streams through the Gulf (up to 8.5 knots).
2. The associated strong eddy currents.
3. The very uneven nature of the bottom (depth in the middle varies from 96 ft. to over 720 ft.).

At certain stages of the tide a roar of water from the gulf can be heard some five miles away.

Perhaps in our next edition we may have a short article for you.



It's O.K Lads — they tell me it's all downhill round the next headland!

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# ANNUAL REPORT 1972



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J. W. Dudderidge, O.B.E.

## **HON. TREASURER**

E. J. Owen

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C. M. Rothwell

G. Sanders

J. Spuhler

J. M. Woolley

J. A. Bright

R. N. Castle

A. D. Harber

C. B. Manton

R. Witter

## **NOMINATED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

National Coaching Committee

Sprint Racing Committee

Long Distance Racing Committee

Slalom Committee

Sailing Committee

Touring Committee

Scottish Division

Northern Ireland

## **CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Editor of *Canoeing in Britain*

National Youth Officer

## **CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

General Purposes

Competitions

Access

Publications

Finance

National Exhibition

## **CHAIRMAN OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

National Coaching

Sprint Racing

Long Distance Racing

Slalom

Sailing

Touring

*General Secretary*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Director of Coaching*

*Part-time National Coaches*

*Retires*

This year

Next year

Next year

Next year

Next year

Next year

Next year

This year

This year

This year

This year

This year

C. E. Quaife and J. E. D. Travers

R. W. Emes and R. J. Jones

C. Baker and B. Pluthero

Miss M. Bellord and R. Witter

A. Hassell and P. Wells

E. B. Totty and R. F. Tyas

J. MacIntyre

W. Balmain

R. F. Tyas

J. M. Woolley

J. W. Dudderidge

P. C. A. Rogers

J. W. Dudderidge

P. Wells

G. Sanders

A. Sowman

A. D. Harber

P. Wells

R. F. Tyas

D. P. H. Tudor-Williams

Mrs. Barbara Boyer

O. J. Cock

J. Fazey, C. Hare, C. E. Quaife,

C. A. Gray



## membership

	1970	1971	1972	% increase
Full	4002	4049	4511	c. 11½%
Youth	1341	1062	1369	c. 29%
Family	495	406	621	c. 53%
Total	5838	5517	6502	c. 15%

These figures are clearly well up on 1971, the great rise in Youth and Family members being particularly interesting.

Despite several affiliated bodies failing to rejoin for various reasons, the total number of affiliated members continues to rise.

1970	1971	1972
381	402	414

## supplies department

Overall turnover for the year was somewhat more than £2,000 — a slight increase over the previous year, mostly due to the inevitable rise in prices and costs.

## h.q. staff

Mrs. Boyer continues to do sterling work and has been of inestimable value to the Union, not only during the interregnum immediately following the tragic death of Major Tomlinson but also as a vast fund of knowledge and precedent for his successor, without which the dislocation would have been even more severe.

It is worth mentioning that although the Coaching Scheme is now separately catered for administratively, the number of enquiries and calls for advice — reflecting the huge increase in the general public's interest in the sport, and corresponding to an actual increase in total membership of nearly 1,000 — is rising all the time and sometimes results in delay in dealing with individual queries, etc. This is regrettable, but in a period of rapid growth virtually inevitable.

## international affairs

The Union had continued to play its part in the wider development of our sport through the International Canoe Federation. Members serving on the I.C.F. Board and Technical Committees for Slalom, Sailing, and Propaganda have had an active year, and at the Congress held in Munich were re-elected for further terms: our President for 4 years as Representative for Europe; two Council Members Messrs. Spuhler and Wells for the Slalom and Sailing Committees respectively.

## national affairs

Members of the Union have rendered service on the Central Council of Physical Recreation and its several Committees for Coaching, Outdoor Activities, Sports and Games; on the Council and General Purposes Committee of the British Olympic Association; the Committee of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents; the Corps of Canoe Life Guards; Regional Sports Councils and their Water Recreation Committees; the National Water Recreation Committee; the Water Recreation Committee of the Association of River Authorities; Committees of River Authorities; The British Schools Canoeing Association and innumerable regional and local organisations concerned directly or indirectly with the promotion of water sport and water safety.

The National Canoe Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace over a two day period proved a great success and the attendance figures broke all records. The Chairman of the Sports Council attended with his family and toured the Exhibition before presenting the trophy for Canoe Polo, the Final of which he watched.



### access

The Access Committee and its team of negotiators have had a strenuous year working in co-operation with Regional Sports Councils for the promotion of multiple use of all available water by agreed programming. Many meetings have been held in all parts of the country but the results have not been uniformly encouraging. In a few regions there are some indications that limited agreements may be achieved in due course, but too often the gains have been non-existent or minimal due to unwillingness of the anglers to co-operate.

During the year a canoeist was sued for damages for using his canoe on water over which an angling club owned the fishing rights. They lost their case but took it to the Appeal Court which reversed the judgment, and this has put at risk the users of a very large proportion of our popular canoeing rivers. The judgment has been a severe blow to canoeing and may have serious results in many branches of our activities.

### annual report of the national coaching committee — october 1972

The Coaching Scheme has continued to develop throughout the country, and now there is only one small part of the United Kingdom which is not covered by a Local Coaching Organiser. Tribute is paid to the untiring and continuous efforts of our Area and Local Coaching Organisers. The great increase in the number of Proficiency Tests taken demonstrates one aspect of their work and indicates that people know where they can come to seek assistance in their canoeing. It is also interesting to note the numbers of people who enrol as members of the Union when they take their tests; we hope to achieve even higher figures in the future.

Courses have been run at all levels throughout the country. Satisfactory numbers have enrolled in the Scheme; though with the closure of the rank of Instructor, we could have wished that more of these had up-graded themselves to the new rank of Senior Instructor.

#### Figures of Courses and Tests are now given below:—

Training for Senior Instructor and Coaches	23	
Assessments for the same	24	
Assessments for Tests in Advanced Canoeing	14	
Canoe Life Guard Training and Assessment	4	
Proficiency Certificates issued	1,653	of whom 520 were already members, and 195 (or 12%) were enrolled as members.
Advanced Certificates issued	41	
Senior Instructor qualified	304	making a total altogether of 509
Coaches qualified	14	making a total altogether of 66
Senior Coaches elected	9	making a total altogether of 20

The appointment of John Fazey as part-time National Coach with special attention to competition is already beginning to have an effect upon this side of our sport.

