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Mar
1973

The magazine of the British Canoe Union



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CANOEING IN BRITAIN

The magazine of the British Canoe Union

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Wilderness Canoeing Canoe Touring in the wilds of Labrador.

Photograph by Elmar Engel for 'Canoeing Magazine'

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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

So spring is here and ice is breaking on the waters (or is it?). Maurice Rothwell of Manchester C.C. thought our last cover picture was excellent but wonders if the illustration of a revolver has any bearing on the Access article and was it intended as a hint that in future we must be prepared to defend ourselves against even more aggressive action when touring down rivers?

Maurice — I don't think things will ever be as bad as that. Perhaps what we should do is to consider wearing breathing apparatus — have you been down the River Tyne lately? Pollution problems could very well take over from access!

Two items on John Dudderidge our President. At the A.G.M. of the British Olympic Association he was elected Deputy Chairman. I'm sure you will join with me in offering congratulations. Unfortunately, Mr. Dudderidge suffered a sudden illness a week or two back but at the time of going to press I am pleased to say he is well on the way to recovery and will soon be back in harness.

Sorry to keep mentioning this but essential copy and requests to submit copy still arrive late, indeed too late for publication. Advertising copy too, except in a very few instances, is always a problem. Please everyone, try to stick to our scheduled time — our printers certainly can't help us if we are late.

Photographs — (black and white) still pose a problem and if we use them and they are pasted down most are non returnable. If you have an odd photograph with a good caption — let's have it please.

General copy by the way is arriving in every mail and there is no shortage here.

Thanks to all who invite me to attend various functions, if they were all taken up I should be on a permanent round the country trip!

GENERAL SECRETARY'S COLUMN

The first quarter of the present B.C.U. year has now ended and we can review it as seen from H.Q. During this period (64 working days) this office received over 5,000 letters, from this we booked 2,300 ledger entries, made up over 500 separate orders for "shop" materials, and issued well over three and a half thousand membership cards (renewals and new members). Total staff 2; reduced for 3 weeks to 1 owing to illness. We have maintained, we hope, our sanity and — for the most part — our cool.

Some people have been dissatisfied with our service because it was slow, some because it was wrong. We are sorry for all who have been inconvenienced, but we are pleased that they form such a small minority. We would like to be able to acknowledge all letters on receipt, but this, if you think about it, would just about double our postage bill, which is money the B.C.U. could better spend on other things. Conditions will improve as we get more staff, but nevertheless there will always be a relatively heavy pressure of work and there are several things members can do to help their own letters along.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you can't quote your membership number, the renewal of your membership takes considerably longer than if you do. Therefore, renewal forms with no numbers get done after those which have them — tough! A membership card and number is an important document and should be looked after. This sort of letter is not helpful (actual as received):—

Dear Sir,

I enclose cheque for £1-25 as payment for membership for 1973.

Yours faithfully,

this has, at least, the merit of being amusing.

Dear Sir,

Could you tell me if I have renewed my membership for 1973 as I filled in my form and don't remember what I did with it. My previous number was and if you could forward another form I'll send my fee with it.

(at least he quotes his old number!)

Every member was sent a renewal form in *C. in B.* in October, so there is no real excuse for people to send in renewals on new member application forms. The trouble is most of these don't SAY they are renewals and are therefore treated as NEW members. Later on this year they will get a reminder to renew their membership (on their OLD number) and they will get very angry and wonder what the B.C.U. is coming to. (No, we don't have time to check every new member application to see if it is really a renewal.)

NEW MEMBERS

The B.C.U. is an organisation bound by rules and part of a new member's application consists of an undertaking to abide by those rules, this has to be signed. So we hope people who have simply sent their money and a letter will bear with us when they are asked to complete a proper form. (Club Secretaries please note when sending in 'block' applications — application forms are freely available from this office.)

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, SHOP ORDERS, Etc.

The old custom of sending a stamped envelope is now more honoured in the breach than the performance. Postage is a considerable item in our running costs and it may not be possible to answer all queries where this is omitted.

B.C.U. numbers are frequently omitted. This causes delay (as also does the wrong money!).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If we don't know where you live, we can't reach you! I have asked the Editor to publish elsewhere the list of returned 'gone away', 'not known' mail received in the last 3 months, if anyone can jog one of these people into letting us know where they live now, they will get their membership cards and so on.

Really, its all commonsense, isn't it?

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

ACCESS

IMPORTANT RIVER ACCESS INFORMATION

Provisional Programming Arrangements

Members who have read their copies of *Canoeing in Britain* over the last three or four years will be aware that with the support and encouragement of the Sports Council, we have pursued a policy of seeking to negotiate voluntary access agreements with the riparian and fishery owners on those rivers on which there exists no generally acknowledged right of way. This work has been time-consuming and exhausting, and, very often, discouraging, but we have soldiered on buoyed up by our conviction that what we seek is natural justice. In the Northern Region covering Cumberland and Northumberland we have been fortunate to have the services of two stalwart negotiators in Eric Totty and Eddie Palmer, and, thanks to their efforts we are now able to publish certain provisional arrangements, even though the 'agreements' may not have been finalised. These arrangements cover short but important lengths on the Eden and the North Tyne, and we ask our members, both individual and in our affiliated clubs, to discipline themselves and adhere to the programmes negotiated for them.

They can help to foster goodwill and to further the making of larger agreements if they guard against interference with other water users and avoid over-use of particular stretches. If we can demonstrate to riparian and fishery owners that canoeists are prepared to co-operate and carry out agreements made in their name we shall find a greater willingness to extend agreements to longer stretches.

1 RIVER EDEN (Lazonby to Armathwaite)

The following agreement has been reached with the riparian owners on this popular stretch of the Eden, which includes the Nunnery Rapids. The period covered is quite long for a game fishing river, and members must conform to the programme if we are to have any chance of extending the range of the agreement.

a. From July 1 to January 14 (both dates inclusive) canoeing will be allowed on *every weekday* and during the *first and third weekends* (Saturday being the governing day) *between daybreak and 15.00 hours*, by which time all canoeists must be clear of the water.

In 1973 this is July 7/8, 21/22, August 4/5, 18/19, September 1/2, 15/16, October 6/7, 20/21, November 3/4, 17/18, December 1/2, 15/16, January 5/6 1974.

b. Canoeing will also be allowed both during and out of the above period *in conditions of spate*, that is if the river is at a level of *over 3 feet* at the gauge at Lazonby Bridge.

c. Access and egress by the bridges at each end of the stretch. (Normally no other

would be required.)

- d. For competitive events special arrangements will have to be made with the riparian owners and others concerned.
- e. The agreement is *limited to members of the BCU*, who must conform to the various codes of behaviour (Water Sports Code, litter, etc.), must canoe in groups of a maximum of 12, must have competent leadership, and *carry current BCU membership cards*. The agreement will be subject to annual review.

A liaison officer appointed by the BCU will work with a similar appointee from the riparian owners.

BCU Liaison Officer - Eric Totty, Craigmuir, High Knott Road, Arnside, via Carnforth, Lancs. Tel: Arnside 620.

Please inform him before you go; s.a.e. please for enquiries.

2 NORTH TYNE (Chollerford to Warden)

Position at 19.1.73.

The 'agreement' or rather, voluntary restriction of use, came into force on February 1st, on the much canoed stretch of North Tyne known as the Warden Gorge. After a census carried out last year, a meeting of clubs in the area was called and then a meeting convened with the riparian owners: the choice was obvious, either to arrange for voluntary restriction or lose all canoeing on this stretch. The plan is logical: for instance fishing is better at the beginning of the year, but there are perhaps fewer weekend anglers. Efforts were made to get the midweek day all the year round for the

Continued on page 5



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continued benefit of Centres, but it was not possible. One of the most valuable points is the 'spate' concession. Canoeists must support these arrangements, for otherwise they will spoil the river for everyone. We ask all who see this notice to spread the word around.

- a. Use allowed in 1973 —
between 9.00 and 12.00 hours on Sundays Feb. 4 and 18, March 4 and 18, April 8 and 22, May 6 and 20;
between 9.00 and 15.00 hours on Wednesday June 6, Sunday June 10, Wednesdays June 13, 20, 27, July 4, Sunday July 8, Wednesdays July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, Sunday August 12, Wednesdays, August 8, 15, 22, 29;
between 9.00 and 13.00 hours on Wednesday Sept. 5, Sunday Sept. 9, Wednesdays Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, Sunday Oct. 14, Wednesdays Oct. 17, 24, 31.

plus use in spate (see 'c' below).

