

A black and white photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, a rocky shore is covered with many smooth, rounded stones. Several people are gathered around a canoe on the shore. One person is leaning over the side of the canoe, another is standing nearby, and a third is partially visible. In the background, the river flows towards a forested hillside. Other canoes and people are visible further down the river. The overall scene suggests a recreational activity like canoeing or kayaking in a natural setting.

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*September - October 1974 25p*

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## COVER

*Fun canoeing on the Ardeche in  
Southern France.  
Photo: Canoeing Magazine*



*Portage of Boulter's Locks by paddlers on the Royal Canoe Club Marathon.  
Photo: Canoeing Magazine.*

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Canoeing Magazine September 1974

# CANOE SPORT COMMENT

**Mike Clark**

## **GREAT SUCCESS FOR SURF ISSUE**

The surfing issue of 'Canoeing Magazine' seemed generally to be accepted very well—although of course there were a few adverse comments from the flat water paddlers, but there you can't please 'em all, all the time . . . !

The issue was something of an experiment, but did go some way in filling the desperate need for expert literature on the subject of surf canoeing. Already the magazine has received praise from enthusiasts in California, South Africa, Ireland, and even the 'acting secretary of the British Canoe Union', while of course, the issue could hardly have failed to be a success at the National Surf Championships held at Bude over the second weekend in September. Already I have received requests to produce more 'specials' on other sides of the sport, Slalom and Long Distance in particular. The requests are under consideration.



## **CANOE SLALOM**

**When one looks at the programme for Canoe Slalom** here in Britain, there is undoubtedly a desperate shortage of 1st division events. Only five top division competitions appear on the programme, and after 20-years of the sport this is hardly good enough. At the other end of the scale there are over 20 Novice events. Judging by the numbers of Novice paddlers I have seen at recent meets, the sport of slalom is 'really packing em in' as the expression goes. Yet once paddlers gain out of Novice and start the climb to the top of the sport, there is little competition for them.

Five top division events a year is ridiculous. The West Germans have almost as many in one month, while in the States some 25 events are listed for New England alone! I fervently believe that training is no substitute for competition and as such we are asking our top paddlers to compete internationally with one hand tied behind their backs.

### ***Event organisation—ten years behind***

Okay, so in the past the organisation of slalom events has been left to the individual canoe clubs and maybe it is indicative of the type of person who competes slalom that few want to sit on the bank and organise or judge an event. Thus the paddlers themselves are only to blame for the lack of competitions and the lack of real progress toward the top of world class slalom and rough water sport. As it stands at present, the organisation of top division rough water events is in the hands of individual clubs and the running of four or five events a year might well have sufficed ten years ago, but not when the British Canoe Union is in the process of making application for a World Championship to be held in Britain! Just tell me where the slick organisation for such an event is going to come from . . . ?

### ***Need for competition committee***

If the sport is to progress and if we are going to be in any sort of position to stage a World Slalom Championship at the end of this decade, it is imperative that the organisation of 1st division, and even 2nd division events, is taken out of the hands of the clubs and run by a central body—a Slalom Competition Committee. Yes, yet another committee, but one whose sole job would be to organise events.

### ***Work and problems duplicated***

It seems to me that at present we have individual clubs organising individual events once or maybe on exception, twice a year. Thus members of Midland Canoe Club go through the business of pulling together a working party to organise the Tryweryn event, the same work being duplicated by Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Manchester and the Chester Canoe Clubs at following events through the year. Problems arise and are solved, only to re-occur with the next organising club; each year the same job of pulling together a working party occurs. Thus the effort of organising is duplicated each year and at best the events can only be classed as of passable standard.

Now, by setting up a Slalom Competitive Committee and making it obligatory for each competing club with



say over twenty members to supply two persons to serve for a season, a working group would be formed and valuable experience gained with each passing event. At the present time we have an ideal situation where such a trial group could be formed—the Tryweryn. Midland Canoe Club have already organised an event there, Gloucester Canoe Club want to hold an event there, so does Birmingham, while the Chester Canoe Club is but an hour away from the site that will certainly be of major importance to 1st Division slalom for the next ten years. Instead of letting the organisation of events on this river go to individual clubs, could not the B.C.U. Slalom Committee take four or five members from the above and other interested clubs and ask them to form a Tryweryn Competition Group to organise all events on the river during the season? From such a group, experience and a slick organisation would be built up with a continuing improvement in events—an organisation we are certainly going to need for a World Championship event.

### System works in Sprint Racing

In Sprint Racing such a system already works, with all major events at Holme Pierrepont organised from within the Sprint Racing Committee. No doubt many will say that the organisation of Sprint cannot compare to that of Slalom but with some 130 events held over a single weekend and races off almost to the second, just as much is involved as with slalom. And even if some consider slalom more complicated, then there is even more reason for having some form of continuity of organisation.

## DOWN RIVER - NEW U.S.A. MAG

An excellent new canoesport magazine was published during July in the United States. Called 'Down River', the magazine deals almost exclusively with rough water sport, both kayak and rafting, along with articles on fishing, exploring and camping.

This first issue includes fine articles on paddle making, down river safety, repairing glassfibre boats, plus feature articles on the Salmon River and the 70-mile Susquehanna River Canoe Marathon.

'Down River' is to be published bi-monthly at a U.S.A. rate of 4-dollars per year (no overseas rate quoted). Any reader of 'Canoeing Magazine' interested in having a subscription to this new publication, please write: 'Down River' c/o Canoeing Press, 25 Featherbed Lane, Croydon, CR0 9AE.

## SPECIAL B.C.U. GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting of the British Canoe Union will be held at the National Watersports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, on 26th October. The major motion before the meeting will be the increase in membership subscription as per the Development Project Group report. The meeting will start at 3.00pm. This will be a highly important meeting, affecting the whole future of the British Canoe Union and that of our sport, so as many members as possible are requested to attend.

Canoeing Magazine September 1974

## CANOEING MAGAZINE

In line with many other magazines during this period of paper shortage, the print order for 'Canoeing Magazine' is being run on a strict subscription demand with only a minimum of 'extras'. Thus many issues of the present volume are already sold out and not available. To help us and to avoid disappointment, readers are requested to renew subscriptions at the soonest date after they become due.

## RIVER RUNNING SERIES

While on a recent 'working holiday' on the River Ardeche in Southern France (that beautiful river in the sun), I was amazed to see the almost total lack of watermanship or commonsense shown by a number of 'so-called' canoeists on the river. One crew in particular, a German pair, came to grief on the rocks of Black Teeth Rapid and almost wrecked what was a brand new Klepper Comrade double. However, it was not the initial capsize on the rocks that caused all the damage, but their efforts to release the waterfilled craft from above the fall. The River Ardeche is, without doubt, one of the most popular of French rivers for the novice paddler, but some canoeists seem to take to the water without the slightest clue of what to do in the event of a capsize.

All this leads up to a new series of instructional articles that will appear in 'Canoeing Magazine' over the next few issues, entitled 'River Running for Beginners'.



Sue Turner and John Webster instructing novice paddlers on the Ardeche.

# SURF NEWS

## Surf Championships

**After the tremendous success of** the special surf number of *'Canoeing Magazine'* and the great interest shown in it, I came back from France and dashed straight off to Bude for coverage of the National Surf Championships, but mainly to see for myself what surf canoeing is all about. Despite rather varied conditions of surf, there can be little doubt that it is certainly a very spectacular side of canoe sport.

The National Surf Championships were at Crocets Bay, Bude, over the weekend 14th/15th September. Two types of competition are held, these being the Surf Race and Kayak Handling. The Surf Race is for slalom type kayak only and is a race from the shore line, out to a given point, and back to shore, the first one back on the beach being the winner. It is a test of pure speed in getting out and in through the surf. Kayak Handling is a little more complicated. Here there are two classes (slalom type kayaks and the special surf kayaks), and competitors are allowed twenty minutes of the water in groups of eight, and put on a display of their ability in the surf. Points are awarded for number of manoeuvres, and, while different scoring systems are used at different events, in general the shoulder run carries the highest scoring.

The Bude weekend attracted around a hundred enthusiasts, plus a large number of spectators. Despite rather poor weather conditions on the Saturday, the surf kayak heats held late in the afternoon did have some reasonably good surf. Things seemed even worse for the semi-finals and finals on the Sunday, with the start of the day in drenching rain—not too

disconcerting for the competitors, but very hard for spectators or *'Canoeing Magazine'* editors trying to get some good photographs . . . !

