

# CANOEING

IN BRITAIN 25P

No. 94 FEB/MAR 1975



1975 CALENDAR

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

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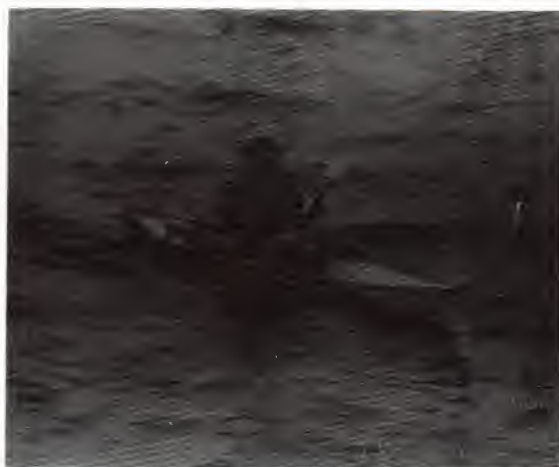
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EDINBURGH EH2 4PB.  
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# CANOEING IN BRITAIN

## JAFFA SPONSORS WW CHAMPS

As we go to press, preparations are going ahead to set up the Jaffa Wild Water Racing Championship, being held on February 16/17th on the River Tryweryn, near Bala, Wales. 'Jaffa', the orange and grapefruit people, are going to sponsor the whole event, hence the change in title to 'The Jaffa Wild Water Racing Championships'.

Competitors are racing for really good prizes, and not fruit, although it's quite on the cards that competitors and spectators will receive a goodly amount of Vitamin C prior to racing. The British team for the World Championships to be held in Yugoslavia in June, will be picked from the winners.

Friday 15th is to be devoted to practice, also Saturday morning. The team event will be run on Saturday 16th afternoon and on Sunday the individual event is to be held.

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE BRITISH HIMALAYAN CANOEING EXPEDITION 1976



The Expedition will take place during August and September 1976, after the period of maximum water flow following the snow melt. The purpose of the trip is for 12 kayakers to complete a 300 mile section of the Upper Indus River in North East Pakistan — from near Skardu down to the newly completed Tarbela Dam. The river drops about 5000 feet in this distance and flows through some of the deepest valleys in the Himalayas. The canoeing group will be supported by a land party on the more accessible sections.

### EDITOR

Jack Levison,  
11 Martindale Grove,  
Eggescliffe,  
Stockton-on-Tees  
Cleveland TS16 9DL

Production by Granville Dodson

Canoeing in Britain is published in Feb, April, June, August, October & December by Ocean Publications Ltd, 34 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RE (01-834-3511/3430). Comments, articles, photographs and reports are welcomed, and should arrive by the 3rd of the month prior to publication.

The river is geologically antecedent and has a reasonably smooth profile, but it is likely that some sections of the famous Haramosh Gorge may have a gradient of as much as 70 feet per mile. Portages in this section cannot be ruled out altogether but the aim is to attempt to kayak the whole river.

The expedition still has places for canoeists with substantial white water experience, but it is necessary that they should have had some previous experience of wilderness camping or mountaineering, in view of the type of terrain to be encountered. The group will spend about 25 days on the water and it is hoped that this will include a certain amount of time for local exploration.

The Expedition has been formally recognised by the BCU Council who have agreed to act as Patrons. The cost of the whole trip should not exceed £600 per paddler, although it is hoped that this figure will be greatly reduced by sponsorship.

The organising committee, Mike Fennessey, Peter Knowles and Richard Knight, are still involved with the planning stages and would welcome any help especially in the form of first hand knowledge, or photographs, of the river; particularly of the Haramosh Gorge. Anyone interested in joining the Expedition or offering assistance, financially or otherwise, should contact Mike Fennessey at Lundy, Bishopstone, Hereford, HR4 7JE, for further information.

## BCU HEADQUARTERS ASKS US TO POINT OUT:

1. If you are going to move please let us know your new address in advance. The notification so often comes to us when memberships are renewed (i.e. once a year) by which time several issues of C.in.B have gone to the old address.
2. Please ensure that cheques are correctly drawn and signed. Quite a few have had to be returned for completion.
3. Try to make applications for new membership or renewals on the correct form and not by attaching a remittance to notepaper.

If you do not wish to cut your copy of C. in B. you can of course photocopy the necessary form.

### ADVERTISEMENT DEPT.

Chris Hare,  
9 Tynebrooke Avenue,  
Hartlepool,  
Cleveland  
Tel. Hartlepool (0429) 66339

Advertisement copy should arrive by the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication

### Front Cover:

*A young Gloucester Canoe Club member on the Wye above Rhayader. Photo by Derek Organ A.R.P.S.*

## Editorial

In the day when I organised the packing and despatch of Canoeing in Britain from my home, we were always conscious of the Christmas mail problem, and much forward planning, booking of printing time and split-second timing was needed to get the final result of Ballotpaper, Agenda, Annual Report and C.in.B out to members before Santa loomed on the horizon.

