

CANOEING MAGAZINE

# CANOEING

No 3 OCTOBER 1976 - THIRTY PENCE



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# CANOEING

INCORPORATING CANOEING IN BRITAIN AND CANOEING MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1976 — VOLUME 1 — NUMBER 3

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## CONTENTS

Comment . . . . .	3	International Slalom . . . . .	11
Notes and News . . . . .	4	Olympic Games . . . . .	12
Long Distance Championships . . . . .	6	Liffey Descent . . . . .	14
Espada Class. . . . .	8	Trade page . . . . .	15
ICF Congress Report . . . . .	9	Classified Adverts . . . . .	18
Sea Canoeing . . . . .	10		

COVER *Canoeing the Isere River in France.*  
Photo: Mike Clark



Gate 12 at River Tryweryn Internation Slalom.

Photo: Mike Clark

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## Comment

Mike Clark

Contrary to the many critical and pessimistic press reports which appeared before the Olympic Games in Montreal, the competitions turned out better than expected. Particularly could this be said about the canoe events held on the Olympic Regatta Course on Ile Notre Dame. Whilst there were one or two hitches during the rowing events held on the same course earlier, the canoeing events went through exactly on time and without any problems, this largely due to the excellent work of the Canadian Organising Committee.

In addition to the Canadian organisation there were assembled in Montreal the top international canoe racing experts who worked together with the Canadian officials.

In this way the 248 paddlers taking part, who were drawn from 28-countries, enjoyed the very best conditions, calm water with no wind and fine weather.

It is difficult to compare the XXIIth Olympic Games with the XXth Games of four years ago in Munich where there were only the seven races (Mens 1,000-metre in K1, K2, K4, C1, and C2, and Womens K1 and K2 over 500-metres) whereas in Montreal there were four more events for the men over a distance of 500-metres - K1, K2, C1 and C2. It is more appropriate to make a comparison with the World Championships of 1975.

The canoeists of the Soviet Union were able to maintain their leading position but the team from the German Democratic Republic managed to achieve the second place in front of the Hungarians who took third place, whilst the Rumanian Team came fourth as in the previous year.

The 33-medals of the Olympic Canoe Regatta 1976 went to eight nations but 28 of them were taken by the teams of the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Rumania. Only Poland, Spain and Canada, with one Silver Medal each and Yugoslavia with a Gold and Bronze Medal could get near the leaders. In contrast with the 1972 Games in Munich, there were no medals for Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, but Canada and Spain made an advance.

It would be nice to have a broader spread at the peak of international canoe racing, but it must be borne in mind that in most finals the differences between the first and ninth boats is often only 4 or 5 seconds, and this shows the intensity of the competition.

# NOTES

# & NEWS

## EXPEDITION SEMINAR

The Royal Geographical Society and Young Explorers' Trust are organising a one-day Seminar on 'Planning a Small Expedition'. The Seminar will be at the Royal Geographical Society building in London on Thursday November 18th and repeated in the North of England (Leeds) next February.

Speakers include a wide range of experts on every aspect of expedition planning. Topics include: personnel, logistics, medicine, choice of scientific programme, fund raising, public relations, and research sources. There will be panels to discuss equipment and transport in different types of terrain; and other panels dealing with specialised functions, such as surveying, photography and collecting.

Price of the Seminar (including buffet lunch and tea) is £3.00. Details and applications to: *Miss S. Muir, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.* (s.a.e. required).

## CANOE ROLLING

Winter Canoe Rolling Instruction (Fulham Baths, London) begins again from Tuesday October 19th and following Tuesdays from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. — beginners welcome. Applications in the first instance to: *Stan Holthorp, 54 Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey. Tel: 01-398 3118.*

## BIRMINGHAM BOAT SHOW MOVES

The National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham will have its first-ever boat show in February, 1977.

The Midlands Boat and Leisure Life Exhibition will commence on February 24th, 1977 and will be open until March 6th. Exhibitors from all parts of the world are expected to take part and the show's sponsors, the Birmingham Post and Mail Organisation, have reserved 155,000 sq.ft. of space in anticipation of the demand.

Hitherto the show, which has become an annual event in the Midlands, has been confined by the restrictions of Bingley Hall, Birmingham. The decision to move to the National Exhibition Centre will enable more and bigger boats to be displayed and allow the caravanning, camping, and angling sections of the exhibition to be expanded.

Exhibitor enquiries should be directed to: *S. J. S. Herbert or D. Shaw,*

*The Birmingham Boat Shows Limited,  
28 Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4  
6AX.*

## FAIRWAY TO MONTREAL

The firm of Fairway (prop. Sprint C1 paddler Ben Edom) supplied dust covers and travelling covers for all the British Canoe Team boats at the Montreal Olympics. The Team also used exclusively Fairway spraydecks and paddle covers. Details of Fairway products, including boat covers, paddle covers, spraydecks, and anoraks, can be obtained from: *Fairway, 2 Astwood Road, Worcester WR3 8ET.*

## LONG RIVER CANOEING

Interested in long river canoeing? If you have canoed rivers of one hundred miles and upwards, you may like to join the Long River Canoeist Club — a mutual association for the exchange of ideas and information on distance canoeing. LRCC is a postal club with no fees and counts among its members the world record holders of the Rhine and Amazon. For further details and application forms send s.a.e. to: *Chairman LRCC, P. Salisbury, 2 Wood Lane, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0AJ.*

## NEW SURF VENUE

For some time the Elgin Canoe Club have been organising club surf events but this year undertook the first North East Scotland Surf Championships. Depending on their success the event may become the first Scottish Surf Championships in 1977.

Regrettably the date of the competition was August 28th/29th and details were only dispatched to our editorial

office on August 9th — less than three weeks before the event. . .! Canoeing Magazine is only too pleased to publish details of canoe sport events — but please secretaries, give us at least six to eight weeks notice. . .

## LANDS END TO SCILLY ISLES

Five members of the newly formed North Wales Canoe Club, are believed to have gained a 'first' with a sea crossing from Lands End to the Scilly Isles.

The trip took place on July 5th with the canoeists setting out in favourable water conditions from Sennen Cove. However the whole crossing was paddled on bearings due to visibility at times being down to less than 100-metres. The distance from Sennen Cove to St. Mary's, Scilly Isles is approximately 30-miles. The crossing was completed in 8-hours in sea kayaks.

Trip members were: Martin Smith, Barry Owen, John Bull, Keith Needham, and Mike Scott. It is hoped fuller details of this trip will be available at some future date.

## EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Above are details of an Expedition Seminar, however, the Young Explorers' Trust are also organising a symposium on the theme 'Expedition Travel and Transport'. This will be held on October 23rd at the Renold Building, University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology, Sackville Street, Manchester 1. Tickets are £2.50 (including lunch) or £1.25 and societies, organisations or interested individuals are asked to apply by October 6th, sending the appropriate remittance to: *Young Explorers' Trust, 238 Wellington Road, South, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6NW.*

## VIDEOTAPE ON HYPOTHERMIA

The University of London Audio-Visual Centre has produced a videotape on 'The Treatment of

*Action during the Tryweryn International.  
Full report page 11.*



### *Immersion Hypothermia.*

People who fall in the sea, lakes, or rivers, are often safe from immediate drowning, but if they have to wait a long time for rescue they can often die from the effects of cold — hypothermia. However, accidents recorded over a number of years have shown that survival times varied enormously. Some people survived long periods in water even colder than 10°C., while others died very quickly at such temperatures. A great deal of experimental work has been performed to examine the factors affecting body heat loss in water, such as external and internal insulation, age/sex variations, water temperature, and exercise while awaiting rescue. The programme analyses the scientific data resulting from experimental works, and presents its conclusions in terms of practical advice for those likely to be either immersed or concerned with the rescue of survivors. There are major and potentially fatal hazards which can occur after rescue, and the presenters discuss treatment to prevent or reduce these, both at the time of rescue and subsequently in hospital.

