

CANOEING

IN BRITAIN 25P

No. 95 APRIL/MAY 1975



THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION

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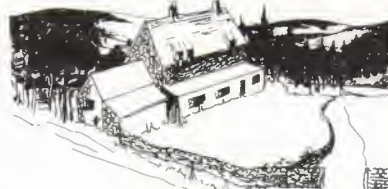


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CANOEING IN BRITAIN

JUNIOR PADDLERS 1975

In order to clarify the ICF racing rule specifying the Junior status of racing paddlers the ICF has issued the following interpretation: Junior paddlers for the current year are those who were born in any of the years 1957-1960 inclusive, i.e. who were under 18 years on the 1st January 1975.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DPG REPORT

In the December/January issue of CinB we published details of a second report by the Development Project Group. As a first step towards the implementation of the report Council at its last meeting established an Executive Committee to deal with urgent matters between meetings of the full Council. The Executive consists of the Chairman of the Council, Mr. G. Sanders, the Treasurer Mr. E. Owen, the Chairman of the Competition Committee Mr. R. W. Emes and two members of Council: Mr. R. J. Jones and Mr. P. Wells.

The proposed Review and Planning Committee has also been set up, consisting of Mr. R. F. Tyas, Mr. P. Wells, Mr. J. A. Bright and Mr. H. Thelen.

The committee is to act as a "think tank" to feed ideas to Council by appraising policies and progress and offering guide lines for future development. Any member or club or committee wishing to make suggestions regarding the workings of the Union and future development should forward these to the committee c/o Headquarters.

Mr. A. L. Laws has been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Competition Committee, Mr. J. A. Bright as Chairman of the Canoe Exhibition Committee and Mr. R. F. Tyas as chairman of the Access Committee.

BCU AGM

There were no major items on the agenda of the 1975 AGM held on the 25th January in Coventry - apart from Council's motion that Rule 17 be amended to read that in future the rates of the annual subscription shall be determined by Council. The motion was passed on a show of hands of 55 for and three against with six abstaining.

Council at its last meeting discussed the poor attendance of recent General

Meetings. It has been suggested that the AGM might well be held at the National Canoe Exhibition and that Specialist Committees might revert to the previous practice of holding their General Meetings in conjunction with the BCU AGM.

HOLME PIERREPONT INTERNATIONAL REGATTA - HELPERS WANTED

Some 70 assistants are required to run the Holme Pierrepont International Regatta and the British Schools Canoeing Association Championships on the 21st and 22nd June. Anyone who can help - whether as starters, judges, timekeepers, runners, or in any other capacity is asked to let the Organising Secretary Mr. R. J. Jones, 25 Marion Way, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0BJ, know for which day or days he or she will be available. We also need urgently the assistance of typists to run the Regatta Secretariat.

FROM HEADQUARTERS

There are still errors occurring in the Scripto-cards of addresses resulting in some cases copies of CinB not being received and other people receiving more than one copy. In the latter case we are grateful to members for returning the surplus copies.

It will help Headquarters if applications for certain items and information are sent directly to the officers concerned and not to 70 Brompton Road. We would only have to re-address the letters. The list of all officers was published in the last issue of CinB.

NEW YORK CHALLENGE SAILING TROPHY

A new challenge for the New York Trophy has been made on behalf of John Biddle of Hayling Island S.C. by the Royal Canoe Club to the Swedish Canoe Federation. The match races will take place at Oxelosund in Sweden during July. John, who had to pull out of the defence last year due to cartilage trouble has recently had an operation to correct the knee and hopes to be back on the water in April.

The sailing photograph in the last issue of C in B was of Ken Davis winner of the Harwich and Stone Open events in 1974.

Editorial

Because of the deteriorating financial position in the country, the Sports Council cancelled the proposed V.I.P. and Press View day of the working model of the Artificial Slalom Course proposed for the Holme Pierrepont Water Sport Centre, together with the public viewing.

Instead, a limited number were invited to see the model at the British Hydrological Research Association at Milton Keynes during February, as it was expected to be dismantled soon afterwards.

The decision as to whether it will be possible to proceed with this scheme is likely to be deferred for the present - it would be a sad day for British Slalom if it were allowed to be dropped altogether. The B.C.U. Council must use every device to keep this scheme alive, to ensure that our slalomists are provided with a reliable and permanent training course.

Jack Levison

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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 of the February/March issue of C.i.B.

The General Secretary,
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Front Cover:

Sibley-Hewitt bending a racing C2 on the Mill Fall at Bala during the team run out at the Jaffa British Open White Water Racing Championships held on the River Tryweryn in February. Photo: Irvine Ross.

The result of the River Spey Access case gives food for thought — we publish a summary of the judgement, and a letter (sent before the results were known) giving the views of a riparian owner whose waters lie between Loch Inch and Aviemore.

THE SCOTSMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1975

Canoeists' right to use the Spey affirmed by ruling on appeal

By GEORGE SAUNDERS, Our Chief Law Reporter

The judgment of the Court of Session in the action by Knockando Estates against the Cairngorm Canoeing and Sailing School, Loch Inch, is reported in the Scotsman, Wednesday, February 19, 1975. The reasons for the judgment need to be carefully read if the full implications are not to be misunderstood.

The judgment states firmly that the Cairngorm School did NOT establish the existence of a GENERAL right of public navigation on the Spey. Nevertheless a public right of a strictly LIMITED character had been established in favour of the recreational use of the river for canoeing by those members of the public who could obtain legitimate access to its waters. This did not mean that the public operating in canoes had any other enforceable right than one of passage downstream. Access as a right to the banks in private ownership would not be comprehended in this limited public right, nor could moorings be laid or used in the bed or banks unless with permission or licence.

The judgment relates to the position on the stretch between Grantown and Aberlour. The implications for other stretches of the river remain to be ascertained.

One thing is clear: the limited right of passage does NOT include a right to hang about on rapids for practising white water paddling skills or for the pleasure of repeating an enjoyable rapid. It also presupposes courtesy as canoeists approach anglers who are engaged in fishing.

Dear Sir,

From time to time letters or articles appear in your and kindred publications which would lead the uninformed reader to suppose that the River Spey was a sort of no-mans-land where the interests of the fishermen and those of the canoeists unfortunately clash so that some sort of compromise was called for in order that both may use the river. Such a combined use is perfectly practicable for the canoeist but unfortunately virtually impracticable for the fishermen, and the fishermen therefore can then be represented as unreasonable and unco-operative.

I hope that you will find room in your columns for this letter from a riparian owner so that the record may be put straight.

The position is really very simple. The Spey is not at all a no-mans-land on which it is therefore reasonable to try to combine a variety of public interests. It is private property set out in the riparian owners' title-deeds these many centuries: private property in the same way as is any householders' back-garden or any farmer's field. This was fully accepted in the recent Judgement in the Knockando Case and

indeed no attempt has ever been made to suggest otherwise.

There can however be public rights of way over private property, whether land or water. There may or may not be a public right-of-way (a public right of navigation) over this or that stretch of the Spey, depending on past public use (if any) of each particular section. To prove a public right-of-way over one section does not prove a public right-of-way over the whole, since on other sections the evidence of past use may be insufficient or absent altogether. No Court has ever asserted that there is from past public use a public right-of-way over the whole of the Spey from its source to the sea. Lord Maxwell (in the Case now under Appeal) has been quoted in your publication as having ruled that such a right exists, but in fact he most explicitly refrained from doing so. Each stretch of the river where a public right-of-way is asserted must thus obtain from the Courts its own ruling on the evidence that can be produced for that particular section: there can be no such thing as a test-case. This is unfortunate but true. If anyone asserts a public right-of-way on this or that section of the Spey it should not be matter for surprise therefore if the owner concerned goes to the Court to find out whether it exists or no.

If there is, then the canoes have the right to use it, and in the canoeing season, which covers almost the whole of the fishing-season, since the two are not compatible fishing must virtually cease (with incidentally a considerable loss of rates for the District Council which then falls at second-hand on the local householders). If there is not, then the canoes are trespassers and it can hardly be suggested that the owners should give up for them their fishing, the letting of which is all that keeps some estates solvent: still less could this be suggested when it is considered that a chief beneficiary would be Mr. Freshwater's commercial undertaking and the earning-capacity of the river would thus merely be transferred in the main from the owners to Mr. Freshwater!

There is no question of ill-feeling: it is a simple question of legal entitlement. Canoeists are reasonable people: they would not for instance expect to set up camp unmasked in a farmer's field: still less to take possession of someone else's property in order to make a profit out of it. Riparian owners for their part are not dogs-in-a-manger: but for this insuperable obstacle of the fishing most, perhaps all, of them would I think have been willing to issue permits for canoes in limited numbers — free to locals and charging perhaps a modest fee to strangers if the estate badly needed the money to balance expenses. The two however are unfortunately not

compatible. On our own section of the river the fishing is during the canoe season almost wholly destroyed. Forty or fifty canoes or more frequently come down in the day, in batches on behind the other, occupying the river for the whole day since the instructors halt them for instruction in the pools, or land to picnic, and the few miles of water occupy each party for about four hours. Various organisations, having obtained excellent facilities for canoes on Loch Inch where no harm at all results, in fact discovered that their brochures and advertisements could be rendered much more attractive to the public by offering also canoe-trips from Loch Inch down the Spey. No attempt was made first to contact various riparian owners affected: the canoes just appeared.