The present arrangement, whereby copy is produced in the North, laid out in the South, and printed and despatched in Wales, is more time consuming, and is responsible to some extent for delays in publishing the Dec/Jan issue.

Bi-monthly production has also brought forward copy date by 5 weeks, so the unfortunate situation arose for at least one reader, on receiving his last magazine, of discovering that copy date for this issue was the previous day! Sorry about that, we do our best, but copy date is the 3rd of alternate months from now on for editorial matter and the 1st of the month for ads.

Because of soaring costs, it has not been possible to publish the Calendar of Canoeing Events as a wallposter this year, and the usual calendar information is included in this issue of your magazine. Good canoeing.

Jack Levison

## CONTENTS

BCU reports for 1974	6
News	8
1975 Calendar	9
(i) Competition and Social events	9
(ii) Competition and Social event organisers	10
(iii) Coaching calendar	11
(iv) Coaching addresses	15
(v) International events	15
(vi) BCU Directory	15
(vii) Area Coaching Organisers	16
Club Chat	17
Letters	17
Canoe Sailing	18
Subscription form	20

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 pages 15 & 16.

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

# B.C.U. REPORTS FOR 1974

## FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1974

The B.C.U. like most other organisations is suffering from the effects of inflation. The considerable increases in costs, together with the delayed effect of subscription increases, has resulted in a deficit for the year of £3,790. The income and expenditure account can be summarised as follows:

<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions		11,441	
Admin. and Coaching Grant from Sports Council		12,040	
Other income		1,782	
Int. and Training Grants from Sports Council		23,701	
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,964</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Admin. Expenses	15,254		
Coaching Scheme	6,220		
Cost of "Canoeing in Britain"	5,083		
Grants to Technical Committees	2,496		
Grants to Competitors etc. (per contra)	23,701	52,754	
<b>Deficit for the year</b>			<b>£3,790</b>

The position has been aggravated by the following factors:

- (1) General meetings to increase subs. cannot be held until late in the financial year. These increases in subs. cannot therefore take effect until January resulting in a considerable loss of income.
- (2) Due to many staff changes, staff appointment costs have been considerable.

To avoid the problem arising in (1) a resolution is to be put before the 1975 A.G.M. authorising Council to increase subscriptions, when they consider this necessary. It is now impossible to anticipate the level of inflation and it is essential that your Council are in a position to deal with any position arising.

The Council are budgeting for a surplus in 1974/75, after taking into consideration the increased costs anticipated for that year. Part of the benefit of the increase in subscriptions agreed by general meeting in October will be reflected in the current year.

E. J. OWEN, Treasurer

## B.C.U. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 1974

### OFFICERS OF THE UNION

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

### COUNCIL

#### Elected Members:

G. Sanders (Chairman)  
E. J. Owen (Hon. Treasurer)  
Mis M. Bellord  
M. Colgan  
C. M. Rothwell  
J. Spuhler  
J. A. Bright  
A. D. Harber  
C. B. Manton  
E. B. Totty (Vice Chairman)  
R. F. Tyas

### RETIRES

Annually

Next year

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This year

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#### Nominated Members:

B. T. Barton  
K. Clark  
R. W. Emes  
A. L. Laws  
J. T. T. MacIntyre  
M. J. Markham  
C. E. Quaife  
J. E. Pearton  
P. E. Wells  
Wing Cdr. P. F. Williams  
J. S. Young

Corps of Canoe Lifeguards  
Canoe Polo Committee  
Sprint Racing Committee  
Long Distance Racing Committee  
Canoe Association of N.I.  
Slalom/Whitewater Committee  
National Coaching Committee  
Touring Committee  
Sailing Committee  
Joint Services Canoe Association  
Scottish Canoe Association

#### Co-opted Members:

F. L. Briscoe  
R. J. Jones

H. Thelen

The Sports Council  
Chairman: Central Management  
Committee  
Liaison Officer for Canoeing  
in Britain

### Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Competition Committee	R. W. Emes
Standing Liaison	G. Sanders
Access	R. F. Tyas
National Exhibition	J. A. Bright
Publications	P. C. A. Rogers
Finance	G. Sanders

### Chairmen of Specialist Committees:

National Coaching	J. S. Brown
Sprint Racing	R. W. Emes
Long Distance Racing	A. L. Laws
Slalom/Whitewater Racing	M. J. Markham
Sailing	P. E. Wells
Touring	R. F. Tyas
Canoe Polo	J. Woolley
Corps of Canoe Lifeguards	B. T. Barton

### Special Officers:

Director of Coaching	O. J. Cock
Part-time National Coaches	C. E. Quaife
	C. H. Hare
	C. A. Gray
For competition	J. A. Fazey
Director: Espada Scheme	D. Cooke
General Secretary (to June 1974)	D. P. H. Tudor-Williams
Acting General Secretary (from June)	O. J. Cock

### HEADQUARTERS

Early in the year came the move from Park Crescent to Knightsbridge, and this made possible the return of the Coaching Department to headquarters. In the middle of the year, Mr. Tudor-Williams, our General Secretary, left us, and we here acknowledge our appreciation of his work for the Union in face of considerable difficulties and staff shortages. In particular we would single out his efforts in connection with the move to new premises, a move that went through very smoothly and with expedition.