Although this videotape was originally designed for those with medical or other scientific training, a good deal of practical advice is given which makes the tape suitable for non-scientific audiences such as canoe clubs and those involved in other water sports. Price of hire and other details are available from: *Miss Patricia Guilliford, The Secretary, University of London Audio-Visual Centre, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA.*

### **R/T HIRE**

**Joseph Banks Limited** are shortly to introduce a hire service that should be of interest to sea-canoeists. The service will be the hire of hand portable V.H.F. Radio-Telephones and also Callboy distress R/T. The V.H.F. sets would be crystallised on channels, 16-Emergency/Calling, 6-Ship to Ship, and also the channel of the local Coast Station. Anyone interested in this new service should write, enclosing s.a.e., to: *Joseph Banks Limited, 749 Knutsford Road, Latchford, Warrington, Cheshire.*

### **OOPS. . .!**

It seems in our first issue the Scottish Sports Council's new Watersports Training Centre at Cumbrae (the Scottish island) was moved slightly south into Cumbria (the English County). Sorry about that and we trust no one was inconvenienced by our error. Details of courses at this and other Scottish Centres are available from: *The Scottish Sports Council, 1 St. Colme Street, Edinburgh EH3 6AA.*

### **MARTYN RETAINS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE**

**Martyn Hedges** of the Windsor and District Canoe Club, who was awarded the first OCS Sports Scholarship at Bath University (reported last month) successfully defended his National C1 Slalom Championship title at the Tryweryn Slalom held over the August holiday weekend.

Martyn, who had to win two of the remaining three ranking events, won the Tryweryn with such a margin of points that even if the Llangollen events are now cancelled through lack of water, the points gained are sufficient for him to retain the championship.

The OCS Sports Scholarship, the first of its kind to be awarded in Britain, will enable Martyn to remain at University for an additional year and free to concentrate on his sport without interfering with his academic studies. The OCS Sports Scholarship is sponsored by Office Cleaning Services Ltd., of London.



*Martyn Hedges*

### **1.3% INFLATION!**

If you're planning an overseas canoe trip for next year, it seems one of the best places to go is Switzerland. Not only do they have some wildly exciting rough water rivers, but also an inflation rate of just 1.3% — the lowest in the world. . .

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The date for submission of international Canoesport events to the ICF has

already passed and it is time for canoe clubs to plan their national events for the 1977 season. Canoeing Magazine will be publishing a complete calendar of events in the first issue for 1977 — just how complete that calendar will be is up to organising canoe clubs and the technical committees. Please send details of events at earliest date to: *Canoeing Magazine, The Chapel, 19 Main Street, Hemington, Derby DE7 2RB.*

### **DRY AND HIGH**

With the approach of the second week in September, at last the long hot and dry summer seems to be fading into the past — but alas not so the drought. Although clouds have lowered the temperature and hidden the sun, a few odd low pressures pushing in from Iceland and the Atlantic, it's going to take more than a few inches of rain to restore our rivers and reservoirs to a respectable level.

Restrictions on the use of locks on many of the inland waterways in the Midlands and the South of England were still in force at the beginning of September (although of course many miles of waterways remained available for cruising where there are long pounds between locks, and under a hundred miles of canal are actually closed completely). A spokesman for the British Waterways Board indicated that such restrictions were likely to remain until the end of the season and even then, the winter had to bring a substantial amount of rain if all restrictions on lock use were to be lifted by the Spring.

Despite the very low river conditions the slalom season has almost been completed without a single cancellation through lack of water (at the time of writing the 1st Div. events on the Dee in North Wales still seem possible). However, while our sport has lost little — other than a few inches of water — the drought has brought one serious disease risk to some rivers and lakes. An outbreak of Weil's Disease — a highly dangerous infection spread by rats urine in the water — was confirmed in Northampton and in Yorkshire. The disease is an infectious jaundice, usually transmitted through cuts, and can lead to kidney failure. If you paddle regularly on still suspect water take care to bath or shower after each session and don't go on the water if you have any open cuts or abrasions.

# **NOTES & NEWS**

# NATIONAL L-D CHAMPS

## Mason makes fourth win in the K1

By Tim Jones

Record low water conditions and a revised course made for one of the most interesting Long Distance Nationals for some years, despite a disappointing entry, particularly from overseas.

The event, held over the August Bank Holiday Weekend and taking place for the sixth successive year at the attractive Worcester riverside site, attracted only a couple of hundred British paddlers, a three-man Danish team and a small Spanish group — a rather disappointing number for those who remember the record 400-plus attendance in 1971, the first year it was held at Worcester.

Controversy continues, too, about the shooting of Diglis Weir and indeed about the entire Nationals course. For the first time, access problems put the Teme out of bounds, removing one of the most interesting aspects of the course as far as some are concerned.

But during the weekend and since, there have been critical noises from some quarters about Diglis Weir, which this year, because of the Teme situation, had to be shot or portaged four times by Senior paddlers. The adjective 'boat-breaker' was a popular one and there's no doubt that those selling glassfibre repair kits (and even those selling new boats) gained some business as a result.

However, despite such ripples (and where would a club bar be without a few debating points?) the weekend produced some of the best Long Distance racing seen for quite a time.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging happenings of the competition was the participation of the Fladbury Club. David Trains, a veteran Long Distance paddler, recently returned to the area to live in a small village just south of Worcester called Fladbury (population c.2000), by the banks of the Avon.

Having formed the Fladbury Canoe Club, David has now signed up almost every lad in the village (and a few girls too!) and I'm told there was a deathly hush in the village over the Long Distance weekend as their lads battled away on the Severn! Maybe they didn't exactly hit a winning streak, but this is one of the best stories to come out of L-D paddling for some

time . . . if every club had an equally active youth section, the sport would have no continuity problems.

It became very clear during the Long Distance Nationals that the event's future must now be assessed. It has been going for six years, very successfully on a site that is good for paddlers and ideal for spectators, but attendance of both has gradually been declining. Which way now? The Long Distance Racing Committee must take stock, but in the final analysis it is not the Committee but the paddlers who must make their views known. What do YOU think?

As for the racing, Nottingham Kayak Club had an exceptionally successful weekend, clearly demonstrating that the focal point of L-D racing is moving out of the London area, despite some strong individual performances by Royal Canoe Club members.

Norman Mason took the Senior K1 stylishly and convincingly from Greenham and Haynes for the fourth time, leaving his mastery of Senior K1 L-D in little doubt.

Kath Nadal/Heather Money won the Womens K2 with an even better margin from Richmond's Weatherall/Peacock, but Nottingham's Dimmock/Bourne had a real battle against the Royal/Lichfield and Harlow crews to secure the Junior K2 event with just .04seconds in hand.

Williams/Fowler just managed to retain the Senior K2 from Mason/Brown, while Nutting/Harding — again from Nottingham — weren't far behind.

Lichfield Canoe Club's Balard took out the Junior K1 with Chelmsford's Bourne taking second place from West of Royal Canoe Club with just .01-seconds to spare, possibly the narrowest margin of the weekend.

Royal Canoe Club showed well in the Womens K1 with Christine Haynes and Francis Weatherall taking first and second, while Nottingham's Nadal and Money made third and fourth. However, if Heather Money had not broken her kayak seat and rudder at one of the weirs, it might have been a different story.

