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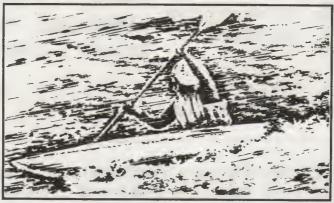
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### COVER

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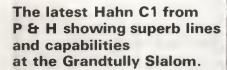
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# Canoe Sport Comment

# mike clark

# Back again and a move north

We're back, and the magazine has moved . . .

First, your editor is back after yet another superb Grand Canyon Kayak Expedition (which he of course organised!), and which spent 18 days on the Colorado running some three hundred miles of the river. The trip took 16 persons from Britain and 12 from the States (this of course included the working crew of boatmen for the rafts and cooks, etc.) to make a total of 28 persons osteniously under the guise of two 'private parties'. We didn't manage to lose anyone, which is no doubt a good thing, but would have added to the excitement! Lava Falls seems to be as big as ever, while House Rock still holds well above its rating, however, for a few paddlers on this trip, the water proved to be a little disappointing and not up to their expected standard. For sure, the Colorado is as big as the first year British kayakists ran it, but what has changed I think is the general standard of paddling. The slalom and rough water paddlers are now attempting far more demanding water than they were a few years back, and this is only a natural progression of the sport. Thus the Colorado has become that much easier, even if the water remains the same.

For me, the Colorado River through Marble and Grand Canyons still has a quality unequalled and an environment unlike any other in the world. After three trips I am still as enthusiastic about the river as ever and just as determined that I shall return again to this wonderful area. The spectacle, the grandeur and magnificence of the place is unsurpassed and already I am planning on another trip for the summer of 1977. Any paddler (with some ability), either from Britain, Europe or South Africa, New Zealand or Australia who would like to join the trip, should apply as soon as possible.

Secondly, the magazine has now moved to a new address in Derbyshire. Really it's in north-west Leicester and on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The address is: *The Chapel, 19 Main Street, Hemington, Derby DE7 2RB*. The place is situated in a quiet little village just a mile and a half from the M1 motorway at turnoff 24. It's real handy for sprint racing with the National Watersports Centre at Holme Pierrepont being just 20 minutes away, while for slalom and rough water we are some three hours from both North Wales and the Yorkshire Dales. This is far better access to the majority of British canoe-sport than being based in London.

The move gives the magazine a bigger office and will have a purpose built darkroom/studio so I hope to be able to do some exciting layouts in the future and continue the general improvement of the magazine. However, at the present time it is all chaos with only an office desk and half a drawing board to work on. The floor is covered with boxes full of books and magazines, plus planks of timber, a great stack of building blocks, bags of cement, and the debris of construction work — a total mess to make one wonder if it will ever be straight. Still, things are slowly sorting out and we should be fit for visitors by the end of

November. Once we are straight at 'The Chape', I am hoping that the magazine will be able to get back onto a regular monthly schedule — publication has been more than a little erratic during recent years!

# T-shirt sell out

The recent new designs of T-shirts and Sweater Shirts (CM8 to CM12), have gone like a bomb and we have literally been overwhelmed with orders. So much so that we just cannot cope with the demand and those who have orders in I would ask to be patient — we are working as fast as possible to catch up. Of course a lot of this is due to the move north and with my being away on the Grand Canyon Trip (if I am not in the office, mail just piles up . !).

Shortly to be available are some original T-shirt designs from the States (a little expensive but the demand seems to be there judging from the lads on the Grand Canyon Trip). Also I have a few more designs taking shape on a par to the highly popular surf design CM12. Watch out for new adverts over the coming months . . .

# Espada leaflet

A small leaflet explaining the Espada Youth K1 Scheme has recently been published by the B.C.U. Espada Committee, and is presumably available from the Secretary: Mike Nadal, Flat 5, 22/24 William Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham.

The price is 12p per copy but whether this is value for money is a matter of opinion. Wordage covers ten sides of a 8" x 6" leaflet and the whole could easily have been printed within Canoeing Magazine's centre page — add a few photographs to fill another two sides and the Committee could have had a pull-out centre page leaflet at a fraction of the cost they have spent, and the leaflet already distributed free to a wide section of interested paddlers. Such information of general interest or covering a particular section of the sport are ideal for centre page pull-outs and maybe other committees should think along these lines for future publications.

# Colin Ralph

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death in a motor accident of Colin Ralph of the Itchin Valley Canoe Club.

Colin was a brilliant young rough water paddler who promised to aspire to world class, and his loss is a blow to our sport, British slalom and rough water, and to the members of his club, as much as it must be for his parents. No words can express the sorrow of his parting . . .

# Canoeing in Britain magazine

I hear reliable rumours that the British Canoe Union's publication 'Canoeing in Britain' is once again undergoing a rethink. While the magazine will no doubt appear from the publishers 'Ocean Publications', there is some doubt as to whether issues through 1976 will be supplied 'free' to members. There seems to be a possibility that a newsletter of sorts will be published from B.C.U. Headquarters or the setting up of an editorial committee to publish a new magazine at some future date. Things are fluid to say the least and no-one is willing to make any firm statement on what is being proposed. However, what is certain is that the Union is not happy with 'Canoeing in Britain' in its present form and a re-think is going on.

It is less than a year since 'Canoeing in Britain' was taken over by Ocean Publications, but in that time the magazine has cost the Union around £12,000 — so rumour has it — and this is the main reason for the rethink on the publication. However, the last few years have been anything but bright for the publication, it

being previously under William Balmain, and before that under the Levision/Hare partnership. With such changes the magazine seems to have lost any form on continuity, maybe the B.C.U. should be con cerning itself more with the running of canoesport in Britain rather than with the publishing of a 'prestige' publication that is costing the membership far more money than is realised.

From my own view, I feel the sport in Britain is not yet big enough to support a number of independent publications. What I would like to see is 'Canoeing in Britain', 'Canoeing Magazine', 'White Water Magazine', and 'The Canoe Camper' (even 'The Canadian Canoeist') combined into one magazine. All publications, unless they are priced almost out of the market, rely on manufacturers advertising to cover printing costs and thus, with four specialist publications competing for advertising plus the need for manufacturers to advertise in other allied publications, it's no wonder the poor old British manufacturer (whose kayaks and canoes are still the cheapest in the world) complains that advertising costs are bleeding them, and making severe cut-backs.