Pending the appointment of a new chief executive, the Director of Coaching, Mr O. J. Cock, was asked if he would shoulder the work of General Secretary in addition to his own, and we would like to express our thanks to him for all he has done, and is still doing in this connection. During the year we also said farewell to another member of the Staff, Mrs Barbara Boyer, who served the union with devotion for over four years, and only left us for family reasons. Our thanks go with her.

### MEMBERSHIP

For the second year in succession we have to report a fall in the total number of canoeing clubs affiliated to us, and this in spite of the enrolment of quite a large number of new clubs. This loss of club backing is particularly unfortunate at a time when we need the active support of every canoeist and canoe club in our fight to retain our use of water. However, the Individual membership has continued to rise as is shown by the table below.

	1972	1973	1974	% Increase 1974
<b>Membership</b>				
Full Members	4511	5081	5922	16.6
Youth Members	1369	1709	1768	3.5
Family Members	621	755	830	10.0
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>6501</b>	<b>7545</b>	<b>8520</b>	<b>12.9</b>
<b>Affiliated Clubs</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

### COUNCIL

The Council has met five times and in addition to routine business it has devoted considerable time to deliberations concerning the future development of the Union. The Development Project Group appointed in 1973 has carried out a review of the work and organisation of the Union, and published recommendation in a discussion paper, later producing a second report which was accepted by the Council for progressive implementation as the situation permits.

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Members of the Union have given valuable service to the many national and regional organisations concerned with sport, including the British Olympic Association, the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Regional Sports Councils and Sports Advisory Committees, Safety Organisations and other specialist bodies, and the Council wishes to express its gratitude to these members who have by their efforts, enabled the Union to carry out its wide duties and responsibilities as a governing body of sport. The H.Q. Staff can only do so much, and every organisation depends for a large part of its work and effectiveness on members serving in a voluntary capacity. The National Canoe Exhibition was held as

usual at the Crystal Palace and proved a great success, even though it was held at a difficult time for travel, and did not enjoy the degree of trade support to which it had become accustomed.

A great deal of success was due to the encouraging backing from the clubs and from the specialist committees with one notable exception. The Council thanks those who planned and carried through the organisation of this very important function, and also all who contributed to its success.

#### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Union has given its fullest support to the International Canoe Federation, and our members have served on its Board of Management and Technical Committees. We have also been able to provide valuable help with the preparation of the ICF Jubilee Book. The Union was represented at the Congress of the ICF and on the panel of Officials at the World Championships held in Mexico City. Three delegates took part in the ICF Conference on 'Youth and Canoeing' held in Spain, one of them providing a lecture on the use of the canoe in adventure training.

#### FILMS

The BFI commission on our Library films was £148 compared with £169 last year, £127 in 1972 and £72 in 1971. In addition there has been some profit on sales of copies. All this demonstrated that the new films put into the library in 1972 were a good investment, and it is to be regretted that there have been delays in introduction of further films. Sales of film loops have fallen slightly and we have probably reached saturation of the market for sales to institutions. In future we must rely on sales to individuals and on replacements.

#### INSURANCE

The introduction of the two-thirds limit on payments for all whitewater total loss claims, already in force where competition is concerned, seems to be having some effect in reducing the pressure on the Underwriters, so that for this year the overall position is healthier. Although gross premium receipts are about the same as last year, the higher costs of administration has somewhat reduced the profit to the Union.

#### THE COACHING SCHEME

The Coaching Scheme goes from strength to strength and the indications are that it maintains its prestige throughout the canoeing and educational world. Below are some figures on Test and Award Certificates issued, with those of 1973 for comparison:

		1973/4	1972/3	
Proficiency Tests	Inland	1838	1610	
	Sea	502	438	1653
	Canadian	51	18	
Advanced Tests	Inland	55	29	
	Sea	24	14	46
	Canadian	0	3	
	Life Saving Test	65	—	
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>New Appts.</b>	<b>Resig-nations</b>
Senior Instructor	Inland	991(790)	237	92
	Sea		73	22
	Canadian		5	0
Coach		59(62)	9	12
Competition Coach		30(28)	5	3
Senior Coach		23(25)	—	2

The Sailing Committee has inaugurated a full training programme under their Specialist Coach appointed last year.

A sub-committee of the National Coaching Committee has been appointed to carry out a survey on the operations of the existing test and award schemes, with a view to making recommendations on further improvement.