There were some good entries for the Espada events and although the honours were rather more evenly shared, there are signs of good

1. The first 'start' of the massed K1 classes.
  2. Hilary Peacock/Francis Wetherall portage the Bevere Weir.
  3. to 5. Peacock/Wetherall making the portage of Diglis Weir.
  6. Junior K2s over the weir sill of Bevere.
  7. K1s and K2s over the top of Bevere.
  8. Junior K2 crew making a sideways slide of Diglis Weir.
  9. K1 paddlers off the sill of Bevere.
- Photos: Mike Clark.



things to come from a number of clubs, including Lichfield, Harlow, and Leighton Park.

### RESULTS

**SENIOR MENS K1:** 1st N. Mason, Nottingham 1hr 56min 45secs; 2nd B. Greenham, Leighton Park School 1hr 57min 50secs; 3rd B. Haynes, Royal 1hr 58min 15secs.

**JUNIOR MENS K1:** 1st C. Balard, Lichfield 2hr 02min 50sec; 2nd G. Bourne, Chelmsford 2hr 04min 18sec; 3rd J. West, Royal 2hr 04min 19sec.

**WOMENS K1:** 1st C. Haynes, Royal 1hr 25min 07sec; 2nd F. Weatherall, Royal 1hr 26min 12sec; 3rd H. Money, Nottingham 1hr 27min 20sec.

**SENIOR MENS K2:** 1st Williams/Fowler, Royal 1hr 47min 15sec; 2nd Mason/Brown, Nottingham 1hr 47min 37sec; 3rd Fieldus/White, Wey 1hr 48min 37sec.

**JUNIOR MENS K2:** 1st Dimmock/Bourne, Nottingham 1hr 55min 04sec; 2nd West/Balard, Royal/Lich. 1hr 55min 08sec; 3rd Smith/Howard, Harlow 1hr 55min 10sec.

**WOMENS K2:** 1st Nadal/Money, Nottingham 1hr 17min 26sec; 2nd Weatherall/Peacock, Richmond 1hr 22min 45sec; 3rd Lovell/Chandler, Leighton Park School 1hr 24min 12sec.



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# ESPADA CLASS RACING

The Espada Classes have been established for a number of years now and have been enormously successful. However, having firmly established the classes, it is time to review them and to see if there are any ways in which improvements can be introduced.

Probably the most obvious fault at present is the poor showing of the Espada 'C' events in terms of both numbers and the level of performance. This applies to both Sprint Racing and Long Distance Racing. The basic cause of this being that the age levels of Espada Classes are structured too high, i.e. that by the age of sixteen years the Espada 'B' paddlers are already of sufficiently high standard to compete in Novice events in Sprint Racing and the Junior events of Long Distance Racing, and in many cases are doing so with success. Therefore the principle reason for the lack of support in the following class — the Espada 'C' — is that by the age of eighteen years most boys are more than proficient at Novice Level in Sprint Racing and in some exceptional cases are already on a competitive level with our Seniors. The name is true for Long Distance Racing.

I would suggest that there are two easy solutions to the problem:

- a. To discontinue the Espada 'C' class altogether and create a new age group for paddlers under 12-years old.
- b. To adjust the age limits back one year, as follows:  
Under 17-years — Espada 'C'  
Under 15-years — Espada 'B'  
Under 13-years — Espada 'A'

Of the two alternatives, I am of the opinion that the latter is the more desirable. There is probably less difference in the physical abilities of boys between 15 to 17-years than 14 to 16-years, which would be conducive to more competitive racing and at the same time would still retain the majority of the few paddlers who still race the Espada 'C' class. Also the number of paddlers lost between 17 and 18-years would be minimal, as the bulk of this age group are already competing successfully at higher levels and are consequently already well catered for.

Such a new age-grouping as proposed would not be detrimental to schools, for whom the Espada Classes were originated, as the school leaving age is set at 16-years and those over 17-years still at school are normally too involved in studying for examinations to be also involved in sports.

In any case, as previously stated, they are already well catered for in other classes.

I feel that if these adjusted age limits were introduced we would attract a greater number of younger people to the Espada 'A' class. Already paddlers of nine and ten years of age are competing and by lowering the age to Under 13-years it will enable them to compete on a more equal footing.

I believe it is important that the Espada Classes are not altered too drastically, or too fast, as it does take time for people to adjust to alterations. However, the above proposal could well be introduced quite easily for the 1977 season with very little fuss and to no detrimental effect. Therefore, I would formally propose that with effect from January 1st, 1977, the Espada Classes should be:

Espada 'A' — Under 13-years  
Espada 'B' — Under 15-years  
Espada 'C' — Under 17-years

*Brian Greenaway,  
Royal Canoe Club*

*(A quick check round with members of the Technical Committee concerned showed that the above proposals are almost certain to be accepted and that the Espada Classes for Sprint and Long Distance will be as stated from January 1st. Ed).*



## Daily Mail International SKI SHOW

National Hall Olympia London October 23-31 Daily: 12 noon-9 p.m.  
Sundays: 12 noon-7 p.m. Admission: Adults 70p Children 45p  
Advance tickets: Adults 60p Children 30p available through  
coupons in the Daily Mail after September 20.

### See the World's Greatest Ski Acrobats in Action and the Tate & Lyle Ski Championships



# INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION CONGRESS 1976, MONTREAL

The International Canoe Federation Congress was held on July 21st, 1976 in the Congress Hall of the Bonaventure Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

Present were all members of the Board of Management with the exception of Mr. Ishii of Japan prevented by illness, and the delegates of thirty federations. Three more federations were represented by proxies.

The President (Charles de Coquereaumont, France) welcomed the delegates and after the roll-call went straight on to speak of the Report of the Board. Dr. Ebner (Austria) criticised the Canadian Canoe Association and the Organising Committee for their failure to obtain the inclusion of Canoe Slalom in the Montreal Olympic Games Programme, and the President explained the procedures that had been followed, saying that an artificial course had been ruled out on account of cost, and no natural facilities were available anywhere near Montreal. He went on to say that a similar situation existed in connection with Moscow for the 1980 Olympic Games.

Dealing with deficiencies in the organisation of certain World Championships, the President spoke of the need for would-be organising federations to provide solid evidence of support from their national sports authorities, government etc., and went on to stress that the national federation must carry full responsibility for the satisfactory organisation even though it might have delegated the work to local clubs or associations. Referring to federations withdrawing from a commitment to carry out the organisation of a championship, the President said that the Board was considering the problem and it was likely that a penalty would be imposed.

## MEMBERSHIP

An application for membership of the I.C.F. from Israel was accepted provisionally and to be confirmed by the Board of Management on receipt of the necessary documents, including their Statutes and correct fees.

## MODIFICATION OF I.C.F. STATUTES

The Bulgarian proposal for increase in the number of Auditors was withdrawn.

**Canoe Marathon** — the President said that the proposals submitted by Great Britain, Norway, Denmark and Ireland had been studied by the Board which recommended that a Working

Party be set up to study all the implications and report back to the Board with recommendations for presentation to Congress in 1978. This procedure was accepted by the countries which made the proposals and was agreed by the Congress. (We understand that this Working Party will be appointed by the Board and that John Dudderidge, President of the British Canoe Union and Member for Europe on the Board, has been appointed its Chairman. Also that draft Rules presented to the Congress have been authorized for experimental use during the next two years.)