He and David Cook, Director of the Espada Scheme, have planned a scheme of certificates and awards for this class which will come into operation in 1973. The Espada Class grows steadily in canoes registered.

In addition, the national coach for competition has devised a scheme for the creation of slalom and racing coaches at all levels. This has been accepted by the National Coaching Committee and by the specialist committees concerned. Already some experimental courses have been run, and we may expect to see the scheme in proper operation this coming year.

Because of its general interest and importance the report of the Safety Committee appears elsewhere in this issue as a separate item.

### sprint racing

An Olympic year is always a year of tremendous effort for competitors and officials, but this year competitors had the advantage of being able to compete on the new course at Holme Pierrepont which gave more professional racing conditions.

Although the results of the Games may have been a little disappointing the Committee sees that the course will help raise standards and draw foreign competitors to this country for competition.

In addition, the Espada Project has assisted in giving strength to the base of the triangle and many Espada paddlers have shown promise for the future.

Administrators and Coaches are urgently required, a role that many past competitors could admirably fulfil, in order that this branch of the sport should retain its momentum.



### **long distance racing**

Long Distance Racing continues to grow at a brisk pace, forcing change on the system. This year saw the introduction of the "a" classes in the K1 and K2 events, a system whereby the sheep and the goats are separated to their mutual advantage. This has met with wide approval from paddlers of all standards.

The growth in the variety and number of events has caused us to open a Great Debate on the structure of the ranking race system. We have reached the point where the present system groans under its load. Great change is in the offing.

The National Championships have attained a long sought stability. We have now held them two years consecutively at Worcester and we intend to keep them there for the next few years. This year we were again able to welcome several foreign teams, and received a virtuoso demonstration of the art from the Richmond B team.

Although thwarted by local politics in Spain this year, our international teams have produced very creditable performances. The increase in international events is, however, imposing a great burden on our top paddlers and team managers. There are openings in both these areas for the right people.

### **slalom and wild water racing**

In 1972 Slalom was featured in the Olympic Games for the first time and a superbly well-prepared team represented us on the specially-constructed artificial slalom course at Augsburg. If we were unsuccessful in bringing home the coveted honours, our Junior Slalom Team, touring France, Austria, and Yugoslavia proved that their successes in 1971 were no mere fluke; they brought home a number of medals and trophies. In Wild Water Racing we sent teams to Monschau and Bourg St. Maurice who had been specialising in this branch of the sport, and their performance bodes well for the next World Championships.

On the home front 1972 was the year when slalom entries reached an all-time record with an estimated 576 paddlers competing at an event at Matlock in July. Although accurate figures are not to hand, most of the slalom events held at Novice and Third Division level have been overcrowded and the Slalom Committee must now consider ways and means of re-organising the divisional system to defeat this overcrowding.

### **sailing**

John Biddle won the Bronze Medal at the World Championship, Oxelosund, Sweden. Standards in international competition have risen steadily in the past few years and the efforts made by the Swedes in particular to improve their performance are now showing results. They well deserved to take the Gold and Silver Awards.

The B.C.U. Sailing Committee is developing a programme to improve our own standards as obviously the haphazard methods of the past are no longer good enough. A weekend training session held at Calshot Outdoor Activities Centre under the direction of John Biddle, and using such aids as a video recorder was a step in this direction.

The Junior Sailing Canoe is also under development in conjunction with the British Schools Canoeing Association, the B.C.U. Coaching Committee and the National Schools Sailing Association. The successful launching of this scheme would be of immense value to the future development of this branch of the sport.

### **touring**

The touring information service continues to be well used. The number of enquiries about foreign as compared with home touring continues to increase, and interest in Scandinavia as against alpine areas and Yugoslavia appears to be developing. There is no sign that members wish the B.C.U. to recommence organising meets or holiday tours.



### corps of canoe life guards

This year has seen development of new techniques, training weekends at Aberavon and Lyme Regis and a tremendous amount of hard work by all units. Close liaison has been established with other rescue services. In particular with the Surf Life Saving Association, It is hoped that this may in time become a very close partnership with members of each unit being trained to assist the other, thus producing a more efficient combined rescue service. Perhaps in due course other rescue organisations will see the value of joint efforts and also welcome closer liaison.

Our newest units at Southend and Christchurch have both lived up to the highest traditions of the Corps. Between them they have been called on to attend a number of incidents and at least five lives have been saved. Christchurch members have logged 750 patrol hours during the holiday season. Weymouth too have carried out regular duty patrols and escort of long-distance swimmers.

It seems clear that where Corps units operate fatal swimming accidents have almost disappeared.

### 'canoeing in britain'

Our magazine *Canoeing in Britain* has made its quarterly appearances though due to forces outside the control of the Union or the Publishers (i.e. the direct or indirect effect of various national strikes), some issues have been rather delayed.

In the region of 7,000 copies per issue have been distributed and the presentation and content has attracted compliments as well as controversy. We express our thanks to the Editor and his Staff.

### insurance

The volume of business is slightly up on last year, but the need for re-printing has meant that the B.C.U. profit will not show a corresponding increase. However the commission for insurances arranged still provides a useful source of income for the Union.

Some changes were introduced early in the year, with particular regard to the payment of claims for total write-offs, where the damage occurs during a competitive event, but it is too early yet to see what effect this will have on the total claims picture.

A scheme was also introduced this year for Third Party Only cover, and a few members have taken advantage of this, although those with full comprehensive cover on their canoes have this extra cover included.

Some Club Public Liability policies have been arranged as in previous years, but it is increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to interest the Companies with whom we have Agency agreements, to quote for personal accident, holiday travel, etc. insurances, as they consider canoeing to be an extremely hazardous sport!

### films

Commission on library films is up by 75%, partly due to it having been the first full year at increased hire charges but largely to the introduction of three new films in the latter half of the British Film Institute's year - "Wild Water Champions", "Big Sport with Small Boats" and "Kayak" - and of "Competition" late the previous year. Sale of loops is down by 44%.

### acknowledgments

We wish to record our appreciation of the help rendered by the Central Council of Physical Recreation in the administration of our Coaching Scheme and the National Canoe Exhibition; to the Wardens of the Activity Centres who have provided facilities for courses and competitions; to the Sports Council for its support, encouragement and financial aid; to Commercial enterprises who have assisted by sponsorship of our international competitions; to the British Olympic Association for its technical and financial assistance to our teams during their preparations and competitions; to the multitude of members who have devoted time, energy and money to promoting the many branches of our activities, and to our Staff in Headquarters and in the field of Coaching.