#### SPRINT RACING

The year has shown that this branch is making a steady growth with a great increase in the number of clubs participating, as well as in individuals competing. With this increase in participation comes an urgent need for more technical officials and other forms of assistance. Teams have taken part in a number of major regattas on the Continent, including the Great Jubilee Regatta held in Duisburg, and a token entry was made for the World Championship held in Mexico City, the sole participant reaching the Final of his event.

The Olympic Training Squad has been re-formed and a full programme has been laid down which will lead up to the Olympic Games in 1976.

#### SLALOM AND WILDWATER RACING

A year of considerable activity at home and abroad, and one in which a great deal of work has been done on the white water racing side of the sport. Very creditable results were obtained in the competitions of the I.C.F. European Cup, and in New Zealand the team distinguished itself. An intensive training programme has been started with a view to the World Championship in 1975.

#### LONG DISTANCE RACING

The year has seen excellent results in international races in Denmark, Norway, Holland, Ireland and Spain, and we congratulate all concerned, both competitors and the officials. Long Distance Racing continues to attract large numbers of adherents and ever more races appear on the programme. This branch has had the advantage of some generous support from a sponsor, both in connection with the National Championships and with the "Grand Prix" series of races. The Union appreciates this support and welcomes the assurance of its continuance.

#### CANOE SAILING

The year 1974 saw the triumph of the Swedish canoe sailors in Hayling Island, Steinhuder Meer, Duisburg, and their success has brought home to our own canoe sailors the need for a great improvement in standards. It is patent that this branch of the Union's competitive side has lagged behind some of the others, and to deal with the situation the Committee has appointed a sailing coach to organise the training of a National Squad drawn from all parts of the country.

#### CANOE POLO

The number of clubs taking part in canoe polo matches has increased steadily and forty teams entered for the eliminating round of the National Championship, the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of which took place at the Crystal Palace during the National Exhibition. Denstone again were the winners. Although a number of local tournaments have been staged, it has not yet been found possible to set up a national league. Enquiries have been received from several overseas association, including West Germany where the game is being actively encouraged to the extent that a demonstration match was laid on for visitors to the Jubilee celebrations of ICF.

#### TOURING AND ACCESS

From January 1974 the membership of the Touring Executive Committee and the Access Committee overlapped to such an extent that no distinction was made in the three subsequent meetings, when the future organisational needs in both contexts were being examined. An interim report was made to the Development Project Group in April, and the discussions are continuing.

Pilot studies have been initiated in three local areas to see how local arrangements for handling touring and access matters can best be developed. One relates to a whitewater area, one to a lowland area, and the third to an area including an important group of polluted rivers which are being "cleaned up" and where potential fishing rights are being built up by angling organisations.

The access position itself has not improved. During the year the Scottish action against the Loch Insh Canoeing and Sailing School (which was concerned with the right of the public to canoe the Spey) was decided in the Court of Session against the owners of the fishing rights, but an appeal was lodged and heard, and the result is awaited. Local access agreements have been maintained on parts of the Eden, North Tyne, Tyne and Dart.

Touring information concerning canoeing on the Continent is being increasingly provided to individual members as well as to youth and school groups.

#### CORPS OF CANOE LIFEGUARDS

The year has been spent in consolidating the Corps and rationalising its administration. Three training weekends have been held and reports from some units indicate that they are becoming accepted as part of the local scene in many coastal areas, receiving financial support from the safety conscious local authorities.

National Championships were held at Gosport under adverse weather conditions, and led to the establishment of good relations between the participating units.

The Corps gave a demonstration of skills in the Crystal Palace Pool and members of the Coaching Scheme have been invited to attend training sessions of the Corps, not only to bring themselves up to date in Corps techniques, but in order that they can contribute new ideas in regard to the use of the canoe in life saving.

#### CANOEING IN BRITAIN

During the year the production of "Canoeing in Britain" has been handed over to an outside firm, Ocean Publications, which specialises in participant sport magazines.

Under the arrangements made with the publisher, all BCU Individual Members will receive the magazine as a right of membership, and the magazine will appear six times per year. The Union has appointed a Liaison Officer to monitor those pages of the magazine which represent the voice of the Union, and has co-opted him to the Council.

#### DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GROUP

This body was set up by the Council to review the working of the Union, and it produced an interim report which was published in the June issue of Canoeing in Britain, as a discussion paper. Later its recommendations were agreed by the Council for implementation directly, or, when necessary, in terms of relevant

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GROUP cont.

motions to a general meeting of the Union. The interim report recommended an increase in the subscription, and in order that such an increase could come into force from November 1st, 1974, these proposals were put to a Special General Meeting held in October. The new subscription rates were approved, as was also the proposal that they apply to all new members from November 1st and to renewals from January 1st, 1975.

Another recommendation was that an Office Manager be appointed to take up his duties on November 1st, 1974, and this was done.