- b. In November, December 1973 and January 1974, on every Saturday and Sunday and three weekdays each week except when coarse fishing matches are taking place. Details to be published by October 1, 1973.

c. **Spate Use**

A gauge will be erected below Chollerford Weir, on the left bank, as soon as possible. As a rough guide, the river is in spate when all the shingle banks below the weir are covered.

d. **Access Points**

- i South side (left bank) below Chollerford Weir.
- ii From the Quarry Road from Acomb to the confluence with the South Tyne (still to be confirmed in writing).
- iii Warden Bridge, on the South Tyne (still to be confirmed).
- iv Tyne Green, Hexham.

e. **Behaviour**

There are no limits set on numbers, but parties will still encounter fishermen, and should slip quietly by on the opposite side of the river. Parties can practice on the rapids in the Warden Gorge, but unless the river is in spate, should be careful to adhere to the times to be off the river.

- f. *The only exceptions* to the above are the dates of the Northumbrian River Races, i.e. Feb. 25, 1973, 12.00 — 14.00 hours; Nov. 4, 1973, 9.00 — 14.00 hours; Dec. 30, 1973, 9.00 — 14.00 hours; Feb. 24, 1974, 12.00 — 14.00 hours.

Liaison and River Access Negotiator — E. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2. (s.a.e. please).

OTHER ACCESS NEWS

OTHER NORTH EAST RIVERS — A Brief Summary

N. Tyne above Chollerford: No specific permission required, but objections are growing with increased use. Advise would-be users to contact for advice, *Bob Hodgson, Warden, Kielder Outdoor Centre, Kielder, Northumberland.*

Tyne — Hexham to Riding Mill: Access agreement expected to come into force early in 1973. *Consult E. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2. (s.a.e. please).*

Tyne — Riding Mill to Wylam: Objections being made to use.

South Tyne: No objections known to B.C.U. yet.

River Allen: Small parties (3 to 6) allowed at present but care must be taken with car parking.

River Coquet: Objections to canoeing all the year round.

Wansbeck: No objections in spate. Negotiations in progress about weirs across tidal stretch. Canoeists' interests to be protected.

River Wear: No objections from Durham to Chester-le-Street. Position about river above Durham not clear.

River Tees: No objections known about Upper Tees but several objectors below Whorlton.

UPPER WYE ABOVE GLASBURY

The River Wye is an ancient navigation established by Act of Parliament, but some doubt exists about the upper limit of the navigation. However, canoeists have used the Wye from very high up without any objections for up to 100 years, and during recent years with the rapid growth of the sport and the appearance of canoes able to withstand a certain amount of 'rock bashing' the numbers using the upper reaches has grown very considerably. This has led certain riparian owners, with fishery interests to consider restricting use of the river by canoeists, and we have received a set of conditions drawn up but without any consultation with the Union.

Now whether there is or is not a public right of passage by boat on these waters, we are anxious to live in harmony with other users, and have the amicable relationship with the anglers which appears possible in every other country of Europe. We have therefore commented on the proposals submitted to us and offered to meet with the owners and work out with them a programme of shared use more likely to prove acceptable to the general body of canoeists. We hope our offer of co-operation will be accepted, but in the meantime we recommend any groups planning expeditions between Builtth Wells and Glasbury to first communicate with our River Adviser for the Upper Wye, *Colin Green, Woodlands Outdoor Centre, Glasbury on Wye*, who will have the latest news of negotiations, and be able to give details of any agreement reached.

RIVER TEIFI

What has been said about the Upper Wye can also be said about the lovely River Teifi. At one time the distance discouraged large numbers going there, but increased mobility and growth of the sport, particularly in schools and outdoor centres, has made the Teifi popular and in order to preserve good relations with the anglers (Llandyssul Angling Club) who have been very good to us over the regular use of the Llandyssul Rapids for slalom, it may be necessary to programme use of the river by canoeists. We have had friendly meetings with the Angling Club and have submitted a proposal for their consideration. At the time of writing there is nothing to report, but any groups considering arranging a run down the Teifi from Tregaron or other points lower down should communicate first with our River Adviser for the Teifi, *Stephen Pugh Jones, 'Cregina', Meinciau, Kidwelly, Llanalli* who will have the latest news; or direct with *Mr. Artie Jones, Honorary Secretary, Llandyssul Angling Club, Llandyssul, Cards. (s.a.e. please)* for clearance.

N.B. On both these rivers members are urged to remember that any right or permission to pass down does not carry with it the right to loiter or mess about on rapids. When you see an angler enquire if you can run through, hold up if he is playing a fish, keep quiet and show every consideration.

QUOTATIONS

From Water Bailiff to River Adviser . . .
"You canoeists don't disturb the fish, only the fishermen."

From an article in the ANGLING TIMES . . .
"It is time to consider the amenity value of

our rivers for the benefit of everyone and not maintain a monopoly beneficial only to a small powerful and selfish minority." No, this did not refer to the Appeal Court decision; it was a barbel fisherman attacking the game fishing monopoly on certain rivers. He went on to say, "When justice is not seen to be done laws are sometimes broken". **From the TELEGRAPH and ARGUS, Bradford 2.11.72 . . .** "Anglers will probably be satisfied with the decision of the Appeal Court Judge which over-ruled an Otley Crown Court Judge and decided that the presence of a canoe on a river could interfere with fishing rights, even if no-one is fishing at the time.

Canoeists, of whom there are many around here, will be dismayed. The layman may be forgiven for thinking the law is an ass. The Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, said that the passing of even one canoe could disturb the fish for an hour or more, and therefore interfere with fishing rights. This sounds remarkably like a divine right for anglers. It may be the law but it ought not to be. No-one would deny the existence of fishing rights, but rights are rarely absolute, as newspapers themselves will know. In the Appeal Court case the anglers appear to have been given the absolute right of the river: well, what about the rights of ordinary individuals?"

From ANGLERS MAIL 8.11.72 . . . "A small Bradford Fishing Club has won a major Appeal Court battle which will affect all anglers. The verdict, in their case against a canoeist, establishes the rights of anglers everywhere to fish their waters without disturbance from canoes."

THE WATER BILL

The Access Committee is studying this Bill with care. It was introduced by the Government in the House of Commons on January 23 and received its Second Reading on February 5.

It concentrates most functions relating to rivers on the new Regional Water Authorities and proposes that it should be *their duty to make the best use of their rights to the use of water, and of any land associated with water, for the purpose of recreation.* But it does not create any link between the water authority and the local planning authority, which has powers under the Countryside Act to make access agreements or compulsory access orders. Nor does it enable the water authority to exercise such powers in a way that would help them to carry out a duty to extend recreational use of water, notwithstanding the statement in the Government's Consultative Document of August 1972 —

"For the first time the Government is committed to making the widest possible use of all our water space as a recreational asset that *ought to be, can be, and will be* made more fully available to the public as a whole."

If it seems that useful amendments can be devised with a view to furthering the multiple recreational use of inland water the Access Committee will approach an M.P. and ask him if he would be willing to move them.

HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE ON SPORT AND LEISURE

It will be remembered that the Union submitted a memorandum of evidence to the Select Committee in May 1972 with regard to the needs of canoeing in all its forms, and the impediments to its development as a sport and recreation. This explained fully the present impediments in relation to Access.

The Union was invited to attend at the House of Lords on February 8 to give oral evidence on the conflict between canoeists and anglers over access to rivers, and the steps that need to be taken to resolve it, including whether legislation is required.

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The President, the General Secretary and Ralph Tyas attended, and on arrival found that representatives of the National Anglers' Council had also been invited. An official of the Sports Council also attended.

The Sports Council's representative was asked first of all to explain the efforts made by them, since they have a responsibility in relation to both forms of recreation. Then the National Anglers' Council representatives were asked to make an oral statement and afterwards asked questions by the Chairman and Members of the Select Committee. Then the BCU was asked to do the same.

The NAC expressed their willingness to see voluntary arrangements arrived at that would give reasonable canoeing use of certain rivers without interfering too much with fishing. They referred to the enormous increase in fishing, the resulting pressure on the limited water available, and the consequent costs in which they were involved in pursuing their sport. They had expected much from the regional and local discussions that had been fostered by the Sports Council, stressed the practical difficulty at local level where they could of course not compel the local fishing clubs to adopt any particular course, and disagreed with the Union's written evidence to the Select Committee that these discussions did not seem to be leading to any viable programming scheme that could be coupled with registration of canoeists wishing to take advantage of the arrangements.

They drew distinctions between types of river, maintained that canoeing was inherently incompatible with the 'ecology' of chalk streams, and other narrow rivers, but that canoeists were least nuisance on the wider rivers. They said that on the whole canoeists were well behaved on rivers such as the Wye, Usk and Teifi, and they thought that it ought with goodwill to be possible to make programming or zoning arrangements on the wider rivers. In reply to a question they said that if a narrow stretch occurred between two wide ones, the whole river would be ruled out for continuous canoe-trips. They suggested that very favourable agreements (still subject to ratification) had been made in the north on the Eden, the Derwent and the Tyne, and that in other areas it was the canoeists who were dragging their feet.