**A Swedish proposal regarding voting** by members of the Board who are also serving as delegates of a federation, was accepted in the following terms after amendment:

'A Member of the Board, even though he may be representing a country, has no vote on a proposal for the discharge of the Board or for the election of an Auditor.'

## MODIFICATION OF RULES

**Proposals submitted by the Paddling Racing Committee** and endorsed by the Board were accepted with the following exceptions:

- A French proposal to prevent a competitor in a Senior Championship from participating subsequently in a Junior Championship was rejected.
- A proposal from the German Democratic Republic to include 1,000 metre events in K1, K2, C1 and C2 Junior Championships for men, was accepted with a proviso that there would be no change in the Vichy programme 1977 and that 1,000 metre events would appear for the first time in 1979 in Tampere (Finland).

In Slalom and Wild Water Racing it was accepted that the date for submission of items for the Calendar be September 1st instead of August 1st for publication on November 1st. The reference to 'one of two competitors' in Article 22 means the leading competitor, i.e. the bowman in a forward gate and the sternman in a reverse gate. Article 35 states that 'At least 5 member federations must start.' If during the Championships some members drop out, the validity of the Championship will not be affected. Rules for Continental Cup and Trophy Competitions were approved as presented by the Committee.

A proposal from Great Britain concerning slalom courses for World Championships was accepted. Other

proposals, along with a proposal from Italy were referred to the Slalom and Wild Water Committee. The Polish proposal for annual World Championships was rejected and the Swiss proposal regarding C2s was not accepted.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Among I.C.F. Elections, 1st Vice President O. Bonn (Hungary) was re-elected, General Secretary S. Orsi (Italy) re-elected, Members for Europe V. Lukatin (USSR) and J. Dudderidge (Great Britain) re-elected, Member for the Americas W. Simon (Canada) re-elected Member for Africa E. Niaba (Ivory Coast) re-elected, Member for Australasia F. Whitebrook re-elected.**

Chairmen of Standing Committees, N. Navasart (Rumania) was re-elected for Paddling Racing, but R. Landgraf (German Democratic Republic) was defeated for Chairman of Slalom/Wild Water, M. Engel (Luxemborg) elected to the position. When announcing this last result the President warmly thanked the retiring Chairman for all the work he had done over the last sixteen years. John Dudderidge supporting the words of the President proposed on behalf of the Board of Management that Rudi Landgraf be presented with the ICF Award of Merit and this was carried unanimously. Dr. Ebner went on to propose that Rudi Landgraf be given Honorary Membership of the I.C.F. and this too was carried.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The dates and place of World Championships was given to Congress, although some dates are not yet confirmed.

- 1977 — World Championships Racing: Sofia (Bulgaria)  
Junior European Championships: Vichy (France) August 5th/6th/7th  
Junior American Championships: To be announced  
World Championships Slalom/Wild Water: Spittal (Austria) July 17th/24th
- 1978 — World Championships Racing: Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 2nd/3rd Wk. August  
Canoe Sailing World Championships: Oxelosund (Sweden) July
- 1980 — Olympic Games, Moscow
- 1981 — World Championships Racing: Nottingham  
World Championships Slalom/Wild Water: River Tryweryn (Wales/Great Britain) Dates to be announced.

# SEA CANOEING

## The Silent Minority

There is no doubt that the nineteen seventies have seen a tremendous increase in the number of sea-canoeists around our shores, but it is very difficult to make a reasonable assessment of the numbers involved, or for that matter, of the types of trip being attempted.

This is due to two causes. Firstly, as sea-canoeing is non-competitive there is no race committee publishing results — the only results that make news, are when canoeists don't make it! Secondly, sea-canoeists, with a few noticeable exceptions, are a very reticent group. News filters through only slowly of very committing advanced trips, where a canoeist casually mentions that he was with such-and-such a group when they did Lands End to the Scillies or similar. In fact this trip was successfully completed by a group of five canoeists this summer, and has only just come to our notice via a chance remark. (See following report). Extended multi-day trips in difficult weather and water conditions pass un-recorded, and some lone canoeists who, when pressed, admit to remarkable solo achievements, tend to remain anonymous because they know, quite rightly, that canoeing alone, especially at sea, is frowned upon.

Three canoeists have made a crossing of the Southern end of the North Sea after an ill-fated attempt last year which was reported, untypically, in 'Canoeing in Britain'. In the last few years there have been at least three major crossings of the treacherous Irish Sea, all firsts, that have received scant coverage in the canoeing press, and even Colin Mortlock's Nordkapp trip, probably the premier achievement of 1975, received comparatively little attention.

Of course it is difficult to decide what is a committing trip. A long crossing, in good weather, may be simply a matter of steady paddling until the land arrives, yet we know of one epic that began just 200-yards from the beach, and another straight-forward crossing of the Wash finished up with a 15-mile tow owing to the incapacitating sea-sickness of one member of the party.

Probably the type of trip best suited to the kayak is the multi-day trip that makes use of water that is beyond the reach of normal craft,

but can be tackled by the canoeist with confidence — tempered by humility. There are many tide-races around our shores that can offer exciting water for the sea-canoeing enthusiast, and they will give him a long push in the right direction, but in water conditions that would daunt many larger craft.

Add remoteness from civilization to this type of trip, and a new dimension is added to sea-canoeing that takes it beyond the confines of a sport and into the realms of true adventure.

Sea-canoeing will continue to develop, but there is a great deal of education to be done. Not only must Coast-guards, Harbour-masters and others concerned with safety be shown that the canoeist can be perfectly safe at sea, but the canoeist himself must be taught the basic principles of how this dangerous element can be tackled with safety.

Increased numbers will inevitably increase the number of accidents, and we must work hard to keep these to a minimum. The only way to do this is to make sure that the canoeist himself is well versed in the ways of the sea. Following from this, the sea-canoeist will choose trips within his capabilities, and at the same time make sure that his kayak and equipment meet the required safety standards.

Without sound education for the sea-canoeist, there is a danger that restrictions will slowly swamp him, in a similar way (but for very different reasons) that the inland paddler has found that so many of our rough-water waterways are no longer available for his sport.

### EXPEDITION SPITSBERGEN

In the summer months of July and August 1977, four British sea canoeists propose to venture to Svalbard, a group of islands within the Arctic Circle and some 500-miles north of Nordkapp.

The object of the expedition is to explore part of one of the islands of this Norwegian archipelago called Spitsbergen. It is intended to paddle sea kayaks along the rugged north-west coast, covering some 290-miles during four to five weeks. All the necessary equipment and food will be carried in the kayaks so that the expe-

dition is entirely self-sufficient.

The trip will start from the main community centre of Longyearbyen (see map), and proceed anti-clockwise round the north-west coast, passing Ny-Alesund — the only other significant settlement in the north of Spitsbergen — returning to Longyearbyen to complete the circle. Part of the early section of the expedition involves a 12-mile portage between Billefjorden and Wijdefjorden, and specialist equipment is being developed to facilitate transport of the kayaks over very difficult terrain (such equipment has to be carried in the kayaks).

The general area of the expedition is little more than 600-miles from the North Pole. However, while during winter months the islands are enclosed by ice, the influence of the Gulf Stream causes ice break-up on the west coast during the summer period and the air temperature is not so harsh as one might expect. The midnight sun is visible from April until the latter part of August.

The coast-line of Spitsbergen, like Norway, is deeply incised by fjords, yet extremely varied with areas of vast plains descending from the mountains while in other parts cliffs plummet into the sea in weird and wonderful formations.

The expedition party consists of four very experienced sea-canoeists. Two members, John Anderson and Sam Cook, have gained considerable experience in Arctic sea-canoeing with both being members of the highly successful British Nordkapp Expedition in 1975. The two other members are Keith McDowell from Edinburgh and Gwyn Edwards from Buxton.