With a little break in the rain throughout the Sunday morning, I decided I had had enough and would drive back to London after a quick lunch. However, during the break, the weather cleared to produce a superb afternoon and with moderate surf (so I am told), the finals were well worth watching.

On the incoming tide, the finals were quite spectacular with reverse runs, spins, pirouettes, cut-outs and shoulder runs. However, from the spectator point of view, what became immediately obvious was that one has to have about eight sets of eyes to watch everyone competing, a sound knowledge of what paddlers are trying to do, a rough idea who are the top boys and what colour kayak they are paddling . . . From the viewfinder of a camera, things are even more difficult—while you focus on a shoulder run, another paddler maybe making a sensational reverse or spin on the wave behind . . . !

Things got quite hairy as the tide reached the rock point on the side of the bay with two paddlers getting caught between the rocks, and another (who shall remain nameless) making a deliberate run between the split point and getting points away for *'dangerous driving'*. . . I thought it was quite a spectacular run, but on second thoughts highly dangerous.

In the premier class—the Open Surf Kayak—the win went to Ian Sutherland, with Tim Rule gaining second place from Ron Graham, while

the Open Slalom Kayak went to Beesson. For sure, surf sport has great appeal, and I will certainly be covering a number of the future events.

## Surf Committee formed

**At the Bude weekend, 10 enthusiasts** got together to form the first B.C.U. Specialist Committee for Surf Canoeing. Chairman of the Committee is Chris Scott, with John Hermes as Secretary, and two places still available for co-opted non-voting members (suggestions maybe Goodman/Broadhurst).

Of course the British Canoe Union still has to ratify membership of the Committee, but this is still of no problem. The Specialist Surf Committee will be meeting over the coming months and any surf paddler with points for discussion should send them to John Hermes (address below).

I would think one of the main items on the first agenda should be the establishing of a set judging form and a definition of manoeuvre terms (even on the National Championship Judging Form there was the term *'Zig Zag'* that few seemed to know what was required!). Also I personally would like to see the term *'Surf Canoe'* replaced by Surf Kayak and the same for *'Slalom Canoe'*—the boys don't paddle canoes, they are definitely kayaks! From surf enthusiasts there must be many other points for discussion, so get them in at the earliest date to: *J. P. Hermes, Hon. Sec. B.C.U. Surf Committee, The Cottage, Tregrehan, St. Austell, Cornwall.*





*Photos from the Bude Surf  
Championships.  
Canoeing Magazine.*



# canoe tour

## Of WOMEN and WATER

Irish paddlers on tour of some of the rivers  
of Southern France  
report by Mark Igoe



**Chasing white water is somewhat** like chasing a woman. The depth of both subjects doesn't necessarily mean danger, just as maturity of both doesn't necessarily mean failure. Both are alluring and deceptive. Both awake ridiculous ambitions. Excitement and beauty often don't follow each other and temptation is impossible to escape. Finally, underestimating either can end in disaster and total humiliation.

We sat contemplating this philosophy on a heavy and overcast day in early August, swatting horse flies in a farm yard, searching for our heads in our haversacks and swearing total abstinence for ever, by the banks of the Durance river. The previous evening a nice man had bought us an unreasonable quantity of a curious bubbly substance called "Kronenberg", and it was the result of this intemperance that caused us the unaccustomed opportunity to become philosophical! It also gave us the opportunity to reflect on our tour so far—we had paddled on four rivers to that time, the Tarn, the Verdon, the Var, and the Ubaye. Each had its own character, but no where had we hit white water in excess of grade III.

### THE TARN

**I have paddled the usual stretch** of the Tarn from Florac to Le Rozier three times now, twice late in the year and once in July. As far as the last trip went, no description could be more accurate than Mike Clark's article in 'Canoeing Magazine' of a few years back. He captured the mood vividly. Medieval castles, fresh orange juice, gravel bottom gorges, bikini bottomed lassies, arching waterfalls, acres of sunshine and low, low water. What the Tarn lacked in excitement it made up for in character. There was the fairy tale village of Ste. Enemie with its vine trellised square and ancient lane ways, the tall turreted castles, high battlemented survivors of the Wars of Religion; Belgian Mercedes on the narrow canyon road, vying with Dutch hippies, French caravans, German paddlers and God knows who . . . and from one end of the spectacular gorge to the other the gentle Tarn always scenically spectacular but, apart from the unpaddlable Pas de Sorci, indifferent to the white water hunter. There is, of course, the run from Les Vignes to Le Rozier of which Mike wrote, "the Tarn at last becomes a real river". Even in late July you can expect grade II water here, but given the sudden floods which the Massif Central are capable of pouring into their waterways, grade II is about the least you could expect of the Gorges du Tarn.



*The beautiful River Tarn in Southern France*

From September, when the annual summer closure of Industrial France is over, through the winter when the adjacent mountain villages become ski resorts, the Upper Tarn can at any time turn into a very interesting river and despite the dearth of the Belgian Mercedes, etc., even the scrappy stretch from Florac, which Mike, it seems, mostly walked, can become grade III. It all depends whether you prefer bikinis or a wild river. Personally I'm not sure . . .

## **THE VERDON**

**In the same issue of Canoeing Magazine** that reported a gaggle of Irish paddlers heading for France, was a mention by Mike of the recently published guide to the Grand Canyon of the Verdon and a report that a tour of them was to be held shortly. Now any British paddler who did that tour should be writing this article, not me. The reason simply is that we did not paddle the Grand Canyon. But since I'm a better spoofer than canoeist, that won't stop me describing it.

It is an easy day's driving from St. Emie to Castellane—if you have a good car and steady nerves! There were six of us this year, in two cars. The first was driven by the redoubtable Ronan Connolly, an I.C.U. Instructor, who, for his sins, is the Training Officer of the I.C.U. He is a better paddler than navigator apparently, because he missed the gorge side route and arrived at

Castellane from the north instead of the south. Whether or not you are paddling the Grand Canyon, don't miss the roads which run above it if you are around that part of the world. The grandure of this gorge defies description and makes the majestic Tarn look like the Thames at Oxford. Technically, Castellane is in the gorge but not in the Grand Canyon. The river from the town is swift, grade II in parts and pretty. Its entry to the Canyon is marked by a two tier grade IV rapid which we named the Pas de Simon, after Simon Brewitt, the first Irish paddler to shoot it. Simon actually is someone to watch in the white water world, a student at Trinity College, Dublin, he has a talent which might make readers hear of him again. (He's not a bad bloke either, apart from being a big headed, loud mouthed Corkman.)

But here we stopped. We had been told in Castellane that the Grand Canyon was grade V-VI, that a local guide was necessary, and that descent was definitely unwise. We had not seen the canoeing/hiking guide which to some extent concurred with this view, but since we felt that we were not the cream of our country's wild water fanatics, and that we were short of resin and catalyst and had no suicidal tendencies at all, we funkled. I'd do it if Bill were here . . . I'd do it if Flee were here . . . I'd do it if Ernie were here . . .

Personally, if Mike Clark had been

there with his camera and I could have flogged the prints for £1.50 a go, I'd have done it!

So the next day we packed our lunches in our rucksacks, patched our boats, left them to dry, and walked into the Canyon. To have gone the whole way would probably have taken longer than we could afford to take, so we walked till mid afternoon, swam in the river and walked back again. Much of the journey was through tunnels in the cliff face, put there it seems some time ago, but for no reason that was readily apparent to us.

We couldn't see any grading water above IV but its difficult to tell from a hundred feet above and from the lower parts we had seen from the road, bigger grades were most likely, although we were looking at them from 2,000 ft. above. Perhaps you can get bigger water, more continuous big water, trickier falls, narrower passes or even such sun nearer home, but only figures can give an idea of the scenic effect of the Verdon. The road on the right bank at one stage rises to 4,265ft. The river here is at 1,837ft. The gorge is 17-miles long with 4 portages. The height of the river at the entrance to the Canyon is 480ft higher than at the end. In parts the river is only a few feet wide.

The third member of our party was Ian Broad who, for his sins (only different ones from Ronan's) is (apart

*continued overleaf*

# Of WOMEN and WATER

from an I.C.U. Leader) a school master. Cooling his professorial feet in the ice cold Verdon with the cliffs disappearing above us, he gave us a geological discourse on the origin of this incredible sight. Unfortunately, I gave up listening to school masters long before I should, so I don't recall what he said but I do recommend any would-be Verdon tourist to take him with them.

