

CANOEING

IN BRITAIN 25P

No. 91 JUNE/JULY 1974



THE BCU LOOKS AHEAD
CANOE TOURING
COMPETITION REPORTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

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CANOEING IN BRITAIN

EDITORIAL 91

C-in-B or not C-in-B?

With this issue another milestone in the development of canoeing — responsibility for the production of 'Canoeing in Britain' has been taken over by Ocean Publications Ltd, a firm experienced in the publication of participant sport magazines, including ocean racing, powerboating and waterski, and skiing.

You will continue to get your copies of C in B, because it's still the B.C.U. magazine; in fact after Christmas you will get six copies a year instead of four, something many B.C.U. members have advocated for a long time. For the moment, the Editorial team remains the same, though a dynamic marketing policy aimed at widening C in B's circulation will mean some changes in magazine content — more articles of general interest, for example.

Ocean Publications intend to increase the number of pages in your magazine, and the editor hopes that all regular contributors (and new ones!) will help to fill them. The benefits to the B.C.U. would seem to be principally freedom from the uncertainty of production of the last few months, easier budgeting, and as a spin-off, additional publicity through outside sales. And, hopefully, you'll get a better magazine.

Stirring in the Soup

Reading through a certain well-produced canoe club newsletter, I came across a double article on kayak surfing. For years the B.C.U. has organised a National Championship at Bude and we look forward next year to four events (North-East, South-West, Wales and National). But all is not well with the top surfmen. Feeling that their thing needed a properly coordinated effort to develop it in the right way, they, on several occasions, approached the B.C.U. offering to help, to be allegedly ignored or repulsed.

The likely outcome of this seems at present to be a Canoe Surfing Association affiliated to the British Surf Association rather than the B.C.U., even though all the impetus for kayak surfing in the past has come from the slalom and sea-canoeing world.

Realistically, the waveologists point out that the B.S.A. already effectively represents surfers' interests, and the present trend is towards the dedicated study and interpretation of waves rather than the inspired fooling about which your average canoeist enjoys on the salt.

Even with our unreliable ocean conditions, surf canoe performance is going to become increasingly refined as an art; it would surely be a pity if this expertise were to develop entirely outside the British Canoe Union, when it could be enriching the experience of generations of canoeists.

Jack Levison

Cover Pic

Flashback: Jack Atlas on South Yorks Canal tour in the mid-50's. Photo G. Wright

Enquiries regarding non-receipt of magazine, notification of changes of address and general enquiries should be sent, quoting your membership number, to the General Secretary. Names and addresses of the principal officers of the British Canoe Union can be found on the B.C.U. Calendar, published in March.

The General Secretary,
The British Canoe Union,
70 Brompton Road,
London SW3 1DT
Tel: 01-584-9229

THE BCU LOOKS AHEAD

Development Project Group unveils its plans for the future

It is our firm belief that if the future development of canoeing in this country is to be on sound lines, it must be club based. The B.C.U. must, therefore, plan for the time when it can again be a union of clubs rather than an association of individual members. Investigation suggests, however, that the time is not now ripe to turn to a club structure of membership — too many clubs are not sufficiently well established to provide the necessary secure basis.

Our immediate objects would seem to be:

- 1 To support the existing clubs and promote new ones;
- 2 To secure the sound development of all branches of canoeing in this country and to safeguard canoeists' rights;
- 3 To ensure that good services are efficiently provided for all members at national and regional levels;
- 4 To mount a new drive for membership in order that the majority of canoeists in this country are in some way associated with the governing body of the sport.

Improved Administration

All four aims are dependent on an effective secretariat and we feel that every effort must be made to establish this as soon as possible. Members expect and should receive good and prompt service and with present arrangements are not able to obtain it.

On the administrative side, we recommend the immediate appointment of:

— A Secretary (Secretary-General)

who will take over-all the responsibility for the management of the B.C.U. He will represent the B.C.U. at meetings with other bodies and will, in the first instance, be responsible for 'promotional work' (See Accompanying chart).

— An Office Manager will control the office, which will serve all divisions, committees and officers as well as look after membership, supplies, information and advisory services and routine coaching administration. It is hoped that the help thus offered to Specialist Committees will ease the administrative burden of honorary officers.

Additional office staff will also be necessary to carry out this extra work load, and will need to be complemented by adequate office equipment. At a later date it is expected that an Administration Manager will be appointed to head the Administrative Division and the Union may wish to employ an accountant and a legal officer.

One other very important aspect of the work of the Secretariat concerns 'Field Development' and this also, we feel, should receive urgent attention. We recommend that the office of Director of Coaching and Field Development Manager be combined at once, until such time that a separate Field Development Manager can be appointed. (The Director of Coaching can be relieved of routine work connected with the administration of the Coaching Scheme whilst retaining executive control over it). He should take over responsibility for national access work.

It is intended that the Field Development Division should guide

EDITOR

Jack Levison,
11 Martindale Grove,
Egglescliffe,
Stockton-on-Tees
Cleveland TS61 9DL

Editorial Staff: Eileen Levison
Peter Dawson

Canoeing in Britain is published in March, June, September and December, by Ocean Publications Ltd, 14 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PQ (01-834-3511/3430). Comments, articles, photographs and reports are welcomed, and should arrive by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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the steady growth of all aspects of canoeing in all parts of the country. Thus an important innovation which we recommend is the appointment of two full-time Regional Development Officers, with the possibility of three more being chosen in the following year. These will represent the B.C.U. in the regions and will play a vital part in initiating canoeing developments there — particularly the formation of clubs where none now exists.

Their liaison work will bring them into contact with existing canoe clubs, local education authorities, youth organisations and regional and local sports councils; they will be able to negotiate and advise on matters of access. It is hoped that they will be able to promote more regional canoeing activities and thus may assist the development of all branches of canoeing, to suit all tastes. As a further function they could act as Area Coaching Co-ordinators, thus relieving existing Coaching Organisers of much of their administrative and secretarial work.

The accompanying chart summarises the proposals relating to the Secretariat and it will be seen that they are to be implemented over a number of years. Careful appraisal will need to be given each year to see how the plan, if accepted, progresses and there must be sufficient flexibility to allow necessary adjustments to be made. If it is agreed that more emphasis should be placed on the role of the clubs in canoeing, consideration will need to be given to the correct time for moving towards a changed membership structure.

Financial budgets have been prepared for the 6 years to 31st. October 1980 in which the various

stages in our recommendations have been costed. These budgets have been based on an annual growth rate of 15 per cent in membership. Also included are additional grants computed on the basis of the new rulings about to be adopted by the Sports Council. To keep the Union in surplus, increased subscriptions are essential from the 1st. November 1974 and we recommend the following rates:

- Full Members £2.50 (including 10% VAT)
- Youth Members £1.50 (including 10% VAT)
- Family Members £0.50 (including 10% VAT)
- Affiliated Members £5.50 (including 10% VAT).

It is envisaged that a membership entrance fee will be charged to cover the cost of improved initial services to new members; membership will be encouraged in the latter months of the financial year if subscriptions run for 12 months from the date of joining.

Benefits

How do we expect that such changes will benefit our members?:

- a We have recommended that 'Canoeing in Britain' be produced bi-monthly (and that the possibilities of it being published monthly should be examined at a later date).
- b. Services offered by the B.C.U. Headquarters will be efficiently provided and increased in scope.
- c Practical assistance and advice should be available at the regional level. There will be increased opportunities to take part in additional events and courses.
- d By easing the secretarial burden of honorary officers of the Union,

the Specialist Committees of the B.C.U. should be able to operate more effectively and, we trust, offer improved service to members.