## CANOE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland Division continues to grow and now has a solidly based Coaching Scheme producing a steady flow of Instructors and Advanced Sea canoeists. After two or three years of stagnation the competition side is moving again and for the first time ever, C.A.N.I. has organised this year an expedition to the Continent to take part in slaloms at Lippstadt and Augsburg, as well as to take on a number of wildwater rivers in Bavaria.

Sea Touring is increasing and a number of advanced sea trips have been accomplished. Some members of C.A.N.I. have opted to train and compete with the Irish Team. Members are beginning to show an interest in the Corps of Canoe Lifeguards.

## SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION

We have received welcome reports from our Scottish Division which

indicate a vigorous growth in all fields of activity. Local authorities are now showing a willingness to provide permanent facilities at a number of sites, and in the Strath Clyde Park, near Hamilton, the facilities will be similar to those at Holme Pierrepont.

The Coaching Scheme is developing rapidly and a Coach and Senior Coach have been appointed during the year. A team from Scotland has competed overseas, including at Zaandam where five Gold and two Silver medals were won. Scottish canoeists were also to be found in the British Team, and two of them, both British Champions, gained successes abroad.

The canoeists in Scotland have been paying special attention to the progress of the Spey Case, and await the outcome with interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge our debt to the Sports Council for its encouragement and continued financial support. We also thank the Wardens of Activity Centres who provide us with facilities for courses and help with access arrangements; commercial concerns who help with sponsorship of events; and the multitude of members who give of their time and energy to teach, organise, supervise or help with the work of committees. Finally our Headquarters Staff for their loyal work on our behalf.

On behalf of the Council of the Union,  
J. W. DUDDERIDGE, President

December 1974

# NEWS

## YOUTH PADDLERS — 1975

In an attempt to improve communications, a register of Youth paddlers is being made. A Youth is defined for 1975 as a paddler who is under eighteen years old on the 1st of January, 1975. All first Division paddlers who qualify as Youths for 1975 are asked to send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the address given below as soon as possible. Your date of birth should be included.

Keith Clark (Acting Junior Team Manager), Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

## LIFE SAVING JACKETS

In the last issue of CiB reference was made to a waistcoat buoyancy aid to the SBBNF standard which may be felt sufficient for inland canoeing and competition work. This should have read: buoyancy aid to ICF standards — not SBBNF standard.

## 1976 CANOE EXHIBITION

The date for next year's Canoe Exhibition has been set for the 21st and 22nd February 1976, and exhibitors in particular are asked to make a note of this date.

## PAST ISSUES OF C in B

A number of back issues of CiB covering the period March 1973 — October/November 1974 are being offered to members who wish to make up their collection at 9p per copy — 50p for the set of six. Apply to Headquarters.

## CANOE SLALOM 'MASTER CLASS'

The Master Class has been in operation for a year now. Competitors in the Master Class wear Special 'M' bibs at Div 1 events, and may paddle in consecutive order.

A paddler attains Master Class status by being placed in the first ten in a Div 1 event. He loses his status if he is placed below 25th position. He does not lose his status by not competing.

The Master Class is set at the start of the season as the top 20 paddlers in the

previous season's ranking list. Paddlers who retain Master Class status for a full year, competing in at least 3 events, constitute the 'Masters' for that particular year, and receive a memento of the occasion.

### 1974 Masters

R. Calverley  
J. McLeod  
A. Edge  
M. Swallow  
M. Peters  
D. Mitchell

N. Wain  
A. Kerr  
J. Dolan  
C. Lovelock  
M. Halaby  
J. Shackleton

### Master Class — Start of 1975

R. Calverley  
N. Wain  
D. Mitchell  
A. Edge  
R. Campbell  
M. Thomas  
J. Shackleton  
N. Midgley  
C. Ralph  
P. Wood

M. Shallow  
M. Peters  
J. Dolan  
C. Lovelock  
J. McLeod  
A. Kerr  
J. Young  
L. Wilbraham  
M. Halaby  
R. Hignall

All present holders of bibs are requested to return them to H. Calverley, 22 Schools Rd, Abbey Hey, Gorton, Manchester M18 8RF, in order that they can be cleaned and refurbished for the coming season. Bibs will be issued and recollected at each slalom.

## NEW CHAIRMAN OF COACHING COMMITTEE

Mr. G. Sanders who has been acting as chairman of the BCU Coaching Committee for nine years, has been compelled to retire from this position owing to his many other commitments — in particular as Chairman of the Council. The last meeting of the Coaching Committee held on the 2nd and 3rd November expressed its thanks to Mr. Sanders for the work which he had put into the running of the Coaching Scheme and elected in his place, in the first instance for a period of one year, Mr. J. Brown as his successor.