With the name 'Canoeing in Britain' given under contract to Ocean Publications, it could be that the B.C.U. will be looking for a new name for another magazine — how about 'Canoeing in England' or, judging from recent editorships, 'Canoeing in the North-East of England' . . .?

At a number of the recent 'reshuffles' I have set out proposals regarding 'Canoeing in Britain' | 'Canoeing Magazine'. The basis of these has been the disbanding of the B.C.U. magazine and for the Union to take up to four pages in 'Canoeing Magazine' for their 'official news', each page carrying a banner or logo indicating 'B.C.U. News'. This space would be available at NO COST to the Union. Each issue of the magazine 600 copies (or however many canoe clubs in the country) would be supplied to the Union at a nominal rate of 10p a copy. Thus Union news would get at least to club secretaries who would then be responsible for distribution of news and information to their members (the British Canoe Union should be club based rather than on individuals, this would make quite a saving in administration and postage costs alone!). Even if 'Canoeing Magazine' were published 12 times a year (we have done so in the past!), this would represent a total cost on current postage of around £1200 a year ... not £12,000.

Of course the snag comes with the individual member. What, without 'Canoeing in Britain', will he get out of Union membership? One might ask just what he gets now... Individual members who want the magazine and the B.C.U. News contained therein would have to subscribe to the magazine, like our present readership does. Without the burden of 'Canoeing in Britain', the present membership fees to the Union could be considerably cut — certainly an advantage for increased membership in these days of rising prices.

# Other canoe mags

While 'Canoeing in Britain' may be about to disappear, there has been a number of new developments among other canoesport publications. On the home front, 'White Water Magazine' has a new editor and a new look. Taking over from Vic Brown as editor is Stuart Fisher. The magazine has a new glossy cover and the addition of properly printed adverts inside. The actual content remains very much the old style of typewriter duplication but with the column split in two and the printing method changed. The photographs seem to have lost even more quality than they do in our own 'Canoeing Magazine', but of course one is not to know what the prints were like to start with.

Any publication takes one hell of a lot of work to produce, and no doubt Stuart is already finding this out. There are many pitfalls in production and layout, but these are best left for the person concerned to experience. Thus I will leave comments on style and layout until the new editor has settled in . . .

Still on the home market, 'Small Boat' magazine has a new big format, a slightly inferior inside page quality, but worst of all the Power Boating and Canoeing columns have been 'dropped'. A great pity this (not just because yours truly wroyte the canoe column), for although power boating is well covered by other 'national' magazines, canoeing has no other national outlet.

On the American front, the very new 'Down River' magazine has turned over from bi-monthly to monthly and now comes up with a colour cover. The magazine deals with all aspects of down river sport, not only kayaking, but also rafting, plus wilderness survival and conservation. Highly recommended.

# **Kayak Surfer** publication

The 'Surf Special' magazine that we published last year and dealing exclusively with the newest branch of canoesport — kayak surfing — proved to be a highly popular publication which sold out within a short period. Since then there has been a steady demand for the magazine, so much so that we are now re-publishing the magazine under the title 'Kayak Surfer' and as the first of our new 'Canoesport' instructional series of booklets.

The technique article by Frank Goodman has been updated and added to with technique for the slalom kayak in surf; Danny Broadhurst, Ernie Phillips, and Don Charlesworth have contributed with an article on a return trip to Easky; from the B.C.U. Surf Committee comes the complete Rules for Kayak Surfing and on the running of events; while from various other sources we have scrounged, begged, and stolen some first class surfing photographs to enthuse and excite the reader.

'Kayak Surfer' will be published at the end of December, price 75p including post for U.K. and Ireland on order from Canoeing Press, or 65p from various trade outlets. For all places overseas (second class surface) the price will be 80p.





### National Coach

The B.C.U. Standing Liaison Committee have pleasure in announcing that they have invited Mr. Ken Langford of 38 Redwood Avenue, Stone, Staffordshire, to be the National Coach for Competition. Mr. Langford is already a Senior Coach and an Honorary Competition Coach. They wish him all success in his new work.

### Scottish Canoe Team

A twelve-man Scottish Canoe Team made a five week tour of European competitions in late July and through August. The group competed in three major events in Austria: the Spittal Slalom and Wild Water Race on the River Leiser, the Mittenwald Wild Water Race on the River Isar, and the Lofer Slalom and Wild Water Race on the River Salache. In addition they also competed in France and West Germany.

The team was made up of seven members of the Edinburgh White Water Club, two from Roxburgh Canoe Club, two from the Edinburgh Schools Association, and one from the Forth Canoe Club. The trip was grant-aided by the Scottish Sports Council and further support came from S.M.T. Sales and Service Co. Ltd., of Kirkcaldy who loaned a car for the duration of the tour.

The members were: Andrew Morton, George Florence, Bill Kersel, Jim Dolan, Scott Ramage, John Young, Ronald Kennedy, Lindsay Wright, Douglas Melville, Kenney, Frazer, James Oliver and Graham Smith who acted as manager.

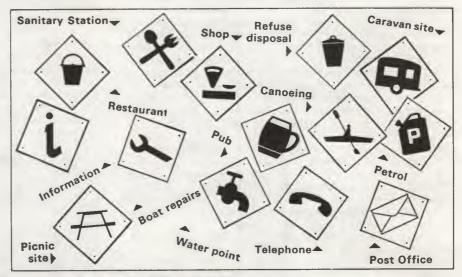
# New canal symbols

A whole range of new symbols are about to appear along the towpaths and lock areas of our canals. These are to be introduced by the British Waterways Board to provide information for the growing number of waterways users and also to replace a sundry of other odd signs and non-uniform notices that now litter the waterways.

The new signs will be in the familiar British Waterways Board pale blue and a few of the new signs are shown below (note that the 'canoeing' and 'pub' signs seem ideally placed adjacent to one another..!).