- e Improved representation at national and regional levels. We should be better able to negotiate over questions of access, for example, both nationally and regionally.

Steps now to be taken

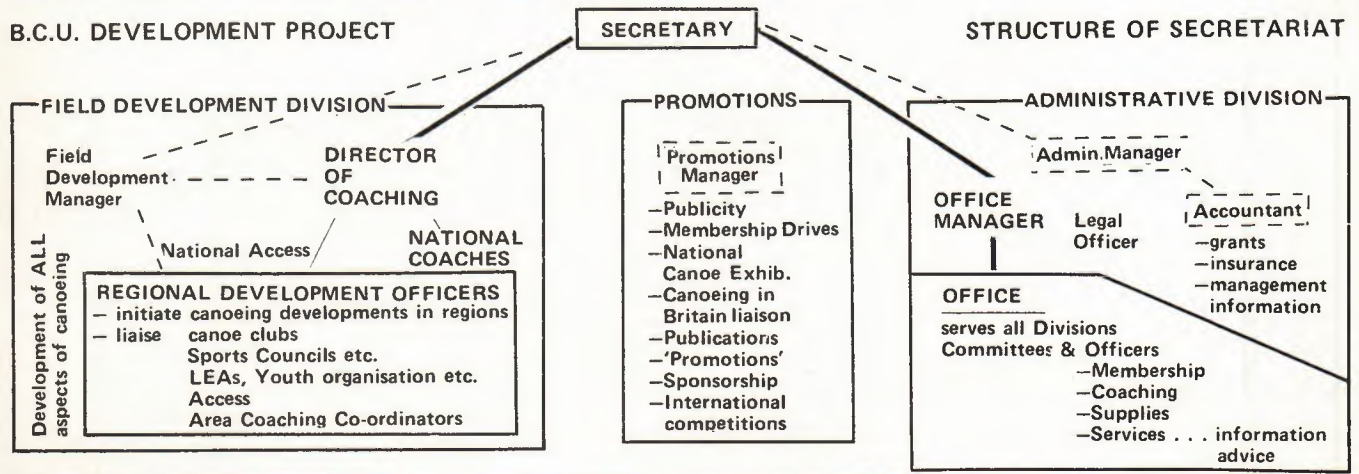
These main recommendations of the D.P.G. are to be submitted to B.C.U. Council at their meeting on September 21st. Additional points (e.g. committee structure, location of H.Q.) are still being examined by the D.P.G. and will also be presented, but these are subsidiary to and dependent on the acceptance of the proposals outlined above.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE B.C.U. ARE NOW REQUESTED TO CONSIDER OUR SUGGESTIONS VERY CAREFULLY INDEED, and are invited to communicate their views to a member of the B.C.U. Council so that they can be voiced at the meeting of Council. Alternatively they may write to the Chairman of Council (G. Sanders, 4 Barston Lane, Solihull, Warwicks. B91 2SS) who will firstly show letters to the D.P.G. and then give them to a member of Council who is not a member of the D.P.G., in order to present them at the Council meeting as appropriate.

If the Council accepts the proposals, they will then be brought forward, in terms of relevant motions, to general meetings of the Union.

- R. J. Jones;
- C. B. Manton;
- E. J. Owen;
- G. Sanders.

B.C.U. DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



STAGES Immediate

- A — 1. Office Manager + appointment of additional office staff as necessary. (4 extra ?)
- Target 6 Years 2. Appt. of Secretary to take over:
 - 'promotions'
 - representative work
 - over-all responsibility for management of B.C.U.
 - Sports Council Grants
 - serves Council+Competitions Comm.
- B — 3. Director of Coaching takes over FIELD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION Admin. routine of Coaching Scheme removed.
- 4. Appt. of 2 Regional Development Officers

LATER STAGES

- C — 3 more Regional Development Officers
 - Accountant
 - Promotions Officer
 - D — Field Development Manager
 - E — Admin. Manager.
- Adjustment as required

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Dispute on the Spey

After ten days of evidence by fishermen, canoeists and historians, Lord Maxwell in a 20,000 word judgement in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, has rejected a move which sought to prevent Cairngorm Canoeing and Sailing School, Ltd., or their pupils, from canoeing or attempting to navigate by canoe, or land on that part of the Spey which passes through the Ballindalloch and Knockando Estates. It is interesting to note that the Trustees of the latter estate all live in the south of England and their spokesman in Court, Mr. Joseph Burrell, has never been to Knockando.

Lord Maxwell said the Spey was one of the finest salmon angling rivers in Scotland and many of the private beats, including Knockando, fetched considerable rents. The School's season for canoeing was confined to about 12 weeks in the summer. The river was also visited by canoeists from all parts of Britain. Some of these, like the School's parties, were in well organised and controlled groups who endeavoured to cause as little disturbance to other interests as possible. Unfortunately, there were others who were less particular in this respect. The canoeists maintained that the public had a right in law to canoe down the Spey, whilst the angling interests denied any such right.

Lord Maxwell held that there was a public right of navigation on the whole of the Spey, including Knockando, and rejected an argument by the Trustees that even if there was a public right, this did not extend to canoeists. He went on to say that it followed that evidence relating to alleged potential damage by canoeists to the fishing was irrelevant. If there was a public right of navigation, he thought the risks of damage must be accepted by the fishing proprietors, but he was not prepared to accept that this damage would be much more than minimal. If there was no public right of navigation then the canoeists could be excluded irrespective of proof of potential

damage.

After hearing the evidence of some 10 ghillies working on the Spey, and several well known salmon fishermen, he was of the opinion that taking one day with another and one season with another, repeated passage of canoes through a salmon fishing beat was likely to have some adverse effect on the catch which was more than minimal, but he did not find it possible to be more precise, or put it stronger than that.

An Appeal has been made against this decision, which is likely to be heard in the Autumn. In the meantime, canoeing can continue on the Spey as before, but there are two points I should like to make clear.

Whatever the outcome of the case, it will not affect any members of the public canoeing the Spey, including the Knockando stretch, because this action was taken against the School. To stop individuals they would have to take out interdicts against every individual coming down the river. Nor will it affect my School operating on the rest of the Spey outside Knockando waters.

It is clear, however, that in order to maintain the respect most canoeists have for other people's sport, we as canoeists should make every effort not to upset or disturb the fishermen or the pool he happens to be fishing. Two complaints often heard from fishermen are a mass line-abreast invasion of a pool without warning, and then playing in the rapid at the head of the pool. I feel there are plenty of places where white-water practice can be obtained on a river trip without doing it under the nose of a fisherman, and it takes very little effort to move into line astern to slip quietly past a fisherman after warning him of your presence. I would ask every individual to make a special effort to avoid making these mistakes.

The result of the case so far has been good, but it should be noted that this is a test case for the Spey and other rivers could well be viewed differently. I feel fortunate that the Spey has been used for transport, and been regarded as a public river for so long. It could be that rivers like the Tay and the Dee might be regarded in a similar light. Certainly, if Lord Maxwell's decision is upheld in Appeal, it will create a precedent for Scottish rivers.

A final word about costs. Although costs have been awarded to us, this could be reversed with the outcome of the Appeal, and we still need to find money to pay for the legal expenses so far. Our Appeal Fund is still in existence at the Bank of Scotland, Aviemore, where cash or guarantees of money if needed will be very gratefully received. We have to find not less than £4,000, of which we have so far raised about £600. Any money left after expenses are paid will be sent to the B.C.U. and S.C.A. for use in future actions of a similar kind.