It is hoped regular reports on the Expedition's preparations and full report after the trip will appear in future issues.



→ → → → → PROPOSED EXPEDITION ROUTE

# TRYWERYN INTERNATIONAL SLALOM

With the desperate water conditions that have pre-occupied Britain for the last few months, with all the 'save-water' campaigns, the cutting off of public supplies in South Wales for some 17-hours of each day, and with the threat of stand-pipes in the streets, one would have thought that the British International Canoe Slalom and Wild Water Race on the River Tryweryn in North Wales and planned for the August Holiday weekend would have been a total non-starter.

However, one of the major advantages of the Tryweryn site is the close proximity of the header-dam a few miles up the valley and that the water, when 'turn-on' for slalom events, is not lost down the River Dee but purely passes into Lake Bala and is retained.

The International Event attracted only a small number of overseas paddlers, teams coming from Sweden, Holland, and Ireland, and a single paddler from Belgium, France, and Australia.

The K1 Team Event was dominated by Britain with our teams taking the first four places followed by the two Irish teams and one team from Holland.

The Mens K1 went to Martin Peters for Great Britain, Peters making two super clear runs, both of which would have won — 241.5pts on the first and 240.2pts on the second. The only paddler near this performance was Bass van Stokkem of Holland, making a fine clear first run of 247.9pts, but trying too hard to improve on the second and picking up a '20' penalty with a time of 242.9sec. The following five places went to British paddlers, reflecting the quality of the overseas teams. The best Irish placing was 8th, while Sweden could only make a best 13th place. However, Sweden is very new to slalom sport and it was a real pleasure to see their paddlers over in Britain for the competition.

The Youth Event, the C1 and the C2 all went to British paddlers. However, there was an interesting clash in the Womens K1. From the first run Sue Whitebrook of Australia was in the lead by just 1/10pt from Miss Murphy of Ireland and with Miss van Brink of Holland taking third. However, British paddler Miss Harling, down in fourth after the first run, pulled out a few stops to take the class with a fine 359.7pts, well clear of the other girls who failed to make any improvement on their second runs.

## RESULTS

**TEAM EVENT:** 1st Great Britain 'B' 347.6; 2nd Great Britain 'A' 367.4; 3rd Great Britain Youth 'A' 472.2

**MENS K1:** 1st M. Peters, Great Britain



*Paddlers and classes at the Tryweryn International - Photos: Mike Clark.*

240.2; 2nd B. Van Stokkem, Holland 247.9; 3rd N. Swain, Great Britain 250.5; 4th C. Lovelock, Great Britain 254.1; 5th J. Dolan, Great Britain 261.9.

**YOUTH K1:** 1st P. Godfrey, Great Britain 269.4; 2nd A. Sutherland, Great Britain 280.6; 3rd N. Robson, Great Britain 297.3; 4th D. Martin, Ireland 308.0; 5th I. Beecroft, Great Britain 308.3.

**WOMENS K1:** 1st E. Harling, Great Britain 359.7; 2nd S. Whitebrook, Australia 393.5; 3rd E. Murphy, Ireland 393.6; 4th C. Van Brink, Holland 468.9; 5th S. Small, Great Britain 585.8.

**MENS C1:** 1st M. Hedges, Great Britain 297.2; 2nd P. Keane, Great Britain 333.3; 3rd P. Nardelli, Great Britain 405.1.

**MENS C2:** 1st Brown/Curle, Great Britain 436.5.

## DOWN RIVER EVENTS

**MENS K1:** 1st I. Freestone, Great Britain 24.45:93; 2nd M. Swallow, Great Britain 25.01:49; 3rd M. Fletcher, Great Britain 26.11:46.

**WOMENS K1:** 1st P. Goodwin, Great Britain 27.53:23; 2nd H. Peacock, Great Britain 29.10:39; 3rd S. Whitebrook, Australia 29.39:41.

**MENS C1:** 1st M. Hedges, Great Britain 29.52:10; 2nd G. Goldsmith, Great Britain 30.47:38; 3rd J. Goodwin, Great Britain 31.10:16.

**MENS C2:** 1st Cooper/Parr, Great Britain 30.10:68.

# OLYMPIC GAMES

## MONTREAL 1976 RESULTS

**MENS K1 500m.** 1st Vasile Diba, Rumania 1.46:41. 2nd Zoltan Sztanity, Hungary 1.46:95. 3rd Rudiger Helm, German Democratic Republic 1.48:30. 4th Herminio Menendez, Spain 1.48:40. 5th Grzegorz Sledziewski, Poland 1.48:49. 6th Sergey Lizunov, Soviet Union 1.49:21. 7th Creste Perri, Italy 1.50:27. 8th Douglas Parnham, Great Britain 1.50:33. 9th Alain Lebas, France 1.50:48.

**MENS K1 1000m.** 1st Rudiger Helm, German Democratic Republic 3.48:20. 2nd Geza Csapo, Hungary 3.48:84. 3rd Vasile Diba, Rumania 3.49:65. 4th Oreste Perri, Italy 3.51:13. 5th Alexander Shaparenko, Soviet Union 3.51:45. 6th Berndt Andersson, Sweden 3.52:46. 7th Douglas Parnham, Great Britain 3.52:64. 8th Grzegorz Sledziewski, Poland 3.54:29. 9th Lubor Stark, Czechoslovakia 3.55:98.

**MENS K2 500m.** 1st Joachim Mattern/Bernd Olbricht, German Democratic Republic 1.35:85. 2nd Sergey Nagorny/Vladimir Romanovskiy, Soviet Union 1.36:81. 3rd Larion Serghel/Policarp Malihin, Rumania 1.37:43. 4th Jose Seguin/Guiller Del Riego, Spain 1.38:50. 5th Janos Ratkai/Josef Deme, Hungary 1.38:81. 6th Hannu Kojo/Kari Markkanen, Finland 1.39:59. 7th Anders Andersson/Lars Andersson, Sweden 1.39:63. 8th John Southwood/John Sumegi, Australia 1.39:77. 9th Jean-Pierre Burny/Paul Hoekstra, Belgium 1.40:48.

**MENS K2 1000m.** 1st Sergey Nagorny/Vladimir Romanovskiy, Soviet Union 3.29:01. 2nd Joachim Mattern/Bernd Olbricht, German Democratic Republic 3.29:33. 3rd Zoltan Bako/Istvan Szabo, Hungary 3.30:26. 4th Jean-Paul Hanquier/Alain Lebas, France 3.33:05. 5th Guiller Del Riego/Jose Sequin, Spain 3.33:16. 6th Jean-Pierre Burny/Paul Hoekstra, Belgium 3.33:86. 7th Policarp Malihin/Larion Serghel, Rumania 3.34:27. 8th Steve King/Denis Barre, Canada 3.34:46. 9th Lazar Christov/Borislav Konstantinov, Bulgaria 3.37:30.