# Indus Expedition

Plans for a kayak expedition to the Upper Indus River during the summer of next year have been dropped. Steve Nash took over the leadership of the expedition after the withdrawal of Mike Fenessy through ill health. But the group - who included Bob Smith, Ian Matheson, Frank Goodman, Richard Knight and Patrick O'Sullivan - who have already spent several hundred pounds in obtaining information on the river and in sending an expedition member on a reconnaissance this last summer, decided at a meeting in September that, having full regard for all the available facts, the trip was not viable due to the political and access problems. With the exception of Frank Goodman, members are planning another trip of similar spectacle, but there are no details of this vet.





# Devizes rule change

With winter on the way, it is time for a number of our paddlers to be thinking of marathon racing, and in particular the Devizes to Westminster Marathon. From the Devizes to Westminster Race Committee comes a timely reminder of the race in the shape of new rule changes for the Easter '76 event.

As from next year's race both the Senior and Junior sections will be open to female competitors and entries will be accepted from all female or mixed crews. The administration problems incurred in the Senior event is minimal, but entries in the Junior event will only be accepted on the understanding that females will not be allowed to use the existing accommodation at Newbury, Marlow, and Ham. It is hoped to be able to provide suitable premises in the future but at

present nothing has been found and therefore they must be prepared to find their own. Likewise, for the moment all female crews must compete for the existing trophies. However if the entries warrant it, class trophies may be forthcoming at a later date.

The rule concerning lifejackets is to be tightened up and with effect from the 1976 race all competitors in all classes must wear either lifejackets to BS 3595 or Buoyancy Aids to ICF or BCU specifications. The two air bag type of aid will not be allowed.

The Senior starting times will be subject to a restriction in that competitors will only be allowed to start from Devizes between 0700hrs and 1800hrs on the Good Friday. The Junior start time will be put back to 0900hrs on the Good Friday but will remain at 0800hrs on subsequent days and half an hour after high water on the final day (Monday). The main reason for the alteration in start times is to try to provide a better finish in the Senior race. Obviously the winner must be on the Saturday morning tide. For those crews on a slower schedule, the final finishing time remains the same as previous at 1100hrs on the Monday.

### Possible Australian team

The Devizes-Westminster Race Committee have received an enquiry from an Australian club for race details and may well be sending a team of five crews over for the 1976 Race. Alas, a big problem has to be overcome in finding suitable boats for the crews — obviously it is far too expensive for them to bring their own. Any manufacturer or club who would be willing to sponsor or loan boats to these crews should contact Mike Tapscott of the Race Committee.

#### Linton access

Rough water paddlers are asked to take note that they cannot be admitted to Linton Locks Marina if they are not a member of an organised club through which club a prior arrangement has been fixed and accepted. Also that the premises will be closed from November 1st to March 31st 1976.

# Hole-in-heart paddler

As a footnote to the Tryweryn International Slalom (reported in this issue), it is interesting to note that one member of the winning British C2 crew was born with a 'hole in the heart'.

After winning the C2 Slalom event at the Serpent's Tail the previous week, David Curle and John Brown of the Viking Kayak Club, were selected to compete at the International. The pair won the C2 at the Tryweryn with a best score of 412.6pts.

David was born with a hole in the heart in 1955. When he was 11-years-old, he had an operation to repair a hole between his left and right ventricles and also to compensate for a valve deficiency. Because 'he was so brave', his parents asked him what he wanted. Reply – 'a canoe'. Not being a swimmer, his parents insisted that he learnt to swim before receiving a canoe and, starting from scratch, in four months David was able to swim a mile and received his present.

David's operation was carried out at the Great Ormond Street Clinic; Physician Dr Bonham-Carter, Surgeon Mr Stark. Mr Curle is now Chairman of the South Bedfordshire Committee of the British Heart Foundation.



Brown/Curle competing at the Tryweryn.





# Tryweryn Slaiom

report and photographs by Mike Clark

While the majority of the country enjoyed quite warm autumn sunshine, the Welsh mountains managed to produce only overcast conditions and at times a fine drizzle of rain for the Tryweryn International Slalom and Open Down River Race. Held at Bala over the weekend 4th/5th October and organised by the BCU Slalom Committee, the event attracted a moderate entry with teams from West Germany, Holland, Ireland and Britain, plus individuals from New Zealand and the U.S.A. competing. With such excellent water conditions - assured by the header dam a quarter mile upstream - it seems a great pity that the event did not attract more of the top European paddlers. However, those who came - among them Deppe, Gerlach, Trach and Stipdonk were of a quality to match our British paddlers.

### **Down River Events**

The Open Down River event, held on the Saturday morning, attracted only a small entry, the win in the Mens K1 going to Melvin Swallow of the Chester Canoe Club, with Bernard Fletcher of New Zealand second, and Norman Jackson of Grappenham Canoe Club third. (The New Zealand paddlers — Bernard Fletcher, his wife Sandy, Keith Hughes, Craig Darby, and Garth Falloon, are over in Britain for a period after competing at the World Championships.)

In the Womens K1 Sandy Fletcher took the win from Viv Blythe of Grappenhall, but our top women (Pauline Goodwin and Hilary Peacock) were not competing. I understand the two are now resting before commencing serious sprint training for the Montreal Olympics.

#### Slalom Events

The Slalom Team events were held on the Saturday afternoon. In the Mens K1 Team the British 'A' trio of Wain/Swallow/Edge took the win over the German 'A' of Trach/Gerlach/Loos. With a best score of 301pts, the British boys were well ahead by almost 70pts. The British 'B' team, although making a capsize on the first run, took third in front of the Irish 'A' Team. The British Womens K1 team of Ramage/Harling/Adams (formerly Jill Clark), took the win over an international team of Murphy/Ryan from Ireland and Deppe from Germany. British teams also won both the C1 and C2 events.

The Sunday was devoted to the individual events and started with the Mens K1. On the first run just two paddlers to gain the finish with a clear, the German Dieter Loos with a time of 230.7 sec and Nikki Wain for Great Britain making a superb 219.1 sec. No-one bettered this tremendous performance from Nikki, and, although he made an even faster second run he managed to pick up some forty penalties, but the first run gave him the overall win. Loos also could not better his first run, but Bob Campbell for Britain, in sixth place at the half way mark, jumped into second place overall with a super second run making a time of 214.3 sec and picking up just one single '10', and pushing the German into third place. Jurgen Gerlach made a poor first run — a slow time and over a hundred penalties however he improved on the second to pick up just one '10' and a time of 321 sec to take fourth place.