On behalf of the Council of the British Canoe Union -

J. W. Dudderidge  
President

## CANOE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT 1971/72

The political situation has not seemed to curtail canoeing enthusiasm in Northern Ireland. Indeed the upward trend of interest of the previous two years continues.

There has been a steady development in Sea-Canoeing, not just in the extension of our Surfing programme but also in general Sea-Canoeing.

There has been a development trend in the past two years for our canoeists to break new ground by paddling on rivers which hitherto have been used exclusively by anglers. This has been done on a personal contact basis and we, who have virtually no access problems, are careful to take note of the problems that paddlers in Britain have in this very sensitive area.

Photos: Bill Richmond

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## 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. Bill Balmain, 36 St. Mary's Place, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**CALSHOT to CHERBOURG** — First cross-Channel attempt from the Needles (70 miles). Paddlers interested in the concept should contact G. C. Good, Hampshire Association of Canoeists, Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot, Hants by 14 January 1973.

Escort will be provided by the Ocean Youth Club ketch *Samuel Whitbread*. The dates: 13–20 May 1973 (Sunday to Sunday). Fully inclusive fee: £25. This includes cruising in the Cherbourg/Alderney area.

It is planned to paddle in relays (12 paddlers with 6 canoes) but the whole idea is open to discussion. If you are interested you must contact the organiser by the date stated — 14 January 1973.

The British Canoe Union Slalom and Wild Water Racing Committee wish to appoint Team Managers for its three International Teams which are:

International Canoe Slalom Team  
International Wild Water Racing Team  
International Junior Team

These posts will be honorary.

A certain amount of travelling abroad is involved, and a knowledge of languages, especially German would be useful, along with experience in International Sport.

The Selection Committee is looking for competent administrators who have a flair for handling people who are basically individualistic in their approach to competition.

Applications in writing should be sent to C. E. McAllister at the address given below by November 28th at the latest. If interviews are to be held, they will take place in London on Sunday December 3rd.

### B.C.U. SLALOM COMMITTEE

C. E. McAllister, Hon. Sec.,  
62 Acton Avenue, Appleton,  
Warrington, WA4 5PT.  
(Tel: 0925 66224)

## BCU films

Send S.A.E. for lists

**FILM HIRE**  
British Film Institute,  
42–43 Lower Marsh,  
London S.E.1.

**LOOP PURCHASE**  
C. M. Rothwell,  
21 Windsor Road,  
Clayton Bridge,  
Manchester, M10 6QQ.

## VACANCY AT H.Q.

An urgent replacement is required at H.Q. for an accurate typist who will be able to assist in recruitment and general office duties. Must be based locally.

Write in confidence stating previous salary and experience to:

The General Secretary,  
British Canoe Union,  
26/29 Park Crescent,  
London W1N 4DT.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE WORLD OF ANGLING

Ed. Colin Graham Purnell · £1-25

An annual collection of fishing articles, with many pictures. For those canoeists who combine fishing with pleasure — for the rest, a chance to see how the other half lives. *Rating \*\*\**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Gloucester Canoe Club regret that there will not be a 'Severn Bore Race' in the Spring of 1973. We have had to abandon this event for 1973 as there are no suitable tides.

A 'medium' bore is predicted for 0845 on Sunday February 18th and there may be a cruise at this time. The time stated is for the wave at Minsterworth, Glos.

Neil Edwards

## "CHRISFILM"

'Colorado' No. 16/10

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## MAGAZINES

WHITE WATER MAGAZINE 4 issues per annum 50p. 21 Windsor Road, Manchester M10 6QQ.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**COACH/SENIOR INSTRUCTOR** (Inland) — required to be in charge of weekly residential canoe courses at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre for the 1973 season. (May and June). Apply to The Director, Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, Marlow, Bucks.

## WANTED

**WANTED:** KW7 also Junior G.P. Fibreglass. Poppylands, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell, Berkshire. Bracknell 28403.

**WANTED:** GLASSFIBRE K1 in reasonable condition. Ann Gillespie, Peterstow House, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Tel: Ross-on-Wye 2851.

**WANTED:** BOOKS ON CANOEING and back numbers of canoeing journals. Also old (pre-1940) catalogues required to purchase. Dr. L. P. Clarke, Ann's Cottage, Holybourne, Alton, Hants.

## BOATS FOR SALE

**STREAMLYTE** — Large factory clearance sale before V.A.T. Kayaks: New, Seconds and Secondhand. Moulds & Plugs of discontinued models. Discounts. You need the boats — we need the space. Write for list to Streamlyte Ltd., Lancing, Sussex.

**STRUER RACER** one year old — £125-00. Ring 01-892 8979.

**MENDESTA MATCH** ex stock — £51-00 from the Canoe Centre. Ring 01-892 8979.

**SPRINTER W/W RACER** — secondhand, only used twice — £40-00. Ring 01-892 8979.

**BARRACUDA CLASS 4 DOUBLE** with spray decks — £45. Paddles £15. Canoe Rack £10. Mr. David, Officers Mess, Battlesbury Bks., Warminster. (Tel: 2792).

**BATH 'POLO' KAYAK MOULD 8'**, unused £19 complete. Also boat as above little used £14-50. 13' slalom mould £13-50 complete, boat same £23 good condition. Brian Haley, 17 Bilberry Close, Penyfford, Chester. (Tel: Spon Green 2555).

**B.C.U. 'CADET' MOULD** — as new (used 4 times). Excellent canoe for touring (sea/river) and school/club use in general. For sale £45 or permanent/temporary exchange for slalom mould. M. Tonge, Litherland High School, Sterrix Lane, Liverpool 21. (051-928 4449).

**AVONCRAFT OLYMPUS K2** — Almost new £30 o.n.o. for quick sale. R. A. Knight, Culham College, Nr. Abingdon, Berks. Tel: Abingdon 779.

**SOAR VALLEY SPECIALS Mk IV** for sale. Footrest, knee bars, buoyancy £27. Soar Valley Canoe Club, 247 Catherine Street, Leicester, LE4 6GE.

**TWO SECONDHAND SLALOM CANOES** — £15 and £25 and one slalom mould — £30. White water racer — £30. Apply 35, Trewenna Drive, Potters Bar, Herts. Tel: 53925.