The Chairman, when inviting the BCU to speak, made it clear that the Select Committee wished to pursue the feasibility of programming arrangements. The President opened by describing the course that the discussions had taken, seen from the BCU's standpoint, mentioned that canoeists had always regarded rivers like the Test and the upper Kennet as special and had not tried to obtain the use of them, and explained that discussions were disappointing because they had not yet offered a sufficiently attractive range of concessions to justify a national registration scheme. In fact the local anglers seemed to wish to exclude canoeing or to restrict it to the minimum and in two areas had refused to negotiate. The Union would co-operate in programming schemes if they appeared likely to be successful.

In reply to further questions we explained that there did not seem to be any other alternatives except legislation conferring a proper status for people to take boats on private rivers and programming, that Great Britain seemed to be the only country in Europe where canoeing and fishing seemed unable to live side by side and where fishing interests were in a position to dominate the rivers. We doubted whether the law as it stands was capable of providing a practical basis for making adequate recreational facilities available on our rivers for canoeing as a worthwhile adventure pursuit.

We submitted that particular points in the law that needed consideration were:

- a. The passage of a boat should not, in itself, constitute damage to fishing rights, when no one is fishing.
- b. Damages should arise only where actual damage is proved to have been caused by the passage of the boat or the actions of the person in it.
- c. Any river that has in the past been used as a commercial navigation should be reopened for recreational use by manually propelled boats.
- d. It should be the duty of an appropriate public authority to secure that one recreational use does not monopolise the river.

We have sent to the Committee, the NAC and the Sports Council a note of some pre-requisites that we think would be necessary to schemes that stopped short of a right of way. These are a public authority —

- with a duty to secure properly controlled multiple use of rivers, a limited commodity;
 - with records of the riparian and fishing interests and their respective boundaries;
 - able to hold a kind of 'indemnity fund' to help in cases of *actual* damage where the canoeist could not be found.
- Building on the Sports Council's efforts to promote 'programming' —
- a. the authority could issue a "canoeist's pass" together with particulars of the waters for which it is valid;
 - b. such a pass would not be restricted to BCU members;
 - c. a reasonable fee could be charged and possibly held in the 'indemnity fund';
 - d. there would be an undertaking by the applicant to observe the programme days and the Water Sports Code of behaviour;
 - e. the 'pass' would be valid on game fishing rivers:

- at any time in the close season and in spate,
- at other times at least one week per month (say);

- and on coarse fishing rivers at any time except when matches, notified to the public authority before the beginning of the year, are being held;
- f. the programme would be proposed for the year by the public authority, after such consultation as was possible, on the basis of days acceptable to the majority of riparian and fishery interests, i.e. it should be possible to ignore objections where discontinuity would result;
- g. once the programme for the year was settled individual owners should not be able to retract.

We said that, frankly, we did not really think this sort of scheme was practicable, because of the complexity and multiplicity of interests, and we disliked also the element of compulsion that would be needed to achieve continuity.

We re-emphasised the need for an attractive programme package if registration on a national scale is to be successful.

The Members of the Select Committee said openly that some of them were keen fishermen, but they recognised also the value of canoeing as an adventure pursuit. One or two said that they themselves had canoed.

It will be some time before the Select Committee report. We can only wait and see what they propose. There is no doubt that they have given the Union a valuable chance to state the canoeists' case, whatever their recommendations prove to be.

J.W.D., R.F.T., D.T-W.

YOUNG Adventure

H.Q. receives so very few communications direct from members telling of their experiences that it comes as a shock, so much so that this note from a youth member is, we feel, worthy of publication. We publish anonymously should the member not wish his name revealed.

"Last August, two friends and myself canoed down the Great Ouse River from just below Buckingham to Huntingdon. In preparation we copied out the detailed information about the river from the B.C.U. book obtained from a library. We spent ten days doing so, (one of which stationary below Harold), on the eighth day we shot Risinghoe Castle Mills disused lock against the advice of the B.C.U. book. We were particularly keen to shoot it because of the awful portage on the right bank, (left bank private); steep grassy bank to lift them up, fifty to sixty yards to carry and a very awkward entry into the water. Because of this I carefully examined the depth of water and nature of bottom at the first fall of the lock. On shooting my bows were empty of the usual gear, and I just touched as I went over the top of the fall. My bows and fore-deck went under the stopper-wave, but the water didn't reach the cockpit. My two friends had water over the cockpit coaming but were kept dry by their spraycovers.

At the weir and staunch below the lock we followed the instructions — something like, 'If insufficient water passing over the weir, shoot through the middle of the staunch'. I went first and was brought to a sudden shocking halt by a large chunk of fallen brickwork (in size about 1 cubic foot and three inches above the level of the water). With the water rushing over it, I took it for the first standing wave. Surprisingly enough my canoe escaped damage. The staunch was partially blocked too both sides, the best method to pass the staunch in our view is to walk the canoe through, with care. I thought this information might be of interest to you.

At night we slept under canvas and cooked on a methylated spirit stove. We all enjoyed the trip immensely. We encountered one farmer who had experienced canoe campers who had left rubbish and a general mess behind them, (we took great care to leave none).

For next year we are thinking about the River Avon that runs into Christchurch."



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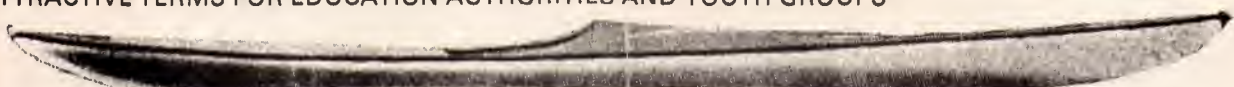
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CANOES ON ROOFRACKS

Quite a number of claims have arisen recently under the BCU Insurance Scheme where canoes, and sometimes the roof racks too, have come adrift from cars, and it appears that in most cases the canoes were fixed by elasticated straps only.

I have been asked to point out that there is considerable vibration and wind force where a canoe of perhaps 15' and upwards is lashed to the roof rack with only 2 or 3 elastic straps, and it is felt that, in addition to the usual fixings, all canoes should be tied bow and stern to the bumpers of the car, possibly by a lashing being looped round the canoe and down to the bumper. This should help control the lifting strains caused by wind forces, etc.

A canoe coming adrift from a car travelling even at low speed can do considerable damage, and not only to the canoe! One shudders to think of accidents that could occur as a result of an "unsafe" canoe leaving the roof rack of a car travelling on high speed roads.

Joan Baker
BCU Insurances

CONCESSIONARY CANAL LICENCE RATES (BWB)

The rates for 1973 are now to be as follows:-

Individual (Adult or Youth)

One Canoe - £3.25
Two or more canoes - £2.75

Sponsored Youth Organisation

One Canoe - £2.75
Two or more canoes - £2.25

Please also note that BWB are now insisting on all licences being issued with name (or number) of each craft concerned.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM ASCOT

by Frank Goodman

The Sports Council have written officially to the B.C.U. sub-committee concerned with the Holme Pierrepont Slalom Course.

We are pleased to be able to tell all B.C.U. members that the Sports Council have agreed to finance a full feasibility study for the building of an artificial slalom course.

This will be in two phases:

- i) A 'desk study' lasting six months, to check figures already provided (by the B.C.U. sub-committee and the others concerned, Trent River Authority, etc.) to be sure that everything asked for is theoretically possible.
- ii) Assuming the successful conclusion of i) above, a model study, lasting 18 months, which will provide a complete scale model of the proposed course, to show the detailed pattern of water turbulence needed.

Victoria Falls, Zambia, Eastern Cataract.
Photo Nigel Fielden



The model will, of course, be the basis on which the real course will be constructed.

The letter adds, that it would be unrealistic to expect the course to be opened in less than three years' time.

Well this is good news indeed!

While there is still no guarantee that we shall get the completed course, it is hard to imagine that the Sports Council will spend many thousands of pounds on a full scale model study and then not go ahead with the real thing.

So — we are more than optimistic! Although we can see a cost of half a million being a reasonable figure for the course — don't laugh, we thought about £200,000 would be ample at one stage! We know there is money available for emergent sports — and what is more so than canoe slalom?

The responsibility is now firmly on the shoulders of the B.C.U. sub-committee to see that the canoeist gets the very best slalom course possible. It must provide as a minimum:

- i) International standard water.
- ii) Controls to enable water conditions to be moderated to suit all standards of performance from novices upwards.
- iii) Sensible spectator accommodation.

The quality of water is fundamental. Without the correct water, superb timing gear, luxury changing rooms, quick-adjusting gate gantries are just white elephants. So we must be sure we do the best we can in the months that follow. We have expanded the original sub-committee to cope with this important task and also to advise on other possible slalom courses that are coming forward.