In the Womens K1 there were none to touch Ulreke Deppe of Germany. Her first run total was 419.7 pts and improved to 374.7 pts on the second, yet with either she would have won, her nearest rival being Eileen Murphy of Ireland with a best of 488.6 pts. The British girls took third (with Jill Adams) to eighth place (with Annette Ramage), these being followed by the Dutch girl, Ireland and New Zealand.

The Youth K1 was taken by Graham Helsby of Britain with a best 255.7 pts,

while both the C1 and C2 were won by British crews.

Certainly the slalom, with the superb controlled water and a demanding 30 gate course, was well up to international standards. For once we did not have to go round apologising to the international paddlers for the poor course as has happened over recent years at the Llangollen Town Slalom. The only thing lacking from the first class Tryweryn course (apart from decent weather!) was the crowds of spectators as we have seen at Llangollen. However, talking with the representative from the Welsh River Authority, it seems that the Tryweryn has been running at full water during almost the whole of June, July and August. For next year let's have the 'British International' in the middle of summer as water seems available, maybe then we will get some good weather, attract a better number of international paddlers, and most important attract the summer crowds to the Tryweryn International.

Mens K1 — 1st Nikki Wain, Great Britain, 219.1: 2nd Bob Campbell, Great Britain, 224.3: 3rd Dieter Loos, West Germany, 230.7: 4th Jurgen Gerlach, West Germany, 241.0: 5th Melvin Swallow, Great Britain, 244.3.

**Youth K1** — 1st Graham Helsby, Great Britain, 255.7: 2nd Mark Stallworthy, Great Britain, 272.4: 3rd David Martin, Ireland.

Womens K1 — 1st Ulreke Deppe, West Germany, 374.7: 2nd Eileen Murphy, Ireland, 488.6: 3rd Jill Adams, Great Britain, 492.7.

Mens C1 — 1st Peter Keane, Great Britain, 342.1: 2nd Max Smith-Hilliard, Great Britain, 347.6: 3rd Ray Hind, Great Britain, 367.5.

**Mens C2** — 1st Brown/Curle, Great Britain, 412.6: 2nd Boyle/Evans, Great Britain, 436.3: 3rd Phillips/Purdy, Great Britain, 457.7.





Ulreke Deppe - an easy win in Womens K1.

Nikki Wain winner of Mens K1.



Canoeing Magazine

# FOAM BLANK FOAM BLANK KAYAKS

Definition of terms: The CANOE is either the purely North American Indian bark skinned boat, or it is the general term (in Britain at least) which applies to all manner of floating devices including kayaks, baidarkas, but not coracles. The coracle could never be described as a canoe nor could the curragh, although its common alternative name in Ireland is canoa. It is interesting to note that the Welsh name for the coracle is cwrwcwl; this is often shortened to cwrwc, and that is pronounced almost as curragh is pronounced: 'cooruk'.

The term 'canoeing' covers a great deal of water, so to speak. It is one of the few Olympic sports one can pursue sitting down. It can occupy a four year old or an octogenarian, each at his own level of enjoyment. The participant can make his own equipment and then use it to a high level of competence, certainly up to National level. As an introduction to lamination techniques in the g.r.p. industry it is excellent for school children and anvone who wishes to learn them. The 'canoe' can put a skilled rescuer in touch with the casualty on water faster over a short distance than anything else can. The term canoeing covers many crafts, pursuits and interests . . .

# What snags in canoeing?

Here we have a rough sketch of the fair face of canoeing. What are the snags? Well, things cost money, and the feed-stock of resin is oil. Even the glass is made in furnaces which must be heated. The cost of a canoeing place includes the canoe (for canoe read kayak), the paddle, spray deck, helmet, suitable clothing; when self-building the cost of the canoe

is about half the total cost of one place on the water. The canoe must be fitted with a cockpit and footrest to hold the paddler firmly inside the bucking shell, and these if not properly fitted can kill or injure the paddler. An empty canoe can fill with water; the better way to prevent this happening is to occupy the internal space with buoyancy material. Several systems have been developed, including air tanks. solid foam, and air bags; but all of these have serious drawbacks. A canoe loaded with approximately one thousand pounds weight of water can collide with a swimmer in the shallows and flatten him as a road roller might; it may collide with a rock, when the part in contact with the rock stops and the rest goes right on, renting and tearing the structure: it bursts like a paper bag. The best commercial boats do this as do the amateur made boats, the latter do it a little more readily!

Badly made canoes, badly designed canoes, abused canoes, do kill people, usually young people. The British Government is considering recommendations to establish safe canoe building principles and practice, and these will be published a British Standard Specification. Whatever the source of finance for the sport, rescue provision, educational experience, it must be 'cost effective'. The canoes must cost less to build, should demand less skill in handling, require less ancillary equipment. They should open out the horizons of adventurous people as safely as can be (to avoid drowning, stay away from water!), without tedious practice at capsize drill, rolling drill, rescue techniques. Rescue demands a cool nerve under pressure, and some manual strength which may only be present when the instructor is present.

### Construction revolution

One may argue that the overcoming of obstacles is a very good physical and mental discipline, and it's good for the soul. I liken this approach to the rocky hillside across which there is a smooth grassy path. I know where I will walk to see more readily what is on the other side of the hill; and I thank those who made the path, for their way was less easy.

The proposal is that now, we can and must look at canoeing provision afresh, and canoeing was looked at in the sixties when canvas covered canoes faded from the market and glass-fibre canoes took their place. At that time all manner of practices with canoes became possible; rescue techniques which would have ruined the canvas decked boats, is one example and there are many others. The sport became more venturesome, reached larger numbers of people. Look at the car roofs on the motorway any Friday evening in summer time and there you will see many canoes lashed in place.

Why, just now, should one say, 'Glass-fibre hollow boats with sharp ends, needing footrests, buoyancy blocks, seat braces, spray decks, backed up by craft workshops and requiring moulds, and a variety of materials; all these will soon be as out of date as canvas canoes were fifteen years ago'?