References to 'threats to the freedom of navigation on the Spey' and suggestions that the Sports Council should endeavour to arrange some kind of shared use are alike wide of the mark. As to the first, no right to 'Freedom of navigation on the Spey' has ever existed, and if the canoeists win the current case, this still will not establish a freedom of navigation over the whole of the Spey. As to the second, if the right is found to exist over the section now in question or any other section, it is a public right and the Sports Council cannot therefore limit or regulate it in any way. I should however mention in passing that a public right of navigation, if and when established by the Court on this or that section of the river, would only permit a canoe to go straight down (or up) without playing about in the pools, or landing, and thus would not much assist Mr. Freshwater whose needs for this customers are quite otherwise.

The Canoe Organisations have had of course this advantage: they did not need to bring an Action at law to prove a right of navigation: all they had to do was to commit what was (if their claim was wrong and indeed to some extent even if it was right) a trespass, and leave the owner to undertake the expense of challenging it. When he does so, how easy then to suggest that they are being victimised with spiteful litigation!

By the time this letter is published the result of the Knockando Case (unless it then goes on to the House of Lords) may be known. But it will be seen from the above that it will affect the position of my co-trustees and myself in this matter hardly at all. We must still bring our own Action in respect of our stretch of the river, and every owner on the Spey is in the same position. No-one regrets this more than I do: it would have been very much easier and cheaper if the one Case could have settled the whole, win or lose. Those organisations using the river, including Mr. Freshwater, have long had warning of this, and are aware that we

have delayed only because it was hoped that the Case now current might clarify the issue to a point that would render our own Action simpler and cheaper for both sides.

To quote a recent article once again: "Both sides have right on their side". There could hardly be a greater misconception. Both sides believe — or perhaps merely hope — that right lies with them. The purpose of such Action is to find out — for that particular section of the river — which is correct. But right in this matter will be on one side or the other; it cannot possibly be on both.

S. E. Scammell.

(Canoeists will disagree with Mr. Scammell's proposition that canoeing and fishing are incompatible. This is manifestly not so; they exist together on many waterways in Europe and in this country, including the Wye and Severn. Nor do fishing rights lose all value if canoeing takes place.

It is *over-use* by canoeists that is the real bugbear, and this is increased on the rivers where there is a right of way, by attempts to exclude on others where there is none, or it is in doubt).

Other Letters

Dear Sir,

I feel that a great deal of thanks needs to be given by canoeists to Clive Freshwater. He has performed a vast service for canoeing in Britain and for Scottish canoeists in particular.

His Canoeing and Sailing School at Loch Insh was sued for canoeing on the Knockando stretch of the river Spey. It would have been easier and certainly economically more sensible not to have contested the case. The interdict was served against his school so that he would stand to lose many thousands of pounds had he lost the case. It would have been very easy and understandable to have said it was not his fight, as his school very seldom uses this stretch of river, and it would have been no loss to him to have kept away. However the group of powerful and wealthy men who picked on Clive chose the wrong bloke.

Because of some of the legal rulings, Clive has still lost a large sum of money, and he still preaches a moderate line and asks for consideration to be shown to the other river users!

Well done Clive, you have done a great service to canoeing.

Bob Smith

Edinburgh

Dear Sir,

In early December I took part in a B.C.U. training course in white water techniques organised by Mike Fennessey. The weekend course, at modest cost, was held at the P.G.L. Adventure Centre at Ton Troed in South Wales. I would like to publicly congratulate Mike Fennessey and his team of instructors on a very well organised and successful course.

The course ran from Friday evening to Sunday evening and small groups spent two days canoeing The Upper Wye and Usk. Provision was made for all levels of ability and experience and at all times the emphasis was on tuition and safety on white water. Advanced assessment was available for those who wished to further their qualifications.

As a newcomer to white water, I found the course particularly valuable and informative and will most certainly look out for similar courses next year. I warmly recommend fellow canoeists to do likewise.

Roger Thompson Tamworth Canoe Club

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the comments made about the Midlands C.C.'s P.G.L. holiday on the Ardeche river, in a recent copy of your magazine. As I live just above the gorge, your correspondent may be interested in some of my own observations. During the year the river level varies considerably, from the summer — when the river is warm, relatively simple and floppy strewn — to winter and spring, when after floods, the river rises up to thirty feet and eddies, big enough to drag a Canadian canoe to the bottom of the river appear. A canoeist more intent on activity rather than ornithology, would be well advised to paddle through the gorge away from the months of July and August. However for the occasional paddler who enjoys camp fires, Kronenbourg and unclad French demoiselles, these months provide an excellent climate for their enjoyment.

In Autumn and Spring, the tourists go home, the weather remains rather better than the summer in England, and the river provides excellent sport for the grade two canoeist.

Another point that might be of interest for both the canoeist and the angler, is that both of these sports are allowed and enjoyed simultaneously, with very little friction indeed. A far cry from the stubborn points of view in the land of cold and damp.

Keep it up P.G.L. It is good to see an English company that provides such an obviously popular service.

Richard Dixon

The Hell Hole on the River Wye

"Remembrance Day 1974 was certainly a day to be remembered", writes novice Alan Turner in Shrewsbury C.C.'s newsletter about the second half of a 12 mile trip down the Wye from Builth Wells.

Under Way once more, we encountered much the same river conditions as before, to begin with. There had been mention of something called Hell Hole but I was told "you can get out and walk round it if you prefer". After Mike Marshall's glorious description, complete with sound effects which unfortunately cannot be reproduced on paper, I thought I probably would prefer. "It's just where the next bridge comes into view", someone had said. A bridge duly appeared and a hush fell over the party. On the bank ahead a group of spectators was waiting.

From this point on, supernatural forces were at work on the river. "Follow me!" commanded Captain Pinner — and disappeared. Not all at once. More like a Cheshire Cat. His boat vanished first. Then his body. They seemed to go downwards. Anyone can do that. But his head — presumably with Cheshire grin on the other end of it — quite distinctly vanished sideways. Into the sheer rock face.

Chris tried to imitate him, but when it came to the sideways bit he missed the rock and hid his head in the wet instead — not at all a convincing bit of faking.

Not time to contemplate their fate. I was being sucked relentlessly forward to

where the river ended. It was deceptively smooth. Suddenly I was there. The water rushed over a diagonal slope on my left. An over another on my right. My boat seemed to be poised at the apex. Then it was rushing down towards the rock face on the right. Unseen forces gave it a sharp tweak, and there I was, upside down. Turbulence — or evil spirits? — jerked my paddle uncontrollably. There was no hope of a neat roll before bashing into something uncomfortably solid. So out I came.

The next few moments were sheer delight, and well worth the long miles of paddling that lay behind. To one whose capsizes are normally restricted to the khaki murk of the Severn, the crystal clarity of the water was unbelievable. You know those shiny silver balls that dangle on Christmas trees? Well, Hell Hole must be where they come from. There were thousands of them gurgling upwards before my very eyes, bright and sparkling, bumping coolly and gently into my face. Upwards? That must mean I was going down! I was surprised to find I was still holding on to both boat and paddle, and my were soon glissading at high speed over slippery stones as a boat of funeral purple nudged mine towards the bank.

Chris and I were disappointed to find that no one else had apparently shared our fun. We inspected the scene from the top of the rock and thought we might have picked a better route. "I supposed we

ought to go back and do it properly?" I said. "I suppose so," said Chris. Luckily we then noticed the rest of the party preparing to move on downstream so we re-embarked and followed. But we were not yet clear of the supernatural effects. About a mile further on, those at the front were seen to have stopped, cringing by the bank.

"We can hear something", they said. I listened and could also hear it — a dull low roar. It was a sound I had heard before. At Niagara.

"Follow me!" ordered Captain Pinner — and disappeared again. Jean was ahead of me, and I hoped she had seen where he went so I followed Jean. Jean disappeared into a cloud of spray. Then there was this apparition. It had a head, a crash hat, and nothing else! It just rested on the surface of the water. As I was swept on towards it an arm rose from the deep and indicated the spot at which it intended I should make the supreme sacrifice.

I seemed to be a sort of semi-circular well a yard or so wide and of unknown depth down which the water thundered from all sides. My bow shot towards it like an arrow. As it went over the brink I expected the nose to drop — but it didn't. It remained airborne, straight and level, supported by Something. Then Something let go and the boat dropped with a resounding thump. At that stage I had been pointing diagonally at the left bank. The next thing I knew was that the right bank was dashing past at 50 knots or so, with a rocky projection conveniently placed just at face level. It missed with only inches to spare.

Then things were back to normal once more.

Canoeing Courses and Holidays



A P.G.L. party prepares to get on the water.

Photo: Michael Arthy

What about joining a group for a holiday-with-a-difference this year? There are many organisations offering holidays with instruction, basic or otherwise, in the art of propelling canoes down interesting waterways, in the company of other outdoor types, and in this feature we give details of some of them.

The lone canoeist is perhaps more likely to be interested in these group holidays than the club paddler, whose own club may well organise its own tours, but clubs might find it an attractive idea to book a centre in a different area, from which to organise their own tours.

One of the best known firms running holiday courses is *P.G.L. Young Adventure Ltd., Station St., Ross-on-Wye*, who run a large number of courses in England and abroad, described in their well-illustrated brochure. No previous experience is necessary, and there are courses for children 7-11 years old, for teenagers, and the 18-30+ age range. Canoeing is widely featured, mainly on the Wye and Ardèche in France, but sailing, caving, pony-trekking, fishing, dry-slope skiing and many more activities are available in the Adventure holidays. Family groups are accepted (5 yrs. upwards) at specially reduced rates, to join the main parties which normally consist of 25-50 persons. Prices vary from £13.30 for an Adventure weekend in South Wales to £114 for 15 days in the South of France during the high season.