We left the Verdon with mixed feelings. Happy at what we had had, stunned at what we had seen and wondering why we hadn't gone further. Like I said, just like chasing women.

## THE VAR

**If the Verdon was a femme fatale** of whom we were wary, then the Var was an irresistible redhead whose bottomless cleft disappeared from sight amid cliffs of red shale. We had heard of the Gorge de Daluis from some German paddlers and when we arrived we were not disappointed. The river, much the same size as the Tarn, flowed in between two high walls of deep red shale. Again, we often couldn't see the bottom and when we could it seemed only a foot wide. We realised that once in those gorges there would be no stopping, no going back, and possibly no portaging. Our chief worry was the lack of water. At the entrance the river was quite enough but required a high degree of navigation to avoid the rocks. It was a slalom course made of stone—but it was irresistible!

Now, David Jacobs is an I.C.U. Leadership Student (I.C.U. Leadership is something akin to B.C.U. Instructorship but not so much) and a member of Dublin's prestigious Espoir Canoe Club. He can roll so well that he always gets a nose clip on

before he capsizes. So you can imagine our surprise when David just disappeared. On investigation we found that David had survived but his boat had not and was in fact hors de combat for the rest of the tour. Ten minutes later Ian succumbed. With two down and four to go, we entered the main Canyon and an hour later limped out in four submarines.

The Gorge de Daluis was undoubtedly the most interesting we had yet paddled. In high water it could make grade IV but had it been much lower it would have become practically unnavigable. As it was we coated the riverbed with fibre glass and smashed two slalom boats, one irreparably. Which goes to prove: beware of red shale gorges (and gorgeous redheads)!

## THE UBAYE

**We followed the Var to its source**, crossed Col de la Cayolle—a 7,600ft. pass—and arrived in Barcelonnette, a resort surrounded by mountains with fascinating names such as "The Three Bishops" and the "Policeman's Hat". This was the valley of the Ubaye. We paddled a stretch which in retrospect may have been the dullest. The flow was fast and there was a little grading water nearly all the way. Shooting one little rapid blind, we nearly lost Gerry whose head could be seen sticking out from under a large rock emitting obscenities in Irish. Gerry is the Chairman of a very exclusive club called Cumann Uisce Mor (which is not an obscenity, but means "Brotherhood of big water"). From the things he was saying, it seemed any fraternal feeling for water of any size had temporarily evaporated! It was that night that we were poisoned with a surfeit of the beverage mentioned earlier, and so our appreciation of the lower stretches of the Ubaye, which we explored from the road, was somewhat jaundiced. However, it certainly looked as though the river, which flows through another gorge before emptying itself into a large lake, could have reached upward of grade IV. Bye bye Ubaye.

This lake, a little riviera all of its own in the southern Alps, at this time of year is thick with tourists. We made our way to the town of Embrun, where we found a modest campsite

adjacent to a farm yard which was full of horseflies. That night we examined the best looking river we had yet seen, the Durance.

## THE DURANCE

**Many paddlers know or know of** the upper Durance. Several tours are held there and several competitive events. There is an active local club and slalom gates adorn its snow coloured water in several places. In short it is a famous paddling river and any description especially with my limited experience of it, seems superfluous.

As we had headed north west the water had become higher and higher, although this was a dry summer. The water on the Durance must have been relatively low, considering the time of year, but for the odd ten miles we paddled above the lake, we had grade II-III water all the way. Mile after mile of haystacks and stoppers, which for me is white water touring. After a long stretch of grade II, perhaps a sudden six foot fall, just to keep you awake. I hope this lovely lady was as kind to other paddlers this summer as she was to us . . .

## HOME-with memories

**We wended our way home at last** as our time ran out, with memories of sun bright water, red shale and the bikini clad European womanhood. We avoided the Ardeche for Gerry's sake, as the innocent lad's mind had been badly bent by Mike Clark's nudist camp photography and once Gerald got into a nudist camp, there would be no getting him out! In Auxere we met a group of Manchester lads heading south, lost them, and spent most of the night wandering around the town looking for them.

An affair like that always leaves one deflated. If I won the sweeps, there would be no question of south sea islands. Looking back on those few summer days and on the canoeing friends of many nationalities we made, I make the prediction that the Southern and Maritime Alps will become the white-water touring mecca for all of Europe. The French tourist office should appreciate this.

Thanks Ronan for organising the trip, thanks ye river goddesses of Southern France and thanks Mike, for publishing this report.



# ICF NEWS - INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION NEWS

reprinted from ICF BULLETIN

## Anniversary festivities

The sporting activities and festivities organised by the Canoe Federation of the Federal Republic of Germany, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the International Canoe Federation, proved a complete success, and were fully appreciated by all who took part.

Following the official Opening Ceremony in the Football Stadium of Duisburg, there followed, on the well known Regatta Course of Duisburg, a canoe racing regatta.

With 26 nations taking part, representing the canoeing elite of the world, only Mexico and Japan had to withdraw at the last moment. The competition, as per the World Championship programme, was competed in varied weather, but the atmosphere was friendly with no protests and few disqualifications.

The teams from the Soviet Union dominated the scene, and next to them the canoeists from the German Democratic Republic. However, the latter did not enter the long distance events, and it is interesting to note that the Rumanians, finishing behind the Hungarians in 4th place, did not fare better in the unofficial table of points. Below is the list of medal winners and the unofficial points table of the first ten nations.

Country	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
USSR	7	4	4
GDR	6	1	1
Hungary	4	5	3
Sweden	1	—	—
Rumania	—	4	5
Poland	—	3	1
FGR	—	1	1
Czech.	—	—	1
Italy	—	—	1
Austria	—	—	1

TABLE OF POINTS		6. FGR	25
1. USSR	93	7. Sweden	20
2. Hungary	70	8. Bulgaria	16
3. GDR	55	9. France	9
4. Rumania	46	10. Italy	7
5. Poland	26	11. Canada	7

It will be interesting to see if the new order in canoeing power holds until the World Championships in Mexico in October.

The Canoe Slalom was held near the Town Mill in Lippstadt with teams from 12 nations taking part. However, it was to be regretted that the team from the German Democratic Republic, holders of the Olympic and World titles, was not present.

The competition was held over 13th/14th July, with the German Federal Republic gaining 5 first placings, and the team of Czechoslovakia taking 2 first places.

The planned Wild Water Races in Monschau had to be cancelled at eight days notice due to the water level in the dam that supplies the extra water for the course already being below the minimum essential for drinking supplies of the region. The paddlers affected were invited to compete in the slalom at Lippstadt.

The Canoe Sailing competition was held at Duisburg with only Sweden, Germany and Great Britain competing, the former team taking first three places.

Together with the various fringe activities and receptions, there were wonderful opportunities, outside the competitions, for the members of teams and the officials to get acquainted and consolidate friend relations. Three teams from the DKV gave a demonstration of Canoe Polo in order to show members of other federations the interest and excitement aroused.

Canoe Touring also took a part in the celebrations and at the end of June some 70 paddlers from several West European countries assembled in Trier for a cruise on the Moselle. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to them, but nevertheless, they arrived on time in Duisburg and were able to take part in the Closing Ceremony and Festivities.

These closing activities did not follow the familiar pattern of a dance

in a large hall, but all participants, officials and members of the organising committee assembled on two large river boats and took part in a night entertainment on the river—'The Lower Rhine in Flames'—with a very impressive display of fireworks.

## New ICF Officials

**Examinations for qualification of ICF Officials** were held during the Jubilee Regatta in Duisburg and the following were successful: *Irene Kunkel, Essen; Helmut Kunkel, Essen; Gerhard Kersten, Berlin; and Hans-Georg Schulte, Muelheim.*

The examination showed that it was not enough to have good theoretical knowledge of the Racing Rules and practical experience in officiating in regattas, but also the candidates must be familiar with the Statutes of the ICF and its organisation.

## International dates

**At a meeting in Duisburg, the international regatta dates for the 1975 season** were arranged. However, some 17 national associations sought a postponement of the World Championships in Belgrade in preference to a date, if possible, in the same time of the year as that of the Montreal Olympic Games of 1976. The members of the Executive of the ICF who were present, proposed the date 17th/20th July, and the representative of Yugoslavia concurred with this. Later, the USSR protested against this on the grounds that during this period they would be holding their Spartakiade which was intended as a rehearsal for the Olympic Games of 1980.