The answer is to be seen, just beginning, in surf ski design and surf board methods of construction.

# Surf Ski thoughts

The surf ski is of Australian and South African origin. It is a rescue craft which is also used in competition where speed counts. Their dimensions are similar to those of the ICF regulations for K1 and K2 racing kayaks. Early bage-like shape and blunt ends earned them the title 'Dinosaurs' . . . . Too big, too heavy, too old, and damnably ugly.

The ski concept cannot be dismissed so contemptuously. It doesn't take in water, at least not much as it is sealed; the paddler sits on it, not in it, and so cannot be trapped. As a consequence no spraydeck, no footrests, no buoyancy blocks which can fall out. All it requires is a new approach, lightweight building methods and sophisticated design, which owes much to racing kayak design. After all, the racing paddlers have been developing their craft since the eighteen-sixties.

The constructional methods are two. It can be either a sealed, hollow, glass reinforced plastic (g.r.p.) shell, or it can be a solid foam blank coated with woven rovings (a sort of cloth) and resin. A roughly comparative costing goes as follows:

# Mould cost per boat £2.00 (60 off) £1.00 (300 off) Material cost, glass 8.00 (mat) 6.00 (roving) resin 10.00 6.00

other 4.00 1.00 blank — 6.00 Totals £24.00 £20.00

The solid method requires that one has one's own set of moulds for blowing foam blanks. The initial cost is high, possibly more than £300.00. The costing shown above is mainly for comparison, to lend strength to my contention that the solid core method, made possible by ski design, is more cost effective than the older methods. As an amateur project, it is much easier to buy a commercial blank to build a foam cored job for a one-off boat. than to hire moulds for the same purpose. There is one drawback, commercial moulds to turn out ski blanks do not yet exist in Britain. This is more or less the situation that existed in 1965 when obtaining a g.r.p. mould was very difficult. In the case of amateur kit construction, the costing would probably be about equal, but the facility with which one could build a one-off job is greatly increased.

So I'm sold on boats made from foam blanks? Not entirely. Packing kit away for camping would be impossible in the usual way, although detachable deck packs, a bit like bicycle saddle bags, could easily be constructed in g.r.p. The strength of foam cored boats depends either on a combination of thin skin and stiff spines

(or stringers), or thicker skins, but with the latter there is a weight penalty. Foam cores, when breached by impact damage, accept water and usually require a new foam insert to remove the weight or water under the area of the damage.

# Ski advantages

The ski is a new concept. Its design can be adapted to all manner of hollow shell boats, even, dare I suggest, to racing K1 kayaks. I know of no ICF regulation that insists that the paddler must sit in his boat. Rolling drills and skills become nonessential; although in competition a paddler who can roll loses only 2 seconds in his progress, whilst a ski paddler falling off his craft will lose some 10 seconds. He must swim to his craft, climb aboard, sit up, grasp his paddle (providing it is still in reach or attached to the boat) and then set off again. Nevertheless, anyone, just about, can do that. It's as easy as falling off a log. Novices can be put on to rough water right away, and no fear of being trapped in his craft. A skilled ski paddler could fit braces for the thighs, and so stay on and remain in control and roll too, if necessary. The beginner can go straight on to surf, moderate of course, and also go a long way offshore and yet be completely ignorant of 'TX' rescues and their like. But perhaps best of all, that confounded nuisance the spraydeck is dispensed with. The ski, running wild on surf, weighs no more than it did when it set off from the beach; no steamroller effect, no smashing with irresistable force onto immoveable rocks, with predictable consequences.

Many are the influences which have led to this conclusion. The bibliography which follows, illustrates the main stems of the thinking. Perhaps the main illumination comes from the crystal ball. It's been wrong a few times, but more generally right. At this time of world-wide changes when better might one make yet another?

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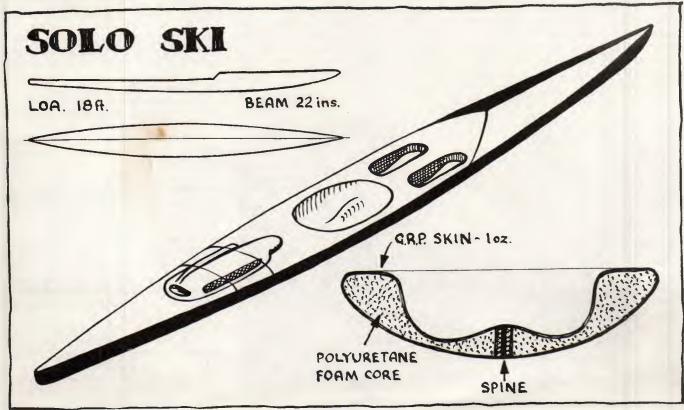
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# John Wilde explores the UPPER TARN

The River Tarn, flowing through one of the most pleasant gorges in the South of France, is already well known for its canoe touring suitability (Canoeing Magazine has previously run a number of feature articles on this area of France). However, not many people have realised the potential of certain sections of the Upper Tarn, sections well above the recognised tourist areas. Indeed, to anyone but an experienced canoeist these sections would prove un-navigable.

Members of the Nimes Canoe Club have spent several seasons negotiating different falls of the river to build up a trip of 12-kilometres, from a short way below the village of 'Le Pont de Montvert' to 'Le Vernede', not far from Florac. They have graded the river over this section at V to VI (5 to 6), which is probably an overestimation, but all the same it gives a good idea of the severity involved.

The first time I paddled down this section I was totally unprepared for the sort of antics required, being more of a canoeist than rock-climber, the latter being of much more importance! On the second fall I capsized against some rocks, disappeared over a ten-foot fall, still up-

side down cannoning into boulders on the way, and finally emerging with broken teeth, torn leg, and a badly damaged boat . . .

At the beginning of this year, I found myself on the river again with six other members of the Nimes Canoe Club, two of us in C1s to make it more interesting.

Knowing what was to come was a great help, but even so the first few falls produced some alarming wobbles. The character of the river is a series of falls varying from three to ten metres in height and some hundred metres in length. These usually issued into a large, deep pool somewhat complicated by the presence of a stopper. There is little water in relation to the number of boulders, so boats stand a good chance of being damaged even without capsizes. In fact the water level is critical, too little and the river is not negotiable, too much and the numerous stoppers could easily become death traps.