Scotland's national outdoor training centre, *Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore*, is operated by the *Scottish Sports Council, 4 Queensferry St., Edinburgh*. Courses here are aimed at leadership training and individual performance. Because the high instructor-pupil ratio is an expensive feature, the cost of these courses is

subsidised by the S.S.C. A new Water sports Centre is under construction at Inverclyde on an island in the Firth of Clyde, where a range of different courses is offered.

Also in Scotland, *The Loch Eil Centre, Fort William, Inverness-shire* run canoe courses on the sea, lochs and rivers. They also run cruises aboard a schooner among the Hebridean Islands.

A "family" atmosphere, with groups of 12 or so, is offered on the *Brookbank Canoes courses, Brookbank House, Shrigley Rd. South, Higher Poynton, Cheshire*, which operate 12 months a year. Two day Introductory cruises, with board and accommodation on a canal cruiser on the Macclesfield Canal, cost only £2.75. 7 days on the Exe or Lancaster Canal, based on static campsites, comes to £21, and this includes sleeping bag, food, tent, loan of canoe and equipment and basic instruction — there are no extras. Other holidays are offered on various rivers, plus Scottish lochs, all at the same price, with special terms for self-catering groups.

Severn Tours, 193-5 Fox Hollies Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, run courses and cruises on a weekly, weekend or daily basis. A range of other activities — pony trekking, walking, orienteering etc. are also available on the *Severn Safaris* with tent or bunk accommodation and meals bringing the cost to £25 per week. The Safari lodge can be booked for your courses — the cost of full board is £5 per head for a weekend, or £15 per week.

The *Dartmoor Expedition Centre, Rowden, Widcombe-in-the-Moor, Newton Abbot, Devon*, is run by John Earle who used to present the B.B.C. T.V. Children's programme "Tom Tom", in which at one time he built a rather eccentric marine-ply canoe. Recently John has been seen in "Canoe" a B.B.C. Further Education series on all the various aspects of canoeing and

"Rockface" on rock climbing. The Centre offers bunk-house accommodation (40p per head) for groups wishing to walk, climb and canoe in the area, and runs introductory Courses in various outdoor activities including canoeing. Prices run from £12 for a weekend's accommodation, food and instruction, to £28 for a full week.

The River Dart is four miles away with the exciting white water run from New Bridge to Buckfastleigh while the journey from Totnes to Dartmouth is claimed to be one of the best estuary expeditions in Britain.

From March to October, the *Youth Hostels Association, St. Albans, Herts* runs Adventure Holiday Courses. Boys and Girls from 11-15 are accepted for canoe training at Welsh Bicknor and Staunton-on-Wye, price £34 a week. Over 16's pay approximately the same prices for training weeks at these centres, plus the R. Fowey in Cornwall, from the end of June to August 31.

If a weekend would suit you better, they give short off-peak courses at Staunton-on-Wye during March, April and October for £11.

At the South-west corner of the Snowdonia National Park lies *Aberdovey*, where David Menhinick runs the *Adventure Base, off Prospect Place, Aberdovey, Gwynedd*. Already fully booked from mid April to the end of October, the base is under-used in winter, and is well placed for sea estuary work and general winter courses.

Winter charges by agreement, corresponding roughly to Y.H.A. prices, give you the use of the base and its kitchen equipment, but you must provide your own sleeping bags or blankets, and own food. No courses are provided by the base.

In Scotland, daily canoeing classes for

beginners (£1 pr hour including hire of equipment) are held on Loch Insh and Loch Broom for those wishing to try canoeing before committing themselves to a week's course with the *Cairngorm Canoeing and Sailing School Ltd., Insh Hall, Kincaig, Invernesshire*. Fees for 5 day courses are £15 (beginners or advanced) and river expeditions are available at £3-£4 per day. Inclusive terms (course fee, food and accommodation) run from £33 (frame tents) to £36 (Caravans) or £39 (centrally heated 2 or 4 bunk rooms). Sailing courses cost slightly more.

From Scotland to the South East, where *Folkestone Activity Holiday Centre, 235 Canterbury Road, Folkestone, Kent* runs Canoe Holiday courses supervised by a B.C.U. senior instructor. The cost, including private accommodation, all equipment and facilities, is £30 per week.

Pele Towers are part of the English-Scottish border history, being the fortified homes of the rieviers (another name for a cattle rustler!!)

The Rieviers Of Tasset is a romantically named hotel situated on the edge of Kielder Forest in the North Tyne Valley. Mine host is the Local Coaching Organiser for the B.C.U. and a keen canoeist so river access for canoeists is well organised on the Tweed, and particularly the North Tyne where grade III+ water is available. The hotel, converted from a farmhouse adjoins the Kielder forest where stalking with gun or camera can be arranged. Other activities available are, Orienteering (three maps available); Pony Trekking at local stables; Wild life observation — use of hides enabling study of deer, badgers and wild goats; Grouse and Pheasant Shooting (seasonal); Ornithology of forest and moor and nature walks in the Tasset Valley incorporating visits to Pele towers in the area.

Tuition with fully qualified personnel is available, and both parties and the individual are well catered for in comfortable accommodation.

The Aqua Viva Adventure Club, Verl. Hereweg 178, Groningen, Holland organises one and two-week canoe and multi-activity holidays from their 2-star campsite at Carsac, Sarlat, France (750 km from Calais) Canoeing is on the Dordogne, Grade I & II, tuition is basic to enable guests to travel safely on the river in company with the guide-instructor. Latest

An Aqua Viva Adventure Club group begins to arrive for a picnic lunch on the banks of the Dordogne. Photo: Aqua Viva



A happy group of paddlers on the Upper Spey, on a course run by the Cairngorm Canoeing & Sailing School. Photo: Ian Baxter

rates we have are 450 francs per week for canoeing and 390 francs for the multi-activity holiday.

Groups are about 20 in number, normally 18-38 in age, teenagers accepted under certain conditions, and nearly everyone speaks English. The campsite has its own lake for swimming and free bikes are available on rest days.

So now, if you fancy meeting some new friends, joining a beginners' touring group or trying a new sport, contact one of the specialists mentioned above. If your ambition is to improve your canoeing techniques, you would contact the organisers of specialised canoeing courses, listed in the February/March issue of C.inB. Have fun!

The River Tarn in France

The TARN is one of the leading French canoeing holiday rivers. Rising in the mountains of the Massif Central south east of Mende, it is canoeable in favourable water conditions from Florac to its confluence with the Garonne near Montauban, 344 km. In summer when water levels are low the highest starting point is usually Sainte Enimie, 29 km lower down than Florac. The best part is from Florac or Ste. Enimie to Albi — 200 or 171 km respectively.

Grade II with some Grade III rapids, according to water level, with *impassable stretches* to Pas de Souci (portage 1 km), the Pniel dam (portage 10km to le Truel), Jourdanie dam (portage 1 km) and Saut de Sabo (portage 1 km). The river flows through a striking gorge in limestone country. It is closely followed by a road as far as St. Rome. Later the gorge is less striking and impressive, but the valley remains picturesque and wild for most of the way to Albi. After that it reaches the plain. The best time of the year is May and June: gauge at la Malene—minimum minus 0.50 m., maximum plus 1.50 m.

The French strip-maps of the Tarn are now out of print or difficult to obtain. References below are to the Michelin 1:200,000 road map (approx. 3 miles to 1 inch) no. 80 "Redez-Nimes", which is readily obtainable at good map shops in the UK. Side excursions and general description of the area in the Michelin Guide "Gorges du Tarn" also easily obtainable in the UK.

Distances are reckoned from Florac.

FLORAC to STE ENIMIE (map folds 6 and 5). From Florac (N.107) road N.107bis follows the river to Millau. Mostly gravel bed, shallow in summer, with some rocky rapids between Florac and Ispagnac, particularly at le Cantonnet. Few difficulties in low water. Mill weirs at Montbrun, and Prades may be shootable, portage at Ste. Enimie. Camp sites at Ispagnac and Ste. Enimie. 29 km.

STE. ENIMIE (N.586) to LES VIGNES (map fold 5) 52 km. Main tourist section of the Tarn Gorge. Tourist boats ply from Ste. Enimie to near the Cirque des

Baumes-Point Sublime. Mill weir at la Malene. LAND on right 1 km before the Pas de Souci, portage up path (former warning notice has disappeared) and along road past Pas de Souci, where the river flows under a huge rock ... quite impracticable. Camp site at les Vignes.

LES VIGNES to MILLAY (map folds 5 and 4) 82 km. Some rocky rapids between les Vignes and le Rozier, especially at the Mas de le Fon. Thereafter a broad river with few real difficulties. Old mill weir at Boyne; portage at Riviere. At dam at St. Esteve just before Millau portage L. Camp sites at le Rozier and St. Esteve.

MILLAU to LE CARRYRAL (D.25) (map folds 4 and 3) 129 km. From St. Rome (103 km) the flow is held back by the Pinet dam (112 km) from which there is a 10 km portage by road via Melvieu to le Truel (121 km) involving a climb of 1,500 feet and down again. Then the flow is again held back by the Jourdanie dam (127 km) — portage R 1 km, and another portage at la Planquette. Rapids at le Carrayral bridge.