## LONG DISTANCE RACING COMMITTEE

From the 25th to the 30th May 1975, 16 young paddlers in the 14-16 age range, drawn from any of the major canoeing disciplines will be invited to Holme Pierrepont for a week of intensive coaching. The course is intended for paddlers who are not already members of a National Squad but who are 'Just on the fringe of International Selections'. If your

club has such a L.D. paddler, his or her nomination for a place on this course should be sent immediately to the L.D.R. Secretary. Mrs C. M. Laws, 47 Bowgate, Gosberton, Spalding, Lincs.

## FOR RACE ORGANISERS

A number of clubs have complained this year about the standard of entry forms and results sheets and the length of time between the race and the receiving of results sheets. Well presented results giving name, position, club and Hasler points should be sent out within 14 days of the race to the paddlers, race records officer and the L.D.R. secretary.

## LONDON SCHOOLS LAUNCH NEW CERTIFICATE

The London Schools Canoeing Association, concerned that children who do not canoe regularly outside of the school curriculum find the gap between the B.C.U. Elementary and Proficiency tests too large, have instituted their own Intermediate test and certificate.

B.C.U. reaction to this is uncertain, however the Intermediate test requires forward and back swimming strokes, knowledge of uses of lifejackets, basic safety and canoe knowledge, and the ability to demonstrate certain basic strokes and manoeuvres. The candidate is also asked to complete the capsiz test, and perform a rescue of his own choice — with assistance if needed. Evidence of two 3-mile canoe trips is required. There is no charge for the test — a badge and certificate are issued.

The L.S.C.A. is keen to supply details of the tests and awards. Associations and Authorities should contact J. C. Whitworth, 20 Stainer House, Ferrier Estate, Kidbrooke, London S.E.3.

## BE KIND TO JUDGES

A plea in the latest issue of White Water for slalomists to mark *clearly* their numbers on their boats. It points out the difficulty judges have in identifying paddlers, especially when only a few straight bits of tape are used to make numbers like "2" and "8". Other menaces are those who have four numbers on their boats, three of which are crossed out in felt marker and the "Arty Numbers" fanatics, whose original designs are things of beauty but unreadable from the bottom of the Serpent's Tail. "Make 1975 'be kind to Judges Year,'" it concludes.





The end of a K2 as its crew attempt to negotiate the salmon steps at Cowley Bridge Weir, one of the formidable obstacles in the 1974 Exe Descent. Photo: R. Davey



Richmond Falls, a spectacular vertical drop of 10 feet, proved a great crowd-puller at the Army, Inter-service and Open Wild Water Championship on the Swale in November. 80 canoeists were awarded a "Certificate of Insanity" for shooting the fall, into a pool well supplied with Army frogmen.

In the event itself, the Army took top honours with 91 points against the RAF's 80. (Full report next issue).

Photo: Norman Lilley

## THE EXE DESCENT

The Exe Descent is probably the most hazardous L.D. race in Great Britain and this year the river was in spate. Keith Topham of Viking K.C. unfortunately capsized at the notorious Cowley Steps (pictured above) some two miles from the finish after lying second for most of the race, but eventually managed to regain third place at the finish, in spite of a damaged boat. All records were broken at this year's race.

Manchester Canoe Club's report on last year points out surprisingly, that 1974 has had some of the driest weather for the past 50 years. This ruined the Irwell tours planned for the earlier part of the year, a great pity because the Irwell, particularly above Ramsbottom, is a tremendous river after heavy rain. Because of irresponsible behaviour by a minority of visiting paddlers, many clubs decided last year that they would not publish their tour

programmes. Manchester was virtually the only Club giving tour details in the B.C.U. calendar, which prompted quite a number of canoeists to join them from other areas for cruises.

The last year has shown a substantial improvement of the canoe sailing scene within Birmingham Canoe Club. The club has held two very successful open sailing events at Edgbaston Reservoir, with competitors coming from all parts of the country to what were most enjoyable weekends. Tony Marston (who is Hon. Secretary of the B.C.U. Sailing Committee) has had considerable success in the Birmingham produced, all-glass "Alfred the Great." This boat has been campaigned throughout the country and has received wide coverage in the yachting press.

In the year of '75 it is anticipated that more canoe sailors (or is it sailing canoeists?) will be joining the ranks.

## Letters

An open letter to The Secretary, B.C.U. Coaching Scheme:

Dear Sir,

For goodness sake get it right *this time!* I became an Instructor in July 1967, was not able to become an S.I. immediately the change occurred so lost my teaching status — attended an A.I. course September 1973 — obtained R.L.S.S. December 1973 — S.I. April 1974 — now this fiasco of awards and titles. Who is going to pay for these new courses? I am annoyed because of the distances and costs involved and the total waste of energy and time. Should I bother taking new qualifications or just wait a few years till it is all changed again?