R. EDEN — LAZENBY TO ARMATHWAITE WEIR

Some details were published in March concerning access to the above stretch of the Eden. Further points to note are that access should be near the bridge at Lazenby from Mr. T. Fetherstonhaugh's land on the right or Sir Gerald Ley's land on the left. Vehicles must not be taken into fields, or down the private road leading to Mill Farm at the egress point.

Egress is on the left bank just above Armathwaite Weir, between a small stream and the sill of the weir. Canoeists may start at daybreak, but must be clear of the water by 5.00 p.m.

Permission has not been obtained for the stretch of river from Armathwaite Weir to a point 65 yards behind the bridge (about 1,000 yards in all). The owner of the fishery rights (*not* the riparian owner) has threatened to prosecute any canoeist found on his water.

Sir Gerald Ley, Bart. T.D., of Lazenby Hall, near Penrith, the principal owner between Lazenby and Armathwaite Weir, who has been most helpful, requires a postcard to inform him simply, after 1st July, when people are coming and how many in order that, as owner of the water, he may be kept informed of the various activities. He will not reply and does not wish to be troubled with letters and telephone calls.

Mr. E. B. Totty of Craigmuir, High Knott Road, Arnside, Westmorland, via Carnforth, Lancashire, Tel. Arnside 761620, who is the Liaison Officer, will supply details if required, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

CANOE CAMPING CLUB

The annual Easter do, run by the Canoe Camping Club, went to the Wye. Due to the popularity of the river (and the event as a social gathering), the club had to limit the trip to members only.

It was nice to see on the water Ralph Tyas (for many years organiser of the event), Kathleen Toothill ever-active President of the C.C.C., and David Hirschfeld, who has retired as a canoe manufacturer but not as a canoeist. I hope I am still going it at 75! I wonder how many Easter meets out of the 41 he has attended?

The trip covered the section from Hereford to Chepstow, a total of 66 miles, both the company and the river were as wonderful as ever. Over 100 attended and the evenings as always were spent chatting about trips past and future.

R.B.
(Anyone wishing to contact the Canoe Camping Club can do so c/o the Editor).

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

We are confident that the V-Bars and U-Bars that we manufacture for the transport of canoes do so quite safely, provided they are used in a reasonable manner.

You refer especially (C. in B. Dec. 1973) to our shockcord straps as being insufficient attachment for the canoe. We believe them to be quite adequate provided a) The car is driven at a reasonable speed, b) That the owner checks regularly for wear, which is bound to occur eventually, and c) That common sense is used about extra tying in very bad weather.

For over ten years we have carried our own canoes in all weathers up and down the motorways, and have yet to experience the type of accident you describe.

I think, if the circumstances of the accidents you mention were to be examined more thoroughly you would make one or more of the following discoveries:

- a) The basic ladder bars were not properly fitted to the car.
- b) The car was being driven at an excessive speed,
- c) The weather was very windy and precautions were not taken,
- d) The owner had lost the original shockcord straps and had replaced them with an inferior type available from shops.

We agree with Mrs. Baker that it is a good idea to tie down the canoe bow and stern to the car bumper. Unfortunately we can't do this for our customers, we can't even meet each one and recommend the measure. We can only hope that they value their safety and that of their canoes enough to take these additional elementary precautions.

Diana M. Lawler,
Lawler Engineering Ltd.

Dear Sir,

Your correspondents, including the B.C.U. Director of Coaching, seem determined to miss the point of my letters regarding the B.C.U. approved BS 3595 Lifejacket.

I raised the matter because, in many cases, it is a condition of employment, for canoeing instructors, that this garment be worn, both by them and their

pupils. If it was generally considered, by the wearers to be a desirable lifejacket, there would be no argument, everyone would wear one. The fact is, though, that most canoeists only use the jacket if obliged to, and change to a buoyancy aid at the first opportunity.

Oliver Cock would have us believe that this is the action of a "spoilt child" and Mr. Good, while admitting surprise at "the strength and depth of feeling against lifejackets" does not appear to admit the possibility that such feeling could be based on sound reasoning. In the face of such feeling, the official view that the B.S.I. approved Lifejackets' use should be obligatory, implies that it is significantly superior to a buoyancy aid, in its use as an aid to survival when swimming down a river.

Your contributors, including Oliver Cock, all seem obsessed by the irrelevant fact that an inflated lifejacket will prevent an unconscious person drowning — none explain how an unconscious person can blow his lifejacket up.

Mr. Good says that he personally will "take a chance on being knocked out" when wearing a buoyancy aid, thereby demonstrating that he is misinformed about the capabilities of an uninflated lifejacket — it just will not do the things he mentions. In this situation he considers he would be better off wearing a lifejacket. Unless it is inflated he wouldn't.

Mr. Dickin also tells us what an inflated jacket will do. Canoeists do not and cannot wear them inflated, and, again, I can only suggest that if he thinks he could blow up a lifejacket in a Grade IV or V rapid he should try it.

While I sympathise with the Director of Coaching's concern for Africans, and high standards of lifejacket manufacture I do not see its relevance to the present argument.

He thinks that the B.S.I. Lifejacket is "adequately buoyant, comfortable, unobstructive and easily and securely fastened." I, and many others, don't. He asks if a buoyancy aid will allow you, as a lifejacket will, to be lifted out of the water by it if you weigh 500 lb. Of course it won't, but if that is

considered to be a reason for wearing a lifejacket there must be a shortage of good ones — how many 500 lb. canoeists are there?

Wearing a lifejacket and a buoyancy aid at the same time, even in a blizzard, as Mr. Cock states he did, would seem to indicate a lack of faith in both articles, as well as a disregard for his own safety. What about being stuck in the stopper he mentioned with that lot on?

The crux of the argument appears to be in the obvious confusion about what an uninflated B.S.I. approved lifejacket is supposed to do. The fact is that it is not required, by the B.S.I. tests, to do anything a good buoyancy aid will not do, and this cannot be changed by referring to the properties of an inflated jacket which, for practical canoeing purposes, in a river, are irrelevant.

The British Standards Institution is an excellent organisation but has not standards applicable to canoeists needs. A white water canoeist does not need an inflatable jacket, so why cannot some standards be set that are applicable, and acceptable to Education Authorities, and coroners too, if that's the way your mind works.

The B.S.I. Publication on Life Saving Jackets, says, in its introduction that it is assumed that once people are in the water, be they canoeists, dockyard workers or yachtsmen their "predicament then become identical." However, the additional buoyancy required for safety in the aerated water of a rapid appears to be significantly more than that required in sea water or a calm river. A canoeist is likely to need to swim, efficiently. There is every chance of being parted from, or having to part from, your boat in extensive heavy water. As for having to swim down, anyone who has tried will know which type of garment is most suitable for the purpose, though I find it difficult to believe that anyone under very turbulent water has the slightest idea of the direction of up and down. So, a canoeist needs a garment which adequately supplements his natural buoyancy without restricting his movements or capabilities in anyway. He must be able to put it on and forget about it.

Mr. Cock, incidentally, must have inside information on the British Standards Institution. References in their official publication to consider-

ations of variations in individual specific gravity, suggest that this is not a significant factor according to Mr. Cock. It matters, though not apparently to the B.S.I.

The argument that an uninflated lifejacket will preserve the life of an unconscious person does not stand up to even cursory examination, and so it would be better for everyone concerned if it was admitted that no special provision, in the way of buoyancy, can be made for canoeists who become unconscious.