**MENS K4 1000m.** 1st Serghel Chuhray/Alexander Degtiarev/Yuriy Filatov/Vladimir Morozov, Soviet Union 3.08:69. 2nd Jose Celorio/Jose Diaz-Flor/Herminio Menendez/Luis Misione, Spain 3.08:95. 3rd Peter Bischof/Bernd Duvigneau/Rudiger Helm/Jurgen Lehnert, German Democratic Republic 3.10:76. 4th Nicusor Eseanu/Vasile Simiocenco/Neculai Simiocenco/Mihai Zafiu, Rumania 3.11:35. 5th Henryk Budzicz/Kazimier Gorecki/Grzegorz Koltan/Ryszard Oborski, Poland 3.12:17. 6th Morten Moerland/Einer Rasmussen/Olaf Soeyland/Jostein Stige, Norway 3.12:28. 7th Ivan Manev/Bijidar Milenkov/Nikolai Natchev/Vassil Tchilingirov, Bulgaria 3.12:94. 8th Josef Deme/Csaba Giczi/Janos Ratai/Zoltan Romhanyi, Hungary 3.14:67. 9th Jugen Bohr/Edgar Hartung/Helmar Mang/Christian van Eeden, German Federal Republic 3.24:19.

**WOMENS K1 500m.** 1st Carola Zirzow, German Democratic Republic 2.01:05.

### UNOFFICIAL RANKING LIST OF NATIONS

Olympic Games 1976		World Championships 1975		Olympic Games 1972	
Nation	Points	Nation	Points	Nation	Points
1. USSR	93	1. USSR	80	1. USSR	65
2. DDR	72	2. HUN	73	2. HUN	45
3. HUN	70	3. GDR	66	3. ROM	42
4. ROM	66	4. ROM	66	4. GDR	32
5. POL	36	5. POL	52	5. GFR	31
6. BUL	27	6. TCH	27	6. SWE	14
7. ESP	25	7. BUL	25	7. POL	14
8. YUG	17	8. GFR	25	8. BUL	14
9. FRA	17	9. ITA	15	9. HOL	11
10. CAN	16	10. ESP	12	10. TCH	11
11. BRD	15	11. SWE	11	11. NOR	7
12. TCH	12	12. CAN	11	12. ITA	6
13. ITA	9	13. BEL	10	13. BEL	6
14. SWE	8	14. YUG	8	14. DEN	6
15. BEL	5	15. FRA	7	15. USA	5
16. GBR	5	16. NOR	6	16. FRA	4
17. FIN	4	17. FIN	5	17. FIN	4
18. NOR	4	18. GBR	4	18. AUT	3
19. USA	3	19. USA	3	19. MEX	2
20. AUS	2	20. JPN	1		
		21. HOL	1		

(Compiled by scoring 10pts — first place: 8pts — second place: 7pts — third place, etc.)

2nd Tatiana Korshunova, Soviet Union 2.03:07. 3rd Klara Rajnai, Hungary 2.05:01. 4th Ewa Kaminska, Poland 2.05:16. 5th Maria Mihoreanu, Rumania 2.05:40. 6th Anastazie Hajna, Czechoslovakia 2.06:72. 7th Julie Leach, U.S.A. 2.06:92. 8th Irene Pepinghege, German Federal Republic 2.07:80. 9th Roza Gheorghieva, Bulgaria 2.08:54.

**WOMENS K2 500m.** 1st Nina Gopova/Galina Kreft, Soviet Union 1.51:15. 2nd Anna Pfeffer/Klara Rajnai, Hungary 1.51:69. 3rd Barbel Koster/Carola Zirzow, German Democratic Republic 1.51:81. 4th Nastasia Nichitov/Agafia Orlov, Rumania 1.53:77. 5th Barbara Lewepohlmann/Heiderose Wallbaum, German Federal Republic 1.53:86. 6th Maria Kazanecka/Katarzyn Kulizak, Poland 1.55:05. 7th Maria Mintcheva/Natcha Yanakieva, Bulgaria 1.55:95. 8th Anne Dodge/Susan Holloway, Canada 1.56:75. 9th Anastazie Hajna/Jindriska Rehackova, Czechoslovakia 1.59:65.

**MENS C1 500m.** 1st Alexander Rogov, Soviet Union 1.59:23. 2nd John Wood, Canada 1.59:58. 3rd Matija Ljubek, Yugoslavia 1.59:50. 4th Borislav Ananiev, Bulgaria 1.59:92. 5th Wilfried Stephan, German Democratic Republic 2.00:54. 6th Karoly Szegedi, Hungary 2.01:12. 7th Ivan Patzschin, Rumania 2.01:40. 8th Ulrich Eicke, German Federal Republic 2.02:30. 9th Roland Iche, France 2.04:27.

**MENS C1 1000m.** 1st Matija Ljubek, Yugoslavia 4.09:51. 2nd Vasiliy Urchenko,

Soviet Union 4.12:57. 3rd Tamas Wichmann, Hungary 4.14:11. 4th Borislav Ananiev, Bulgaria 4.14:41. 5th Ivan Patzschin, Rumania 4.15:08. 6th Roland Iche, France 4.18:23. 7th Wilfried Stephan, German Democratic Republic 4.22:43. 8th Ulrich Eicke, German Federal Republic 4.22:77. 9th John Edwards, Canada 4.30:55.

**MENS C2 500m.** 1st Sergey Petrenko/Alexander Vinogradov, Soviet Union 1.45:81. 2nd Jerzy Opara/Andrzej Gronowicz, Poland 1.47:77. 3rd Tamas Duday/Oskar Frey, Hungary 1.48:35. 4th Gheorghe Danielov/Gheorghe Simionov, Rumania 1.48:84. 5th Francois Millot/Gerald Delacroix, France 1.49:74. 6th Ivan Bourtschin/Krassimi Christov, Bulgaria 1.50:43. 7th Gregory Smith/John Wood, Canada 1.50:74. 8th Jiri Ctvrtecka/Tomas Sach, Czechoslovakia 1.50:85. 9th Hermann Glaser/Heinz Lucke, German Federal Republic 1.51:26.

**MENS C2 1000m.** 1st Sergey Petrenko/Alexander Vinogradov, Soviet Union 3.52:76. 2nd Gheorghe Danielov/Gheorghe Simionov, Soviet Union 3.54:28. 3rd Tamas Duday/Oskar Frey, Hungary 3.55:66. 4th Jerzy Opara/Andrzej Gronowicz, Poland 3.59:56. 5th Detlef Bothe/Jurgen Tode, German Democratic Republic 4.00:37. 6th Jiri Ctvrtecka/Tomas Sach, Czechoslovakia 4.01:48. 7th Ivan Bourtschin/Krassimi Christov, Bulgaria 4.02:44. 8th Hermann Glaser/Heinz Lucke, German Federal Republic 4.03:86. 9th Bernt Lindelof/Eric Zeidlitz, Sweden 4.07:84.



Photographs of events at the Olympic Regatta taken by Norman Mason and Brian Haynes.



In terms of atmosphere this spectacular event once again proved that it had far more to offer than the British Open Long Distance Championships (held annually at Worcester). With typical Irish hospitality, a film show on the Friday evening for the competitors, plenty of spectators, bright sunshine, three B.B.C. film crews — one in a helicopter — not to mention the 'Jaconori', oopps sorry, I mean 'Blue Peter' K2 of John Noakes and Chris 'Superfilm' Hawkesworth, the scene was set for another International Liffey Descent.

As in recent years the International entry was poor (maybe due to the fact that Mike Clark has not covered the race for some four or five years now?), however there was just one lone Australian (Sue Whitebrook), a couple of Americans and the British Team, the total entry of foreign crews boosting the Irish home entry. The most competitive class was undoubtedly the Senior K2 where the Irish Olympic crew of Watkins/Pringle backed up by Keating/McLean looked too strong for

pulled out some 200-metres before the weir and moved their kayak downstream by car to re-start at the head of the lake. (Later it was explained that John and Chris had already paddled this part of the course earlier in the year and so the film crews would be able to cover all the best parts of the race as it actually took place.)