## Anabolic Steroids

**According to a resolution of the Medical Commission of the IOC, anabolic steroids** will be placed on the list of drugs forbidden to athletes taking part in the Olympic Games in Montreal 1976. Accordingly Point 5 of the 'measures for controlling drugs' of the ICF will, under section 4 (drugs), include '4.1.4. Anabolic Steroids.'

Members should also note the new address of Chairman of the Sports Medicine Committee of the ICF:— Dr. Horst Burger, 703 Leipzig, Bernhard-Kellermann-Str. 20/411, German Democratic Republic.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I was very interested in your article by Tim Rule of North Devon on Canoe Surfing, especially the bit about 'There are some canoe surfers in other countries; I have heard of some in Australia and the U.S.A. and there must be others. But I think that the best surfers are still to be found in this country and, if I am right, we should be seizing the opportunity to put British canoe surfing on the map, a European Championships on British beaches would be a start.'

This 'fight them on the beaches' call is very patriotic and a great idea, but a word of warning may not be amiss. There are dozens of South African surf canoeists who would be only too eager to match the British as well as the others he has heard of 'in Australia and the U.S.A.'

Yours sincerely,

Neville Truran,

Hon. Sec. Johannesburg Canoe Club,  
South Africa.

The following is reprinted from the Birmingham Canoe Club Newsletter and is an extract from a letter of Clive Freshwater, sent in response to advice asked for on gaining access on the River Wye. (Mr. Freshwater has of course, done great work on access in winning the court case brought against his company with regard to access and navigation on the Spey in Scotland.)

... From my own experience of our case, do as much work as you can researching yourselves on the history of the Wye and talking personally to the old people who live along its banks as to how far back they can remember craft coming down. This can be quite an important point in establishing how many years a right of passage has gone unchallenged.

We wrote to P.G.L. in the early days asking whether they had had any problems on the Wye and informed us they had won one threatened action. I had understood that some rivers in England had Royal Charters making them public rivers, and that the Wye was one of them. You should not let any of these access committees 'sell your rights down the river', as they often appear to do in England.

You should get hold of a book called 'The Law and Small Boats' by Andrew Phelan, M.A., see chapter 4, and 'Angling and the Law' by M. Gregory, LL.B. Both books are published by Charles Knight & Co. Ltd., 11-12 Bury Street, St. Mary Axe, London EC3. I wouldn't hesitate to go straight to the author of 'Angling and the Law'; I did, and he was most helpful. Evidence was given in our case by a Wye salmon proprietor who admitted that although canoeing annoyed him it didn't stop him fishing or renewing his lease last year for a large sum of money. Some very eminent salmon fishermen gave evidence which is now on record that very little damage, if any, is done to salmon fishing.

I think you will find in your researching that by statutes of Charles II the rivers Wye, Lugg, Itchen, Medway, Witham and the Avon from Christchurch to New Sarum were declared navigable. These are public rights of navigation and the only way they can be revoked is by Act of Parliament. With the present climate of encouraging sport for all, I feel it is doubtful if anyone would feel it politic to revoke these public rights. In 'Angling and the Law', you will read that where there is a conflict between the two, 'navigation' takes precedence over fishing.

I hope this is of some guidance. I would emphasise again that you and

your friends do as much as you can yourselves to research the problem, then take your results to a good solicitor who is sympathetic to your case (very many of them are fishermen and would not be suitable) and see what he can suggest. Meanwhile, behave always as a canoeing group should, not giving the fishermen a chance of bringing actions against you for nuisance, abuse, damage, etc. In other words, 'Yes sir, no sir, but ... carry on canoeing.'

Clive Freshwater,  
Scotland.



Canoeing Press are offering some very nice T-Shirts, with first class emblems on the front of them, and words to suit various types of our sport. One of these shows someone doing what appears to be a high draw stroke and wearing a buoyancy aid. The words round this emblem are 'Senior Instructor'.

I must inform people that Canoeing Press has issued this T-Shirt without any reference at all to the National Coaching Committee, therefore, since anybody can buy this T-Shirt, persons wearing it cannot necessarily be regarded as Senior Instructors qualified under the B.C.U. National Coaching Scheme. The correct badge authorised by the National Coaching Committee is the usual B.C.U. Blazer pocket badge with the words 'Senior Instructor' written underneath it. People wishing to employ qualified instructors should always make sure that anybody claiming to be qualified is a current member of the Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

O. J. Cock,

Director of Coaching.



# NOTES NEWS

## Progress on ASCOT

**A note from the ASCOT Committee**, who have started work on the final design details for the Holme Pierrepont Slalom Course says that water is now flowing down the model of the course constructed in the B.H.R.A. Laboratories at Cranfield.

Three hours work on the model, with water flow of only 60 per cent of available capacity, left them in no doubt that the variety and quality of the water at ASCOT will be superior in every way to any natural slalom course in this country. Any anxiety about the quality of the course can be forgotten. As predicted, the 12ft head of water at Colwick Sluices, flowing at 600-cusecs of the 1000-cusecs possible, will give a superb course.

A stopper, the equivalent of a 4ft high wave in reality, can be seen on the model, but this will be reduced as more obstacles are added to give a more continuous series of rapids. Many other excellent features are present, including a series of haystacks about three feet high. The ASCOT Committee hope they can coax even better features into the water surface as their work on the model continues.

## Slalom jottings

**After the recent resignations** from the BCU Slalom Executive, the remaining members have been working hard to co-opt replacements. I hear the first among these to accept a post is Mr. A. D. L. Smith Hilliard.

At a recent meeting of the Executive, discussion took place on the sending of a Slalom and Wild Water Team to the World Championships in Yugoslavia next year. It was pointed out that the distance involved would mean flying out the paddlers and money in the region of £3000 would be required to be raised to cover this.

Also a new set-up for Wild Water Racing was decided. The National Ranking status competitions will now comprise five events during the winter months, the National Cham-

pionship decided on a paddler's best three of these, and three events to be organised during the summer months. Also for next year an Open British Championship is to be held. Dates of the winter events are: 27th October, River Tryweryn; 17th November, River Eden; 8th December, River Usk; 2nd February, River Tay; 9th February, River Dee (N. Wales). The Open British Championship will be held on 16th February on the River Tryweryn. In the K1 class, the Slalom Kayak is to be dropped and all single will race as a K1 Class.

## Wild Water top rankers

**The 1973/4 Wild Water Racing Ranking List** has just been published. Chris Avery is out in front of the Mens K1 with 145pts, closely followed by Nigel Morley just one point down. D. Hunter is third with 139pts, fourth N. Jackson 139pts, fifth R. Campbell with 136pts. Stanwyth/Gough take pole place in the C2 with Cooper/Parr second. W. White is first in C1, while in the Womens K1 the top ranking place is taken by Jill Clark from Barbara Sattler, both with 54pts, with Hilary Peacock in third place.

## USAF Channel crossing

**Army crews have done it a number of times**, the National Boys Clubs have made mass crossings, single kayakers and doubles have raced across it, but it was not until 29th June that a team of paddlers from the U.S. Air Force base of Lakenheath made a crossing of the English Channel. Using nine double kayaks supplied by Tyne Canoes Ltd., Twickenham, the team took 6hrs 5min for the 25-mile crossing from Warren Camp to Gris-Nez just south of Calais.

## Army 'Kayak Caper'

**Under the title 'Exercise Kayak Caper'** (for once the Army using the correct terminology for the type of craft used!), 13 soldiers from the 19th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, set out from Dortmund in Germany at the end of July to canoe some 1000-miles to Larkhill in Wiltshire.

Using the rivers and canals of Germany and Holland, crossing the English Channel from Cap Gris-Nez, and then along the south coast of England, and finally up the Hampshire Avon to Larkhill, the group took just on 21-days for the trip. Quite a trip lads . . . !



*Members of the 19 Field Regt. Royal Artillery Kayak Club set off on 'Kayak Caper'.*

# MADNESS on the CHATTOOGA

*Ever since 'Deliverance', when Voight and Reynolds fought the Chattooga rapids, thousands of weekenders have invaded this wilderness river to take up the challenge.. at least 14 have lost...*



*article by Franklin Ashley  
with acknowledgements to 'New Times' magazine  
photos by courtesy of Warner Bros.*

"I'll tell you, Frank," says Jim Dickey, the poet and author of the novel *Deliverance*. "We had—we had all kinds of suggestions. One time," he hisses in more air, "one time—well, at first one hopeful director said, 'I know, let's make 'em two men and their wives.' Then another one said, 'No, let's have 'em two men and their mistresses. We could get a different sex angle.'" I look at the mountain of books behind him, my mouth open. "Then still another one said, 'What about hippies—a sort of *Easy Rider* in canoes?' And—and still another wanted four Neegroes."