Here is the membership —

B.C.U. A.S.C.O.T. SUB-COMMITTEE (under the Slalom Committee)

Chairman — Maurice Rothwell:

Manchester Canoe Club. The G.O.M. of Canoeing. Few people have more experience of the sport of canoeing, both as administrator and participant. Ex-chairman of the slalom committee. Well-known acrobatic pilot. Responsible for Player's increased profits over the last 50 years.

Jack Sphuler:

Member of the I.C.F. Greatly experienced in the international affairs of canoeing. One of the few canoeists to have a rapid named after him.

John White:

Civil Engineer, canoeist and gentleman. Though we think the last unlikely, since he comes from Yorkshire.

John Fazey:

Ex trainer of the Olympic Team. Div. 1 paddler and Warden of a riverside centre near Reading.

John Macleod and Ken Langford:

Two unknown canoeists who might prove useful to test the completed course (novice level only).

George Parr:

Ph.D. in Hydrology. Works as a lecturer in the hydrological department of Nottingham University. Also canoes.

Frank Goodman:

Lapsed college lecturer. Now a canoe-builder and general layabout. (The only one of the team daft enough to write short articles for *C. in B.*)

These are your servants: if the course is a success, we shall expect honorary senior instructor certificates to be presented to us at least, otherwise our emigration papers are already in order.



There are now 161 registered Espadas. This figure presupposes many more Espadas owned by youngsters who are practicing but have not yet decided to race their craft.

For the benefit of these people, the Director has been contacting the organisers of L.D. Races, asking them if they will run a special 'Espada' beginner's race of a short length and with special easy courses. The Director will circulate to all registered owners the details of the resulting series and of other events of special interest to Espada owners. This, it is hoped will encourage youngsters to have a go at a guaranteed beginner's race.

There are now 16 registered Espada manufacturers. It is particularly important that prospective purchasers realise that these are the only manufacturers permitted to market Espada products. No Espada made by any other manufacturer is able to be registered and therefore permitted to race in Britain. Those who paddle Espadas which are not registered are liable to disqualification under BCU rules.

Espadas may now be with either over-stern or with fin rudders. The sensitive nature of the response given by a fin rudder will be well appreciated by those who use them but care needs to be exercised when paddling in shallow water and an over-stern rudder is probably best for L.D. courses.

David R. Cook, Class Director
Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre
Llangollen, Denbighshire

POSTERS! POSTERS!

Full colour Olympic Slalom poster of Norbert Sattler (kayak silver medallist) — measures 39" x 27" — £1-15 post paid from THE CANOE CENTRE, 18 Beauchamp Rd., Twickenham, Middlesex.



THE SINGLE BLADERS

Many years ago, Frank Luzmore, who we hope will not mind us calling the grand old man of that sort of canoeing, started the Canadian Canoe Association of Great Britain, to bind together and serve those who were enthusiastic about using a single-bladed paddle in the sort of canoe which is known in Britain as a Canadian canoe to distinguish it from the kayak. The association has never been very large — there are not so very many Canadian canoe enthusiasts — but no other organisation has such a store of knowledge on this sort of canoe and its uses.

Although the association has shown some interest in racing, most members have been tourists using what may be called the traditional American type of open canoe with swept-up ends. Over the past few years a number of firms on the fringe of canoeing or who were just looking for a market amongst holidaymakers, have produced peculiar craft which they have described as canoes. At the association AGM in February concern was expressed about this. There is an obvious place for correctly-designed Canadian canoes in Britain, and the association has details of acceptable shapes. Any firms hoping to build Canadian canoes are invited to ask for advice, and the association can offer lines drawings to canoe builders in search of guidance on craft of reasonable form.

Support for some of the flat-water races which the CCA has promoted has diminished during the last couple of years, and the association is looking for other events in which their trophies can be used — some of these are unique and quite attractive. There will still be some straightforward racing, but a sub-committee is looking into the re-allocation of some of the pots, possibly to slalom and cruising.

The CCA feels that it is not as involved in slalom as it should be. Most of the present members are tourists, but there should be a place in the association for the new breed of C1 and C2 slalom paddlers. The canoe and the technique of handling it are basically the same. As the CCA cannot offer service to slalom without active slalom members, they would like to invite into membership all single-bladed slalomists. With a nucleus of these paddlers to form a section, the Canadian Canoe Association could be of service in the slalom world. Attractive badges and transfers are available and these ought to become well-known at any slalom with C1 and C2 events.

Membership costs £1 per year and there is no entrance fee. Members get a quarterly magazine, which could include slalom news. Details of membership may be obtained from Frank Luzmore, 31 Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey. Anyone interested in forming a slalom section of the CCA may like to contact Mr. A. Smith-Hilliard, Manor Croft, Church Road, Codsall, Staffs. (Tel. Codsall 3367), who will attempt to co-ordinate this side of CCA activities.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. KAREL POPEL at the age of 68. We regret to announce the sudden death of Dr. Karel Popel, President of Honour of the International Canoe Federation, and one of the strongest personalities in the sport of canoeing.

By profession a lawyer specialising in banking law, Dr. Popel devoted a great part of his life to the development of sport in Czechoslovakia and in 1935 became President of the Czechoslovakian Canoe Association. A member of the Czech Olympic Association, Karel Popel became its General Secretary in 1950 and became involved in both Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

In 1946 when the I.C.F. was formed to take over the work of the earlier international federation, Dr. Popel became its Vice President, and in 1954 its President, an office he held until 1960 when ill-health forced his retirement. He was then elected President of Honour and whenever his health permitted he continued to work for the I.C.F. in every way open to him. Karel Popel regarded himself as a 'bridge' between the federations East and West of the political 'Iron Curtain' and his honesty and sincerity gained him friends and confidants in every federation. There are too few men like Karel Popel and I count it an honour to have known him, collaborated with him for a quarter of a century, and enjoyed his friendship.

To his wife Jarka and his children we offer our deep sympathy and friendship, and on the occasion of his funeral in Prague, a floral tribute was sent on behalf of the Union and those of its members who worked with him in the Congress, Board and Technical Committees.

John Dudderidge
President

ROGER CRANE one of our slalomists who was serving on the Ark Royal was the victim of a fatal road accident a few weeks ago.

Roger was a member of the party who canoed the Grand Canyon in 1971 and made a film of the trip himself. So many have met Roger and knew him to be what we may describe as a true canoeist a great guy, one of those who embodied the whole spirit of our sport. Serious and knowledgeable yet with that sense of fun that makes canoeing very special to us all.

Deep sympathy to Roger's father and relations from all his friends in 'the canoeing world'.

CANOEING AT TYNEMOUTH

An agreement has been reached with the Town Clerk of Tynemouth; whereby, instead of canoeists being instructed to leave the water, or prohibited from entering the water when the red danger flag is flying, on the "Long Sands" Tynemouth they may now enter the water and surf if they either;

- (a) show a Sea Proficiency Certificate (or photocopy) to the Beach Superintendent or one of his Life Guards; or,
- (b) if a senior member of a party shows a Coaching Award, his group will be allowed on the water; the leader taking the responsibility for the group.

On no account will anyone be allowed to canoe alone when the red danger flag is flying.

Derek C. Hutchinson, Senior Coach
L.C.O. South Northumberland

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12th & 13th May, 1973

at

BUDE, CORNWALL

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(Open, Novice, Junior, Ladies)

Canoe Race

(Open, Junior, Ladies)

Surf Board Type Canoe Handling

(Open)

Team Relay

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Mr. J. P. HERMES,

THE COTTAGE, TREGREHAN,

ST. AUSTELL, CORNWALL.

Entries to be returned by:—

MONDAY 30th APRIL

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.

HAMPSHIRE Calshot Activities Centre ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS

SAILING & CANOEING

Assistant instructors in Sailing and Canoeing are required at the above Centre from 24th April. Besides running residential courses, the Centre directs many day courses for local school children, youth groups and adults. An interest in the other activities of the Centre (Skiing, Climbing, Track Cycling, Archery and Shooting) would be a recommendation. The posts are residential. The rate of pay is £1.75 per working day with accommodation and meals provided free of charge.

Applications giving details of experience should be made direct to the Warden, Calshot Activities Centre, Southampton, SO4 1BR.

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ADULT RECREATIONAL CANOEING is provided by the **MILTON KEYNES Canoe Club** for persons over the age of eighteen. Two meetings each month are programmed ranging from basic instruction to canals, rivers and sea activities. Canoe moulds are available. Anyone interested within about 15 miles of the new city is invited to contact Colin Kempson, 108 East Street, Olney, Bucks. (Tel. Bedford 711833).