In the Senior K1 class Shepard of Great Britain established a clear lead of some 40-metres by the first weir and shot through in fine style but followed by Lee and Howe of Ireland and Speight of Great Britain. The K1's found Straffan a little easier than the K2's, most of them taking a straight run down the centre of the weir face — a course that is impossible for the longer K2 boat.

In the Womens K1 the two British girls of Payne and Chandler were well clear of the field by the weir and, although both looked a little nervous on their first international, they survived this first obstacle.

At Celbridge, just before the start of the lake, the first three K2's over Straffan came through in a group and it

leading K2's stayed ahead until the portage. At the end of the lake there is the 400-metre run round the massive Leixlip Dam which provides the flood water for the second half of the race (we thought that due to the drought conditions that the water level would be low this year, but the Irish organisers solved this problem by diluting it!). At the portage Oliver/Squires made a fast move and established some 50-metre lead over the two Irish crews. Trying desperately to make a clear break, they maintained this lead over Broken Sluice and down through Lucan where they made a superb shoot of the spectacular Lucan Weir. However, it looked as if their effort had failed when Keating/McLean pulled up and overtook the British pair just before Wren's Nest Weir.

**Wren's Nest is the first of the two big 'V' weirs, both of which claim many victims and this year proved to be no exception. Although the first three K2 crews managed to successfully negotiate the 'V' on Wren's Nest, the**

# INTERNATIONAL LIFFEY DESCENT

Report from Colin Gray

the rather mediocre British crews.

**At Straffan Weir, one of the biggest and most difficult on the course, spectators crammed the tiny bridge overlooking the weir that is just 1000-metres down from the start. This weir certainly took its toll in the K2 class with over 60% capsizing including the British Juniors of Hatton/Allinson — the pair also managed to break a paddle here. The most fancied crews all made it safely, Watkins/Pringle first, Keating/McLean second, with British crews Oliver/Squires and Nutting/Harding right behind and the British Juniors of Rose/Ballard in fifth place. We waited eagerly for the John Nokes/Chris Hawkesworth pair but, amid cheers, shouts of 'Rhubarb' and 'Jaconori', they**

was obvious that we were going to see a good hustle between these as the race developed. Unfortunately the strong Irish combination of Ian Pringle/Howard Watkins were having trouble with their rudder, but even so they would still take beating.

In both the Mens and Womens K1 the order was unaltered with Shepard pulling well ahead in the former and Chandler having taken a clear lead over Payne from the second weir but with both girls a long way ahead of the Irish opposition. In the Junior K2 Rose/Ballard were clear leaders and still occupied fifth place overall (among the Senior class).

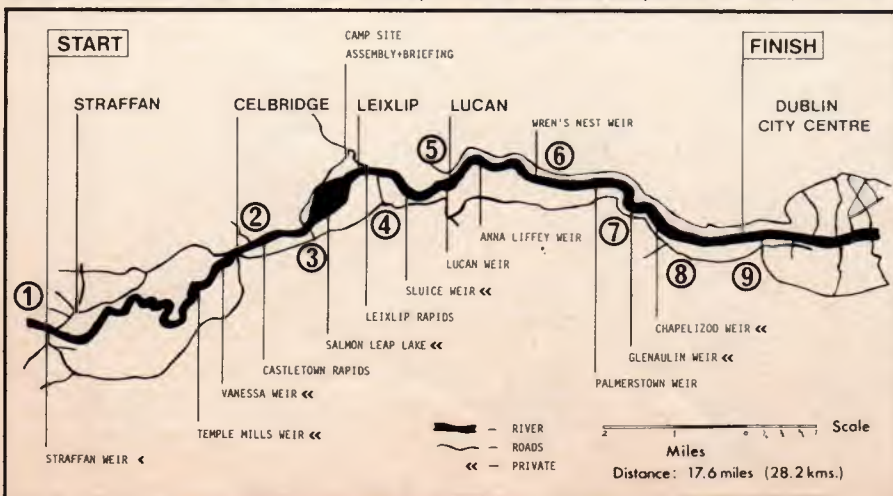
Out across the lake the pace increased, mainly due to the presence of the B.B.C. helicopter film crew, but the

next crew down — that of Nutting/Harding — took a swim and were quickly followed by Rose/Ballard. Fortunately this pair had established a very commanding lead in the Junior K2 class and were able to regain their kayak to paddle on without losing the lead. The weir claimed many of the tail-enders particularly in the K2 — where the only sure way not to break your kayak is to shoot right down the centre of the 'V'. Most of the K1's took Wren's Nest straight over the main face, although even in a K1 this proved risky; Shepard, still the clear leader, fractured his kayak.

On down to Palmerstown it was now Oliver/Squires back in the lead again and appearing to be pulling clear. The pair safely shot Palmerstown and on over Chapelizod where they surprised all the locals by making a dramatic sideways shoot over the last part of the weir. Towards the finish Oliver/Squires gradually pulled away from the Irish pair of Keating/McLean to take the win by one minute. Watkins/Pringle were third with Nutting/Harding of Britain third.

In the Senior K1 Shepard maintained his lead, negotiating all the weirs successfully to win by a large margin from Howe and Lee of Ireland taking second and third, with Speight of Britain a very disappointing fourth.

In the Junior K2 Rose/Ballard of Great Britain were easy winners with Rowley/Higgins of Ireland second and another British crew of Hatton/Allison taking third. In the K1 there were certainly some very promising Irish Juniors



competing. First and second placings went to Delaney and Anderson respectively of the Salmon Leap Canoe Club, but with Ball of Britain taking third. All three paddlers completed the course in fine style and without mishap.

The British girls were easily first and second in the K1, Miss Chandler taking the course without mishap and gaining the finish clear of Miss Payne, the latter paddling well despite capsizing at Temple shortly after the start and later at Lucan Weir.

**But what of the 'Blue Peter' K2 . . . ?** After rejoining the race at the start of the lake they successfully shot Broken Sluice and then Lucan. After a brief pause (while John Nokes had a fog!) they shot Lucan again — Chris having forgot to smile and wave at the camera the first time down! They again made a good shoot at Anna Liffey but joined the ranks of the swimmers when Chris failed

to get the right line on Wren's Nest. Some twenty frogmen all anxious to earn a 'Blue Peter Badge' soon had them back in their kayak and the pair managed both Palmerstown and Chapelizod without a mishap (Chris even remembered to smile). They paddled strongly on towards the finish to a very warm reception from the crowd, including more shouts of 'Jaconori' . . .

We understand that the film is to be shown sometime later this year or early next year. It should certainly be worth watching — the camera crews worked very hard and appeared to get a very comprehensive coverage of the event. John Nokes deserves congratulations for his courage — he has had virtually no experience of paddling a racing kayak. To commit oneself to the Liffey Descent in the back of a K2 with an ex-slalomist in front certainly takes courage. Well done Blue Peter!

**MENS SENIOR K1.** 1st S. Shepard, Great Britain 2hr 13min 30sec; 2nd D. Howe, Ireland 2hr 17min 40sec; 3rd F. Lee, Ireland 2hr 17min 55sec.

**MENS SENIOR K2.** 1st Oliver/Squires, Great Britain 2hr 04min 43sec; 2nd Keating/McLean, Ireland 2hr 05min 47sec; 3rd Pringle/Watkins, Ireland 2hr 06min 25sec.

**WOMENS K1.** 1st K. Chandler, Great Britain 2hr 38min 14sec; 2nd K. Payne, Great Britain 2hr 44min 52sec; 3rd M. McCoy, Ireland 2hr 53min 22sec.