The first few drops, although impressive, are quite easy, the only alarming factor being that often there is no room to get a paddle into the water between the boat and the sides of the gorge. After 2

kilometres the first big fall is approached. Here the water issues through a gap one metre wide, and falls out into a waterfall descending nearly vertical for eight metres onto a small ledge, followed by another short drop into a large stopper and the relative quiet of the pool below. Our leader went over this with loud fibreglass crunching noises, giving the rest of the party a rather handy excuse for portaging without feeling too ashamed.

So we continued for another 3 kilometres of short exciting drops. But by this stage we already had several damaged boats and the good old canoe tape was in use. The next big fall, 'The Foot of the Elephant', is a wide chute, dropping into a vertical slot six metres deep, and snaking off into a narrow twisting channel against a cliff face. Three of us chose to drop down the beginning of the slot, whilst the rest of the party decided on dropping over sideways, and half way along. Two of us dropped into the beginning of the drop and continued on downstream, but the third boat hit the bottom and stopped in a vertical position. the unfortunate paddler cannoning down into the bow of his boat due to a broken footrest. This produced quite a drama as both boat and paddler were out of sight under the fall of the water and it took several minutes for us to free him. The boat itself took much more effort, with lots of ropes, swimming and sweat involved, but fortunately it was retrieved with very little actual damage.

The river continues in this fashion for another 5 kilometres, with one more suicidal looking fall being portaged and several people having epics on a steep fall in which the final stopper concealed a boat-cruncher of a rock.

So on down to a small dam where in the near future most of the water which normally flows through the gorges of the Tarn will be diverted across the hillside to provide water for various French towns in the vicinity.

Following the dam, there are some 2 kilometres of relatively easy water, some small falls which provide the opportunity for some playful antics and a chance to relax.

It is quite possible to continue paddling down the Tarn to the town of Florac and onwards, but as the river gradient lessens, to continue would provide something of an anti-climax. Thus the ideal finish point to this trip 'extreme-difficult' is the bridge at 'La Vernede'.

Information on the river level can be gained from the proprietor of 'Chez Raymond' — the only cafe in 'Le Pont de Montvert' — however the river is normally negotiable in spring and early autumn. Definitely an exciting trip with some spectacular scenery included . . .



# GOLORADO 75

Yet again, British rough water kayakists and one superb canoeist revelled and played in the spectacular rapids of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon Expedition 'Summer of '75', organised by your editor and supported by Art Vitarelli along with a great American work crew, ran some 300 miles of the Colorado River starting as usual from Lees Ferry a few miles below Glen Canyon Dam, but continuing past the regular Diamond Creek pull-out to finish at Pierces Ferry on Lake Mead. Eleven British paddlers, one South African, four Americans, two passengers, and a ten-man work crew, made up the entire trip.

The group experienced some superb water — although for the first time a number of the paddlers were a little disappointed — plus some very exciting weather conditions with violent rain storms and for sure the most spectacular electric storm any of us had ever seen. Unlike the previous trips, there will be no massive article on the run (cheers from the flat water paddlers!), but just to give a taste of the excitement and thrill of running very big water, I have devoted the centre of this issue to photographs from the Canyon run 'Summer of '75'.



# COLORADO 75



Photos of expedition members tackling Unkar, Granite, Crystal and other rapids. Photos: Mike Clark, Canoeing Magazine.



















# SUrf news

# Bude championships

The National Surf Championships, held at Bude over the first weekend in September, attracted a good entry but, although the weather was fine once again the event was not blessed with the best of surf. In fact it was quite poor and certainly in the final of the Surf Kayak, competitors were having to work very hard to make even a moderate run.

Simon Beeson of Bristol won the Surf Race, but could only make third in the Slalom Handling event. However, Sandra Beeson took the win in the Womens Surf Race and second place to Jill Adams of Deptford Swimmers in the Womens Slalom Handling event. The Bristo boys won the Relay Race, Boulton of Penzance won the Junior Slalom Handling, while Harvey of Teddington School took the Junior Surf Race. In the major events, S. Lay of Cambourne won the Slalom Handling from Andy Knight of Bristol (Beeson third), and in the Surf Kayak Ian Downie

took the win from lan Faulkner, with Buckingham of Penzance third.

### Surf committee

During the meeting of the B.C.U. Surf Committee – held over this same weekend – Andy Knight was welcomed onto the Committee to take up a vacancy and John Hermes was re-elected as secretary for the next two years.

The Committee agreed that the safety rules and judging scheme in use for 1975 should not be reviewed or altered prior to the 'Nationals' of 1977, and that these rules should be circulated for use at all BCU surfchampionshps.

The Committee regretted the massacre of the article explaining these rules, without reference back, by the editor of 'Canoeing in Britain' just prior to the Natonals. This had ledto confusion and dismay amongst the competitors who had read the remains of the secretary's article (the article has since been run in full).

Following a request from the Cornwall Canoeing Association, the Committee discussed and agreed to:

a) explore other venues for surf championships.

b) remove Surf Races from the programme.c) remove Relay Races from the programme.

d) allow 30-minutes for finals and, if possible, semi-finals.

e) examine the need for a qualification for entry to reduce the number of competitors.

f) examine the possibility of an elite event. g) try to run a training weekend for judges.









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Small surf for the Bude Championships.

# NEW BOOKS GUIDES AND PUBLICATIONS

**'Kayaking — The New Whitewater Sport for Everybody'** by Jay Evans and Robert R. Anderson. Published by The Stephen Greene Press. Price 8.95 U.S. Dollars.

For some time our 'Canoeing Magazine Book List' has included an excellent little booklet from the Appalachian Mountain Club in the U.S.A. dealing with the introduction to rough water canoeing. The booklet has proved popular and will no doubt continue to sell in moderate numbers. However, now from the States comes a first class book on white water sport -'Kayaking: The New Whitewater Sport for Everybody' - and shows in more detail technique for the beginner in rough water sport. Written by Jay Evans (former U.S. Olympic Coach) and Robert Anderson (rough water paddler), the book is illustrated with over a hundred photographs. However, as with most U.S. publications and now with the falling pound/dollar rate, the book looks to be quite expensive at over £4.00 (and with my review copy being a printers unbound edition, it is not known if the book is hard cover). I already have a few copies on order and will add the book to our 'stocklist' as being among the best of reading material for canoesport.