"Unbelievable," I choke.

"But—," he holds out his hand, "but there's more, Frank. There's more. The last one said—and he was serious—he said, 'Let's have 'em Martians!'"

**'Deliverance' was made. It was** admired, damned, lauded, maligned and nominated for an Academy Award, but regardless of the critical response or public attitude—people went to see it. And then the Chattooga River, where the film was shot, became littered with all combinations of directorial freak-apart imagination. Negroes, hippies, men and wives, men and mistresses, black and hippie, man and child, dog and wife, baby and father, blind and deaf—everyone came to run the rapids, to pleasure themselves by challenging death, testing their 20th century courage.

The Chattooga had not been totally undiscovered before "*Deliverance*". For years small bands of men had fought the current and rocks. But after the film opened, this obscure and virtually unnoticed cluster spiraled into a small battalion of up to 300 people each weekend who came to run the river: in rafts, kayaks, canoes, rowboats, innertubes—and any other craft that might float. "Now you can play the game," Lewis had said in the book and the movie. He and his partners had teased disaster into striking. And each weekend in spring and summer of 1973 brought larger and larger legions to play the game and some died trying. The crunch and crash of white water smashed and wrecked and ripped and killed indiscriminately. Already 14 have died in the rapids; the majority were college-age youngsters who played the game flat out, daring

each other into stupid blunders—such as entering a section that demands expert skill to stay alive.

The river is divided into four sections, each several miles long. Section one, which runs 10.1 miles and contains two 15-foot waterfalls, as well as a 30-foot monster, is most dangerous. The latter part of this section has 12 painfully tight rapids known as The Narrows. After this comes the most pleasant section on the Chattooga, which runs from Highway 28 to Earle's Ford. Sections three and four increase in intensity and danger, but also in beauty. The scenery in section four looks as if it has been perpetually preserved, untainted, as if it could never be reached by automobiles.

**The Chattooga River can be found** in the wilderness between Clayton, Ga., and Westminster, S.C., at places like Highway 76 Bridge.

At "76 Bridge" there was no provision for parking where I pulled in; the cars slanted on the roadside as if their drivers had stopped to view the remnants of a three-car collision or a drowning. But the minute I shuffled down the clay slope toward several small fires vibrating in the dust near the river, I saw Winnebagos and campers and Plexiglas tents and Volkswagen buses. And somehow I felt that I might be called upon to dedicate my life to Christ, for I sensed the aura of a religious retreat here, a kind of bizarre, peaceful separation from civilization.

The first fire was banked by clay and a Volkswagen bus. The bumper sticker was still unfrayed enough to send its message. "Don't Blame Me/I Voted McGovern." Two boys, one with long blond hair and the other with sharply contrasting black locks, tenderly poked the damp, smoking sticks.

"Just been down?" I asked, nodding toward the river.

"Not very far," said the blond boy. He looked as if he should have been serving wine during the intermission of *Godspell*.

"We just came through that last part," said the dark-haired boy.

"Bull Sluice?"

"Yeah, that's it," he said.

"Ever done it before?"

"No," he said. "It was rough, but

we just got a taste of it."

"Are you coming back?"

"Oh, sure, we just got started," the blond boy interjected.

"Well—" I hesitated. "I uh—look—uh—what makes you do it—to want to come down here?"

The dark-haired boy looked into the fire. "It's—I don't know, it's a sorta personal test against yourself. You would just see—it's a way of seeing yourself again."

"Yeah." I moved on, and came across three men grimly pulling their canoe from the river. When I asked them about Bull Sluice they shook their heads and would say nothing. It was as if they had just come down from a World War II dogfight and had seen Randall Jarrell's "black flak." They looked sick, in shock. I pictured the rocks jutting abruptly out of the foam which others had described to me, the turns in the enigmatic current which convulsed like epileptic anacondas, snapping and tossing the canoe with a power too strong and too strange to stay beneath the surface.

"Copperhead!" someone suddenly barked.

"Got 'im with a paddle."

"Jackie's got 'im!"

I puffed up a hill to a small gulley where Jackie, his face red and pulsating, had pinned a baby copperhead. Its teeth clicked against the wood as it partially coiled and slammed itself backwards.

"Let 'im go, Jackie," a slim boy said.

"Huh?" Jackie was incredulous.

Obviously, all he had ever done was obliterate poisonous snakes, but now he was in the midst of a *new* eco-drunk breed that demanded the land be retained in its present form. The people all round him demanded it—that river, rocks and, yes, fangs, all of it remain.

"Let 'im go," the slim boy repeated.

"He's poison."

"He's more scared of you'n you are uh him."

"Babies kill too," Jackie countered.

"That's right," I said.

"Let 'im go, Jackie."

"He's a mean-un."

"More afraid uh you—"

"What's gonna happen when he's big?"

*continued overleaf*

"He ain't hurtin' you Jackie."

Jackie looked at the paddle. "He might bite me."

"Well," said the slim boy, "I'd rather him bit you than you kill 'im. Now, let 'im go."

Stone-faced, Jackie lifted the paddle and stepped back. The "baby" disappeared into a slab of wet earth.

The copperhead was as significant as the river. It was another accouterment of danger that the colony had to have, as necessary as any jutting, jagged white-water rock—for when you retreat to danger, demand it, court it, nothing must be missing. I looked at the fires. The sun was almost gone. The game was quiet.

But as I moved along the river bank in the querulously preserved Eco-land, it soon became apparent that indeed, what I was witnessing was the *real* game—more important than the river. Every place I stopped I was stroked with the talk of death, or near misses.

"I fell in!"

Pat and Jerry and Gayle and Rusty were here from Atlanta with the children—Jerry Jr., Michelle, Steve and Tracy. It was impossible to tell who was married to whom, because Jerry looked like Rusty and the wives had the required Southern reticence which produced obscurity and anonymity. They had come from the Atlanta suburbs—every one of them under 30—pilgrims from the white-house, black-roof, insurance-salesman set. But they all had been down the river, had just come off it.

"The way I see it—I mean, at first Jerry didn't even want to go. I had been two other times. But—I talked him into it, didn't I?" Rusty slurped his beer. He and Jerry both possessed zapped-out blond hair and Mediterranean blue eyes which appeared traumatized and somehow unable to focus.

"At's right!"

"How'd you feel?" I asked Jerry.

"I uh—wow—kept saying if I had one more breath—just one more breath, I knew I could make it."

"What do you mean?"

He gestured in the direction of their dog.

"I mean—me and 'Puppah Dog'—that one—we turned over." Puppah Dog's burnt-orange coat became red as the fire began to cast all the light.



"Where?"

"Bull Sluice."

"No!" Bull Sluice was everywhere, but, in fact, it was the last rough set of rapids of the number three section of the river. Since five people had drowned in there, it had become the specter of high campfire terror.

Jerry shook his head. "We were in the raft and all of a sudden we got over to the side, and over we went and I couldn't stay up. They say it's the water and everything's s'pose to keep you up. Hell, I didn't even have a life jacket. Then me and Puppah Dog were side by side. Hell, she spent most of the time outa the raft. She's a swimming fool."

"Sheet," said Rusty. "that dog musta swam five miles."

"I kept going under," said Jerry, "but I knew if I had one more breath I could—"

"The way I look at it—if Burt Reynolds can do it, I can do it," said Rusty. "he's got two arms and two legs."

"I'm—I'll—I'm gonna come back every week as much as I can," Jerry said. "It's just—well you never know what's gonna happen. You could get your brains beat out or you could slide down it like you was on a banana peel."

"You don't know," said Rusty. "You just don't know. The water's quiet, really no noise and the trees—"

mean, it's beautiful. You know, no cans and stuff. You can see the woods better than walking or in the car."

"Then the roar starts."

"Yeah, yeah."

"Then you pull into it and one of you's going one way and one's going the other."

"Yeah, and then all you hear is noise and all—you don't even see the sides of the river. The rocks are everywhere."

"And every set of rapids is different. If you get thrown out, you try to go down feet first and keep your butt up and your legs straight and





Photos from the John Boorman film 'Deliverance'.  
By courtesy of Warner Bros.

you fall and roll till you hit bottom, then you backpedal with those eddies away from the current."