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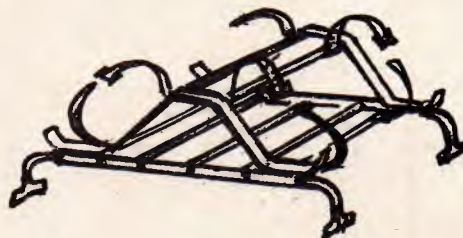
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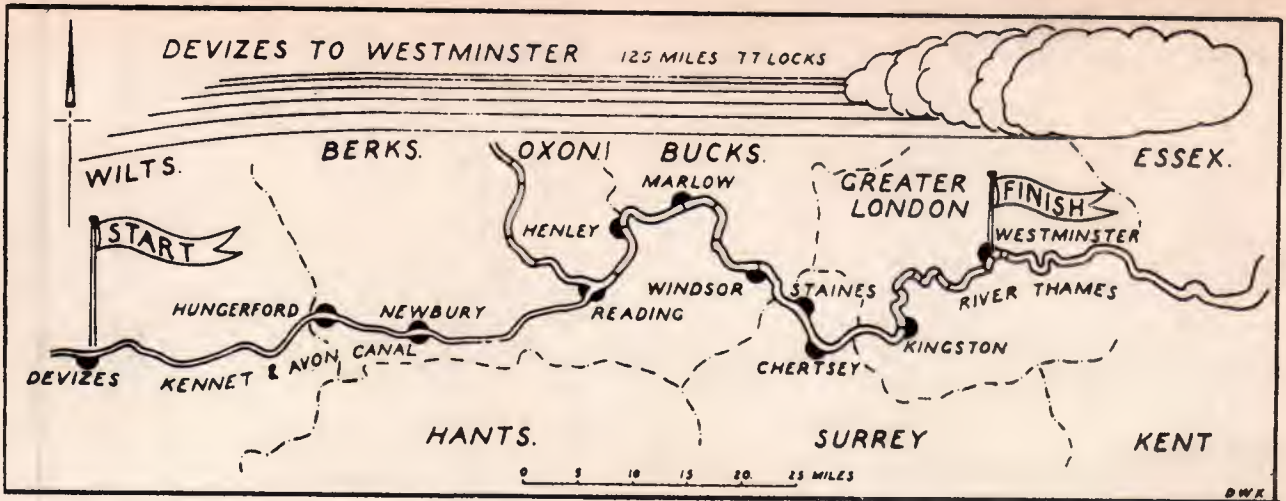


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The toughest canoe race in the world takes place at Easter each year. Starting from Devizes in Wiltshire, the course follows 54 miles of the Kennet and Avon Canal to Reading, thence a further 71 miles down the River Thames to Westminster. It includes 76 locks and 17 miles of tidal water.

The race is open to any two-man crews between the ages of 16 and 19

in the Junior Class and, to those over 18 in the Senior Class.

The Junior Class entries will be restricted to the first 100 received.

The closing date for entries is Friday 30th March.

Apply for Rule Books,* etc. (35p) 1" to the mile plan (35p) at the earliest opportunity from:—

D. W. Keane,
12 Swakeleys Drive,
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Touring on the River Steyr, Austria Photo: Janet Harber

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LAVA FALLS BY ONE MAN



"...The eighth day. Ahead one great obstacle remains; Lava Falls. The rapids at Lava are graded 10, on the Canyon Scale, the most difficult possible on the river. The waters fall 40 feet in a hundred yards, in a wild rapid, especially hard to read.

Ernie Lawrence (I.C.U.), 'At times it's like being inside a washing machine. It was very difficult to breathe, your life-jacket just didn't hold you high enough'.

John W. Dudderidge, O.B.E. (President B.C.U.), 'Everybody, of course, had to be a very fluent performer of the Eskimo Roll. This is the technique whereby the kayak man can right himself without leaving the cockpit. He does a stroke underwater which brings him through the surface and up again and-er-to carry out an eskimo roll in the middle of a Grand Canyon rapid is the very limit of difficulty.'

The start is clear enough, a long smooth tongue but the right-hand side has never been navigated with any success.

One man tried it, against all advice. It was the first time a member of the expedition had broken ranks and a furious dispute ensued. He was underwater for an alarming time; it could have been serious.

Lava was the last and greatest of the rapids they shot. At Diamond Creek hired trucks were waiting to take them out of the water. They had covered 200 miles of the most difficult river in the world, crossed 12 major and 300 minor rapids without injuries to any of the team. They had brought the first double canoe down the Canyon and the first woman ever to complete the trip. They could now go home, £300 the poorer, but richer for having pursued an ambition and achieved it; accepted a personal challenge and overcome it."

The above is the end of the narrative accompanying the film "Shooting the Colorado", shown on I.T.V. Thursday 4th January, 1973.

The narrative of the Premier of this film, at Leamington Spa earlier in 1972, included (roughly quoting), "...only one man tried it - and failed!" It was good to see that the T.V. showing of the film had a modified, if still erroneous, narrative to the Lava Falls section. It was a pity though that Chrisfilms' film of "one man" stopped, just as the canoe went into the (very large) stopper. Stopped, and therefore did not show this one man have a really tough time for some

seconds in that stopper, capsize and roll up, then paddle out (upright) of the bottom, so becoming the first ever British canoeist to navigate the r.h.s. of Lava Falls rapid. Erroneous? Yes, because it has been navigated successfully before, by four Americans.

Failed?? How? Why? Because he rolled? Surely no! He succeeded!!!

Broken ranks indeed. He states he was *not* told *not* to do it! In fact, two other canoeists (names supplied) also studied and seriously considered it, for up to half an hour, but decided against it. No mention of them, (one of whom has just successfully completed an expedition down the Blue Nile).

The anal eloquence of both narratives can only make one wonder why a certain few people seemed so bent on taking this achievement from him. It didn't even mention his name!

The other copies of this section (at least three exist on private films) show "one man" coming out of it O.K., also many arms going up on the bank, accompanied (I have it on good authority) by a chorus of congratulatory cheers. Why wasn't one of these copies borrowed and the relevant section spliced in? Would it have been different if the organiser or one of his close associates had been the "one man"? Or even, the C2? Of course it would.

Why was the Premier of such an excellent canoeing film ruined and its subsequent T.V. showing marred by comments which, originally, were possibly only founded on petty jealousies? I wonder, could it have been some of the slalom contingent who find it difficult to accept that they aren't necessarily the country's best and bravest canoeists?

Mike Goodwin carefully studied Lava Falls rapid from many vantage points before he attempted to shoot it. It was a rational decision and he was fairly confident of success.

He was successful!

I, for one, think this success, along with all the others, should have been treated fairly, recognised for its merits, kept in true perspective and shown with a suitable narrative in the film, "Shooting the Colorado".

John E. Chamberlin

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION

"Outdoor Education in Conflict?"

The fourth annual conference of the National Association for Outdoor Education will focus attention on some of the practical problems facing outdoor educationists at all levels. There will be opportunities to take part in discussion groups with subjects ranging from field study technique and equipment research to developments in teaching mountain activities, caving and skiing. During these discussions particular emphasis will be placed on teaching methods, training and qualifications, choice of equipment and techniques.

The conference will also face some of the difficulties being increasingly encountered as a result of the over use of certain areas of wild environment. Discussion groups led by specialists will examine the demands made on limited resources by water sportsmen, environmentalists and field study specialists, cavers, and mountaineers, walkers and skiers. It is hoped that these groups will make positive recommendations which will help protect certain wild areas and which may assist in reconciling the conflicting interests of some users of open country.

Speakers will include:-

R. Edwards, Information Officer of Snowdonia National Park on "The Effect of Groups on the Environment".

A. Taylor, Environmental Studies Adviser to Cheshire Education Department on "The Educational Use of the Environment".

A. J. J. Moulam, President of the British Mountaineering Council on "Is it still Adventure?"

E. J. Churward of Coca Cola on "Industry and the Environment".

The conference will be introduced by M. McEvoy, the Chairman of the N.A.O.E. and Headmaster of Bewerley Park Outdoor Pursuits Centre, and summarised by J. W. Cook, Senior Deputy Director of Education for Edinburgh.

ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS FOR CHILDREN, TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE 1973 brochures of U.K. Three-in-One and Sunsports Adventure in Southern France are probably the most imaginative and exciting holidays of their kind in Europe! Brochures from PGL Adventure Limited, Station St., Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7AH. Tel: (0989) 3311/2.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In your editorial (*C. in B.* Dec. '72) you mention "unusual stories and incidents" which as you say "must surely be of interest" to the readers of *C. in B.* One of the incidents to which you refer — "the effect of translucent plankton seen by night paddlers" could not have struck you as so obviously interesting a month ago, since that was one of the several paragraphs you chose to cut from my story of our night trip round the Farnes. This by the way was a yarn — a true one but a good one which had listeners spellbound, but which was reduced to a rather disjointed 'log' by unimaginative 'cutting'.