## ACCESSORIES

**ROMA CRASH HELMETS** "give most protection" in red/black/white/yellow — £4-00 plus 25p post & packing from: The Canoe Centre, 18 Beachamp Road, Twickenham.

# NILE CANOEISTS BEAT BANDITS & CROCODILES

Four British canoeists led by Mike Jones from Keighley in Yorkshire have become the first people to navigate 200 miles of the Blue Nile from Lake Tana to the Blue Nile Bridge.

Paddling their way through dangerous rapids the expedition was shot at and attacked by bandits, chased by twenty foot crocodiles and marooned for two days without food.

Several times the expedition members nearly lost their lives on impossible rapids. Mike Hopkinson a school teacher from Bradford in Yorkshire survived a 15 foot drop over a waterfall and Jones almost drowned when his canoe was swallowed up by a giant whirlpool.

The canoeists carried all the equipment they used on the descent in their boats. Lightweight camping equipment, concentrated food, a radio transmitter receiver and revolvers for protection against crocodiles and bandits were carried by each canoeist.

They experienced rapids far worse than they had expected. The river was running at a very high level and the local population prophesied doom for the expedition if they ventured onto the water. Several stretches of the river had been described as impossible by previous expeditions to the area. In an army expedition in 1968 a man drowned trying to get round a particularly severe series of rapids below the 150 foot high Tissisat Falls.

Jones and Hopkinson successfully shot these difficult rapids, facing, many dangers and surviving many near disasters.

Jones who was a member of the '68 Daily Telegraph River Inn Expedition and also last year's Colorado Expedition said: "The 30 miles of rapids from Lake Tana down to Tissisat Falls and the 30 mile gorge below was

some of the most difficult water I have ever been on. Only Hopkinson and myself managed the complete stretch down to Tissisat. Glen Greer and Dave Burkinshaw completed 20 miles but after Greer survived a nasty capsiz in which he had been swept over a tremendous cataract he retired to the Landrover. Burkinshaw unhappy with the water conditions also withdrew leaving two of us to complete this particularly difficult section."

Describing the water hazards Jones said: "The river above Tissisat Falls is very wide and sluggish with heavily forested banks. In many places the smooth even flow of the river is interrupted by constrictions in the river bed caused by huge mounds of volcanic rock giving rise to some terrifying rapids with large drops up to ten foot in height, stopper waves, haystacks and giant whirlpools. Nearer Tissisat the river splits into a maze of rock strewn channels with many tricky falls and rapids."

Below Tissisat Falls the Team faced a stretch of river which is confined within a narrow gorge, in many places no more than 20 foot wide. The water travels at a very fast rate and much of the 30 mile gorge had been described as impossible and suicidal.

Steve Nash who had withdrawn from the white water team at Tana together with Burkinshaw decided to walk the 60 or so miles cross-country to the end of this difficult section, once again leaving Jones and Hopkinson to tackle this fearsome stretch of white water.

In two days these daring young men fought their way down thirty miles of what must rank as one of the most difficult stretches of white water in the world.

Hopkinson described the water as "Like being in a washing machine, we were both paddling Olymps which despite their extra buoyancy were frequently sucked down into whirlpools. Sheer basalt cliffs made inspection or portage impossible in many places. At one point to by-pass a waterfall we had to climb 100' up a cliff face out of the gorge. Eventually the gorge began to open out and

we arrived at the Portuguese Bridge where we were to meet the other two."

For two days they waited for the arrival of Nash and Burkinshaw. They had survived two days with very little food and were marooned for a further two days until the land party arrived with supplies.

Nash and Burkinshaw arrived after a very strenuous walk. With a dozen or so porters and guides they had covered many miles carrying their canoes and equipment.

140 miles of river remained to be descended. Within a few miles of leaving the now 4-strong party were shot at by hostile natives but escaped unhurt. At land base where Greer maintained constant vigil at the radio receiver emergency procedures were put into operation and an army spotter plane and platoon of soldiers were sent out to locate the expedition.

In the lower reaches of the river the paddlers were attacked many times by giant twenty foot crocodiles which were successfully fought off with pistols.

The completion of two hundred miles of one of the most difficult and dangerous stretches of river in the world must rank as the equivalent of climbing Everest. Jones and Hopkinson are not content with this and are already searching for a river offering as much excitement and adventure as the Nile. Good luck to them!

A 16mm colour film with full sound track, some of which has been shown on the BBC is to be available shortly to the general public from Mike Jones.

## Tempo

NEW SLALOM KAYAK FROM  
THE CANOE CENTRE



Above the Tissisat Falls.





# BCU OLYMPIC APPEAL

After the September issue had gone to press the following donations were received:—

Manchester Canoe Club	£10-50
St. John Wall School C.C.	£ 1-00
3D Marine, Norwich	£24-00
(proceeds of Sponsored Paddle)	

£35-50

## Total Donations to Date

Olympic Appeal (BOA)	£480
Olympic Preparation Fund	£120

Again may I request club secretaries who have not returned their *Donation Lists* to do so, even though they do not wish to send a donation.

The British Olympic Appeals Committee wishes me to thank all members and clubs who have donated so generously and in particular John Woolley for organising the successful premiere of the Colorado Film and Chris Hawkesworth for allowing the film to be used for the Appeal.

John Dudderidge,  
B.C.U. Olympic Appeal Organiser

# CONGRESS

CONGRESS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
CANOE FEDERATION,  
HILTON HOTEL CONGRESS HALL,  
MUNICH — SEPTEMBER 9th, 1972

Thirty two Member Federations of the I.C.F. took part in this Biennial Congress and the B.C.U. was represented by the President, J. W. Dudderidge and the Racing Team Manager R. W. Emes.

The main business concerned changes in the Statutes and elections of Officers and Committee Chairman.

The amended White Water Rules which were not ready for presentation in 1970 in Copenhagen, were adopted without any changes.

It was proposed by the Board and accepted by the Congress, that all competition rules should have a validity of four years and that proposals for amendments should be considered only at meeting of the Congress held during the Olympic Games. Existing rules which under the old Statutes would have expired at the end of 1975 will now be valid to the end of 1976.

In the elections there were some important changes. The election of Sergio Orsi of Florence as General Secretary will involve the transfer of the Headquarters of the I.C.F. from Stockholm to Florence. The retiring General Secretary, Olov Verner has held office since the reconstruction of the I.C.F. at the Congress in Stockholm in 1946, and the Congress elected him an Honorary Member of the I.C.F. as a mark of appreciation of his work for the Federation.