"But—" Rusty exploded, "but Bull Sluice is a *hydraulic!*"

"What do you mean?"

"That means," Rusty said, "that you can get pulled back under and never come out! Some guys call 'em suckholes. That's what happened to Jerry."

"I got under—"

"He got under and couldn't get out!"

"Hey!" popped a voice from the night. "Hey, does your dog want these bones?" A bee-hive blond ap-

peared above the flames and held out four T-bones with great portions of steak still attached.

"I do believe," Rusty said.

"Where you from?" I asked her.

"Tennessee."

"And you came all this way?"

"People come from California and New Jersey and everywhere," she responded.

"This fellow's writin' something!" Jerry said.

"Well why do *you* come?"

"*Deliverance!*" She smiled.

"That's it?"

"You know, that thing that guy wrote about—"

"Oh, yeah, yeah," I said.

But Jerry and Rusty insisted that Rick Grubbs knew more than anybody. Rick was the most mystical, the most obscure and most experienced of the colony. While Rusty ate the steak bones, Rick pontificated.

"I've been down it hundreds of times now. People don't understand. They can't fool around with this place. There are four sections. Some people start on section one, which runs from Burrell's Ford to Russell's Bridge at Highway 28, which begins section two. But—see—see they really mean to go from Earle's Ford to right here at 76 Bridge—which is a much easier section.

"So they go down section one and wham—there's a 30-foot waterfall. That's where they get in a hell of a lot of trouble." Rick, who is blond, attractive, and from nearby Greenville, S.C., had spent the last three years learning the Chattooga. By the year the movie was being made he had already navigated it over 40 times.

*continued overleaf*



"Those guys," he said, pointing to Jerry and Rusty, "they aren't typical. They aren't dedicated. I want to know all of it. Every bit of it." Rick's dedication caused him to drop out of Clemson University and throw himself fully into the game.

"Those guys aren't—they don't understand. You've got to come in the night before and build a fire. Then you've got to socialize and talk to people about it. And finally, you've got to lie in your tent and see the stars disappear, fading out, and then you know that the river is beside you, you wake up with it, it's a part of you. People say that college or politics or business or any of that is real. But what they don't see is that *this*, this river is more real than any of it. I think—I don't think about anything else but the river. I may go back to Clemson, but right now—"

**Right now the river. It is advisable to test myself in the water before actually running the rapids in a rubber craft. So I step toward the current. Now waist deep, my legs are lifted, and the current sucks me as is I were a platelet punched along an artery. I try to follow instructions, to keep my head up, and somehow I move faster than the water itself—**

the sound and foam filling my eyes. The sun is shattered, splintered in a rush past light. And I am through it too—like Rick and Jerry and Rusty and Randy. I am lifted from the water by my friends. "All right," they say I have made my first catch in softball, gotten my driver's license, my first haircut, my first girl.

The raft contains a rudder and three friends. I sit up front to watch for rocks. I am warned that I could be bounced out, to lie back, I am told of the boy who tied his legs to the raft because he didn't want to become separated from the craft. He succeeded. He drowned with the line holding him under a hydraulic. Don't be stupid. Think! Use the muscles I thought had long since left me. "Right!" I scream! "No, left!" A hidden rock! The scenery a blur, a Van Gogh finger-painting. A semi-sweet chocolate thrill spreads in my sternum. I see myself as a sliver of some future tale of horror; then a vision of what could happen: *I see my own fall. I come loose from the raft. I try to straighten up, by my eyes close. There is an explosion through the darkness. I am pulled back under the hydraulic—battered, released, jerked in, down, into the pocket of water beneath the rocks. The air is slapped loose from my lungs. When they locate me. I add*

*to the 14 already drowned. "We couldn't find him for days," they said, "and when we did his own wife couldn't tell who he was."*

But, for now I am still inside the raft and it is sideways. Time—is slow—I start—to warn—my—friends—the—drop. There—is—there—is—are—days—but—no—longer—time—for—talk—but—instead—only—time—to—shake—with—what—I—was—to—ld—to swing—the raft—back—right rudder—and abruptly the trees regain their shape. The sun is whole. And now I am as close to those around me as a ninth grader at a candlelight service. Because I will recount it, I lived within it. Smiling now, through fried chicken and silence, I relish the special after-game pain which, perhaps, is the most important hurt of all.

**"They've been warned,"** Dickey tells me. "There've been articles and features and radio and television programs saying it's dangerous. But I know why they do it, Frank. They all want the test. So, I've got one thing I want to say." Jim Dickey leans back from the glare of his living-room light. "If you don't know what you're doing or even if you *think* you know what you're doing—stay the hell away."



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## NEW BOOKS GUIDES AND PUBLICATIONS

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There are quite a number of books to look at this issue with three new guides recently published, a book on canoe cruising and a detailed instructional book on glassfibre canoe building. Also we can look forward to a couple of other books in the process of publication—one on sea canoeing and yet another beginners guide.

**CANOE CRUISING MANUAL** by Noel McNaught. Published by Kaye and Ward Ltd., at £2.20. This little book on canoe cruising was very readable and interesting, being a whole string of reminiscences of Mr. McNaught's river and sea tours. However, just what value it is for the novice who wants to know how to start or for the enthusiast wanting detailed information on rivers, is hard to see. The book could certainly have done with very many more maps, while the photographs seem hardly applicable to modern day canoe touring. As we know, printing costs have gone sky-high, but the book is overpriced when compared with something like 'Canoeing Complete' still available at £2.40 (from Kaye and Ward again). Also there is some poor editing in Appendix D where the list of Scottish rivers has been misplaced with the start point.

**CANOE BUILDING IN GLASS-REINFORCED PLASTIC** by Alan Bye. Published by A & C Black Ltd., at £2.75. Alan Bye goes into print yet again, this time with a very detailed book on the intricacies of glassfibre canoe building, really, Alan's books are almost becoming as frequent as his kayak designs!

It's almost needless to say that the book is of exceptional value, crowded out with line drawings and explanation of even the smallest detail of canoe/kayak building. In his preface Alan writes '*The craftsman will call the enthusiastic amateur the 'bodger'. Well, this is the bodger's book, based on hard experience and what is known to be good practice.*' No, indeed not, this book is not for the bodger, but I am sure it will become the 'bible' of the almost countless Schools, Outdoor Centres, Youth Clubs, Adventure Groups, and Canoe Clubs, who take to building their own glassfibre canoes and kayaks, either from scratch or from a manufacturers 'kit'.

The book is added to the 'Canoeing Magazine' Stock List and available at £2.90 including postage.

**TRIP GUIDE—CANOE BRITISH COLUMBIA**, written and published by Members of Canoe British Columbia, priced at 2.50 Can.Dollars.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA CANOE ROUTES**, compiled by Canoe Sport British Columbia. Published by Nunaga Publishing Company, priced at 3.95 Can.Dollars.

This seems to be a case of one book for the price of two . . . ! At the beginning of March a review copy of the first arrived. This is a duplicated book of 11"x 9" format, giving details and guide to some 20 rivers in British Columbia. A river like the Fraser is broken down into 14 parts covering a 1000-miles of canoeable water, the Thompson River is broken down into 11 parts, Vancouver Island is covered in 13 parts. Each part gives relevant details such as water grade, river width, time allowed for paddling, distance to nearest community, camping places, and map references. Where rapids of a severe nature exist, detailed drawings show best routes through. The whole is very well produced and I would think a very comprehensive guide to the area.

The second book arrived just a few weeks back, but on reading through, it is the same as above but produced on a professional basis. The book is of 9"x 6" format, well laid out and includes a large number of photographs. Both publications are well worth the asking price and if any European paddlers are interested in running the rivers of British Columbia, Canoeing Magazine would be able to obtain copies to order.

**LE GUIDE DES GORGES DU VERDON** by Roger Verdegen. Published by Plein-Air Promotion Alpes-Provence at 35 franc. The eagerly awaited guide to the famous Verdon Gorge in Southern France has at last appeared in splendid colour. With three full colour photographs on almost every other page and explicit line drawings in anything up to seven colours, there can be little doubt that this is by far one of the most superb guides ever to be published on a single river.