With the red-herring finally recognised for what it is, a realistic B.S.I. specification for buoyancy aids could be worked out, and the kite mark affixed to a suitable jacket which most importantly, people would want to wear. The official mind would then be at ease. Canoeists would be able to get on with canoeing without the threat of official condemnation hanging over them, and without that ridiculous bag of polyurethane foam, hung like an albatross round their necks.

Musselburgh J. M. Hunt

Dear Sir,

I should like to raise a couple of points arising out of your last batch of letters on lifejackets.

I was taught that any canoeing party should be under the leadership of a competent person and should consist of at least three people (in an emergency — one to fetch help, one to stay with the body and one to be the body). A competent leader would not take a party far from land if they were not capable of doing a self rescue with all three starting off in the water, and so if the rules are obeyed, I find it hard to envisage a situation where a swimmer would need to be in the water for the periods of time suggested by Mr. Dickin.

Turning now to the other extreme of heavy rapids on a river: as one of our more experienced white water swimmers, I have learned that the best way to minimise injury is to swim downstream head first, face downwards, and on meeting rocks near the surface to walk over them with the hands, leaving the legs to float out behind as near the surface as possible. I can think of nothing less likely to aid survival than a lifejacket designed to turn a swimmer on his back and then offer no protection to this base of spine or back except at the neck.

Oliver Cock's point

letters continued

about taking 30 seconds to put a B.C.U. approved lifejacket on properly was interesting but I think the time taken to remove a lifejacket is more important. I use an old Harishok with velcro side seam and no belt, and estimate that in an emergency I could rip it off in 3 or 4 seconds. I have memories of standing by the side of Scottish rivers in the middle of winter wearing a B.C.U. lifejacket, picking away with numb fingers for 5 or 10 minutes at a knot of wet webbing which had been a bow when I tied it. Then, it was infuriating. To a canoeist performing vertical circles in a stopper or caught up underwater with the branches of a tree snagged in the straps of his lifejacket, it would be a very different story. "When I find myself standing in front of the coroner, have I got all the right answers?" to quote Mr. Cock. Hartley Wintney.

Stuart Fisher.

Dear Sir,

I have used the B.C.U./B.S.I. lifejacket for many years, in slalom and at sea. I am certain that anybody prepared to give it an unbiased and extended trial will soon find it both unobstructive and comfortable.

Oliver admits it is not warm. But surely warmth is provided by what one wears under it. A windproof anorak is essential for any exposed canoeing, and the B.C.U. jacket is better suited to wearing over such a garment than most buoyancy aids. It permits access to pockets, which is important in sea canoeing, and also it covers the chest, permitting centre-zip anoraks to be worn without wind or water entering through the zip.

The jacket holds a swimmer comfortably in a position where swimming backstroke is restful, so that even when very tired progress can be made towing one's equipment towards the shore.

I agree with G. Good, that experienced paddlers are welcome to change to buoyancy aids for inland waters and for surfing, but I consider all beginners should be started in B.C.U./B.S.I. type life jackets, and I also believe that expedition leaders owe it to their charges to be similarly equipped.

Portland P. J. Hewitt.

(The Safety Committee has

been asked to produce a report on lifejackets, which will take the form of a comparison of the two types of garment, bringing out the pro's and con's of each. The report, already in draft form, will shortly be submitted to the National Coaching Committee. Editor).

Dear Mr. Levison,

I hope soon to build a Sea Hawk — if I can get in — and do sea-canoeing. This requires a spare paddle. I wondered if this idea of mine would be of interest to readers — all ideas need a critical eye on them. Instead of splitting the paddle shaft in the middle, have the blade removable, but held in by elastic, or a spring, and located in one of two holes or slots. This would allow it to lie flat on the deck, and it would be available for immediate use. I envisage something like the bayonet fitting on a light bulb. One of the two slots would give a square paddle, for stowing; the other a feathered paddle.

Norwich. George Allen.

Dear Sir,

I would like to point out an argument against canoeists practising eskimo rolling in a swimming pool on their own. I was recently teaching a boy the pawlata roll. Half way through attempting the roll he got stomach cramp and fell back in. Fortunately it was not a too severe attack: he managed to get out of his canoe unaided and I helped him to the side. The key point here was that there was help at hand: however, if this had been a severe attack and if he had been on his own, there is more than a chance of his being unable to bale out of his canoe and reach the side.

Blackburn Andrew Parker (Stonyhurst C.C.)

Dear Sir,

Re. Wharnccliffe Slalom, I travelled from Derby to the aforementioned slalom, only to find that it had been cancelled several weeks earlier. I met some-one there who had travelled down from Durham.

I feel that if a slalom is advertised in the canoeing calendar, every possible effort should be made to ensure that a cancellation is more widely publicised.

Sudbury George Hodgson

Dear Sir,

I noticed the date of the Bude National Canoe Surfing Championships for

1974 14th and 15th September, and this reminded me of the change that has taken place at these meets over the last few years.

Not very long ago we had a surfing WEEK at Bude, which has slowly reduced to just a weekend for the competition. I think this is a pity, as I'm sure there are many people like myself who are not wholly convinced that surfing is a competitive sport anyway. Surfing is for fun and it's a pity if this element is lost.

Can I make a plea for the revival of the Bude Surfing Week?

I've had a week at Bude every September for several years now and always enjoyed it. This year a group of us propose to spend from Sat. 7th Sept until the finals on the Sunday, 15th September at Bude and we cordially invite anyone interested in surfing to join us. The surf can be excellent at Bude, and even poor surf means time for a natter.

Certain rude persons have suggested that I'm far better at the latter than I am at surfing! Who cares? I hope to do both at Bude this September!

F. R. Goodman

(Anyone interested in making a week of it canoeing/camping at Bude can contact Frank Goodman at Valley Canoe Products Ltd., Private Road 4, Colwick Estate, Nottingham. Details of Canoe Surfing Championships can be obtained from C. Scott, Mount Green, Rose, Truro, Cornwall).

Truro, Cornwall).

Dear Sir,

It is regretted that we must communicate with the B.C.U. Slalom Committee in this manner, but we feel in the circumstances it is the only possible way.

In December a directive was received from Mr. Pendleton informing us that we cannot run a ranking event in 1974. A letter was immediately sent to Mr. Pendleton requesting further details and asking why we had not been consulted before the decision was made, as we were then unaware that anything was wrong. Two months later the following sentence appeared in the B.C.U. Slalom Committee minutes "Guildford Canoe Club" were most annoyed that we refused ranking status to their 1974 event. The Executive, however, did not feel that there were any grounds for altering their decision."

We are annoyed, not so much by the decision, but by the way it was made. We ask ourselves, can the B.C.U. Slalom Committee function sensibly in this manner?

S. J. Penfound
Honorary Secretary

* Presumably this should read "Guildford Canoeists". Mark Markham comments: The Slalom and W.W. Racing Committee decided on 2nd December, 1973 that the application by Guildford for a Div. 4/Novices slalom in 1974 would be refused because of complaints about the 1973 event and in particular that their results were so late that the publication of Div. 4 Ranking lists was held up.

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CANOE TOURING

We look back with nostalgia — and glance at a few aspects of touring today.

The mainstay of canoeing in the British Isles, touring is very much alive, but the form has changed since the days when you popped your folding canoe and pram wheels on the train, and chuffed off for a week's pioneering on the Lark or the Wye.

It has been my experience that a baby of 3 months can enjoy a trip in a canoe, and I have met many people who canoed well into their 60's, so it can safely be described as the attraction of a lifetime.