I await your reply,

Yours (far from pleased),

E. Dale  
Ex S.I., Ex I.  
Oxford

From the Director of Coaching,  
British Canoe Union

"I am not quite sure what Mr. Dale is getting at. He signs himself as "Ex S.I.", when in actual fact he is a current Member of the Coaching Scheme and is a fully qualified Senior Instructor (Kayak Inland). I guess that he has been hastily reading papers recently circulated within the Coaching Scheme referring to some

suggested alterations to the present organisation with a view to improving it and the service it offers.

"As things stand at the moment, it does not seem that there is any intention to alter the Senior Instructor Award at all, so again, I do not understand why Mr. Dale should be so annoyed."

Dear Mr. Levison,

My congratulations and thanks for an interesting and well presented C. in B. (No. 93).

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Stoneley  
Cambridge

(Thank you for the compliment, and our thanks go to our correspondents and photographers, whose contributions are much appreciated — Editor.)

Dear Sir,

I have just completed my first season of canoeing as a somewhat elderly novice and have experienced much pleasure as well as providing even more amusement for spectators. Two points come to mind however:

1) As a Novice Slalomist, (a group to be encouraged I would have thought) I do not receive a copy of the Slalom handbook and calendar (which is most important if I am to continue competing) even though I pay exactly the same B.C.U. fees as Divisions 1, 2

and 3 and my name and address is already in the hands of the compilers from past entry cards.

2) Coming from the sport of Orienteering which is very similar to canoeing in that it relies for its continuance upon the goodwill of landowners, I am appalled at the very low standard of camping exhibited at most of the slalom sites I have visited. Many of them have been canvas slums, the surrounding site has been left in a terrible state with litter and damage to fences etc. which has given the organisers a lot of extra work, whilst behaviour by some canoeists in the locality has left a lot to be desired. If we are to continue with the sport in its present form and on the present sites we are all going to have to make a real effort to improve matters.

Eric Walker  
Bradford & Airedale C.C.

Dear Sir,

Splashed across the back of the B.C.U. Calendar for 1974 are details of the B.C.U. Espada Award Scheme. This states that "to recognize the achievement of young paddlers, Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards have been instituted, and for each award there will be a badge, certificate and boat sticker.

This is admirable, but not so praiseworthy is the fact that no awards are yet available.

My son was one of the first canoeists to gain the Gold Award in June 1974. After two letters of enquiry he received his Certificate in November, 1974, but was told that supplies of badges and stickers have not yet been delivered. He is still waiting for them.

Surely it would have been better to launch this scheme when the awards were to hand instead of disappointing many young canoeists who eagerly await their awards after not a little effort to gain same.

D. W. Oliver  
Romford

Dear Sirs,

From Mr. D. Ball of the "Canoe-Camping Club" I got your address. Please be good enough to publish the programme of our yearly canoe-weekend to the bulbfields (April 19th and 20th 1975) as early as possible in your magazine.

It is going on as follows:

**Saturday 19:** There are three possibilities, i.e.:

1. Going by autocar to the bulbfields.
2. Canoe-trip to the beautiful old village of Spaarndam. Start half past ten in the morning. Length about 9 miles. Duration 5 hours.
3. Short canoe-trip through the older parts of Harlem. Start half past one in the afternoon. Length about 5.5 miles. Duration two hours.

**Sunday 20:** Start at nine o'clock in the

morning by autocar to Hillegom (village south of Haarlem). Boats are brought up by trailer. Here start of the trip at ten o'clock in the morning. Back in Haarlem at three o'clock in the afternoon. Length ten miles. Stagnant water.

**Costs:** 3.50 dutch guilders per person, camping included.

I advise everybody, who wants to come to Haarlem to inform us, if he takes with him his own boat and autocar. If not, we will see what we can do.

Meanwhile we remain,  
Yours very truly,

W. Chr. Visser,  
Oranje Nassaulaan 52,  
Overveen,  
Holland.

*(Mr. Ball says he attended this year's tour, organised by the Haarlemsche Kano Vereeniging, 285 canoeists were there from Germany, Belgium and France as well as Holland, and social life, including evening discos, was included - Editor.)*

Dear Sir,

In his most enjoyable article on the Eskimo Paddle, Geoff Blackford makes some suggestions as to why the Eskimo didn't feather his paddle. Looking at the chilling photograph at the head of the page I would like to suggest another reason for having no feather. The eskimo obviously requires some form of protection for his hands from the cold (not to mention the jagged ice edges!) The paddler in the

photo looks as if he has got on three pairs of gloves/mittens and by the time that these are frozen onto the loom he would not want to bother either with the intricate wrist movement or the rotation of the loom through the grip of one hand.

With Best Wishes - C in B gets better and better - for 1975.

Berny Harrison,  
(Coach - Sea - Inland)  
Sassenheim,  
Netherlands.

Dear Sir,

In July 1975 the Kent Teachers Mountain Activities Association will be mounting an expedition to the Reggou region of Morocco. Included in this expedition is a canoeing section whose task will be to explore the possibilities for canoeing the rivers in the areas around Taza and Fez and to produce a canoeing guide to the river Oued Moulouya.