I suppose after that, I ought not to be surprised by the omission of my name as source of the information on the N.E. Surfing Championships, but I still think it a pity that more care is not taken with the spelling of names that you do use — in this case the name of DEREK Holmes who took the 'spectacular' photograph which accompanied the article.

Derek C. Hutchinson
Senior Coach

Unfortunately it is often necessary to cut copy in order to include an article — otherwise I see little point in sending the thing in the first place — to an editor whose job is to edit copy. Apologies to DEREK Holmes (who I can't imagine was really upset).

Your ref to translucent plankton did arouse my interest — hence an appeal for such notes. Your copy still, nevertheless had to be cut or left out completely. From all reports our last edition was interesting — one would guess your night trip did make good reading.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the letter from Mr. L. J. Haines, published in your December issue.

Whilst we must all deplore the alleged behaviour, I must also point out that a public denigration in your columns is premature. When a competitor complains to the organiser and is dissatisfied with the outcome, his proper recourse is to the Long Distance Racing Committee, one of whose statutory functions is "to act as final authority in disputes and protests". No such approach has been made. Indeed, Mr. Haines' letter was the first that any member of the committee had heard of the incident.

I regret speaking harshly against an aggrieved competitor, but justice will not be served by flinging mud.

A. J. M. Stoneley
Chairman, L.D.R. Committee

Dear Sir,

May I commend you on printing the letter from L. J. Haines in your December issue, in which he describes an unprovoked attack made on him during the Longridge L.D. Race in October. This letter was the first that I, or to the best of my belief, any other B.C.U. official had heard of the incident, and I have taken the matter up with the Organisers with a view, if possible, to identifying the lout who perpetrated the attack.

Since the letter of protest appeared in the magazine I have received expressions of deep concern from other members of the Union, and it is clear that people have been disturbed to learn that a young competitor could be the victim of such a despicable and dangerous action, in this case an action that might have ended in tragedy.

John Dudderidge, President

I think the point is clear. In publishing such a letter we 'fling mud' on behalf of the competitor I agree but at the same time bring attention to the dangers of foul action. Further it should now be clear what recourse a complainant should take — and the more speedy his complaint should be.

EDITOR

TRADE

A new Fail-Safe Footrest from VALLEY CANOE PRODUCTS which not only allows the bar to swing clear, if the foot passes behind the footrest, but also locks the gunwales together when looping, is now standard in all their canoes. Grante Canoes, impressed with its effectiveness and simplicity have negotiated with Valley Canoe Products to use it in some of their canoes too, and other suppliers are looking at the device with interest. You can convert your own footrest to this type by buying the complete footrest for 95p or the nylon locking clip for only 26p.

While in France, recently, Frank Goodman paddled some very pleasant grade III water on the upper Allier, but was amazed to find at Vichy, an artificial slalom course, designed as part of a huge sports complex on the banks of the Allier. He has negotiated with the French Authorities to allow English paddlers to use the course. So, added to Kayak Clermont's new hire service in France will be the opportunity for paddlers to hire canoes at Vichy to practice on the course there. While not of international standard, the 100 cusecs of water falling down 300 metres of course with a head of 4½ metres gives an exciting run.

Frank, as most people know, first mooted the idea of an artificial slalom course back in 1967 and has been working on the project at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham for the last 2 years since his return from the U.S.A. in 1970.

HOW TO BUILD A GLASS FIBRE CANOE by John Crane of Trylon Ltd. — Price 30p.

This 3rd edition is excellent value for money and frankly indispensable (or should we say essential) for anyone contemplating building their own canoe. Every stage of construction is covered. Materials to use, quantities, costs, tools until eventually you wind up with . . . naturally the conclusion — a first class canoe — if you follow the book carefully.

There really is little point in my reviewing the book in full simply because it appears to me to be on the ball value for money.

In addition to their range of publications a colour filmstrip 'Glass Fibre Canoe Construction' made in collaboration with the E.P. Group of Companies is available at £2.70 post free. Seems to me an ideal companion to the book particularly when schools, groups, scout troops and the like are involved. A stage-by-stage filmstrip which can be recommended to the leaders of groups — or individuals — about to embark on what to everyone results in that tremendous moment when eventually your own canoe slips through the water.

HARISHOK K.R. PADDLES are foam filled glass fibre moulded paddles. They represent a new beginning in paddle technology.

Having been on test for a year preliminary results suggest that the composite construction has the necessary qualities of resilience and strength without being too flexy under acceleration. A side benefit being that they rarely break right through, even when bashed on the inevitable rock and retain 60% to 70% of their stiffness after fracture allowing the competition run to be completed.

The paddles will be marketed at below £10.00 before V.A.T. and replacement parts will be sold so that the paddle is never a complete write-off. Two weights of blade, for training and competition both undercut the weights of current conventional paddles by a substantial margin.

A new firm has just started in the Northern Region appropriately called NORTHERN KAYAKS. At present in production is a slalom/g.p. craft called the *Ranger* retailing with buoyancy, toggles, etc. at £29.50 ex works. Also they inform us of a sea kayak the *Lindisfarne* shortly to go into production. The name again Northern Kayaks, 3 High Farm Cottages, Netherton Training School, Morpeth.



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FILMS. MAGAZINE'S

PRESS REVIEW

Written by Ian D. Pendleton at the request of the B.C.U. Film Officer — C.M. Rothwell, 21 Windsor Road, Clayton Bridge, Manchester M10 6QQ.

FILMS

CANOECRAFT TWO— BASIC STROKES

Forward Stroke
Reverse Paddle
Sweep Stroke
Draw Stroke
Sculling Draw
Slap Support
Sculling for Support
Low Telemark
Hanging Draw

Demonstration by George Hodgson disguised in wet-suit and B.C.U. approved Lifejacket.

To my over-critical mind there were several failings, all within the script. The principal one was unavoidable, given the Subject. They could not discuss boat-positioning — which is crucial to turns on the river. Consequential to this approach was, for instance, a failure to appreciate the difference between a Low Telemark on the river and a Reverse Sweep. A fine point, perhaps, but indicative. There were others which were not so much wrong as a trifle woolly.

George Hodgson's paddling on lake and river was very precise, extremely good. I doubt if there could be a better demonstration of basic strokes as applied to rivers. The camera-work was good, the editing particularly sensitive — making good use of 'freeze frames' and flash-back comparisons. The commentary alone knocks it down from 'superb' to 'very good indeed'. Having been as critical as possible, I reckon this film to have considerable merit... not least being its difference from others on the same subject.

CANOECRAFT THREE — MAKING A CANOE

Any film on this subject is bound to be less than adequate from the instructional aspect. There are so many minor points which can make or mar the final product, the canoe.

This film is better than most. It is realistic, not a laboratory experiment. It does touch on the fact that the one would will produce many boats and must therefore be kept scrupulously clean. It stresses several points which if neglected cause anguish to the boat-builder, such as the trimming while glass is 'green'. It explains quite nicely the relationship between glass, resin and accelerator, the relative effectiveness of brush and roller. It overlooks the equation of surplus resin with undesirable weight... but this may be asking too much of a short film.

In all, a useful film. No one could build a boat, relying solely on this for instruction, but as a demonstration of materials and techniques it would be highly effective.

C. M. Rothwell

Both films for hire or purchase from Explorer Films, 58 Stratford Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1AU.

WHITE WATER MAGAZINE, January edition, No. 29 edited by Ian Pendleton, 21 Windsor Road, Manchester contains a most informative article 'Reading the River' by J. D. Shaw. Too lengthy unfortunately to include in C. in B. Deep rock, flat rock, boulders, shoals, graveyards, falls (and their varieties) are all considered — really good reading for the canoeist.

AN EXCELLENT REPORT which has just been prepared by the Edinburgh Schools' Canoeing Association as a result of a four week continental canoe trip which they took part in during August of 1972. The contents of the report would be of undoubted help to other groups anticipating similar trips.

Copies are available (price 30p inc. postage) from the Association's Honorary General Secretary, A. G. Smith, Esq., Gracemount Secondary School, Lasswade Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TZ. Tel: 031-664 3381.

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If anyone knows any of these people, perhaps they could tell them that we do not know their new addresses.



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TROPHY FROM WALES

Mr. D. J. Mayes, who is our Area Coaching Organiser in North Wales, has sent photographs of a new very unusual trophy which they have created there. This trophy is to be presented each November to anyone or any group who makes a good contribution to

Canoeing in that area or, anyone from that area who makes a good contribution elsewhere.

The trophy has been awarded to the Midland Canoe Club, who do a lot of Canoeing in North Wales, but more specifically it is given to those members of the Club who planned and executed the Irish Sea crossing from Whitesand Bay to Rosslare in 1972.