I remember well my first associations with some of the stalwarts of the sport. Maurice Rothwell, now B.C.U. Film Officer, the man whose generous, tireless, chain-smoking help towards all has so enriched the scene. Oliver Cock, whose spirited acting in the first B.C.U. how-to-go-canoeing films now has the vintage quality of Buster Keaton, and who became the B.C.U. National Coach, and is now Director of Coaching, who taught us in the early days of coaching to canoe upstream, because that way you learned what the river was doing.

I can still picture Kathleen Toothill charging down the Lune wearing a plastic mac and washing up gloves whilst negotiating the rapids with uncanny skill, and Eric Totty, the man behind the Leven Wild Water Test in Lakeland, who could paddle with unbelievable speed, for ever, whilst never making a splash. But enough of characters. — what of the boats of yesteryear? Great names roll off the tongue — P.B.K., standing for Percy Blandford Kayaks from this prolific designer, Sport Kestrel, Sport Dipper, Tyne JS Mk. 6 — the forerunner of the modern slalom designs. Talk then was of Keels, Formers, Ribbing Strips, Back Rests (!) Canvas, Rubberised fabric, Press Studs, Rudders, Lee Boards, Masts and Sails! We paddled folders, or built our own canoes, first the skeleton of marine ply and parana pine, with hundreds of brittle brass screws, then the canvas, and when you tore this on a rock, you set fire to it to dry the place where the patch was to go, a delicate operation. Canadian Canoes were popular because, being open decked, you simply had to upturn the boat at night and there was a ready made tent — anyone tried it in a modern C2? I wonder.

A thought for the waters we used to regularly cruise on with no problems of access. As I thumb through the much neglected "Guide to the Waterways of the British Isles", I am always impressed by the dedication of former enthusiasts who

went to such trouble in 1936 to compile what could be called the Tourist's Bible.

How the standards have changed! The Wye was regarded as a fast river all the way down to Chepstow, and if you had managed to shoot "Hack Fall" on the Ure you had really arrived! The "Strid" was an impossible death trap, and many of the falls and weirs which are now shot by the raw beginner were portaged by all, care of one's boat being the important thing. Believe it or not, we actually went between the rocks instead of over them as is the fashion today.

I well remember Jack Allan, a very keen canoeist who couldn't swim a stroke. You can see him as he was then on this month's cover. Whenever he capsized (which wasn't often) he would cling onto his boat till rescued. There were no lifejackets in the 50's — we were still waiting for Oliver to sew two air pillows together, thereby designing the first B.C.U. Jacket. They didn't cost much and were quite effective too.

Winter canoeing hadn't been thought of, and a "wet suit" was something entirely different from what we understand by the name today. I was going to finish by relating my first winter trip down the Wharfe wearing a pair of long wellies, but some of the language which was heard when the hull split on an iron spike couldn't be put into print.

A slalomist may strive for the perfect run, the White Water racer thrill to the fastest line down a difficult rapid, the surfing canoeist may gain in skill until he can tackle the largest waves with confidence, and the sprint canoeist strip seconds from a certain distance by constant training, but even with all these branches, the sport would be very narrow if the web of touring was not inextricably woven into the history of the British Canoe Union.

LOOKING AHEAD

Most clubs organise their own tours, both in this country and abroad, with one member of the party each day as duty driver bringing back canoes and canoeists at the end of the run. Sea touring is on the increase, bringing culture to lonely and uninhabitable places, and demanding a high degree of competence in boat control and navigation. Camping is popular, the gear carried more often in the car rather than in the canoe these days.

The novice is advised to get in touch with the nearest open clubs to see if they offer the type of canoeing he wants. The B.C.U. General Secretary can help with addresses. Some of the big clubs e.g. Manchester, have members from a wide area, and the Kayak Touring Club and Canoe Camping Club are worth contacting.

International Tours and Rallies in which you can join area organised

each year in Europe, and details of these events are available from the B.C.U. Touring Committee Secretary, Ralph Tyas, 19 Pine Hill, Epsom, Surrey. Don't forget to enclose a S.A.E.

In Britain, because of access difficulties, River Advisers have been appointed, who should be contacted before a proposed trip is undertaken. Their addresses are given on the B.C.U. Calendar, published in March. Copies may be obtained from the B.C.U. General Secretary, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1DT.

CANOEING — LIZ AND TONY SEGAL

Canoe camping is a hazardous sport. The toilet is situated in a remote corner of the campsite among tall thistles, and consists of a hessian screen supported on four shaky poles. The hole in the ground has specially prepared sloping muddy sides; this is to develop the strong ankles and good sense of balance essential for canoeists.

A small nylon tent is fashionable, the smaller the tent the higher the status of the occupants. Even Brigette Bardot would not make a second night tolerable in our tent. A wet-suit is a necessity for winter canoeing, but no-one has shown us a method of removing a wet-suit in a small tent on a rainy day. Despite the enormous load-carrying capacity of a touring-double, the equipment always overfills the available space. The gear packed in the bow compartment can jam the rudder-bar. To get it clear you sit on the front seat, put both feet on the baggage, and shove with all your might.

The day's paddle is cleverly organized to reach a pub at lunch-time. The first day we had delicious chicken in a basket, so our sandwiches went stale. The second day, we arrived at the pub carrying one apple each to find a coachload of fishermen had eaten all the food excepting for some packets of crisps. One gets bad-tempered paddling all day on three packets of crisps and an apple.

Paddling a double has its problems. The wife, in front, has control of the steering and rate of strike. All very well, until a pleasure steamer nearly runs us down, or we head directly for the pier of a bridge. Matters are not helped by the comments of friends overtaking us, "What makes you think he is working in the back?" Our canoe is dry and lifts well to waves. However, if two waves follow in quick succession the bow falls off from the first wave and cuts straight through the second wave, drenching the wife paddling in front.

The pay-off, after a hard day in the open, is to pitch camp in a wet field, make a hot supper, and fall asleep snug in a sleeping bag to the gentle tap-tapping of the rain on the fly-sheet.

CANOE TOURING



Derek Hutchinson shows how he prepares his kayak for a sea-touring journey.



1. Handy rear deck hatch gives access to waterproof compartment. Derek loads food for the expedition in screw-top plastic containers. Stove and suchlike go here too.



2. Circular hatch cover is secured to kayak with string to prevent loss, and is locked down. Goodies inside, not required during journey, are protected from contact with evil waves.



3. Now the rear deck can be loaded. Spare paddles go on first, held fast by cunning arrangement of elastic ropes fixed to deck. Don't forget that the more you put on deck, the harder the canoe will be to roll if you capsize.



4. Tow line (which can be seen attached to stern and coiled round cleat near cockpit) is adjusted over the top of the spare paddles for easy access.



5. On goes the fishing line. Freshly caught dinner makes a pleasant change from tinned food when you camp for the night.



6. The sea is a big place, and even bright yellow or orange canoes are difficult to spot when only a few hundred yards away. Derek fixes distress flares on the deck just aft of the cockpit, in case of emergency.



7. First aid equipment goes in the waterproof screw-top plastic container, marked with a red cross. This fits in space behind seat.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Eastern NPG Gel Coat

The Mad River Canoe Company of Vermont, USA is using a gel coat based on Eastman NPG glycol to finish its range of four canoes and one kayak. The gel coat helps to resist underwater blistering and to reduce fading and chalking of colours on the reinforced fibreglass hull surfaces.

The hulls of all five boats are constructed of all-cloth layup made with polyester resin. The construction includes no matt or roving to add weight, a technique that gives rigidity to the hull while allowing it to flex on impact.

Corps gets Kiss of Life

After a period in the doldrums, the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards is showing signs of renewed vigour, writes new secretary, Bernard Apps. They have just completed this year's first National Training Weekend.