Despite considerable research little information concerning the rivers in these areas has been forthcoming. I would be grateful if you could include in the next issue of your magazine an appeal for information on the rivers of the Reggou region and in particular the Oued Moulouya above Missour.

Paul Newman  
Canoeing Section Organiser,  
Kamex,  
Walderslade Sec. Boys School,  
Bradfields Avenue,  
Walderslade,  
Chatham.

## CANOE SAILING



Peter Hunter collects Tritinelle Trophy.

The 1974 Circuit scene gave closer racing than in previous years. Six events decided the overall winner of the trophy. To develop the national standard in canoe sailing, a training squad set up, and special events were set aside for training apart from the usual open events.

Peter Hunter from Hayling Island

Sailing Club established himself as a force to be reckoned with, sailing Folly, originally built in 1958 for the 1959 New York Challenge, to three first places, five seconds, a fourth and a third. Not far away from Peter Hunter in scoring came Tony Marston sailing the all glass Alfred The Great with many new ideas

incorporated, developed by three enthusiasts in Birmingham. Marston sailing for Birmingham Canoe Club scored 3½ points more than Hunter to take overall 2nd, while Alan Hassell for the Royal Canoe Club, who sailed the minimum ten races, pulled off an amazing third position. This result is even more exceptional considering Alan had a lay off in 1973 while planning his 1974 canoe.

Tritinelle Trophy - Overall Points for Season

1st 19¼ points Folly - Peter Hunter  
Hayling Island Sailing Club

2nd 22½ points Alfred the Great - Tony  
Marston Birmingham CC

3rd 32½ points Warpaint - Alan Hassell -  
Royal CC

### TRAINING

With the experience of the 1974 Training Squad behind us the Sailing Committee has appointed a specialist sub committee to handle and develop training squad policies for 1975. The first meeting of this committee has been held and active members of the fleet have already received notice of the make up of the 1975 squad and other details regarding training.

The emphasis early in the season, especially at the dry session in February will be the rigging and fitting out of the individuals canoe. It is hoped that in paying attention to rig now, not only will higher performances occur but the more novice member will find his canoe easier to handle and thus develop his sailing quality more quickly. From there, boat handling will be the next feature of the training events, with the entire Grafham meeting focussed on this point alone. A stiff work out, tacking and gybing up and down a string of marks is planned.

Start and first leg tactics are the focal points of the Hayling Island Training Events immediately before the World Championships. Training Officers will be appointed for each of these events to instruct and advise where necessary and members of the Training Sub-Committee will be always available for help and advice.

THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

FINAL NOTICE

# Individual Membership Renewal Form 1975

(NOT TO BE USED FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS)

I, RICHARD VINCENT 1974 Number (See Note 1)  
(Full name, BLOCK LETTERS)

of ..... Address  
..... Block  
..... Letters

wish to renew my membership (a) as a full member  (b) as a YOUTH member   
Declaration by Youth members only: I will be under 18 on 1.1.1975 and my date of birth is .....

I also wish to apply for ..... family membership(s) in the name(s) of:

- (i) ..... (iii) .....
- (ii) ..... (iv) .....

I enclose a remittance of £..... in respect of the above

**N.B. Fees FULL £2.50 YOUTH £1.50 FAMILY £0.50 each**

### COACHING REGISTER

I wish to be included in the 1975 Coaching Register

Please complete the above, marking  in the appropriate boxes and send (with appropriate remittance) to:-

**OFFICE MANAGER, THE BRITISH CANOE UNION,**  
70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1DT

Note: It will considerably assist us to renew your membership if you quote your old number!

It will assist the Union to evaluate the needs of its membership if you will complete this questionnaire:-

- I am an active competitor
- I am not particularly interested in competition
- I am interested in: Sprint  L.D.
- Canoe Polo  Slalom  Surfing
- Touring  Sailing
- Corps of Canoe Lifeguards

FOR BCU HQ USE ONLY Membership No's

Date Rec'd

LEDGER No.

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### ● COMPETITIONS

**CANOE SURF Competition;** Welsh open 28-31st March '75. Venue Porthcawl South Wales. Information from Soar Valley Canoe Club. M. Garner, 54 Manor Road, Barlestone, Leicestershire. Entries by 1st March please.

### ● FILMS

**BCU FILMS.** Send s.a.e. for list. Film hire: British Film Institute, 42 Lower Marsh, London SE 1. Loop Purchase: 21 Windsor Road, Manchester M10 6QQ.

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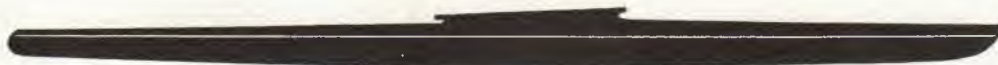
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