PLAQUES ON THE TROPHY INDICATE:
*'British Canoe Union, North Wales Trophy',
 and 'Slate Monolith from R. Dee, Driftwood
 from Bardsey'.*

THE RICHARD BARRETT MEMORIAL TROPHY

Richard was drowned on the River Ribble on 26th February 1966 when leading a party of Leeds Canoe Club Members on an Expedition.



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For the 1973 Slalom season, Jaycee Glassfibre Products will be manufacturing the Mendesta Meteor – newest slalom kayak from Mendesta of Belgium.

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37th A.G.M. Bury



Two photographs from a collection of "Canoeing Stamps" taken by J. Bright. A composite photograph may be shown on the cover of our next edition.



The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. by the President, Mr. Dudderidge, who welcomed those present (about 20) and opened the meeting with a resume of the year's events and introduced Mr. Peter Liddell, Chairman of the Association of River Authorities and of the Cumberland River Authority, Member of the Northern Sports Council and Council Member of the Salmon and Trout Association, as guest of honour, who had agreed to present the awards and trophies, Mr. Liddell made a short and entertaining speech in which he referred to the need for amicable relations between canoeists and anglers and indicated some of the difficulties faced by both sides. The awards and trophies were then presented.

The A.G.M. proper was held after the presentations. The minutes of the 36th A.G.M. were read and accepted and the Annual Report (read by Mr. Dudderidge) and the accounts were also accepted. The election of Mr. Dudderidge as President was also confirmed as was the election to council of Messrs. E. B. Totty, R. F. Tyas, J. A. Bright, A. D. Harber and C. B. Manton.

After the appointment of tellers the motions on the agenda paper were taken in turn.

Motion No. 1

The incorporation of the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards into the Union was carried unanimously as was Motion No. 3.

Motion No. 2

The amendment of rule 31, was debated at length, two amendments to the motion as written were proposed from the floor and defeated in separate polls. After considerable discussion the motion was carried on a poll.

Motion No. 4

Amendments to the Union's rules, particularly in regard to the constitution of council and the specialist committees, was debated section by section at length and was eventually carried *in toto* on a poll.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30 p.m. and many of those who had been present adjourned to an excellent dinner at the Royal Hotel.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION

"Outdoor Education in Conflict?"

The Fourth Annual Conference of the N.A.O.E.

6-8th April 1973

At Alsager College of Education, Stoke-on-Trent

Bookings will be open to non-members of the Association after 15th February 1973

Conference fees: Resident £6-00 Non-Resident £4-00

Programmes & booking forms from:

Miss B. A. Newman,
Alsager College of Education,
Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST7 2HL.

Sprint Racing!

Notes from the Secretary

Invitation from Canada

An invitation has been received from Mississauga Canoe Club of Ontario, Canada for between 4 and 6 young paddlers (under 21) to take part in their regatta programme during this year. Although the programme starts on 19 May, there is an event every weekend from mid June to the end of August.

The club house is on the Credit River, described as ideal for paddling, at Mississauga, just 14 miles west of Toronto. Competitors would stay at the homes of Mississauga paddlers and the cost to them would be merely the return fare to Canada.

Anyone under 21, who would like to take up the invitation, should contact me immediately.

Events at Home

It will be seen from the Diary of Events that the Regatta Programme is again very thin. Therefore, it would be appreciated if clubs would consider holding regattas in their areas, even though events may be confined to Novice, Youth or Espada Classes only.

Details of the organisers' addresses for the Open Youth Regatta, 8 and 9 July and the National Championships, 18 and 19 August, will be published in the next edition of *Canoeing in Britain*.

The Future of Team Management and Training

To streamline the existing administration of National Teams the new Executive are to make the following changes:

1. The appointment of a National Team Manager to hold office for a four year term.
2. The appointment of Team Managers for International Regattas and National Training, as required.

3. The appointment of Team Coaches. The National Team Manager will be responsible for applications for grant aid and over-all administration of National Team matters, whilst the Treasurer will be responsible for all administration of funds, both Committee and National Team funds.

At the A.G.M. and after. . . .

17 BCU members attended the meeting and 9 clubs were represented. Of these, 6 held the necessary voting requirements together with the Chairman and Secretary, a position hopelessly undemocratic for competitors. This was after 430 club secretaries had been circulated.

Under the new rules, passed at the BCU A.G.M., all members who have a main interest in Sprint Racing will have the opportunity of voting for the Committee and making their personal views known at an A.G.M. Although there was considerable opposition to the amendments, I hope members will give the new rules a chance to prove themselves. I feel sure, a very careful watch in their operation will be undertaken and that Council (or others), will be quick to recommend, at an A.G.M., any modification which may appear necessary.

. . . . A Register of Sprint Racing Canoeists

Following the amendments, a Register of Sprint Racing Competitors is being introduced. To assist in the completion of the Register, it would be appreciated if all members wishing their name to be included, would give the details requested below in writing, and forward to the address below. The introduction of this Register will, I hope, provide a better service to competitors, many of whom have little or no affiliation to a club.

Rowland J. Jones



The P.E. Association of G.B. and N.I., and the B.A.O.L.P.E. have recently published a booklet entitled "Safety Precautions in Physical Education" which is intended as a guide to teachers in this sphere of activity.

Unfortunately, one of their pieces of advice in the chapter on Canoeing has proved to be extremely dangerous. When the British Standards Institution first set the standards for life jackets, they thought that it would be a good idea to have a life line fixed to them. It was quickly shown that this life line, although it was reasonably secured to the life jacket, frequently came loose at unexpected times. On one occasion one such line actually tied the canoeist into his canoe. There were other such happenings, and the B.S.I. quickly decided that this life line was a real danger and should not be fitted to any life jacket.

If any line is carried in or fixed to a canoe, then this line must be most carefully secured in such a manner that the canoeist can in no way get entangled in it while he is in the canoe or when he comes out of it. This is a very important safety matter and should be attended to most carefully by everybody who canoes.

Incidentally, the booklet goes on to say that "all canoes should carry spare single bladed paddles". We do not know how well some of our less experienced paddlers in kayaks would get on with a single blade, but we can have a good guess!

Surname: _____ Forenames: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Occupation: _____ Phone: _____

Club (if any): _____ Status: _____

SENIOR/JUNIOR/NOVICE/YOUTH or Espada

To: The Secretary, B.C.U. Sprint Racing Committee,
35 Marion Way, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0BJ.

Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

REGISTER OF SPRINT RACING CANOEISTS

B.C.U. Coaching Courses.....

ELEMENTARY

INLAND KAYAK

3, 10, 17, 24 April

Introduction to Canoeing — Thursday evenings — Birmingham. Apply J. Brown, 15 Rosafeld Avenue, Halesowen, Worcs.

Introduction to Canoeing — Burton-on-Trent. Apply J. Rose, 58 Dalebrook Road, Burton-on-Trent, DE15 0AD.

7 April

London — Proficiency Training — Apply J. Hooker, 178 Cozens Road, Ware, Herts.

19–24 April

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — age 15–17. Cost £15-50. Apply Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 28B.

21–28 April

Plas y Brenin, Cost £22, Age 17+ — all types of canoeing. Apply to The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 3P.

Blackpool Easter School, Cost £8 tuition + £12 board. Course Ref. CN1. Apply N. W. Broughton, "Cairngorm", Mains Lane, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool, Lancs, FY6 7LJ. Closing date 23 March, 1973.

21–27 April

Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre — Inland Proficiency Surfing & Rolling. 2000 hours Saturday to 1630 Friday. Cost residential from £17-50 — camping from £12-50. Course Ref. CAN/R1. Apply The Warden, Bowles O.P. Centre, Eridge, Nr. Tunbridge Wells.

21–30 April

Blackpool Easter School at Lake Windermere — Cost £20 — Course Ref. CNTW. Apply N. W. Broughton, "Cairngorm", Mains Lane, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool, Lancs, FY6 7LJ. Closing date 23 March, 1973.

30 April–11 June

Monday evenings — 7–9 p.m. + weekend June 23–25 (river expedition) — Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Loughborough Road, Leicester — Canoeing for Pleasure — Course Ref. CFP1. Apply The Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

30 April & 7, 14, 21 May

Introduction to Canoeing — Monday evenings — Hereford. Apply E. Casement, P. Ed Flight, R.A.F. Hereford.

Introduction to Canoeing — Monday evenings — Stoke-on-Trent. Apply N. Dearn, 14 Park Road, Warrington, Stoke-on-Trent.

Introduction to Canoeing — Monday evenings — Wolverhampton. Apply F. Perry, 37 Cherrington Gardens, Compton, Wolverhampton.