LE CARRYRAL to AMBIALET (map folds 3, 2 and 1) 167 km. Rapid at Ras de Gos at sharp bend 4.6 km below le Carrayral bridge may be impracticable in low water (old railway bridge). Two mill weirs near Brousse (138 km), first shootable. At Ambialet dam, caution in high water. At Ambialet bridge landing L and portaging through tunnel in neck of loop 60 m enables the loop to be omitted.

AMBIALET to ALBI (N.88) (map fold 1) 200 km. At les Avalets dam land L at ferry, and portage by road to below power station. At Saut de Sabo soon afterwards portage R 100 m above dam by road to beyond Arthes bridge (1 km).

From ALBI to the Garonne the river was canalised and there are many portages.

Note. The above has been compiled from rather out of date material (dams 1966 other detail earlier than 1960). Corrections will be welcome.

Be Comfy— Get a DRY or WET SUIT!!

Dry suits, of course, keep you warm and the water stays outside. Wet suits allow the water in, and the layer of warm water inside the neoprene keeps you comfortable.

It is important that your wet suit is the right size. You will walk about in it and if it is too tight in the seat, the seams will split, so it's best to have it cut generously here.

Bootees made from neoprene only wear quickly on land, and are now offered with stick-on soles or best of all, as heavy-sole zipped models. Don't wear them in summer — your feet will get hot very quickly.

Most paddlers prefer to wear the high waisted long trousers, or "long johns," in warmer weather, and the full suit only in winter. A recent innovation is the open palm mitt, good for keeping the hands warm for wintertime surf etc.

Suits with a nylon inner and an outer layer are ideal for canoeists, as they have a high resistance to abrasion. Failing this, nylon knee patches could be applied.

Ready made suits and made-to-measure are offered by suppliers, but the do-it-yourself brigade will find making up a garment very simple. Comprehensive

instructions are available from the firms selling materials. A final tip — time taken over-stitching the seams of a nylon suit is well worth while, in view of the extra strength obtained.

P. & H. Fibreglass Products, 76 Dale Road, Spondon, Derby have developed a comprehensive range of neoprene wetsuits designed specifically for canoeing, in 3 mm to 5 mm Rubatex neoprene. All garments are trimmed and edged with contrasting elasticated tape and seams are glued and stitched.

Long Johns, Price: £20.52 including V.A.T. feature cut back arms and neck for minimum restriction — single over shoulder 'velcro' attachment. Open Pal Mitts come for £3.25 and Hard Soled Bootees are £4.97.

The full wet suit costs £31.86 and is a complete one piece garment with zip in back for entry. There are high neck and wrist seals.

Their 'Seal Suit' remains as popular as ever as a dry suit and is available either in kit form from £10.26 to £12.42 or made to measure at £18.36.

A dry suit of breathing material

(brushed nylon outer surface over polyurethane foam is offered by *Lee Pearson, 181 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire*. The water-and-wind-proof Aquaplay garment tops are short or long sleeved, in various colours, from £6.25 (children) to £13.45. Shorts are available from £4.45.

Wet suit kits are supplied by *Aquapac, 10 Onward Cottages, Fairfield, Buxton, Derby*. These are precut to your own individual measurements, and are easily assembled without experience. A range of readymade wet suits are also available.

Insports, 31-39 High Bridge, Newcastle-on-Tyne, make wet suits from 5mm American Rubatex, a very flexible nylon-lined neoprene. These are competitively priced at £16.50 upwards for children's 2-piece suits, to £25 for full-size garments. Long Johns are £16, helmets £3.25, and Grip-soled boots are £5. Prices for nylon/nylon material are slightly higher.

Seasports, 45/47 North St., Scarborough offer wet suits and wet suit kits in neoprene or Rubatex. Bootees cost from £2.95, and made-to-measure suits and kits are on special offer during April/May at no extra charge.

Vancleeve Watersports, 120 Brayards Rd., Peckham, London SE15, sell wet suits and watersport equipment generally. Their sharkskin long john wet suit has a pronounced texture, or is obtainable in smooth skin material from £11.50-£15.50. If writing to any of these suppliers for further details, it will help us if you mention this feature.

Jaffa Wild Water Race — A great Success

The Jaffa Wild Water Racing Championships incorporating the BCU open British championships, held on 15/16th February 1975 on the River Tryweryn at Bala in North Wales attracted nearly three hundred entries. The competition was attended by the majority of all British paddlers with a keen interest in this fast growing branch of the sport and paddlers from Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland and the U.S.A. Entries included reigning World Champion Jean Pierre Burny of Belgium.

The River Tryweryn is unique in Britain in so far as good water conditions are guaranteed by the release of millions of gallons of dam water, providing continuous rapids and waterfalls.

Free practice was available on Friday — for those brave enough to venture out in the inhospitable weather, which was no less than two inches of snow, a far cry from Jaffa sunshine! For most entrants this was the first opportunity to sample the considerable hazards of the course — and to wonder how to repair damage caused in time for the competition itself. The few wise men who portaged Mill Falls — a notorious fall with a severe rock ledge to damage the best made kayaks — included the World Champion, Jean Pierre Burny.

Saturday's team event produced a quite remarkable result. Chester 'A', Melvin Swallow, Dave Mitchell and Norman Jackson stormed down the course in great form — to learn that their time was exactly the same as the time recorded by the crack Belgium team — equal first. The Ladies, keen to demonstrate their world class potential, were narrowly beaten into fourth place by Avery, Fraser and Morley.

Sunday's events were predictably hotly contested — for selection for the 1975 International team was at stake. The men's

kayak was won by Norman Jackson, who has dominated this season's ranking races. Dave Mitchell — still as good as ever, was beaten into third place by Burny.

The Ladies event looked all set for one of the team winners — Pauline Goodwin, Peggy Mitchell and Hilary Peacock — all keen to beat the others despite their friendships. In the event Pauline's superiority remained unchallenged for she overtook Peggy on the course and poor Hilary capsized early on with no hope of recovery. The third place went deservedly to Jill Clarke.

The men's C1 event with ten entrants, was very keenly contested. Jon Goodwin — hot favourite at the start — was beaten by 4 seconds by Bill White. Ken Dyer came third.

With favourites Jim Sibley and Terry Hewitt unable to compete for the C2 class, due to damage sustained to their brand new craft on Saturday, the result in this event was very unpredictable. In the event Paul Harman and Neil Roberts, who had spent a lot of time learning the course beat Stanwick and Gough, with Jones and Hopkinson in third place.

In the junior kayak event, Nicky Wain, Colin Ralph and Mick Stallworthy dominated, to finish in that order. The strength of the British juniors undoubtedly augers well for the future of British canoeing in this branch of the sport.

This, the first event held on the Tryweryn, sponsored by Jaffa, proved a resounding success. For the first time British paddlers were able to compete, at home, on waters of continental standard and against top class internationals.

If the team, selected after this event, maintain progress, there is little doubt that the opportunities to win medals at the World Championships in Skopje in June 1975 really do exist.

The JAFFA Wild Water Racing Championships Results

TEAM EVENTS MENS K1

1=Belgium	29.39
1=Chester 'A'	29.39
3 Treble Top	30.36

LADIES K1

1 Ladies 'A'	33.51
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MENS C1

1 Windsor	44.24
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MENS C2

1 A.C.U. & Jon	36.06
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INDIVIDUAL MENS C2

1 Harman/Roberts, R.A.F.C.A.	35.57
2 Gough/Stanywyck, Leaside	36.07
3 Jones Hopkinton, Leeds	36.27

INDIVIDUAL MENS C1

1 W. White, A.C.U.	35.35
2 J. Goodwin, Stafford	35.39
3 K. Dyer, A.C.U.	35.53

INDIVIDUAL MIXED C2

1 Grey/Draper, Birmingham	59.52
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INDIVIDUAL LADIES K1

1 P. Goodwin, Stafford	32.32
2 M. Mitchell, Chester	35.04
3 J. Clark, Deptford	37.03

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH K1

1 N. Wain, Chester	31.07
2 C. Ralph, I.V.C.C.	31.50
3 M. Stallworthy, Chester	33.50

MENS K1

1 N. Jackson, Grappenhall	28.58
2 J. P. Burny, Belgium	29.12
3 D. Mitchell, Chester	29.17



The model of the proposed slalom course, showing a succession of standing waves up to 4 feet high on the actual course.

Photo courtesy B.H.R.A.

Holme Pierrepont Artificial Slalom Course

The model of the proposed Holme Pierrepont Artificial Slalom Course which has been constructed by the British Hydrological Research Association is now complete and indicates that a good course is practicable. The proposed course would be 600 metres long with a fall of 4 metres and the model has been constructed to a scale of 20:1.

Shortly before Christmas 1973 the paper work for the model had been completed but we were told that owing to the deteriorating financial position a start on the actual course would be put off for three years. There was some doubts as to whether construction of the model would be allowed to proceed but the go-ahead for that was received early last year.

Now it remains to be seen whether the Government and the Sports Council will

commence after this three year delay, which would mean a start of construction early in 1978 for completion late in 1979, leaving little scope for further delay if we are to have a year for try-out of the course and approval by the I.C.F. before we hold the triple World Championships (Sprint and Slalom at Holme Pierrepont (Sprint Water Racing in Wales or Scotland) as allotted to Britain for 1981.