**'Guide to Scottish Rivers'** published by The Scottish Canoe Association.

In co-operation with B.C.U. River Advisers, the Scottish Canoe Association has produced this much needed leaflet on Scottish

rivers. Points of interest, access, and egress are mentioned, likewise the difficult and dangerous sections of rivers, but in general this is only a rough guide to the type of water, thus leaving the touring paddler scope for adventure and with the feeling of still 'exploring' an unknown waterway. The leaflet is of duplicated foolscap pages and a guide to the Rivers Awe, Clyde, Feshie, Nith, Spey and Tweed. (Other sheets are to be added as they become available). Details from: *The Scottish Canoe Association*, 11 Rutland Street, Edinburgh EH1 2AE.

**'Food for Fitness'** published by World Publications. Price 2.95 U.S. Dollars.

When it comes to knocking split-seconds off record times or adding a few inches to distances, whether you are a runner, swimmer, jumper, skier, canoeist, or even shot-putter, the right diet and what you eat are just as important as your training. It's little good tuning a car to peak performance, only to fill up with a low grade fuel — likewise the sportsman, and indeed even the non-sportsman, needs the right kind of food for peak performance — for a healthy body.

This book from World Publications is of supreme interest. It covers almost every aspect of food for fitness, yet it is written in a relatively simple form that the average person can understand without getting bogged down in scientific data. If you have never truly considered what you eat in as much detail as your training, then this publication will certainly put you on the right lines. 'Food for Fitness' is available from the 'Canoeing Magazine Book List' at £1.30 including postage (U.K. only).

**British Waterways Calendar 1976.** The poetry of the waterways is the theme of the British Waterways Board's 1976 calendar — a worthy successor to their 1975 calendar which featured European Architectural Heritage Year, and was widely praised.

For 1976 superb illustrations trace the life-story of a waterway from the reservoirs in the hills, through country and town, to the sea. For each month there is a picture, and an appropriate verse. The calendar is available by post from: *British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JX.* Price £1.20 plus 30p postage.

**'Canoe Design and Construction'** by Alan Byde. Published by Pelham Books. Price £4.35.

Well, just as our 1975 Almanac in the January issue of the magazine predicted, that nice young Mr Byde has produced yet another book to delight his many admirers (and just out in time for Christmas!). The book gives much detail on the design of kayaks and the preparation of drawings, plus the making of a plug, mould, and eventual production of a glassfibre kayak. Throughout the 170 odd pages there are numerous line drawings to add interest and explain principles. However, following hot on the heels of his previous book 'Canoe Building in Glass-reinforced Plastic', it is difficult to see the justification in spending some £4.35 for the chapters on design, the rest of the book being covered in more detail in the above book (certainly inflation is catching up in the printing world when one considers the value/price of Alan's 1974 production and this 1975 production . . !) Still, Alan's books have always sold well and no doubt this one will be no exception and thus added to our 'Canoeing Magazine Stock List' (price £4.85 inc. postage).

The Wild Water Racing Year Book for 1975/76 is now available. The booklet, published by the B.C.U. Slalom and Wild Water Racing Committee, includes the programme of events for the Winter '75/Summer '76 season, the regulations for Wild Water Racing, and the 'National League Ranking List. Copies are available at 20p (plus S.A.E.) from Wild Water Ranking List Compiler, Jon Goodwin, Woodendale Cottage, Maer Hills, Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffs.



# alpine tour

**During a fortnight of August this year a party of canoeists** from the Royal Navy toured and canoed some of the wild Alpine rivers of Europe.

Most of the party had not canoed such rivers before. The tour, based at Zernez in Switzerland, therefore started to canoe successfully harder sections of the River Inn and, having worked up to a large degree of competence on Grade IV to V waters, the party moved to Landeck in Austria.

From Landeck, the River Sanna was run many times and proved highly enjoyable and challenging enough to worry most. Also the River Rosanna provided another boat breaking challenge. Alas, time did not allow the group to run other accessible rivers in this area, namely the Imster Schlucht on the Inn, the Otztaber Ache and the Trisanna. The party also chickened out of the Grade VI section of the Inn above Landeck, but this was no disgrace.

Throughout, the scenery was magnificent, forming a splendid backdrop to the water. This and the actual canoeing all made for a superb canoe trip that could have been repeated many times.

On the return journey home a day was spent canoeing the waters of the Augsburg artificial slalom course. Everyone enjoyed playing on the course, even if all the gates would not come clean! At the end the attraction of swimming down gave many minutes of enormous fun.









- 1. The magnificent church at Schuol above the River Inn.
- 2. Steve England leads Dave Flockhart down a sparkling rapid on the Inn.
- 3. Clive Waghorn on spectacular water near Ardez on the Inn.
- 4. Peter Hewitt through 'riffles' on the Inn.
- 5. Clive Waghorn over the big drop on the Augsburg course.
- 6. The River Sanna with a backcloth of Austrian mountains.



# TRADE PAGE

# REVIEW OF NEW KAYAKS, CANOES, AND EQUIPMENT.

# Nordkapp pay-off

After the successful British Nordkapp Expedition, Valley Canoe Products are evaluating lessons learned by the members on their 500-mile paddle.

Frank Goodman, the designer of the Nordkapp — the kayak produced especially for the Expedition — travelled by 'plane, bus, and boat to meet the paddlers at their destination. Although he knew they were two days behind schedule due to foul weather early on, he arrived at the Nordkapp at 1.00p.m. on July 29th, two days early. Half an hour later his binoculars picked up six specks rounding the cliffs! 3.00p.m. saw the Expedition safely round the most northerly point of Europe (Lat.71°10'21"N).

Frank said that the most impressive thing about the boats was the way in which the Expedition members had customised their own kayaks. The decks were bristling with fitments that were tailored to their individual requirements — everyone different! He was reminded of the Eskimo seal-hunting kayaks (the forerunners of the Nordkapp), where the deck was tool-rack, storage space and work-bench.