Under the new Statutes the members elected to the Board of the I.C.F. will hold office for 4 years, one half of them retiring at each Congress.

J. W. Dudderidge was re-elected to the Board as Representative for the Continent of Europe, a seat held without break since 1938.

Mr. H. Thelen steps down from the Chairmanship of the Propaganda Committee and also from the office of Editor of the I.C.F. Bulletin, his place being taken by Hans Vesper of West Germany.

Under the new Statutes the Technical Committees will no longer be elected in the Congress, instead they will be nominated by the Board on the basis of proposals submitted by National Federations.

At the Board Meeting following the closing of Congress, J. Spuhler and P. Wells were nominated as members of the Slalom and Sailing Committee respectively.

## The following I.C.F. Fixtures were confirmed: 1973

July 26/29 World Sprint Championships,  
*Tampere*, Finland.  
August — Junior European Championships  
*Walz*, Poland.

## 1974

Oct. 18/22 World Sprint Championships,  
*Xochimilco*, Mexico.  
Oct. 20 I.C.F. Congress, Mexico City.

## 1975

— World Championships in Slalom  
and W.W., *Skopje*, Yugoslavia.  
August — World and European Sprint  
Championships, *Madrid*, Spain.  
August — World Canoe Sailing Champion-  
ships, England.

## 1976

— Olympic Games in Montreal,  
Canada.

## 1977

— World Sprint Championships,  
*Sofia*, Bulgaria.

## 1978

— World and Pan-American Sprint  
Championships, *Dartmouth*,  
Nova Scotia, Canada.

Note: Should the Skopje Course not be ready in 1975, the Slalom and W.W. Championships will be staged at Bourg St. Maurice, France.

# ACCESS

## IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON ACCESS

J. W. Dudderidge,  
Chairman, Access Committee

**NEWS FLASH:** Giving a decision of great importance to angling clubs and canoeists, the Court of Appeal on November 1, 1972 ruled that a canoeist who passed over a stretch of the River Wharfe in Yorkshire was liable to pay damages for interfering with the fishing rights even though no members of an angling club were fishing at the time, and no damage was done. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said: "It is plain on the evidence that the passing of canoes up and down the river must disturb the fish, make them move off, and disturb them for a considerable time, thus interfering with the right of fishing. According to the evidence, it might be an hour before the fish returned. The Judge was in error in thinking that it was necessary for someone to

be actually fishing." Lord Denning said the club had brought the action to see if it could stop people in canoes going up and down. The Appeal of the angling club was allowed with costs. Although the Court of Appeal awarded only nominal damages of 50p, the costs of the two hearings will be far from nominal, probably several hundred pounds.

Henceforth any canoeist paddling on a river or other water on which an angling club or riparian holds fishing rights, will be in danger of an action for damages, and Lord Denning's judgment will be used as case law.

This has put at risk the users of possibly 60/70% of our popular canoeing rivers, rivers we have used for a century, for, except for the few rivers such as Lower Wye and Lower Severn and one or two stretches of other rivers, the rest are either private waters, or of uncertain status on which a right of way has never been proven.

In the 100 years since MacGregor launched the recreation of *CANOEING* one would think prescriptive rights have been established on many rivers through undisputed use, as of right, for 20 years or more, but such a right must be proven in a court of law if it is to have validity. Canoeists have never felt there was occasion to seek such proof for we have enjoyed the tolerance and goodwill of both farmers and landowners. Now that fishing has become powerfully organised and fishing rights are fetching huge sums, this tolerance is wearing thin, particularly with the clubs and syndicates which have paid large sums for their rights. We now have a situation in which in the country where the sport began, most of the rivers canoed by the founder and his friends are now effectively closed to canoeists today, or are used at their peril. In no other country in the world does this happen, nor do their anglers find canoeing incompatible with fishing and the presence of canoeists intolerable.

Must canoeists henceforth seek their recreation on navigations and canals in company with power boats and inhaling their fumes?

Canoeists can be likened to ramblers and hill walkers, and it is as if these were informed that in future they must stick to the roads and on no account cross open land or do so at the risk of an action for trespass and damage.

The B.C.U. is not in a position to provide financial support to every member who takes this risk and lands up in the courts, but it does intend to build up a Fighting and Defence Fund to assist where there seems a likelihood of a successful application for a declaration of a prescriptive right of way. It is therefore very important that we are informed of any actions pending, or useful information gleaned by members.

In the autumn of 1970 the Sports Council notified the Regional Sports Councils that at a series of meetings between representatives of the B.C.U., the National Anglers Council, the Country Landowners Association and the Association of River Authorities, it had been agreed that if canoeists wished to canoe on certain private waters, this might be arranged through agreed programming. The B.C.U. agreed to administer a voluntary system of registration for those canoeists who wished to take advantage of the scheme, and the Sports Council asked Regional Sports Councils to arrange meetings between anglers, canoeists, riparians, river authorities and other interested bodies, to devise ways of carrying out the programming, informing them that the scheme had approval at national level. Now, two years later, it is time to review progress.

Regional Meetings have been held in most regions but not all, and some have been better and more representative than others. There has been a useful exchange of viewpoints and there has been appreciation of the problems facing canoeists. In most cases there has been

lip-service to the principle of 'achieving multiple use of all available water', which is the declared policy of the Sports Council and Government, but the anglers have tended to stress the difficulties rather than the possibilities. However, there have been a few positive moves and four agreements are in the pipeline: these are all on rapid rivers where the emphasis is in game fishing and where there is a fairly long close season in late autumn and mid-winter.

In some regions there has been a flat refusal to negotiate since the anglers were not prepared to concede anything. On rivers over which there is no acknowledged right of way the anglers and riparians have the last word, and we fear the judgment from the Court of Appeal is likely to harden attitudes.

The whole idea behind the Sports Council's proposals was that by regional programming canoeists in the region would always have somewhere to canoe, and by dove-tailing the regional programmes a national network could be assembled. The few programmes which is have referred to above, on the Eden, Usk, Tyne and Dart, even if finally ratified, important though they are, can never have more than regional significance, except that the Usk could attract wet-suited, wildwater canoeists from a wide area in the Midlands. They will not meet the needs of recreational canoeists who seek to follow their sport under congenial conditions.