An unfortunate omission on the Calendar was the C.O.C.L.G. Secretary's name and address, sorry, all you people who wanted to know about the Corps for your Senior Instructor assessments, here it is:

Bernard Apps,
9 Beechwood Close,
Crays Pond,
Reading, Berks.

You can join the Corps for 28p, and their Manual which is now in its third edition, recently updated, costs £1.00, (£1.25p for non-members) plus 10p postage. It gives details of the Corps itself, canoes and their handling, teaching techniques, awards and tests, rescue techniques, first aid, etc.

CORRECTION

In our March issue we stated in Club Chat that John Greenfields was being sponsored by Gaybo in his Colorado trip. We are now informed by Gaybo that our information was not in fact correct. We apologise

Sprint Racing Committee Raffle

Organiser Jane Rowse asks us to print the result of the draw at the Crystal Palace Canoe Exhibition in late February. Thanks are expressed to all who helped sell tickets, especially to the young lady who broke her ankle whilst working for the cause.

£30 prize, Mrs. Ingham (collected at draw); £15 Mr. Dance (collected at draw); £5 V. Hartley (Aylesbury); Canoeing Magazine (1 yr); Mr. & Mrs. Weatherall (London W.3.); White Water Magazine (1 yr); C. Hartridge (Windsor C.C.); £1 prizes to R. Hester (Hove) and R. T. Tyas, (Birmingham); P & H. Crash Hat, A. C. Evans (Kings Norton); £1 prizes to Robinson (Wintney); R. Fuller (Bedford), F. W. Brown (Old Coulsdon), J. Froneis (Horsham), D. Gloss (Hayes) and Mrs Manton (Bracknell).



TRADE NEWS

LENDAL are pleased to announce that they have now completed their new showroom (see above) which is stocked with a comprehensive range of canoes, canoe accessories as well as their own range of canoe paddles.

The modern factory covers some six and a half thousand square feet and has been equipped with advanced machinery to greatly increase the production output of the paddles while still maintaining the very high quality of workmanship. This space now includes a section which is involved with the development of future models.



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To cater for the camping/touring canoeist, P. & H. Fibreglass Products have, over the last six to eight months, developed a series of four kayaks, specifically for this purpose. For canoeists aged from 6 years old to adults, there is one double and three single kayaks to choose from, allowing for all tastes and sizes. The basis of the range are the three 'TOURER' kayaks and the 'VIVA'.

The 'JUNIOR TOURER', length 10', width 20" is suited for the 6-12 year old girl or boy, and being small and light can be easily handled by the child without assistance. The 'TOURER 1' length 13'2", width 24" is a stable and comfortable touring kayak, the large seat and cockpit rim give ease of entry and exit. 'TOURER II' has been specially designed to be buoyant, fast and manoeuvrable, yet remains exceptionally stable under all conditions and is equally suitable for one adult and one child, two adults or two children.

With a length of 13'9" and a beam of 24", the VIVA is very stable yet retains a high degree of manoeuvrability combined with high touring speeds in great comfort. The VIVA features a slightly smaller cockpit and very pleasing lines and is equally at home on inland waters, estuaries or the open sea. All these kayaks feature 'failsafe' footrests and end toggles.

VALLEY CANOE

Over two years ago, Valley Canoe Products designed their Chevron buoyancy aid that was in fact the first part of the Chevron-duo Life-jacket. Unfortunately the Duo part of the system presented some severe production difficulties and although this second stage should have been available two years ago, the final solution to the problem has only just been achieved.

Valley Canoe Products are putting the Chevron-duo onto the market this summer. This is fundamentally a Chevron plus an added inflatable halter that remains folded flat when not required. By this means canoeists already wearing Chevrons can convert to a life-jacket if they wish by purchasing the second part only.

COMPETITION DEVICES - WESTMINSTER CANOE RACE 1974

Senior Class	
1 A. K. Alan-Williams/R. J. Dyke Royal Marine C.F.	19.43.25
2 D. Parnham/M. Croft (Borough Road College)	20.44.11
3 J. Bulbeck/B. Smith (21 SAS (Artists) C.C.)	20.51.10
Junior Class	
1 I. White/S. Booth (Sussex Police Cadets)	18.38.42
2 N. Clarke/S. Shepherd (Wey K.C.)	18.49.47
3 D. C. Powell/O. Harding (Wey K.C.)	18.54.34

APPLETREEWICK SALLOM 16/17 March

Team Event	
1 Aberdeen U. (Imrie/Milne/	

McRobbie)	300
2 Manchester A. (Blundell/Taylor/Wilson)	410
3 Leeds Z (Locke/Beerzins/Hodgson)	456
Judges Event	
1 D. Burkinshaw (Don Val)	154
2 Cuthill (Forth)	159
3 M. Jones (Bham. U)	165
C1s	
C1s	
1 M. Phillip (Devas)	190
2 J. Elliott (Leeds)	203
3 D. Denton (Leeds Poly)	217
C2s	
1 Thornley/Bradley (Tees)	218
2 Pearson/Simpson (Manchester)	227
2nd Div. Men	
1 P. Woof (Lakeland)	75.5
2 Y I. P. Freestone (N'hampton)	78.4
3 Y C. Wilson (Manchester)	78.4
Ladies	
1 S. Burkinshaw (Don Val)	93.3
2 Liz Rickerby	97.1
3 A. Robinson (Bham Univ)	103.4

LEVEN WILD WATER TEST 17th March

K1 Men R.R.R.	
1 N. Jackson (Grappenhall)	6.05
2 D. Arundale (Grappenhall)	6.25
K1 Men Slalom	
1 H. Paskley (Sheffield)	7.11
2 S. Howard (Sheffield)	7.19
3 K. Rooker (Sheffield)	7.20
C1 (R)	
1 J. Goodwin (Staff. & Stone)	7.10
2 T. J. Cook (Manchester)	9.15
K1 Ladies R.R.R.	
1 P. Goodwin (Staff. & Stone)	6.26
K1 Ladies Slalom	
1 S. Hornby (Deptford S)	10.28

CALENDAR AMENDMENTS

JUNE 22/23 East Mersea Run, Kayak Touring Club, R. Honnor, 3 Valley Side, Chingford, London E.4	Slalom (not Swarkestone) Midland C.C. Entries to J. Curwen, 10 Oak Drive, Doveridge, Derby (Not J. White).
JULY 13-14 Frinton-on-Sea, Kayak Touring Club.	JULY 13-14 Chester Weir Slalom (Not 27-28 July).
JULY 13-14 Darley Abbey, Derby,	JULY 28 Gailey C.C. Regatta

Cancelled.
AUGUST 3-4
River Crouch. Kayak
Touring Club.
AUGUST 24-26
Norfolk Coast Wells, Kayak
Touring Club.
SEPTEMBER 14-15
Blackwater Estuary, Kayak
Touring Club.
SEPTEMBER 29-30
River Avon, Kayak Touring
Club.
OCTOBER 13
Pontilas Slalom, Entries to
G. Rogers, Wydean C.C.,

Flat 1, 127 Hales Road,
Cheltenham, Glos. (Change
of Address).
OCTOBER 13
Upper Stour Day Run,
Kayak Touring Club.
OCTOBER 19-20
Winchester Slalom (N, J,
O), Don Hayward (Worthing
S.S.C. Canoe Section),
Crofton, 42 Springvale
Road, Kings Worth,
Winchester.
NOVEMBER 10
R. Cam Day Run, Kayak
Touring Club.