The Verdon Gorge is taken in three sections and then each section described in smaller parts giving routes for canoeists and hikers, as well as details for swimmers. The full page line drawings are extremely explicit showing possible routes down, rocks and obstacles, under-cutting of the cliffs, plus portage points and hiking trail. It is interesting to note that all the photographs that tie in with the drawings are taken at a low angle, giving the view a canoeist would see on approach to the particular rapids. The book also covers the geology and course of the Verdon, its history and hydrology. The book is 96 pages of 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" format and printed on a coated paper, with soft covers. Text in English, German and French. Although the English in places is a little quaint, combined with the drawings and photographs, it is easily understood.

Even before publication, a number of British enthusiasts had ordered this book direct from France. However, your editor was so impressed with the first details of the production, that an exclusive sale rights for the U.K. has been concluded with the publishers and the publication is now available solely through 'Canoeing Magazine' (U.K. and Ireland). Price is £3.10 including post, see advert in this issue.

## THE XV INTERNATIONAL

# LIFFEY DESCENT

report and photographs by Norman Lilley

**Long Distance racing paddlers** from Great Britain again demonstrated their growing stature in dominating the XVth International Liffey Descent—held in Ireland on 31st August—gaining all the premier honours except first place in the Senior K2 event. British paddlers won the Senior Mens K1, Junior K1 and Junior K2, the Womens K1 and second place in the Senior Mens K2.

The Liffey Descent course has the reputation of being the toughest in Europe and comprises 17.6-miles of hard and tricky paddling, taking in 10 weirs, one major set of rapids and a very long and difficult portage, this on a river in flood makes for a course that demands a high level of canoeing skill. Thus the British Team travelled to Ireland on the Thursday evening and were able to make a thorough reconnaissance on the Friday, ensuring that team members were au-fait with the many hazards. One party led by the writer, discovered a new Liffey hazard in the shape of a two ton rampant bull which chased them across the field to Vanessa Weir!

Saturday arrived dull and threatening rain, but the start at Straffan Weir looked as inviting as ever. The Electricity Board had provided an enormous release of water from the dams, and nature contributed with a deluge of rain which persisted all through the day.

Off the start the K2 Class sprinted for pole position of Straffan Weir—only 100-metres down and a near vertical drop of 3 metres, followed by a 3-arched bridge—a veritable canoeists graveyard! The Irish rescue marshalls, dangling ropes from the bridge, were fairly busy here but British casualties were light. Chris Tatum in K1 took a dip and lost time, but Alan Miller damaged his kayak and made an early exit from the chase.

At Lucan, three weirs on, the pattern of the race was established. The leading Irish K2 crew of Pringle/Watkins were already two minutes up on the British crew of J. Hubbard/T. Speight, and both pairs looked strong and in good form, sliding sideways down the 2-metre high, 60° sloped face of this weir. Steve Browne led the Senior K1 Class, closely pursued by an Irish paddler, with John Day and Chris Tatum just a little down.

At the Wrens Nest Weir the banks were crowded with rain-soaked spectators who had come to see the Liffey ritual, which can be briefly described as down the tongue, panic in the stopper, and a spectacular capsize—approximately repeated at least a hundred times . . . ! The British paddlers made Wrens Nest look relatively easy, though Chris Tatum took yet another dip, as did the leading Irish K1, leaving John Day in second place.

At the finish the British K2 pair were still some two minutes down on the winning Irish pair, but Steve Browne in K1 crossed the line with a convincing lead, having dominated the race from start to finish. John Day, who at this stage was paddling a close semblance of a single seat submarine, was narrowly beaten by Chris Tatum in the closing stages.

Everyone enjoyed the usual Irish hospitality and were greatly indebted to the organisers and sponsors of the event for a truly great canoeing weekend.

**Senior K2**—1. I. Pringle/H. Watkins, Ireland, 1.59.00; 2. J. Hubbard/T. Speight, Great Britain, 2.01.04. **Senior K1**—S. Browne, Great Britain, 2.09.03; 2. C. Tatum, Great Britain, 2.12.50; **Junior K2**—Beardall/Fieldus, Great Britain, 2.11.00; **Junior K1**—O. Harding, Great Britain, 2.12.24; 2. S. Sheppard, Great Britain, 2.13.50; **Womens K1**—Sarah Burnett, Great Britain, 2.29.41







1



2



3



4



5

1. Open singles descend the fish ladder at Straffan Weir.
2. Steve Brown – winner K1 – makes Wrens Nest look easy.
3. A 'lady-like' approach to Wrens Nest.
4. Wrens Nest swallows up another victim.
5. Ernie Lawrence/Martin Kennedy – sideways over Lucan Weir.

# EVENTS & COURSES

## **Army Wild Water Champs.**

### **The Army and Inter-Services**

Open Wild Water Championships will take place on the River Swale in North Yorkshire over the weekend 23rd/24th November. The race will start at Marske Bridge to finish at Richmond. Civilian paddlers should note that this is an open event and as such they will be allowed to compete. Full details from: *Lt. M. S. Reid, R.S. 8th Signal Regt, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS.*

## **Bedford Marathon**

### **The third Annual Bedford to Kings**

Lynn Marathon for K2 kayaks will take place on 1st December. The race will start from Bedford Town Bridge at approximately 2.00am. Last year's winning time was 12hrs 14min set by Story/Clark of the Royal Signals. Details from: *J. R. Mathers, Spartan Folly, Pavenham, Bedfordshire.*

## **Northern Wild Water League**

**A new regional competition is to** be staged this winter, to appeal especially to the wild water paddlers in the North of England—although it must be pointed out that the below listed events are open for paddlers from any part of Britain. Under the title North of England Open Wild Water Championships, there will be nine races on four different rivers, with prizes for each race given by the various organisers. In addition a 'Northern League Table' of points gained by individual paddlers will be compiled, the winners of various classes being presented with prizes next spring. (As the rules do not state a confined area for paddlers in the Northern League Table, it is assumed paddlers from any part of the country will feature in this.)

The nine events are: Northumbrian on 10th November, 29th December and 23rd February; Eden on 17th November; Wharfe on 24th November and 2nd March; Tees on 15th Decem-

ber, 5th January and 2nd February. Full details from: *E. Palmer (Overall Organiser), 108 Holly Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.*

## **Churchill Fellowship**

### **Applications for the 1975 Churchill**

Fellowship Awards are being accepted from 1st September to 6th November. These Fellowships offer a money grant to U.K. citizens undertaking various projects, the award covering return air fares, daily living, travel within the countries visited, and any necessary equipment. The 1975 categories include: Adventure and Exploration, Naturalists and ecologists, plus an open category. Applications for details and forms to: *The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.*

## **Instructional Courses**

### **Details of instructional courses**

run by the Sports Council for Wales, and those by the Scottish Sports Council at Glenmore Lodge covering the period September to April, are now available. Leaflets from: *The Sports Council for Wales, National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff CF1 9SW and The Scottish Sports Council, 4 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PB.*

## **New course regulations**

### **A cutting from the Aberdeenshire**

'Press and Journal' newspaper, sent in by one of our readers, states that the Aberdeenshire Education Committee have recently introduced more stringent regulations for recreational canoeing, and special precautions are urged for sea canoeing.

Following the Committee's basic safety principles such as built-in or buoyancy bags for all kayak, the ability to swim a minimum of 50-metres and the ability to tread water, plus the wearing of lifejackets for fresh water canoeing until the student

has passed the inland proficiency (no recommendation that personal buoyancy should be worn at all times), it goes on to recommend: the wearing of partial wet-suit for open sea and at the discretion of the instructor for prolonged river trips; light crash hat for certain activities; canoeists never allowed on the water alone and no canoeing on strong tidal waters or at river mouths; all leaders to have senior instructor certificate as per B.C.U.; children taking part in canoeing must first have basic survival technique in swimming pool; students learning rolling techniques must be under the direct supervision of senior instructor; for young persons under inland proficiency, one senior instructor per six canoeists; kayaks of easily distinguished colours for sea canoeing; for sea canoeing paddlers must first have reached B.C.U. inland proficiency, and senior instructor per six paddlers, plus one other member over 18-years of age holding a sea proficiency certificate; escort boat in attendance of canoeists below sea proficiency on open sea; leader in charge of sea party must carry red hand flares; anoraks and crash helmets of sea party be red or yellow; coastguard must be informed of canoeists going on sea or harbour; and no sea canoeing in winds over Force 3.

## **New Scottish Centre**

### **Scotland's first National Water**

Sports Centre took a big step near reality at the end of August with the announcement by the Scottish Sports Council that a building contract worth £176,000 had been awarded to an Ayrshire firm.

The Centre is to be built on the island of Great Cumbrae, near Largs. It will cater for up to 30 students at a time, and include a lecture room, changing facilities, plus workshop.