Anglers often complain that they pay for their sport but canoeists want use of water without payment. Let us look at this claim:

Anglers pay a small fee for a River Authority licence authorising them to fish in the waters controlled by the Authority. This licence does not permit them to fish waters that are privately owned. For this they must join a club owning the fishing rights or pay the owner a fee. This is not difficult to arrange since anglers normally fish a limited stretch of a river, whereas a canoeist may cover 40 miles in a weekend passing fleetingly through the

waters of 50 or more riparian or fishery owners, known and unknown.

The money from River Authority licences goes towards meeting some of the cost to the Authority of maintaining the fisheries and the balance is made up from other income, principally local rates. People through their rates help maintain fisheries from which they gain no personal benefit unless they also happen to be anglers. It would be unreasonable for a River Authority to charge a canoeist unless it rendered some service in return, but the Authority is not in a position to give permission to canoe on private water, nor indeed to forbid canoeing, unless there is likely to be damage to fisheries such as disturbance of spawning beds.

How does one assess a reasonable payment to an owner for a fleeting passage of 5 or 10 minutes once in a year or several years? Repeat this for 50 owners and you have a problem which no-one has solved.

Where an organisation exists providing services canoeists do pay for licences, as in the case of British Waterways: where a club wishes to stage a slalom on private water during the fishing season it comes to an arrangement with the owners of the fishing rights, and is prepared to compensate the anglers for loss of fishing for the time they are in occupation. But there exists no central or even regional or local body able to negotiate for all the owners on a river when a simple passage down is sought.

If, as we still hope, programming can be agreed, we will expect to pay a reasonable fee for services provided such as facilities for launching, car parking, camping, and of course for any costs incurred by owners and others in administration of the scheme. We are, however, beginning to wonder whether some other procedure will be necessary if the Sports Council's objective of multiple use of all available water is to be achieved, and whether the situation calls for legislative action, possibly in connection with the powers of

the new Regional Water Authorities. But we must beware, for new powers given to authorities are usually used to limit rather than broaden freedoms.

Your Access Committee is in touch with the Sports Council and is doing all it can to improve a somewhat depressing situation.

## URGENT

If we are ever to claim a prescriptive right to canoe a disputed river (even as a defence against a trespass action) we need **FACTS** as to use without challenge during the last 20 years at least and preferably before that.

Please tell me without delay of actual canoe trips you have done, with dates and geographical details, except for the Thames, Lower Wye, and Lower Severn.



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# TRADE NEWS

## NEW BOATS FROM CANOE CENTRE

THE CANOE CENTRE (Twickenham) LTD. report that they will be showing over 30 different models at February's National Canoe Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. These will include at least 6 new models, three of which are previewed here.

The new slalom kayak for 1973 will be the **Tempo**. It is based upon the well proven hull shape of this year's **Loisach**. However the new kayak has been re-designed for lighter waters than the **Loisach** experienced at Augsburg. To do this buoyancy has been removed equally from the hull and deck. The deck has also been re-styled and upon advice from British Slalom Team Members the cockpit has been re-positioned slightly forward of the original position. These differences make the **Tempo** marginally faster than the **Loisach**. (It takes considerably longer for the **Tempo** to reach the "plane" position when paddled flat out on smooth water). However, the improvement in

speed of the **Tempo** has not affected its turning ability, being similar to that of the amazing **Loisach**. Altogether its a very suitable kayak for the World Championships at Mutatal this coming season.

## NEW FROM TRYLON FOR 1973

A new I.C.F. regulation slalom kayak designed by Colin Green is now available from Trylon. It is a fast, highly manoeuvrable full-sized kayak which has built in strengtheners in the deck. The design has been successfully used in divisional slaloms with excellent results. It also handles very well in the surf; moulds are £70 to buy or can be hired at £1-50 per day.

New publications available from Trylon shortly are a completely revised edition of 'How to Build a Glass Fibre Canoe' by John Crane, with new sections on lightweight canoe building, mould copying, fitting footrests etc. This will be priced at 30p.

VALLEY CANOE PRODUCTS will be opening up in France during the spring of 1973.

The village of Le Mont Dore, some 30 miles from Clermont Ferrand in the Central Massif will be the base for this new venture. A new company, based in France called Kayak Clermont is being formed and managing things permanently out there will be Brian Smith.

Brian is well known in this country as a B.C.U. Assistant Coach, and for his work for

canoeing both as a member of the Corps of Canoe Life Guards and as Chairman of Southend Canoe Club. An able canoeist, he will be in charge of a broad spectrum of services for the paddler both here and in France. Canoe sales, mould hire and building materials and accessory sales will be under his care in Le Mont Dore, but of particular interest to us over here will be the canoe hire service that has been especially designed for paddlers in this country.

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# SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 8th dawned bright and sunny for the 3rd North East Canoe Surfing Championships, or should we say the National N.E. Canoe Surfing Championships, for after all, it is a truly National event, thanks due in no small measure to the Canoe and allied manufacturers, for contributing magnificent prizes, once again, and tempting competitors to travel from all parts of Britain.

It seems only fair to thank and mention the following:—

**Capt. Frank McNulty and Sons:** once again gave us a Kayak.

**Dave Wilson:** gave a Tortoise Shell Helmet.  
**Gaybo and Ottersports:** both gave Crash Helmets.

**Valley Canoe Products:** gave a Paddle.

**Ken Biggs:** gave a Paddle.

**P. & H. Fibreglass:** gave a Dry Suit Kit.

**Diving Centre (Newcastle):** gave a Wet Suit Jacket.

**K.P. Products and Chris Hawkesworth:** both gave Buoyancy Aids.

**Howarth Sports:** gave a Canoe Kag.

**Lendals:** gave us some Canoe Jewellery.

**L.D. Mountain Centre (Newcastle):** gave a £5-00 Book of Vouchers.

**Canoeing Magazine:** gave 2 years Free Subscriptions.

**Canoeing in Britain Magazine:** gave us £5-00 so we bought a tube tent and two compasses.

**Vaux Breweries:** gave two Tankards.

**Alan Byde:** gave us his fibreglass Coracle as a Booby Prize.

This year the competitors numbered over 60, even though we did clash with a major slalom event. The surf was ample, though not large for the Junior handling events, and the heats of the Senior events. At high tide however the surf started to 'dump' producing a somewhat frustrating final for the Seniors and it was eventually agreed by both organisers and competitors alike to cancel the surfboard type canoe event.