**MENS JUNIOR K1.** 1st D. Delaney, Ireland 2hr 20min 55sec; 2nd G. Anderson, Ireland 2hr 21min 05sec; 3rd J. Ball, Great Britain 2hr 21min 40sec.

**MENS JUNIOR K2.** 1st Rose/Ballard, Great Britain 2hr 18min 36sec; 2nd Rowley/Higgins, Ireland 2hr 20min 35sec; 3rd Hatton/Allison, Great Britain 2hr 33min 18sec.

# TRADE NOTES

## A NEW MATERIAL

The canoe is old. This same basic hull predates recorded history. An evolution created perhaps as slowly as man himself, gradually changing, adapting to man's need to travel over the water, easily safely, under varying conditions. However the material is new, and there perhaps, the canoe maker has been able to extend his knowledge, applying recently discovered chemically compounded fabrics to fit his needs.

The Old Town Canoe Company of the U.S.A. have been one of the leading manufacturers in the use of new materials and maintain an ongoing programme of testing new materials, adapting them to the canoe-maker's craft. Some, like fibreglass and Oltonar, vinyl extrusions, and certain core materials, have emerged as useful improvements over what has been used in the past. Others simply fail.

Perhaps the most exciting development in recent years has been the production of Oltonar. This amazing laminate is comprised of layers of acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, cross linked vinyl skin, and closed cellular foam core cleverly arranged in varying lamination giving strength where

needed, greater flexibility in certain areas, and abundant flotation throughout.

The result — a hull that can resist penetration by an axe; a smooth comfortable surface that will not burn you in the sun, will not freeze you in icy waters; a hull that can survive being dropped thousands of feet from a plane, or stand the abuse of wild water.

Details of the Old Town range are available from: *Old Town Canoe Company, 375 Beaver Street, Old Town, Maine 04468, U.S.A.*

canoeist, and the addition now completes the range of paddles available for canoeists and dinghy sailors whatever their requirements. All the A. C. Canoe paddles are made from well proven foamed, coupled glass reinforced polypropylene which is hard-wearing, resilient, unsinkable, and maintenance free.

Paddles are obtainable as kits or ready assembled from leading canoe manufacturers and dealers in the U.K. or direct from: *A. C. Canoe Products (Chester) Ltd., P.O. Box 62, Chester, England. Tel: 0244 25277.*



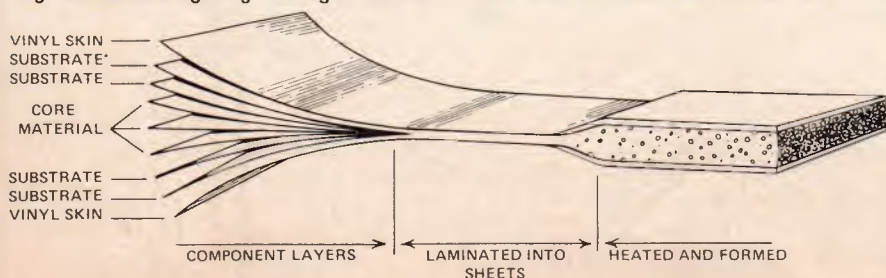
## NEW ACE 'CHALLENGER'

The firm of A. C. Canoe Products (Chester) Ltd., have just announced production of their new paddle design — The Challenger. This paddle has been designed and constructed for the serious wild/water and surf

## MORE FROM JOHN SEA

The firm of John Sea seems to be bringing a profuse amount of new gear onto the canoeing market and this month introduces four useful items of 'deck equipment' for sea-canoeists.

Two of the items are different versions of the often neglected 'paddle-park', necessary when both hands are required for navigation, rescues, and situations such as feeding. The first is made from a 1-metre length of 6mm terylene/polyester rope and has a nylon spring clip which snaps on to the paddle shaft facilitating instant release should the paddle be required quickly. A tough nylon spring hank secures the rope to decline or elastic.



The second version uses a 2-metre length of rope and the same nylon spring hank at each end. The paddle is tethered by passing the free hook around the shaft and clipping it back to the rope. This longer paddle-park could be useful in windy conditions when there is a possibility of the paddle being snatched from the hands.

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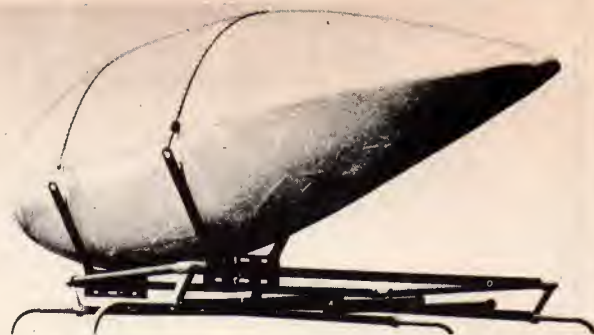
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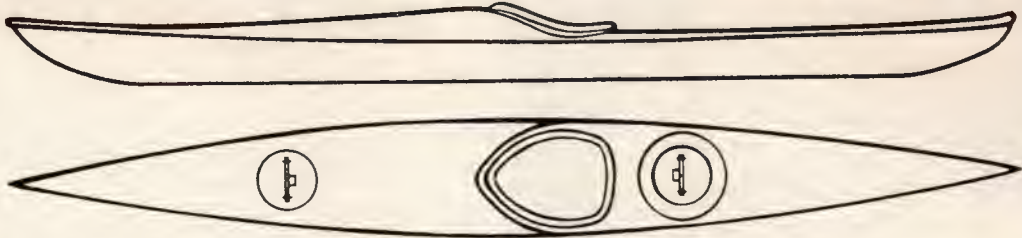
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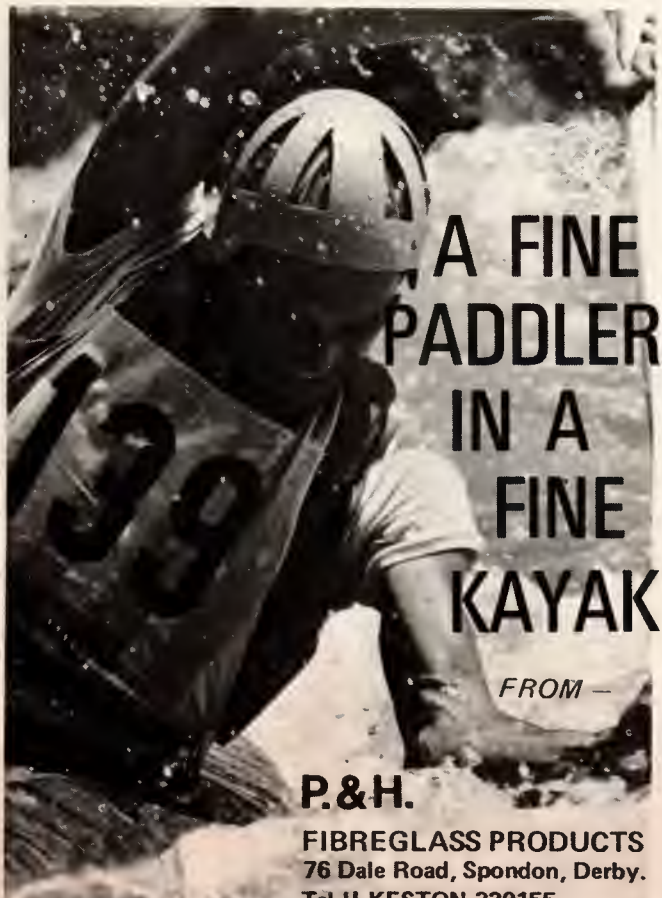
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