First impressions

The above rather formal report having been written by one who had seen it evolve, he asked a second-division canoeist for his first impressions on viewing the model:—

Novice or World Champion, this course will be for you! It is amazing what has been done with a fall of 13 ft. The model

has many standing waves and stoppers 2 to 2½ inches high! (remember scale 1:20), but all have ways through, ways out or gently sloping banks to crawl up. Two of the more turbulent sections are around one side of islands, with easier routes around the other side for the less experienced or to give the enthusiastic a route back to try their luck again.

After the sluices the majority of the waves obligingly scale themselves down to give good intermediate water and then the rough way or for the novice the easier way. The varying widths and depths give the course a "natural" effect.

Although obviously not perfect for everyone it will be far better than anything we have now. But above all it will be canoeing water for canoeists, the use of which will not be at the whim of some other "user". And we will be able to control the flow so as to have full volume for the expert or slacker water for the novice.

BOOKS

CANOEISTS' GUIDE TO THE RIVER WYE

A new, and completely up-to-date, edition of the 'Canoeists' Guide to the River Wye' is about to be published. The guide, written by the B.C.U. adviser for the Wye, Ron Shoesmith, is an official publication of the Wye River Division of the Welsh National Water Development Authority. This is the first time that a Water Authority has been associated with a guide intended for canoeists, although several guides already exist for fishermen.

As with the first edition, the guide will contain several pages of text including sections on safety, co-operation with other river users and details of fishing seasons etc. The main body of the text is an

itinerary from Glasbury to Chepstow with completely re-drawn plans including details of all the main towns. Large scale plans of interesting parts of the river are also included. The guide has an up-to-date list of camp sites and youth hostels to the river. the river.

Copies can be obtained from: Ron Shoesmith, The Old School, Bredwardine, Hereford, price 37p. post free.

GUIDE PAR EXCELLENCE

Roger Verdegen, with his camera, has spent many years canoeing, swimming and walking in the Canyon of the Verdon in the French Alps, photographing, annotating and mapping every corner of this fantastic chasm. The result of this detailed labour has just now been published. "Le Guide des Gorges du Verdon" is an impressive publication by any standards, and for a river guide, exceptional. It is a 96-page A4 format limp-covered booklet, in French, German and English, lavishly illustrated with diagrams, largescale stripmaps, and

full-colour photographs. The maps show every detail, including large rocks, rapids, debris, water siphons, recommended routes, fords, portages and footpaths. The photographs, all taken facing downstream make it easy to relate the maps to the complex topography of the river bed in summer.

The Guide is designed with swimmers and walkers in mind as well as canoeists. The part of the river described is that between Castellane and Aigues, 45 km, which includes the Verdon gorge beginning at Carrejuan. For canoeists this river forms part of the programme for the FFCK Alpine Rivers International Fornight which many British canoeists have in the past attended and enjoyed.

And the bad news? My copy of "Le Guide des Gorges du Verdon" contains no price tag. Anyone wishing to inspect this incredible publication for himself or requiring details of the International Fornight, should write in the first instance to: Roger Verdegen, Boite Postale 29, 13640 La Roque d'Antheron, France.

G. McAllister.





Bruce Halsey blasts out through a breaking wave for another run when a combination of North-westerly wind and low tide gave good surf conditions just North of the harbour at St. Ives.

Photo: Roger Halsey

SOCIAL AND COMPETITION EVENTS 1975

May

- 11 Chelmer Canal/Blackwater Estuary Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 17-18 Loch Lubnaig "Come & try canoeing" (Trossachs Water Festival) (118)
 24 Bat Polo Tournament, Loch Lubnaig (118)
 24-26 West Wittering Run, nr Chichester Braintree C.C. (117)
 25 Scottish Youth Sprint Championships, Loch Lubnaig (118)
 25 Sprint Regatta, Loch Lubnaig (118)
 31 R. Leny Slalom, Div. 3 & 4 (118)

June

- 1 Brighton Marina National Sea Racing Championships, Brighton C.C. (117)
 8 W. Mersea open day, Braintree C.C. (117)
 21-22 Dover Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 the public by offering also canoe-trips from

July

- 5-6 Sea Canoeing - Gunfleet Sands, Braintree C.C. (117)
 20 Derwent Circuit L.D. Race, Tier 4, J8 S10 Midland C.C. (123)
 27 Round Osea Island run, Braintree C.C. (117)

August

- 17 Trent Marathon L.D. Race - Cancelled
 17 Royal K1 Marathon L.D. Race, Tier 3 (120)
 23-25 Aldeburgh Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 30 Round London L.D. Relay Race (Teams of 4) Tier 3 (121)

September

- 21 Colne Estuary Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 21 Longridge L.D. Race (from 2nd Nov)

October

- 5 Worthing L.D. Race - Change of address to (122)
 19 Crouch Estuary Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 19 Durngate Winchester Slalom, Novice & Open (NOT Div 4 as stated in Calendar) Worthies C.C.

November

- 2 Longridge L.D. Race moved (to 21 Sept)
 9 Little Ouse Run, Braintree C.C. (117)
 30 Colne Run, Braintree C.C. (117)

December

- 26 Blackwater Cruise, Braintree C.C. (117)

Teviot Bridge Slalom has been postponed from the 26/27 April to 13/14 Sept. 1975.

SOCIAL AND COMPETITION ADDRESSES

- 117 Mrs B. Hales, 13 Bulford Lane, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex
 118 The Secretary, Trossachs Water Festival, 2 Ancaster Square, Callander, Perthshire.
 119 Canoe Competition Secretary, Brighton Cruising Club, 173/8 Kings Road Arches, Brighton BN1 1NB
 120 Royal C.C., Trowlock Island, Teddington, Middx.
 121 M. Carvell, 236 Whitehorse Rd., Croydon, Surrey.
 122 The L.D. Organiser, 70 West Ave., Worthing, Sussex.
 123 D. Broadhurst, P&H Fibreglass, Old Stanley Colliery, West Hallam, Derby.

COACHING COURSES

(Bracketed Numbers refer to C. in B Feb/March "Coaching addresses" Section)

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR ASSESSMENT - INLAND

- 26-27 April Ross-on-Wye (38)
 10-11 May Bewdley, Worcs. Apply to Brian Porter, 20 Flyford Close, Lodge Park, Redditch, Worcs.
 23-25 May Bisham Abbey, Marlow, Bucks (1)
 7-8 June Telford, Salop (27)
 21-22 June Stile Youth Centre, Yorks (24)
 5-6 July Worcester (22)
 2-12 July Bisham Abbey, Marlow, Bucks (1)
 30-31 Aug. Ross-on-Wye (38)
 20-21 Sept. Eridge, Kent (2)
 26-28 Sept. Buxton, Derbyshire (10)
 4-5 Oct. Ludlow, Salop (23)
 4-6 Oct. Windermere (16)

- 17-19 Oct Grafham Water, Cambs. (15)
 18-19 Oct Ross-on-Wye (38)
 1-3 Nov. Catton, Nr. Hexham, Northumberland (25)

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR ASSESSMENT - SEA

- 2-4 May Calshot, Hants (20)
 24-25 May Anglesey (26)
 27-29 June Beal, Nr. Bamburgh, Northumberland (25)
 11-13 Sept Calshot, Hants (20)
 4-6 Oct East Barnby, Nr. Sandsend, Whitby, Yorks (25)
 10-12 Oct Calshot, Hants (20)

RIVER ADVISERS

Teme, about Ludloy. Delete J. Brown

David Smith, 2 White Harte Park, High Street, Kinver, Stourbridge, Worcs. now deals with the whole of the Teme.

Warwickshire Avon & tributaries Delete C. B. Manton

River Adviser now W. E. James, 49 Lime Avenue, Lillington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Trent, Derbyshire Derwent, Dove, and Soar

F. R. Goodman, 72 Whittingham Road, Mapperley, Nottingham.

Lower Wye, Below Glasbury

R. Shoesmith, Old School, Bredwardine, Hereford. Tel. Moccas 216.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CERTAIN RIVERS FOR 1975

Eden (Nunnery stretch). Operates in late summer, autumn and winter. Arrangements similar to 1974, but there may be special instructions regarding landing and egress at the end of the Nunnery rapids to avoid inconvenience to the farmer and riparian owner. Please contact Eric Totty, Craigmuir, High Knott Road, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancs. Tel. 0524-761 620

North Tyne and Tyne. Similar to 1974. Spate, and specified times in fishing season and winter. Please contact E. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne 2 for details.

Wye, Bulth to Glasbury. The conditions specified on behalf of the fishing interests for 1975 are similar to 1974 - spate, close fishing season (Oct-January) and ten specified weekdays in August and early September, subject to a number of conditions. Please contact C. Green, Village Farm, Tregoyd, Three Cocks, Brecon.

INTERNATIONAL CANOE TOURS 1975

These are arranged by national canoe associations and are open to canoeists from other countries in membership of the International Canoe Federation.

FINLAND

1. Sotkamo - 8 days starting, 15.6, 29.6, 13.7, 27.7 from Lentiira; boat hire possible. 160 km.
2. 4-day trips starting 24.6, and each week to 29.7 from Virrat; boat hire possible. 80 km.
3. 5-day trips from Helsinki to Hanko Starting 21.7 and 28.7 (Coastal); boat hire possible. 100 km. Nasi-Melojat r.y., Erkki Heusala, Saastajan katu 15 a 5, SF-33840 Tampere 84, Finland. for any of the above.
4. 28.6 to 6.7 250 km. Otava to Lahti.
5. 9. to 15.7 170 km. Shining Pajanne. Lahti - Padasjokisysma.
6. 10 to 19.7 320 km. River Ounas, Enonteklo to Rovaniemi (White water).
7. 23. to 27.7 135 km. River Tainio. Oravakivi to Lahti. Vesisamolijat r.y., Arvo Korkkinen, Kirkokatu. 22, SF-15100 Lahti 10, Finland. for nos. 4-7 above.