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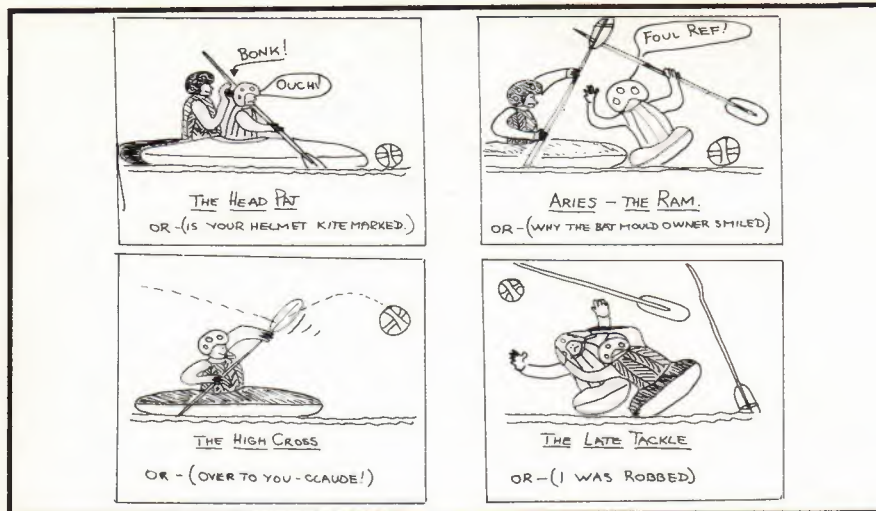
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CANOE POLO GETS GOING

As Canoe Polo has now been developing for five years it seems to be an appropriate time to report on its development and progress. The National Championships have evinced considerable interest and the standard of play has improved each year. The number of clubs indulging in the game is increasing rapidly and enquiries have been received from America and South Africa where the locals have been organising their own championships.

The Specialist Committee's main function has been to attempt a standardisation of the rules, and this has proved a formidable task. The rules would, of course, make more sense if players attempted to play within them, rather than try to evade them.

The earlier feeling that Canoe Polo was a gimmick and would detract from other branches of the sport seems to be decreasing. All competitors in the quarter finals at Crystal Palace this year were competitive slalom canoeists. Why develop Canoe Polo? Well, it is a game in which a large number can take part at a time in a relatively small area. It produces a team spirit which is almost non-existent in other branches of canoeing. The game is not an end in itself but a valuable training in canoe handling, instantaneous reaction and rolling ability. How many experienced canoeists would be able to hand roll on a rapid in the Oetzach? It has been done, and by a canoeist whose rolling ability has developed to a great extent from playing Canoe Polo.

It is a game which can be played all the year round, inside or outside and by all ages, by all stages of competence and fitness and by canoeists of mixed ability.

It is hoped to start a league, but until we know how many clubs are interested, we cannot finalise arrangements. If you are interested in joining a league, possibly on an area basis, please get in touch and at the same time say whether you have the facilities for staging any part of the competition yourself.

Further information about all aspects of Canoe Polo can be obtained from:

K. D. Clark, Secretary Canoe Polo Specialist Committee, Denstone Collete, Uttoxeter, Staffs.

SLALOM ROUND-UP

Very rarely do we hear of new slalom sites being found, and it is perhaps even more significant that the first Division I event this season was held on the Treweryn, a dam-controlled river flowing into Lake Bala.

In normal water the river is little more than a trickle and barely negotiable, being a mass of rocks and small waterfalls. When the dam gates five miles upstream are opened it provides one of the most technically difficult and rocky slalom and race courses to be found in this country.

Despite the lateness of deciding on a site, Midland Canoe Club, who have been plagued by low water on the more traditional Lune Div. I site, organised an exciting course over a 150 yd. stretch of the river.

In the Mens K1 Ray Calverley, last year's Mens K1 Champion, romped home a clear 12 secs. ahead of Melwyn Swallow in 2nd place.

In the Ladies K1 Pauline Goodwin who has for a long time dominated Ladies Kayak, was pushed into 2nd place by Fay Roberts by the narrowest margin of .2 secs.

In the 'C' classes many of the old faces were absent and the overall standard seemed very low. Allen and Williams, last year's C2 champions were missing, as were Dawson and Philip. Sibley and Hewitt, runners up in the championships last year, continued the good form they have shown throughout the winter season and took the number one spot, closely followed by the Notts Univ. pair of Cooper and Parr and encouragingly in third place a youth team of Hepburn and Alexander.

In the CI Class Malcolm Pearcey was a clear winner, 70 secs. ahead of Albert Woods.

Easter weekend saw everyone basking in glorious weather at Grandtully near Perth for the second Division One event of the season. Once again faultless organisation by Edinburgh and Aberdeen Canoe Clubs made for an extremely enjoyable event.

Despite the very low water level an open fast course had been strung out. Following the first runs, Ken Langford proved he was not too long in the tooth to show the younger paddlers the way down a slalom course and produced a fine run of 209. Ray Calverley, true to form, pulled back the lead on his second run with a strong run of 197 to clinch his second successive win of the season. Langford was unable to improve on his first run but held on to second place with Thomas and Swallow in third and fourth positions.

In the ladies, Fay Roberts had a decisive win over Pauline Goodwin which must put her in a very strong position to take the Ladies Championship this year. Vic Brown, not showing last year's form, could only manage fourth position.

In the C boats Pearcey once again took the first position in the CI class and O'Connell/Graham of Bradford scraped home in the C2 class 3 secs. ahead of Cooper/Parr.

The fine weather which has been with us for several weeks does seem to have its disadvantages and with no water in Scotland the Awe slalom, which was to have been used as a selection event for the Slalom Team, was cancelled. An alternative event at Old Windsor has been hastily arranged.

Senior W.W. racing teams selected in March to race at Lesse (21st April), Merano (9th June) and Loisach (16th June) were:

Men's KI

N. Jackson, D. Hunter, W. Frazer, C. Avery, M. Thomas, N. Morley, S. Fisher (Res.)

Ladies KI

P. Goodwin, P. Mitchell, H. Peacock, A. Ramage, A. Clarke (Res.)

Men's CI

J. Goodwin, B. Waite, K. Dyer, G. Goldsmith.

Men's CII

Sibley/Hewitt, Stanwick/Gough.

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01 834 3511/3430

COMPETITION COACH TRAINING COURSE

The second training course in the new extension to the B.C.U. Coaching Scheme added another nine names to the list of assistant competition coaches during April.

This second course introduced some new aspects into the programme whilst retaining the better features of the first course. Dr. N. Whitehead accepted an invitation to attend and speak around the theme of 'motivation' and innovations included working with the National Junior Slalom Squad in actual coaching situations, an experience from which everyone seemed to benefit.

During the course of the week at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, each of the students undertook a preliminary investigation of a problem which they had themselves

identified. The chosen topic ranged from physical fitness tests in kayaks, through an examination of stroke frequency and its relationship to acceleration, to problems of transfer of training on flat water gates. The papers presented by each student have been added to the articles written on the first course. These make very interesting reading and a selection of them has been submitted to the canoeing press.

The next training course will take place on 20-27th October, also at the National Water Sports Centre. The mixture will again be similar and each student will be expected to so some

minor research during the course.

An increased importance will be placed on Canadian techniques for this course, and we have secured the services of the D.K.V. National Coach, Karel Knapp. He will visit Nottingham for the weekend of October 26th/27th and will spend the Saturday coaching young paddlers in Canadian techniques.

Full details and application forms available from:

The National Competition Coach,
28 Richmondfield Lane,
Barwick-in-Elmet, LEEDS LS15 4EZ.
Please note that applications must be submitted by 19th July.