Commenting on the new Centre, Mr. Stuart Ness, General Secretary of the Scottish Canoe Association said:

*'I am quite sure that Great Cumbrae will prove a boon for canoeing in this country, by increasing the number of people who are able to take part in the sport. It's an ideal situation on the west coast and I am confident that we will be able to improve general standards by using the Centre.'*

### CHEVRON-DUO FROM VALLEY

**While the controversy about Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids** has continued to gain momentum, Valley Canoe Products have been working at an idea that seems to have solved the problem. Their Chevron-Duo is now available in small numbers.

After overcoming a host of problems over the last two years, the final solution seems to be a brilliant compromise between the almost impossible demands made by canoeists for safe but undetectable personal buoyancy!

The Chevron is well established as a Buoyancy Aid, and the Chevron-Duo is a Chevron plus an inflatable halter that lies flat on top of this existing buoyancy jacket. When inflated, the Chevron-Duo gives buoyancy to the required by B.S.3595, and the unique guitar-shape gives even greater stability to the wearer in the water than the normal 'pillow-on-the-chest' type of jacket.

The Duo part can be worn as a separate entity, and for canoeists who want a minimum of restriction, especially surfers!, the Duo may well prove the ideal garment.

The Chevron-Duo will be submitted for B.S.I. approval as soon as possible, but the first production run is now on the market before this. The canoeist has the choice of the following combinations:

**CHEVRON**—worn on its own: buoyancy aid with 13.5 lbs buoyancy of closed-cell P.V.C. foam. With or without front zip. Four waist size adjustments, quick release buckle on belt.

**DUO**—worn on its own: a lifejacket to conform to B.S.3595. No inherent buoyancy. Oral inflation, quick release buckle on belt.

**CHEVRON-DUO:** add the two above together and you have the best of both worlds.

Prices have not been stabilised yet as full production will not commence until B.S.I. approval has been gained. However, on the limited supplies at present available the prices are: Chevron £6.50; Chevron with zip £7.00; Duo (second part only) £8.00; Chevron-Duo £14.00. Full details are available from: *Valley Canoe Products, Private Road 4, Colwick Estate, Nottingham.*

### NEW LENDAL SHOWROOM

**Lendal Products are pleased to announce that they** have now completed their new showroom. It is stocked with a comprehensive range of kayaks, accessories, and their own range of 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.

### PYRANHA ROUGH WATER KAYAKS

**Two new kayaks come onto the market this month** from Pyranha Mouldings Ltd., all for the rough water experts.

The Vedel 65K is a new version of the Ultra Vedel Slalom Kayak, being slightly smaller and should be well suited to the increasing number of younger paddlers around, but without it being a 'junior kayak' as such. The

*continued overleaf*



VCP Chevron-Duo.



New Lendal showroom.

Vedel 65K is suitable for paddlers under 65-kilos in weight.

The Bullet is now available as a standard production model, being the final development of the Viper and prototype Bullet from the last two previous Down River Racing seasons. The kayak is a reasonably large volume racer that is proving fast and responsive to the turn.

'Sprint' models are available for both the Vedels and the Bullet, using a new American fabric that makes almost a 30% weight saving over the standard glassfibre craft. Rigidity is of top class, while strength is even better than it was originally hoped that Diolen would give.

Also from Pyranha comes a new concept in canoe trailers in the Multitrailer. The trailer is available in '5-up' units, thus making it possible for outdoor centres, schools, youth clubs, etc., to expand their trailer capacity as they increase their canoe fleet. The '5-up' unit can also be used as a car roof rack. Preliminary test with this system has proved so successful that a patent is being taken out.

Full details of the new kayaks and trailer are available from: *Pyranha Mouldings Ltd., 23 Poachers Lane, Latchford, Warrington, Cheshire.*

## SPRAYDECKS & WETSUITS

**P. & H. Fibreglass Products, in continuing their service to canoeists,** have during the past months been developing two new lines. Available from May will be the 'Phinephit' range of Neoprene Spraydecks and Wet Suits.

The Spraydecks will initially be in two sizes, large to fit all slalom kayak cockpits, and small to suit C1, C2 canoes and Surf/Sea kayaks. All seams are glued and 'four needle' stitched with rot proof terylene thread, edges are trimmed with contrasting turbo tape, whilst the 'barrel' of the spraydeck is reversed for 4" above the flat area to give red or blue band, thus enhancing the visual effect. The release strap at the front is of 1" wide orange nylon webbing with a neat toggle to aid positive release. Price £7.99 including VAT.

The 'Phinephit' range of wet suits will fill a long standing gap in canoeists protection wear. Hitherto wet suits have been tailored to suit divers, water skiers, etc., and no thought has been given to the 'bent up' needs of the paddler. This new range caters for chest expansion, back stretch across the shoulders, and curvature of the spine.

Three styles will be available: *The 'Surfer'*, a one-piece short leg (Bermuda) and vest combined, the neck and arm apertures cut well back to give total freedom of movement whilst retaining 'wet suit' warmth and protection: *The 'Long John'*, identical to above but with ankle length legs and side seams trimmed with turbo tape: *The 'Body Glove'*, a pullover style (no bottom) with special neck and wrist seals of ultra soft neoprene. Seals are made by tucking in and the effect is to make the Body Glove virtually a dry suit. The arms are trimmed with turbo tape and 8" Riri zip is fitted in the back to ease entry/exit. Prices, excluding VAT: Surfer £14.73: Long John £18.87: Body Glove £18.87.

Full details of the 'Phinephit' spraydeck and Wet Suit range can be obtained from: *P. & H. Fibreglass Products, 76 Dale Road, Spondon, Derby.*



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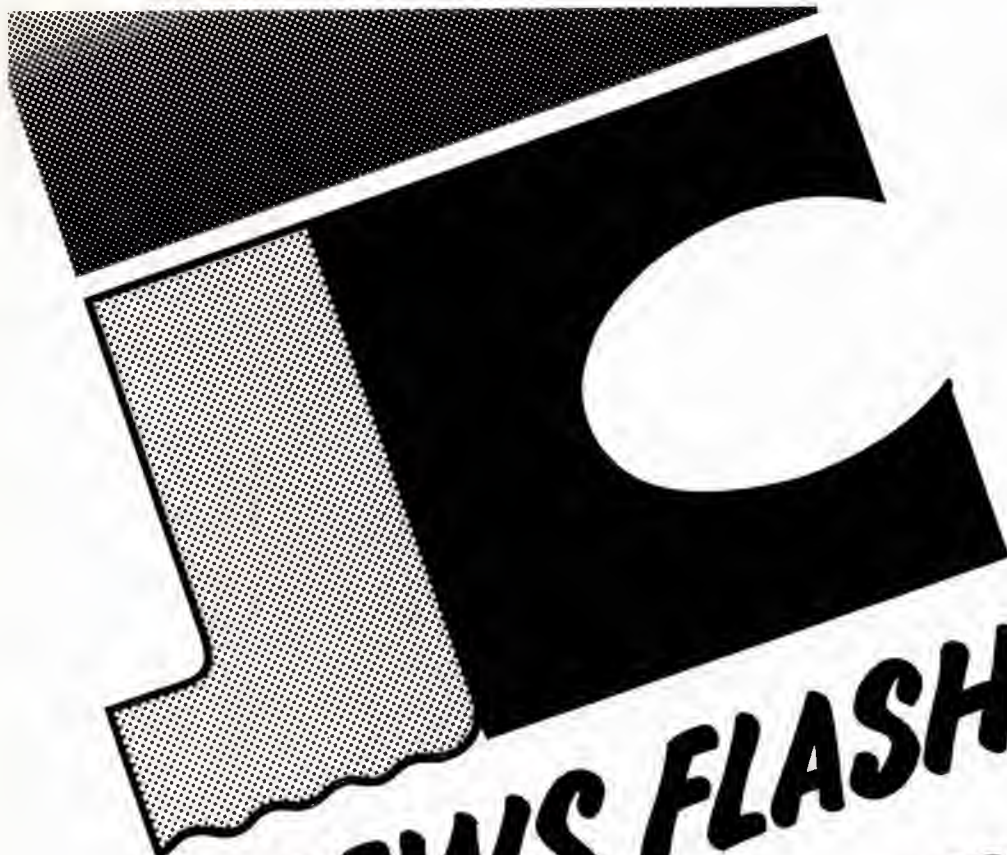
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