FRANCE

1. to 15.8 International White Water Week on Alpine rivers: Grade II-V. Mr. R. Verdegen, La Farigoule, rue du Pigeonnier, F-13640 La Roque d'Antheron, France.
- 20 - 21.9 Rally on the Cure; Grade III. Touring Club de France, 65 Avenue de la Grand Armee, Paris 16.
- 17 - 19.5 Whitsun Rally on the Loue from Tura 50km. Maurice Chalavoux, 41 rue Jean Jaures, 69500 Bron, France.

YUGOSLAVIA

- 4 - 6.7 River Ibar, Usce to Kraijevu. Kajakaski savez Srbije, YU-11000 Belgrade, F. Filipovica 83.

INTERNATIONAL CANOE TOURS Cont.
YUGOSLAVIA

- 21 - 27.7 River Una, Loskun - Bos. Novi 92 km. Turistbiro, YU-77000 Bihac.
5 - 7.9 Drina Gorge 53 km. Visegrad to perucac. Inex tourist, YU-31250, Bajina Basta.

AUSTRIA

- 17 - 19.5 Wildalpen Regatta, and tours, Styrian Salza and other rivers. Gemeindeamt Wildalpen, A-8924, Austria.
26.7 - 2.8 International Wildwater Week, Obervellach. Touristenverein "Naturfreunde Oesterreichs", A-1150 Vienna, Viktoriagasse 6.

POLAND

- 26.5 - 1.6 Wildwater Week on Popgrad and Dunajec. Up to Grade III
13 - 22.7 Tour on the Brda, Nowa Brda - Bydgoszcz
31.8 - 6.9 Tour on Masurian Lakes.
Polish Canoe Union Touring Committee, Polski Zwiasek Kajakow, U1. Ksiecica Jozefa 24a, Krakow, Poland.

SPAIN

- 20.27.7 International Touring Rally on Noguera Palleresa (up to Grade IV) Jose Biasca Tomas, Principe de Viana 85 II, Lerida, Spain.
3.-9.7 International Canoe Week in Seo de Urguel. Sedis, apartado 16, Seo de Urguel, Lerida, Spain.

HUNGARY

- 13-25.7 Raba tour 386 km from St Gotthard via Győr to Danube.
26.7-16.8 International Tisza Tour 598 km. from Csenger to Szeged. Hungarian Association of the Friends of Nature, H-1374 Budapest, Postbox 614.

20th INTERNATIONAL TOUR ON THE DANUBE, INGOLSTADT TO THE BLACK SEA

28 June to 5 September 1975. Divided into short stages.
Ingolstadt - Passau 28.6 to 5.7 German Fed. Republic
Passau - Vienna-Hainburg 6-15.7 Austria
Hainburg/Bratislava - Moca 16-22.7 Cz. Slovakia
Esztergom - Mohac 23-31.7 Hungary
Apatin - Brz. Palanka 1-21.8 Yugoslavia
Brz Palanka - Silistra 22.8-5.9 Bulgaria
Registration dates 1.4.75 for Cz. Slovakian and Hungarian stretches; 30.5.75 for others. Fraülein Ellen Grübe, 8904 Friedberg, Gartnerweg 10B Germany.

NOTE

There are regular touring events at Easter: dates for 1976 not yet available:
France: Ardeche
Denmark: Gudena
Italy: various North Italian rivers.
Netherlands: various times April/June.

NEWS



NO SOFT PEDAL ON OLYMPIC COINS

Mary Peters, 1972 Olympics gold medal winner, relaxes on an ancient penny farthing bicycle, supported by B.C.U. President John Dudderidge, O.B.E., four times Olympic canoeist.

The occasion was the launch in London of the third in the series of seven sets of Canadian Olympic Coins, minted in sterling silver to finance the Olympic Games in Montreal next year.

Sets of the coins are available at a cost of £26.50 (uncirculated quality) and £39.75 (proof quality), in prestige presentation boxes, from London Dealers Fitzvale Ltd., David Fletcher Ltd., and Spink & Son Ltd., or from the Royal Mint.

CLUB SECRETARIES, L. D. Reps.

The L.D. Secretary (Mrs C. M. Laws, 47 Bowgate, Gosberton, Spalding, Lincs.) is in the process of revising the list of clubs

interested in L.D.R. If your club does not receive L.D. information and you would like to, or you have a new secretary or L.D. rep, or your secretary has moved, please inform her as soon as possible of the address.

FROM THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The BCU Competition Committee reminds the Technical Committees and their respective Team Managers, that all entries by BCU teams for international competitions abroad have to be forwarded to Headquarters for onward transmission abroad. They should not be handled by the individuals concerned. This is a decision made by the Competition Committee at its October 1974 meeting in Holme Pierrepont at which representatives of the committees were present.

It is also requested that Team Managers immediately after their return forward to Headquarters a complete set of the results together with a short report on the event and the performance of the BCU team.



SURFSKI-what is it?

There is a curious surfing device called a surf ski. Few canoeists know of its existence, or what it is. Its origins are Australian, with South African influences. It is used for beach rescue work, and patrolling. There are now three main types of ski, the solo competition, the double competition, and the rescue. Stress of competition has developed the breed, and from the old originals which were great plywood barges have come the new foam and glass projectiles, long, lean and very quick, a sort of surfing K1. Each year the British Championships have had the solo and double surf race, out round a buoy, and back to the beach. About 1/20 of the time spent planning, and about 19/20 in displacing water. It is obvious that the races go to the good displacement-hulled boats, with their low prismatic co-efficients, small wetted surface, and low weight.

I first met the earlier skis at Atlantic College and I dismissed the lot as 'Dinosaurs'. Too old, too big and too heavy. However, experience has been a wonderful instructor, and now we have developed the solo surf ski which many

people saw for the first time at Crystal Palace in February '75. It has an all-enclosed hull, with a new type of cockpit, really a scooped-out hollow in the deck. Two skis are coming to Britain very soon, a gift from the Australian surf life saving association, one a double and one a single. They are both moulded grp boats, and are the latest in Australian design.

Making these boats is different from the usual way in which canoes are made. The solo competition ski is long, 18 feet, narrow, 21 inches, and shallow, 6 inches. To join the deck to the hull in the usual way that canoe decks and hulls are joined is possible but difficult. Mould making techniques must be altered to cope with this very small cross-section of boat, which limits access for the brush on the long pole. The cockpit is plugged into the deck and sealed with gelcoat resin and fixed with pop rivets. The joint edge is then again sealed as for the usual canoe trim strip.

Consider now the advantages of this type of boat. The cockpit design simply does away with the need for teaching capsizing drills, rolling drills, and rescue

techniques. The beginner can go afloat on surf with very little instruction. There is no time-consuming fixing of the spray deck. I suggest that the surface race at Bude, using slalom type canoes, will be won by a slalom boat with a ski cockpit grafted in. This year.

Because all this upside-down expertise and agility is not necessary, disabled people can use the boat. Paraplegics, double amputees, simply are perched on the boat and set off. If they falter and topple, there is no need to struggle to get useless legs out of the cockpit, as the paddler simply drops off. If it is necessary to stay on the ski, or on any canoe in which this cockpit arrangement is used, then a lap strap is used. We are about to fix a car seat belt with its quick release catch to the ski. The ski has already been rolled easily.

One of the things that it is necessary to do to pull in new members of surf lifesaving clubs, is to make the activity more interesting. Not everyone has a burning sense of public service right from the word go. They must often be induced to take part in the thing for some other reason. Brightly coloured, fast looking craft, like the skis, easy to use, must be part of the answer.

NEWS

NATIONAL RANKING LIST— WILD WATER RACING 1974/75

This shortened list is compiled from the five ranking races: Rivers Tryweryn, Eden, Usk (I) Tay and Dee (III). Points allocated as follows: 50 Mens K1. 20 points Ladies, C.1 and C.2. The best three results count. Where the points total is the same, the position has been decided upon the fourth or subsequent event or events. Where this has not been possible it has been put down as a tie.

K1 Men — Maximum 150 points

1. D. Mitchell/N. Jackson	149
3. M. Swallow	144
4. P. Wakeling	142
5. N. Morley	139
6. D. Blythe	130
7. R. Calverley	130
8. S. Fisher	127
9. N. Wain	124
10. N. Clarke	122

K1 Ladies — Maximum points 60

1. P. Goodwin	60
2. H. Peacock	57
3. P. Mitchell	55
4. A. Gillespie	51
5. J. Clark	51

C1 — Maximum points 60

1. B. White	60
2. J. Goodwin	58
3. G. Goldsmith	55
4. K. Dyer	53
5. J. Hooley	49

C2 — Maximum points 60

1. Stanwyck/Gough	57
2. Milne/Alcock	56
3. Haworth/Farr	52
4. Jones/Hopkinson	50
5. Edwards/Evans	49

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL FESTIVAL

1975 will be held on the river at YORK 22nd. to 25th. August. This is the 21st. National Rally organised with the intention of drawing attention to the 3,000 miles of inland waterways in this country and to highlight the problems of improving the quality of the waterways for anyone interested in water recreation.