Performances of special note, were by Simon Beeson who came first in the Handling event thereby taking the new kayak back to Bristol.

The Tees Kayak Club youngster Mark Baty did well to come first in both the Junior Handling and the Junior Race followed by Colin Purvis of Sunderland Kayak Club.

All the competitors in the Ladies events, except Lorna Flower (Petworth Canoe Club), were from St. Mary's College of Education, Newcastle, Shirley Poulton coming first in the Ladies Handling and the Sprint Race.

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# COACHING

ANSWERS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I greatly enjoyed the September issue of *Canoeing in Britain*, especially the article by Alan Hyde headed "Canoeing in Schools — Regulations", and your article on my big challenge — ROSA; although I did wonder to what meeting at Riverside you were referring as there was no mention of one in Alan's article.

Alan's article does not really call for a reply since he answers his own worries in the very last two lines, when he asks "Go on, who is right/wrong? The kid who drowns?" The answer to this is obvious, especially when you read the annual report of the Safety Committee, on fatal accidents. But your own article obviously challenges me to say what is "cooking" in the world of the Coaching Scheme. Perhaps it will be as well if I bring out some of the points which Alan mentions with "heavy irony", and I hope I shall illustrate that the National Coaching Committee is well aware of these problems — has been for some years — and is striving to find good and sensible answers to them. (There are always many answers, and the Committee refuses to be rushed into selecting bad and silly ones.)

We have for some years been striving to find a really good life saving award for canoeists. Many ideas have been put forward, most of them too long and complicated. Now the Thames Valley Panel of the Coaching Scheme has come up with one which looks sensible. The Corps of Canoe Life Guards has accepted it in principle for its Bronze Award, and the National Coaching Committee also like the look of it. The Committee has decided that it shall go on trial for a year. A few, chosen people have been asked to try it out and to report back to the Committee next October. Those who are kind enough to accept being "guinea pigs" will be excused from having to have the R.L.S.S. Bronze Medallion if they pass it successfully. Remember: this is a *trial*; it is NOT available to be taken by all and sundry. I hope by next December that I shall be able to report that the Canoeist's Life Saving Test has taken its full and proper place in our Award Scheme.

Next, a sad little tale. Alan remarks upon the length of time it takes for our Headquarters to process the papers. Since I took on this job last January I have discovered that much of the delay is occasioned by the papers not arriving here as quickly as they ought. On the 19th September I received from a certain Senior Coach — who shall be nameless — a Proficiency Test Form dated the 22nd May. It was my bad luck that both my charming part-time secretaries were beginning a short holiday at that time, and we were unable actually to issue the certificate until the 3rd October — a fortnight against the three months the form took to get here. Better still, a form reached me on the 22nd October, which was dated the 19th September, 1969! The certificate was issued on the 24th October. We are not *always* to blame!

And finally a bit about the "Assistant Instructor". In re-shaping the Coaching Scheme the Committee studied many other schemes. It came to the conclusion that the

scheme for Mountain Activities was worth following as reasonably nearly as possible. This is not very surprising, as the two activities are both "adventurous"; if they are to be handled correctly in the education world, risks must be run, and the instructor must know how to run them safely. (I hope you are with me in that rather Irish remark. The point is that you can not have an adventure without running some sort of a risk, even if it is only a slight one; and there is definite proof that to be frightened in the right proportion is extremely good for one.) Now, in the Mountain Leadership Certificate the candidate has to attend a Training Course (the same as we now do, only longer), then go away and practice before coming back a year later for his assessment (only we make it six months). The snag in the mountain scheme is that the candidate, in this intermediate stage, has no handle to himself and so is difficult to "recognise" (if you see what I mean). We decided to call our chap an "Assistant" Instructor, and to advise him to work his probationary period under a fully qualified instructor, on the tutor-student principle. We do our best to put him in touch with a suitable tutor, who will advise him and help him in his duties as an instructor until he comes up for assessment.

All this may seem long-winded, but teachers of football, or gymnastics or what have you in an *enclosed* playing area are NOT necessarily capable of teaching these adventurous activities in the great outdoors — and the mountaineers reckon the training should take twice as long as we do. I can see the time when the National Coaching Committee in its wisdom may well fall into line with them.

Now all this may not lead to a flood of instructors to cope with the R.O.S.A. problems. However, what I can assure you is that the new breed of instructor is keen on the sport and keen to teach it. And what better teacher can you find than that? Our old system allowed a large number of people to jump on the band wagon and to wave a certificate about declaring them to be capable teachers of canoeing, when they weren't. I rejoice to tell you that the revised scheme cuts these bandwagoners out. That is not to say that there were not a large number of our old Instructors who were all that they should be. Most of these have already up-graded themselves to Senior Instructor, and the rest will have done so by the end of the year.

I hope each quarter to bring you news of how our Coaching Scheme is progressing. At Easter I will give you the new and extremely exciting project for coaching in the competition field. John Fazey, elected as National Coach with special attention to competition, is now able to relax his duties as coach to the British Olympic Team, and he has already outlined a very comprehensive scheme to train competition coaches at various levels. I hope you will allow me to write about this in your Spring issue.

Oliver Cock  
(Director of Coaching)

## THIRD ANNUAL CANOE ORIENTEERING EVENT, MARTHAM, OCTOBER 14th 1972

There were forty seven kayaks taking part in this year's Canoe Orienteering event from Martham Ferry, which made the entries just over double the 1971 number. This reflects the establishment in the past year of the Norfolk Canoeing Association and the organisation of Schools Canoeing throughout East Anglia. The Event this year called for about 22 kilometres of paddling, with much practice in leaving and re-entering canoes at difficult places. About ten kayaks completed the full course, and the rest nearly all gathered for the lunch-time break at the Pleasure Boat, Hickling.

Highest points were scored by Turner (Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree, Herts.) and Mitchell (Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre), while Glen and Mountain (35th Norwich Sea Scouts) were the first double kayak. Equal third among the singles were Dave Stow (Cromer Canoe Group) and Rosen (Haberdashers'), the brother of last year's winner, who is now in the British International Orienteering Team. With two others (Toff and Stafferton) up among the high scorers, the Haberdashers' team was the most successful in competition, while the Dereham Canoe Group, with 15 canoes, was the best represented. The leaders' times for the Pleasure Boat — Stubb Mill passage (a timed section) were very creditable, at around 38 minutes for 5 km of choppy exposed waters and thick reed jungle. The dyke up to the Mill was so overgrown that many seem to have missed its mouth altogether.