COMMITTEE SEEK HELP

A Test and Award Review Committee has been set up, consisting of John Fazey, Colin Gray, Peter Jones and Caryl Quaife. They will be reviewing the operation of the present scheme and collecting views on any changes would be advantageous. The final decisions will be taken by the Coaching Committee in October 1975 and any amendments will operate from 1st January, 1976.

It is hoped to align the scheme to current and future conditions and to make it as widely relevant as possible. A point considered particularly

important is that everyone interested in teaching canoeing should be encouraged to let their views be known at the discussion stage.

A questionnaire has been sent to coaching scheme members but the Committee is particularly keen to hear the views of others also. Copies can be obtained from C. E. Quaife, 70, Coopers Road, Birmingham B20 2JX by sending him a stamped addressed envelope. Please write to him with your ideas now, rather than criticise the scheme after the decisions have been taken!



club chat

During the Easter vacation Scott Lidgett School C.C. again ventured forth on an expedition to the River Wye, in all 100 miles were covered in six days canoeing from Glasbury to Tintern Abbey. Preparation work before leaving London involved; buying the food for the first half of the week, fitting out the mini-bus and trailer; checking and cleaning all the tents and camping gear; checking all the canoeing equipment for safety, booking all the campsites, writing to the B.C.U. river advisory service to check on access and rest points, and buying the required O.S. maps.

Do you use your local radio station for informing club members about forthcoming local canoeing events? Midland C.C. are now sending advance information to Radio Derby and this is good publicity for the club

as the diary features have a wide coverage.

They report that an approach to the Trent River Authority has resulted in them being given a winding-handle to the sluice gate at Darley Abbey so that, provided they do not dry out the weir, they can on Sundays help themselves to a bit of fast water.

By now, if plans have not gone awry, Manchester C.C. members will be relaxing after laying the concrete foundations for their Nissen hut clubhouse on the banks of the Goyt.

Sheffield C.C. would like to inform B.C.U. slalomists that due to the possibility of damage to the grass by use early in the year, at the request of the resident farmer at Howsham, the S.C.C. Slalom at Howsham will be held in late September in future, the next one being in

September, 1975.

The Hull and District C.C. was formed in February, 1973 and during its first year was fortunate to receive sponsorship from Crystal Motors of Hull for the L.D. Race on the Driffeld Canal.

As a direct result of this sponsorship, club members were able to build five BAT Vs. The handing over ceremony was timed to coincide with the opening of the new Haltemprice Sport Centre. Members gave

a display of canoeing skills in the swimming pool, watched by about 150 spectators.

Bad news for Shrewsbury C.C., who have lost the use of their local baths because of failure to prevent sand getting into the water. Perhaps a 'baths only' set of canoes is the best answer to this problem, in spite of the obvious disadvantages. They plan a fortnight's river-bashing in Austria this August; the cost will be about £45, food extra.

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As an active canoeist not involved in top-level competition, I would say buy a diolen canoe (which is near indestructible) of a design which you know is popular enough to have a good re-sale value. Make your own anoraks, wetsuits, spraydecks, etc., and learn enough about fibreglass work to be able to keep your boat in good repair. (My diolen boat has had two years hammering and has not needed a repair yet).

Looked at from the point of view of a young beginner, this is a bit like saying that a Rolls-Royce is the cheapest form of motoring in the long run, so here are some very *basic* ideas (which will probably be ignored because youngsters don't like doing things on the cheap — They want "prestige" gear or nothing).

Woolworths sell drab coloured anoraks, intended for use by anglers, which are well suited for canoeing and about half the price of those that we normally favour.

Halfords sell a spherical *car*-compass, liquid filled, that can be read in any position and is 100% waterproof.

Wetsuits — I've seen dozens of people buy or make wetsuits and then butcher them by cutting the arms off, (or even discard them completely) because they are constricting across the shoulders — A pair of high-waisted knee-length shorts made in neoprene costs about a quarter of the price of a full suit and will be used far more often.

Hardware Stores sell gloves made from cotton sprayed with plastic, called "milking gloves" in this area. These are inexpensive and keep hands warm for touring in winter. Experienced paddlers never seem to need them, probably because they can afford wooden-shafted paddles; but the beginner with alloy looms and a soggy jersey under a "wrong" anorak often finds these gloves very gratifying. The pair I occasionally use myself have had the tips cut off the fingers, and I wear them inside out. (Plastic next to the skin, and cotton outside to give a non-slip grip on the paddle).

In the days before fibreglass was commonplace, my brother and I used to reckon that canoeing cost us virtually nothing. We used to make our own boats for about £12, use them for a year or so and then sell

them at a small profit — That particular gimmick is no longer worth thinking about, for the beginner, I'm afraid.

ARMY CANOE UNION PADDLERS

Encouraging news continues to come in about successes in international events. A particularly memorable day was 21st April 1974. On that day a Europa Cup meeting was held at Lesse Belgium as was the 1974 Dutch International Canoe Race.

Competing in the former was Sgt. Bill White Royals Signals, Sgt. Ken Dyer APTC and Sgt. Terry Hewitt APTC. White and Wyer were beaten in the C1 event and had to be satisfied with 4th and 5th position respectively. A remarkable achievement really — they were beaten with only seconds in it, by Sepp Scheumacher of H.G. (1st), Bernard Heinemann W.G. — current World Champion (2nd) and Max Maslanka Polish C1 Champion (3rd).

In Holland, Cpl. Bob Story and Sgt. Ken Clark represented Great Britain in the gruelling 15 mile race through the canals, irrigation ditches and lakes around Amsterdam. Most other European countries were represented, and West Germany in particular fielded a very strong team. Under pressure from the Germans all the way, Story and Clark crossed the line in the very fast time of 1 hour 55 minutes to win by a clear 500 metres from Tepe/Reichenbery (Germany) Tilford/Brown (GB) and Farrell/Hunter (GB). Now they are looking forward to the SPANISH INTERNATIONAL in August.

* Terry Hewitt and John Sibley (Windsor CC) came 8th in the C2 event — an extremely fine achievement at international level.

Nearer to home, the ACU Div. 4 Slalom was held at Shepperton. The weather was kind and everyone had an enjoyable weekend. Our photograph shows Capt. John Crawford (who so ably organised the meeting) enjoying a practice run.

No doubt encourage by the increase in the cost of raw materials, there is new impetus towards canoe-building in many units, especially at Chilwell, Deepcut, Bicester and Tidworth where SSM Allan Ford is really going to town with a building programme of sea-going craft.

We are all sad to hear that Captain Carys Howell WRAC our Ladies Representative is leaving the Army. Hope you enjoy married life, Carys, and welcome to your successor Lieutenant Chris Bates, WRAC, presently serving in Salisbury.



Capt. John Crawford tries out the water at the Army Canoe Union Div. 4 Slalom at Shepperton, beneath a maze of cords.

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Hampshire Association of Canoeists Grand Draw results — Tuesday 12th March 1974

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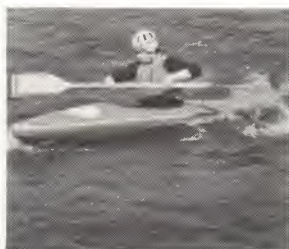
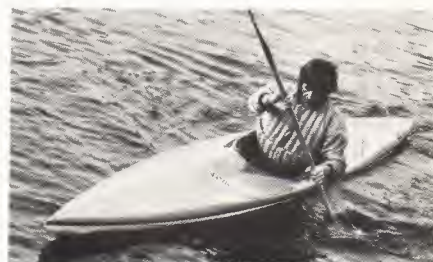
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