Aims of the Rally:

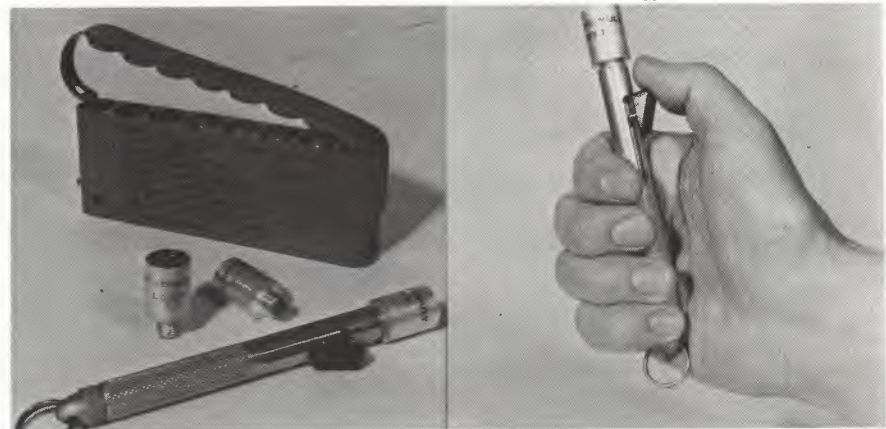
1. To promote water transport and to publicise the need to develop the River Ouse and the City of York for inland shipping linked to the East Coast ports and Europe.
2. To focus attention on the need to restore all Yorkshire Waterways to full amenity use.
3. To draw attention to the legal and financial problems of waterways not under the jurisdiction of British Waterways Board, and to press for a sound Government policy concerning these waterways.

Shell is acting as Sponsor of this Festival and will be publishing the "Shell Guide to Inland Waterways" for the first time this year.

School projects dealing with waterways use will be on display.

Rally Awards: There will be 15 Rally Awards including the *Peter Scott Challenge Trophy* for the furthest distance travelled to the rally from July 1st. on salt water and

The Pains-Wessex/Schermuly Miniflare kit ideal for the limited space available in canoe.



the *Guinness Trophy* for the furthest distance travelled to the Rally between July 1st. on an unpowered craft, including canoes and dinghies.

Further information from Ralph Kirkham, Inland Waterways National Festival Director, 1 St. Mary's Walk, Mirfield, Yorks. Tel: Bradford 29361 (day) and Mirfield 494122 (evenings); or from the Secretary: Dr Peter Fryer, 4 Sunhurst Close, Oakworth, Keighley, Yorks.

MINIFLARES

The Miniflare distress signal kit, marketed by marine pyrotechnics companies, Pains-Wessex and Schermuly, has been accepted for the Design Index — the second of the companies' lifesaving products to be selected by the Design Council, the first being the Speedline International line thrower.

The Miniflare kit consists of a pocket-sized moulded plastic pack, a pen type projector and eight screw on cartridges ejecting a red star to a height of about 200 feet. It weighs only 255 gm. (9 oz.) and costs £6.44 + VAT (51p).

Remember users require a Firearms Certificate obtainable free of charge from local police stations.

For further information write to Pains-Wessex Ltd., High Post, Salisbury, Wilts.

CLUB CHAT

On the 7th Nov. at Ambleside a keen group of canoeists from the Cumbria area formed a sea kayak club - "Fram".

Information and details of Spring tours from Mrs. Barbara Springell, 'Beckstones', Askham, Nr. Penrith.

Tamworth Canoe Club has expanded rapidly over the past two years and has a thriving membership of over seventy people. They would be interested to hear from any Midland clubs with which they could arrange joint events such as river trips and canoe polo.

A recent baths course has resulted in good relations being established with the indoor pool manager Keith Marshall who stated "We were becoming rather narrow in our outlook with the pool - and thought we should extend our range of activities. Canoes present no problem in the pool, and they are all sterilised before they go in the water".

Birmingham C.C. arranged a boat-swapping evening on February 23rd. All members were invited to bring their boats, as many types as possible, and try someone else's.

Mick Powell of **Worcester C.C.** warns that his club lost £25 last year through bounced cheques presented by competitors at their events. He advises organisers to clear cheques before the day of the competition, or to require banker's card protection.

St. Mary's Hospital Medical School CC had stolen from their locked boatshed at Paddington Basin: V.C.P. Surf shoe, translucent green/red flash on foredeck; P&H Hahn Lowline C.I, red translucent hull, cleardeck/yellow flashes; New Mark Gees Kayak paddles and Kober Moldau kayak paddles.

The theft took place in January - we will pass on any information.



Mrs. Mary Glen Haig, acting chairman of the C.C.P.R. presents the BAT canoe donated by Trylon, to a happy Bere Forest team, 1975 winners of the National Canoe Polo Championships at the B.C.U. National Chase Exhibition at Crystal Palace in February.

A couple of quotations from **Leeds C.C.** newsletter, usually good for a chuckle. First,

"The Shape of Things to Come"

1974 The trend to lower reserve buoyancy in canoes continues.

1984 The latest design runs with decks awash, all buoyancy being in the raised cockpit. It will go through gates sideways. We may have to change the rules.

One drawback, solved in 1985 (q.v.), is the fore and aft seesaw motion. Should the paddler strike out while the bow is depressed, the boat submerges rapidly. As Grossen Bruder so aptly said on observing this... "Unterwaterkraften!"

1985 The addition of buoyancy spheres to bow and stern cures the fault of the previous year's model. As the Proles would say...

"Unterwaterkraften mit der Knobs on". A change of rules is expected.

1994 Increased abstraction lowers levels in all rivers. No seats in canoes now, just a hole in the bottom to which is welded the waist of a pair of

wet-suit trousers into which the paddler slips. Hobnail boots, though not obligatory are usual.

"Stanzas on Stangerthwaite"

The start sheet said, "If there is no rain the week before, long-distance travellers should note that it will be a rocky bump and scrape". In the event it rained and it rained, a few hardy souls tried it out but the slalom was cancelled.

Spectator Great gobs of foaming spume anoint

The heroes who did dare
Forsake in fear the
shuddering shore

At Stangerthwaite so fair.

Chorus of Div. Great gobs of foaming spume

2 Paddlers Great gobs of spuming foam
Great spoming blobs of
fuming gobs,
Oh Lordy! Send me home.

Sec. Lakeland Oh come ye all back to
Stangerthwaite

C.C. Oh come ye back again
But when ye come,
remember this...

Please pray ye not for rain.

NEWS

LONG DISTANCE RACING COMMITTEE

List of Senior A nominated paddlers for 1975

Those paddlers who were Senior A in the 1974 season but are not on this list were regarded by the executive as no longer being of Senior A standard or have not competed during the last two years. Similarly some promotions have been made.

Alan-Williams, A., Royal Marines C.F.
Avery R., Richmond C.C.
Bennett A., Pangbourne C.C.
Bosher M., Richmond C.C.
Brown D., Wey C.C.
Brown S., Nottingham K.G.
Burr, Lichfield C.C.
Clark K., Royal Signals C.C.
Clark N., Royal C.C.
Cornish T., Longridge C.C.

Crossman, A., Aylesbury C.C.
Day J., Waveney Valley C.C.
Dyer, H., Riverside C.C.
Edwards A., Worcester C.C.
Epps T., Waveney Valley C.C.
Evans, 1st Para Reg.
Farrell E., Royal C.C.
Fieldus T., Wey K.C.
Fowler J., Wey K.C.
Gorman P., Royal C.C.
Greenaway B., Richmond C.C.
Greenham B., Hove C.C.
Greville - Giddings M., Royal C.C.
Hambrey L., Worcester C.C.
Handyside, Richmond C.C.
Harding O., Longridge C.C.
Haskey, Royal Engineers C.C.
Haynes B., Royal C.C.
Hoskins H., Bradford upon Avon R.C.
Hubbard, Nottingham K.C.
Hunter T., Royal C.C.
Jackson, N., Grappenhall C.C.
Kidson, 1st Para. Reg.
Kolar G., Richmond C.C.
Lawrence D., Royal C.C.
Machin W., Lichfield C.C.
Mackereth G., Grappenhall C.C.
Miller A., Waveney Valley C.C.
Mason N., Nottingham K.C.
Moore D., Worcester C.C.
Nash, Reading C.C.
Oliver G., Nottingham K.C.

Oliver L., Lincoln C.C.
Parnham D., Richmond C.C.
Salder S., Reading C.C.
Saunders L., Pangbourne C.C.
Smith D., Worcester C.C.
Speight T., Nottingham K.C.
Story R., Royal C.C.
Tatam C., Newham C.C.
Taylor, Richmond C.C.
Tilford, Royal C.C.
Topham K., Viking K.C.
West J., Royal C.C.
Wetherall, Richmond C.C.
Walters J., Royal C.C.
Williams A., Royal Engineers

TOP WW PADDLERS

The following have been selected to represent G.B. in W.W. Racing Teams for Internationals up to and including the World Champs. in Skopje, June 23/29 1975.

Mens K1: N. Jackson, D. Mitchell, M. Swallow, C. Avery.

Ladies: P. Goodwin, P. Mitchell, H. Peacock, J. Clark

C1: W. White, J. Goodwin, G. Goldsmith, K. Dyer

C2: Sibley/Hewitt

Non-travelling Reserve: P. Wakeling.