Other clubs and groups represented in the Event were Martham Pirates, Dereham S.S. Otters, Kings Lynn Technical College, Norfolk Canoeing Association and Richmond Canoe Club.

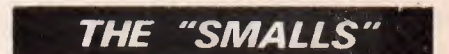
The 1973 Event will take place on 13th October next, and will test a different range of map-reading and canoeing skills over a different course, starting as usual from Martham Ferry.

Organisation of the Event is from YHA Martham, assisted by Mike Davis, Secretary of the Norfolk Canoeing Association, with the co-operation of the Port & Haven Commissioners and the British Canoe Union.

Arthur Cornford,  
Warden



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Following the Anglers appeal regarding a canoeist on the R. Wharfe, does the B.C.U. intend to appeal to the House of Lords?

If not, why not?

Neil Edwards  
Stroud, Glos.

Dear Sir,

You might consider it worthwhile informing your readers that Stanley Weir on the River Tay has been blown in three places following the close down of Stanley Mills.

It is difficult to find a reason for this action since the local fishermen tell me that it has done nothing to improve the fishing.

The three breaches will be dangerous to negotiate because of metal reinforcement which has broken out of the concrete. These spikes will be undetectable at higher water levels and we may try to cut them off, but this will be a difficult job.

The effect on the rapid at Campsie Linn at present low levels is negligible. The shoot at Stanley is still o.k. but a lot easier than before since less water is going over it.

Andrew Morton  
23 Oakbank Crescent  
Perth, PH1 1DF

Dear Sir,

In the September edition of *Canoeing in Britain* there appeared a report by Mr. John Dudderidge on behalf of the B.C.U. Olympic Appeal.

As part of the Bucks. Schools Canoeing Association, I and other members would like to thank Mr. Dudderidge for his comment, "A great effort by a group of keen youngsters".

I would also like to thank the man who made this effort possible, Mr. Rodney Hellowell, who's work within the association deserves more than a mention, perhaps an Olympic Gold Medal in Montreal would justify the money and time spent in preparation.

R. M. Coley  
9 Hawthorn Avenue  
Bletchley, Bucks.

Dear Sir,

Re M. J. Carvell's remark in your September issue on Espada Classes for girls: we entered recently a team including seven girls in a local team-trophy event, only to find that because there was no opposition for them, their races had to be cancelled. They were very disappointed. The organisers certainly did their best on this occasion, but the other clubs failed to respond. Perhaps club leaders don't do as much for the girls as they should.

R. G. Buckingham  
7 Chandos Road  
Buckingham

Dear Sir,

Today, October 8th, I have just returned home from the LONGRIDGE LD, having finished a miserable, 21st, in the men's junior K1 class. This result was due to a savage attack made on me by a passing K2. I had done nothing to aggravate the paddlers concerned, but while overtaking me, the person in the back turned round, and with his paddles, viciously hit out at me. Eventually he capsized me, and paddled on, roaring with laughter.

I regard this as foul play, especially as the K2 was in a different class. I accept 'cutting-up' as 'legal', but fighting is a different matter and should result in disqualification. The organisers did nothing about it at all. I know it must be difficult to get witnesses to these kind of incidents, but, please could something be done about the LD rules?

One exhausted competitor—  
L. J. Haines (15)  
58 Lyonsdown Road  
New Barnet, Herts.

Dear Sir,

I should like to make a suggestion about competition numbers on Kayaks and Canoes.

Instead of ranking paddlers changing their numbers every race or slalom I think that we should adopt the "GO-KART" system of one particular number per person per season.

The number allotted on last year's ranking lists, i.e. Top of Div. 1 number 1, second number 2, etc.

This has the added advantage of instant evaluation of the opposition.

P. C. Wood  
4 Lower Chabdens  
Ware, Herts.

## BCU SLALOM COMMITTEE

Meetings of the British Canoe Union Slalom and Wild Water Racing Committee will be held on the weekend of December 2nd/3rd 1972 and on Saturday January 27th 1973. All clubs active in slalom or wild water racing are invited to send representatives to these meetings.

### SELECTION 1973 WW & SLALOM —

WILD WATER RACING TEAM preparation for the 1973 World Championships would take the following form. Four competitions would be designated:

Usk Race	November 5th
Eden Race	November 19th
Royal Deeside Race	November 26th
Welsh Dee Race	February 11th

On the results of those races alone an international team would be selected which would represent Britain abroad in the Spring of 1973 and on the results of those Spring international races a team would be selected which would represent Britain at the 1973 World Championships at Muota in June.

SLALOM TEAM preparation for the 1973 World Championships would take the following form. A team will be selected after the Easter First Division slalom which would represent Britain at international events in the Spring, including the slalom at Zwickau in the DDR in early May. After that date the final World Championship team would be selected.

## V.A.T. AND THE CANOEIST

On the 1st April, 1973 "Value Added Tax" is to be introduced. It is anticipated that this will be at the rate of 10% on the amount charged to the consumer. This tax, which replaces Purchase Tax and Selective Employment Tax is of course well known in Europe. What effect will this have on the canoeist in this country? From preliminary discussions with the Customs and Excise Department, who are to administer this tax, the main effects can be summarised as follows:—

- 1 Canoes and equipment which at present carry no Purchase Tax will in future bear V.A.T. Prices can therefore be expected to rise by 10% for these items.
- 2 All B.C.U. Subscriptions will have V.A.T. added to them.
- 3 Entrance fees to Regattas, Races, Exhibitions and other sporting events will be subject to V.A.T. unless the organisers have a total turnover of less than £5,000 per annum. This should exclude most canoe clubs.
- 4 Coaching fees charged to sporting organisations will be subject to V.A.T. but not necessarily on those charged to educational establishments.

I have been informed by Customs and Excise that any B.C.U. subscription of existing members which are due on 1st November 1972 will not be liable to V.A.T. this financial year.

E. J. OWEN  
Hon. Treasurer B.C.U.



The President sends Seasonal Greetings to all members of the Union, especially those who, as members of the council and its committees, access negotiators, team officials, representatives on other bodies and in any other capacity, have worked so hard for the promotion, development and protection of our sport.



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4th March	Vaux Tankard Durham L.D.	A. C. Scott, Bede College, Durham.
18th March	Huntingdon L.D.	J. Ramwell, H.M. Borstal, Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton, Huntingdon.

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