1, 8, 15, 22 May

Introduction to Canoeing — Tuesday evenings — Coventry. Apply R. Smith, 12 Leicester Causeway, Coventry, CV1 4GU.

2, 9, 16, 23 May

Introduction to Canoeing — Wednesday evenings — Shrewsbury. Apply G. Lyon, 185 Sutton Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6QT. Northampton — A four evening course — 7.30–8.30 p.m. Midsummer Meadow. Apply J. Adams, 29 Birchfield Road, Northampton.

5 May

Peterborough — 'Come and Try It' Day. Apply J. Ramwell, H.M. Borstal, Gaynes Hall, Gt. Stoughton, Hunts.

London — Proficiency Training — Apply J. Hooker, 178 Cozens Road, Ware, Herts.

5–6 May

Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre — Introductory Weekend — elementary certificate taken 9.30 Sat.—16.30 Sun. — meals Sat. lunch to Sun. lunch — Cost £7-50. Apply The Warden, Bowles O.P. Centre, Eridge, Nr. Tunbridge Wells. Ref. CAN/W1.

1 May–12 June

Tuesday evenings 7–9 p.m. + weekend June 15–17 (on rapid river), Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Loughborough Road, Leicester — Beginners to Proficiency. Course Ref. CP2. Apply The Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

2 May–13 June

Wednesday evenings 7–9 p.m. + weekend 8–10 June (river expedition) — Canoeing for Pleasure — Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Loughborough Road, Leicester. Course Ref. CFP2. Apply The Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

3 May–14 June

Thursday evenings 7–9 p.m. + weekend expedition June 23–25 — Canoeing for Pleasure — Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Loughborough Road, Leicester. Course Ref. CFP3. Apply The Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

14–18 May

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water work and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £14-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 21B.

19–20 May

Stibbington (on A1 nr. Peterborough). Inland Proficiency Training. Apply J. Ramwell, H.M. Borstal, Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton, Hunts.

21–25 May

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water work and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £14-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ.

26–28 May

River Canoeing and Surfing — Bowles Outdoor Pursuits Centre, 9.30 Sat.—16.30 Mon. Meals Sat. lunch to Mon. lunch. Cost £12-00. Course Ref. CAN/W6. Apply The Warden, Bowles O.P. Centre, Eridge, Nr. Tunbridge Wells.

26 May–2 June

Plas y Brenin — All Types of Canoeing — Cost £22, age 17+. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 4P.

28 May–2 June

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water work and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £16-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 23B.

2–3 June

St. Ives Youth Centre, Beginners weekend. Apply J. Ramwell, H.M. Borstal, Gaynes Hall, Gt. Stoughton, Hunts.

2 June

London — Proficiency Training — Apply J. Hooker, 178 Cozens Road, Ware, Herts.

2–9 June

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water work and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £20-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 24B.

6, 13, 20, 27 June

Midsummer Meadow, Northampton — A four evening course — 7.30–8.30 p.m. Apply J. Adams, 29 Birchfield Road, Northampton.

7, 14, 21, 28 June

Introduction to Canoeing — Thursday evenings — Coventry. Apply R. Smith, 12 Leicester Causeway, Coventry. CV1 4GU.

9–16 June

Plas y Brenin — All Types of Canoeing — Cost £22. Age 17+. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 5P.

16–23 June

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £20-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4DT. Course Ref. 26B.

23–24 June

Stibbington (on A1 nr. Peterborough). Inland Proficiency Training. Apply J. Ramwell, H.M. Borstal, Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton, Hunts.

23–30 June

Bisham Abbey, Bucks — Introduction to Canoeing — white water and canoe camping, age 17+, cost £20-50. Apply The Sports Council, Dept. B., 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AJ. Course Ref. 27B.

Full details of all the courses are available from the Director of Coaching on receipt of a stamped and addressed foolscap envelope. Please state the type of course for which you require the details.

If anybody suitably qualified would like to help as an Assessor on any of the above courses, will he please write direct to the organiser, who will be grateful for the help. The volunteer will, naturally, be lodged free while he is doing this work.



Coaching News

In the last issue of *Canoeing in Britain* I promised to bring you news of the exciting new scheme of coaching in the competition field. On the weekend of the 13th/14th January there was a conference of those concerned in the field of the competitions of sprint, long distance racing, and slalom and wild water racing. From this meeting there came out a basic scheme from which growth can be made as time progresses.

The new awards will be tied to the existing Coaching Scheme in two respects:

- i The candidate must be 18 years of age or older,
- ii the candidate must be a Senior instructor of the B.C.U.

In respect of this latter, there is an escape clause in that the Specialist Committees concerned can recommend certain people who are not Senior Instructors, but this recommendation will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances.

The process of graduation also falls into line with the existing Coaching Scheme in that the candidate has first to attend a Training Course. If he is successful in this he is then designated an Assistant Coach (Competition) and he will be placed under the supervision of a qualified Coach. The Assistant Coach may present himself for assessment as a full Coach between twelve months and three years after his Training Course.

It is worth mentioning here that these coaches will be divided into two types:

- i Competition Coach (Racing); (i.e. Sprint and L.D.),
- ii Competition Coach (Slalom); (i.e. Slalom and W.W. Racing);

Assistant; Coaches will obviously be designated similarly.

Whilst the Training Course is to be residential and to last a week, the Assessment Session will only last two days, though it will also be residential. In fact the two courses are likely to be run concurrently, certainly in the first place, with the assessment on the first weekend. I must also say that, whilst there is a definite assessment session for the candidates, this will be the final stage in a process of continuous assessment which they will have undergone under the tutorship of their supervising Coach. At the time of this final assessment candidates will have to:

- i submit a synopsis in note form of the coaching they have done since attending the Training Course;
- ii submit a diagnostic and prognostic report on a named paddler;
- iii sit a written paper;
- iv give a talk of 20 minutes or present a paper on a chosen topic which must be approved by Coach Tutor;
- v take a practical coaching test —
 - a. assessing and coaching one athlete,
 - b. with a group.

The assessment will take into account all of the above, together with the report of the Coach Tutor, the report from the training course and an interview — a pretty stiff assessment I think you will agree, and the Assessment Panel of the National Coach for Competition and two from each discipline will have plenty of work to do.

But candidates should not have grounds for complaint if they have done their work properly. Great pains are being taken by John Fazey who is organising all this to ensure that every aspect of modern competition training is brought into the Training Course. Lecturers will be brought in from outside, and there will be much practical work as well. Nothing will be left out that could possibly be of assistance to the would-be coach in these competition fields. The number of places is being held down to 20 and these will be divided approximately equally between the two disciplines. Beside the Course Director there will also be a specialist in each discipline. A syllabus for the Training Course was worked out and here it is.

Techniques

1. Knowledge of technique.
2. Analysis of technique from observation and film.
3. Mechanical principles.

Principles and Application of Training

1. Anatomy and physiology.
2. Analysis of factors effecting performance.
3. Tests and measurements.
4. Training methods.
5. Training programmes.

Principles of Skill, Learning and Performance

1. Relevant methods of teaching and principles of learning.
2. Coach/paddler relationship.
3. The role of the coach.
4. Stress and motivation.

Knowledge of The International Canoe Federation Rules

The first Training Course is to take place at Holme Pierpoint from the 21st to the 28th October next. Anybody who is interested should write to John Fazey at 71, Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne, Berkshire.

A further, senior award is being considered. One suggestion is that this should be awarded for the presentation of a paper on a study carried out over a period of time. I will write about it as soon as I have any further news.

And so finally to the business of getting this new scheme off the ground. The three specialist committees (Sprint, L.D. and Slalom) were asked to recommend a few people who could be appointed Honorary Coaches in the first place. Here they are:

For Slalom

Robert Castle
Ray Calverley
John Court
Stan Cooper
Geoff Dinsdale
Heather Goodman
Pauline Squires-Goodwin
Alan Harber
Mike Hillyard
Ken Langford
Mark Markham
John Macleod
Dave Mitchell
Rowan Osborne
Lindsay Williams
Keith Wickham
Keith White

For Racing

Chris Baker
Mike Carvell
George Cooper
Ron Emes
Mark Giddings
Colin Gray
Robert Gray
David Green
Roland Jones
Roland Lawler
Robin Lees
Bill Machin
Lawrence Oliver
Tom Shenton
David Cook

These people have been appointed for a period of three years, after which they may be considered for re-appointment if they wish. In this way it will be ensured that the active coaches keep themselves up-to-date in the latest methods in the field.

In the next issue of *Canoeing in Britain* I will bring you the latest developments in the field of the Espada Youth K1.

Oliver Cock
Director of Coaching



The West German four-man sculling team, which won a Gold Medal during the recent Olympics, used a super-lightweight racing scull and oars stiffened with Courtaulds 'Grafil' carbon fibre in a knitted glass fibre ribbon.

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