TRADE NEWS



The new surf ski from P&H

NEW KAYAK

Eric Bergqvist left the kayak market about 2 years ago, and is now re-entering it with the Vixen slalom kayak, at a very competitive price. The Vixen comes complete with built-in buoyancy, adjustable foot rest and removable skeg. Further details from E. & B. Mouldings.

MK11 SURPHSKI

P.&H. announce the SURPHSKI Mk. II, a very high performance model suitable for experts or the lighter (under 10 stone) paddler and children. Retaining the same high degree of manoeuvrability as the SURPHSKI 'M', the SURPHSKI Mk. II is much more precise and accurate, as well as being very fast. Both ski's feature fitted fin box and fin, drain plug and footstraps.

Also new is the Phazer Slimline slalom K.1, featuring a fast yet very quick turning hull and a smooth clean lined deck which can be bow and stern dipped under poles with great ease.

BETTER SERVICE

Kirton Kayaks (Canoe Centre) and Valley Canoe Products are collaborating to give the spring and L.D. canoeist a better service. Valley Canoe will now keep a range of canoes from Kirton in stock at their Colwick (Nottingham) showroom for the convenience of customers in the midlands.

Also on view at Valley is their new expedition kayak the Nordkapp, especially designed for the British Expedition to Norway this summer. After trials around the Farne Islands it is quite clear that the Nordkapp can show its heels to any other sea-going canoe, and its load-carrying capacity is remarkable... at least 70 lbs. of gear can be stowed away without adverse performance.

LIGHTWEIGHT ANORAK

An addition to the canoeist's wardrobe is a lightweight anorak that allows complete freedom of movement and keeps the canoeist both warm and dry.

The fabric consists of 4 bonded layers (Brollibond and nylon) allowing it to breathe yet repel water.

The anorak is available in navy or red, with a contrasting stripe from: A. C. Canoe Products (Chester) Ltd., Price £8 + VAT (with detachable hood, £9 + VAT).

ABS CANOE

For the first time, a Cylolac ABS canoe is available in Europe, made by Konemuovi Oy, a subsidiary of the Korpivaara group, who have been producing boats in the well-known Finncamp range from Borg-Warner Chemicals' engineering thermoplastic at their factory near Turku, Finland, for the past three years.



Lightweight anorak from A.C. Canoe Products

The 4.85 metre Finncamp sports canoe is of single-skin construction and is thermoformed in two parts, the hull from 4 mm thick Cylolac ABS sheet and the deck from 3 mm material. Rigid polyurethane foam blocks are placed within the shell at bow and stern for stability and buoyancy, while all sheet is acrylic-capped to preserve the fine gloss appearance and to ensure maximum durability. Weighing 26 kg., it is claimed to carry one or two people in comfort, together with their kit. Since it only weighs 26 kg. it is easily handled both in and out of the water and is readily transportable on a car roof. Paddles and spray covers are available as accessories.

Cylolac ABC canoes made by the Korpivaara Group Finland



NEWS

SLALOM AND WHITE WATER

At a recent Slalom & White Water Committee Meeting it was said that important information on rule changes, changes in published events and up to date news was not getting through to the majority of slalomists. The main vehicle for the communication of this information is supposed to be the magazine White Water — the official magazine of the Slalom and White Water Racing

Committee.

Copies are issued free to each club which has an active interest in slalom; if the nitty-gritty isn't coming through — noble your secretary for the info.

SCHOOL OF SPORT

This is to be held at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont from 25th to 30th May, 1975, and involves sponsorship by the Sports Council for sixteen young paddlers. The course is to be organised by the National Coach for Competition, Mr. John Fazey.

Seven applications were received by Mr. Cook from the Slalom and White Water Committee and nine jointly from the Sprint Racing and the Long Distance Racing Committees. The following were therefore selected for scholarships to the School of Sport:

Slalom and White Water Committee Nominations

1. Steven Briggs, 2. C. J. Stallworthy, 3. Natham Smith Hilliard, 4. Howard Shaw, 5. Bill Beresford, 6. Ian Massey, 7. Richard Evans

Sprint and Long Distance Committee Nominations

1. Martin Flanagan, 2. Alison Crawley, 3. Charles Collett, 4. Richard Gautier, 5. Jeremy West, 6. M. Davis, 7. P. Etherton, 8. K. Whitehurst, 9. Douglas Swaffield.

ESPADA AWARD SCHEME

Following the resignation of the Rev. R. Ball as secretary of the Espada Award Scheme the committee has appointed Mrs. Iris Wooton as his successor. Her address is 104 Norton Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall, West Midlands.

DEVIZES TO WESTMINSTER L.D. RACE RESULTS

Senior Event

1st No 88	B. Perrett, B. Greenham	Leighton Park & Royal C.C.	17h 50m record
2nd No 175	A. Haskey, E. Wmterton	Royal Engineers	18h 02m
3rd No 161	W. Wallis, J. Rycroft	Royal Marines	18h 42m

Team Trophy: Royal Marines

Junior Event

1st No 1	I. M. White, C. B. Gale	Sussex Police Cadets	16h 08m 07s record
2nd No 54	S. P. Shepherd, A. K. Chapman	Harlow O.P.C.	16h 27m 27s
3rd No 2	H. D. Yardy, M. C. Albrow	Sussex Police Cadets	no time given

Team Trophy: Sussex Police Cadets

BCU INSURANCE

We are asked to point out that the correct address for B.C.U. Insurance is 62 Rupert Road, Sheffield S7 1RP.

STOP PRESS

SITUATIONS VACANT

CANOEING INSTRUCTOR required by Calshot Activities Centre (near Southampton) £2.58 per day all found. April-October, inclusive. Apply Warden, Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot, Hants.

FIVE NEW RELEASES

FOR 1975 FROM

GAYBO

LETTMANN **OLYMP SIX** SLALOM KAYAK

PRIJON **STING** SLALOM KAYAK

PRIJON **INTERCEPTOR SPRINT** WHITEWATER RACER

LETTMANN **MISTRAL C1** SLALOM C1

LETTMANN **TEAM C2** SLALOM C2

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- This is a three year course leading to a certificate in Education. (Possibly two years in special cases)
- It will be possible to proceed to a B.Ed. course, with a P.E. first option, after satisfactory progress in the first two years of the course.
- The college has close links with Lake District Outdoor Activity Centres, Teesdale and the North Sea Coast.

For further information about the course and entry qualifications please write to:

The Admissions Assistant, Middleton St. George College of Education, Near Darlington, Co. Durham. Tel: Dinsdale 2661.

SMALLS

B.C.U. MEMBERS: Rates 1½p per word — minimum 20p. Trade and non-members 5p per word — minimum 30p. A P.O. or cheque made out to Ocean Publications Ltd., must accompany all items appearing in "The Smalls". Advertisements for this section will not be accepted unless pre-paid. B.C.U. Number must be quoted when claiming special rate.

THE WELSH OPEN SLALOM & RIVER RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 24th, 25th & 26th (closing date: May 13th)
Top Site, River Tryweryn, Bala, North Wales.
Open to Members of 1st and 2nd Division — Slalom — May 24th, 25th, River Race 26th

CLASSES:

SLALOM — Ladies & Mens K1 & Team — C1, C2 & Judges K1.

RIVER RACE — Ladies & Mens K1. (No Team) C1, C2 & Slalom K1.

ENTRY FEES:

Slalom — £1.50 per Class (Individual Youth — less 20p)
Judges K1 — 50p (Refundable)

River Race — 50p per Class

Organised by Chester Sailing and Canoe Club on behalf of the British Canoe Union

ENTRIES & CORRESPONDENCE:— Mrs. E. BRIGGS, 106, Becketts Lane, Great Boughton, Chester.



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Bradwell Field Studies and Sailing Centre

Canoeing Instructor

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for this post. The appointment is from 1 April 1975 until 31 October 1975. B.C.U. Coach or Senior Instructor Award desirable.

Salary — £108.00 per month (free board and lodging when on duty).

Application forms and further particulars available from The Warden, Bradwell Field Studies and Sailing Centre, Bradwell Waterside, Nr. Southminster, Essex.

WANTED

£30-£40 Offered for used Gaybo slalom kayak. Crash hat and paddles also required. Will collect. Tel: Pontesbury 669 (Shropshire).

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Salisbury, Wilts. Wessex Mark II 1964 model. 21ft. long x 21inch beam. Not used for 8 years. Good condition £35 o.n.o. Box No. 008.

KAYEL SEA Otter for sale. Little used in good condition £25. Ian Pollard, 19 Melville Road, Maidstone, Kent.

MATCH (W.W. RACER), Phazer (slalom) both good condition. £45 o.n.o. each. Also Kober racing paddle £8. Ring Northampton 27183 evenings.

SEA KAYAK, Gaybo Esky, orange, firrings, spray deck, £45. Choice of two. Would consider exchange double tourer. Tel: Eversley 732303 (Hants).

TRIDENT SLALOM kayak and spray deck, new £50. Cheetah canoe, spray deck and crash helmet, good condition £30. Trident slalom kayak, unused but slightly damaged £40. Tel: (051) 526 5153.

GAYBO LETTMAN 70cm WWR C1. Neoprene spraydeck and Kober paddle. All as new. Offers. Would exchange for WWR K1 in similar condition. Deal 62121 ext. 339.

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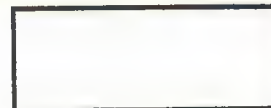
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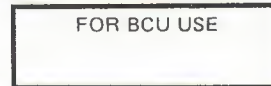
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