One of the problems of sea-going kayak design is that everyone likes different fittings, differently laid out. Frank is working on an entirely new system where deck-mountings can be altered simply and easily to give an infinite variety of fittings and positioning.

Design problems to this end are already being tackled by V.C.P. but solutions aren't expected until mid-winter. If everything goes well, both the Nordkapp and Anas Acuta seagoing kayak will be offered with a whole range of deck mouldings that will allow the sea-canoeist to choose exactly what he wants, where he wants — and all built to the high standards that have given Valley Canoe Products its world-wide reputation for the finest of sea-going kayaks.

# New wet-suit material

SorboSkin, a new neoprene wet-suit material with substantial benefits for suit manufacturers and end users, has recently been launched by Sorbo Industrial Polymers of Woking, a company with over fifty years of sponge rubber manufacturing experience:

The new material has a regular micro cellular structure, ensuring it will not collapse with frequent immersions to 50ft or more. It has an extremely low level of water absorption, while its low density with a high level of entrapped nitrogen gives a high thermal insulation. SorboSkin is lined with high stretch 2/70 denier knitted nylon and available in a range of thicknesses from 2mm to 8mm. Full details from: Sorbo Industrial Polymers Ltd., Albert Drive, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey.

# P&H Roof-rack

An excellent roof-rack is being marketed by P. & H. Fibreglass Products under the name 'Load Carrier'. The rack is manufactured by Eric Joos of Sweden, the design of dinghy-bar type, and the material is light alloy with a composition covering in the bars. The price is £11.75 per pair and including VAT.

I have been running around with a pair on my car for the last six months and certainly they are ideal for kayak carrying. The com-

position coating on the bars prevent damage to the kayaks and with alloy construction there is no rusting problem. Extension bars are available to enable three or four slalom type kayaks to be carried on their sides. Full details are available from: *P. & H. Fibreglass Products, 76 Dale Road, Spondon, Derby.* 





# Granta take over Kayel

**Granta Boats Limited announce that the production of the**Kayel range of plywood canoe kits, together with further
designs from Mr. K. H. Littledyke will in future be based at their
factories at Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Production of the whole of the Kayel range previously marketed by Messrs. Ottersports Limited, is expected to commence by the 1st October 1975. All orders and enquiries should now be posted to: *Granta Boats Limited*, 23-29 Great Whyte, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Tel: 0487 813777.

# ExtraSport U.K.

During July, Danny Broadhurst of P. & H. Fibreglass Products, left that company for new fields and the forming of a new company called ExtraSport in the United States. The company are to retail a whole range of sporting goods on the East Coast of America, including a number of British built kayaks and cances

However, P. & H. will not entirely lose the services of Danny—he has been instrumental in many of the new designs of P. & H. boats, most notable being the Surfer—for he will still have strong ties with the firm during future years. Of course, the surfing scene here in Britain has lost a highly dynamic paddler and our loss is certainly America's gain...

Before Danny left for the States, he tied in his new firm with Tony Blackwell and Ripper Surf Products, together forming a new British firm — ExtraSport U.K. Limited. This firm takes over Ripper Surf Products but the Ripper surf kayak and their other products will still be produced.

Under the new ExtraSport banner comes three new kayaks onto the market — for surf there is the Stripper, for slalom the Avenger, and for touring the Escort.

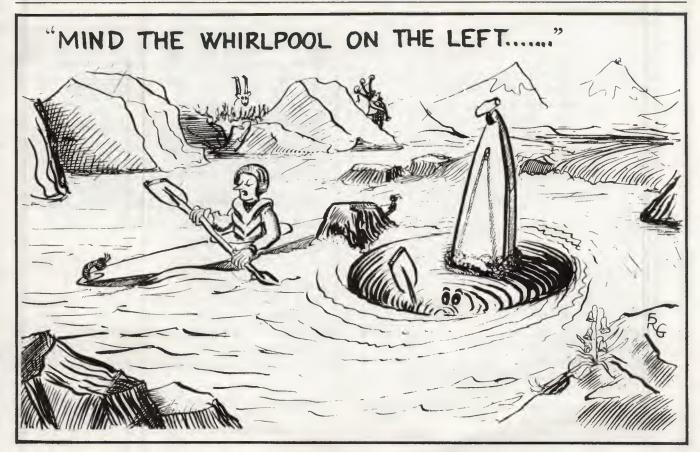
Most interesting of the trio is the new surf design. The Stripper is designed with very hard rails to hold the upright tube

walls of British surf. The boat has been tested with standard single fin and also double fins, but, due to the interesting fishtail form of stern, twin mini-fins were found to do an equally suitable job of holding the kayak (hours of discussion can be held on the performance of this or that fin . . !), and the Stripper is the equal of many boards. With a super-large cockpit, most people will be able to get into this model, while the seating position will be found to be comfortable and provision has been made for high knee position and even size eleven boots! However, even with the size of the cockpit, the design as a whole is of low buoyancy. The idea of the fish-tail is to really hold walls and to be able to hit those bottom turns. All told, the Stripper is a fine surf design by two of the country's leading surfers and should prove a popular boat.

The new Avenger from ExtraSport is a low profile competition slalom kayak with world class possibilities, both fast and highly manoeuvrable. The Escort touring kayak is stable, with large cockpit and ample space for camping gear — it is also ideal for Service and Youth Group use as a general purpose craft. All three boats from ExtraSport run out at just over £60.00 each, plus VAT, and full details are available from: ExtraSport U.K. Limited, 77 Plymouth Avenue, Brighton, Sussex. Tel: 0273 66331 or 890298

TRADE PAGE

REVIEW OF NEW KAYAKS, CANOES, AND EQUIPMENT.



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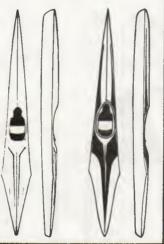
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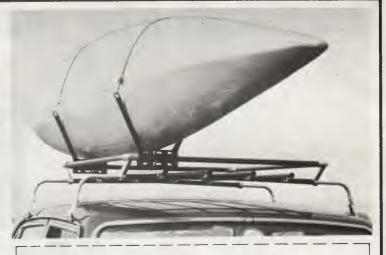
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