

# CANOE FOCUS

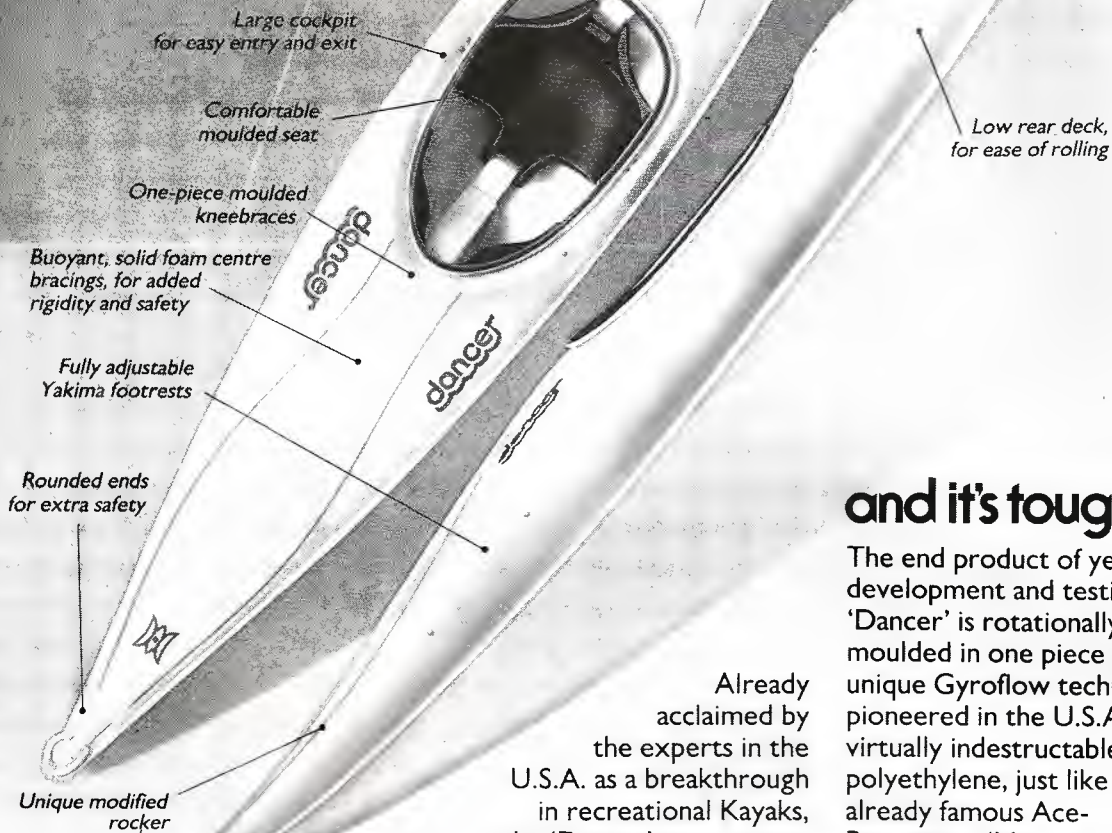
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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH CANOE UNION



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## FRONT COVER

'Britains double World Champions'  
Richard Fox—Mens K1 Slalom World  
Champion and Liz Sharman—Ladies Slalom  
World Champion

## BACK COVER

Safe evening paddle for some deaf children  
at Ryde, Isle of Wight. (Photo R. Smith)

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Britains C2 Slalom team on their way to a bronze medal.

# MERANO '83

## World Slalom and Wild Water Championships

Competing at Merano is always a pleasure. Nestling in a valley at the southern end of the Dolomites, it is an all year round holiday town. Skiing, hang-gliding, horse racing, chess, hill walking, climbing, fishing and sailing are as popular as the canoe sport. Merano appears to be a small town and it is a surprise to learn the population is 35 million according to the local tourist guide. A charming town it has over 1000 years of history and is an ideal tourist centre offering a mixture of Italian and German culture.

Our interest was on the River Passirio, an uncontrolled river, very dependent on snow melt for its water which can vary tremendously depending on weather conditions. The Wild Water Racing team arrived a week before the event to train on the course, only to find the river at an extremely high level. The Slalom team travelled out to Landeck in Austria for a 4-day training camp on the River Inn.

Arriving at the team hotel we found ourselves in the middle of 80 other British guests on bus tours. We were even more popular than the election results back home!

The two teams met for the first time at the start of the opening ceremony. In temperatures in the 80's the shades of trees made the release of balloons and some traditional may-pole dancing a bearable experience. Following the official speeches, on with the real reason for our attendance—the events.

Well nearly! Disaster struck the British Slalom team when Roger Manwaring was rushed to hospital with an appendicitis. Thankfully he finally recovered and returned home 5 days after the rest of the team. Over

the few days before the river race commenced the river had slowly dropped to an acceptable level and the first group was led off by that always colourful character, Raymond Baxter of Australia. A further 30 minutes were needed before the premier paddlers started to leave the line and the first British paddler was Jeremy Hibble who eventually finished in 22.45.78 in 19th place. Britain's other three paddlers were close behind, Melvin Swallow (23rd), Bob Campbell (24th) and Dave Taylor (26th). The French dominance of the wild water race was broken by a home paddler proving the advantage of knowing the water. Marco Previde—Massara (Italy) finished in a time of 22.09.97, easily winning the Gold medal.

Close behind the kayaks were the C1 class. Britain was suffering from injury. David Ruse was recovering from a pulled shoulder whilst Graham Goldsmith could only bend his leg with difficulty following a swim during training. The class was again dominated by Gil Zok who retained his crown, finishing in a time of 24.00.51. The British paddlers were Steve Wells (16th), Bob Evans (24th), Gay Goldsmith (26th) and Dave Ruse (29th).

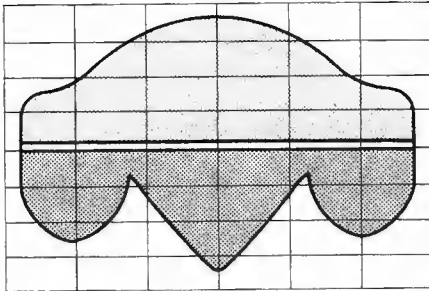
The ladies class gave Britain the hope of a medal as we had four strong girls. On the day however, it was a West German, Gagmar Stupp, who finished in 23.53.36 beating the top British paddler, Sue Hornby by almost a minute. Sue finished in 11th place, followed in by Gill Robbie (12th) and Corrine Helm (15th). Fiona Mitchell finished (20th) in 26.03.65.

The French continued their dominance of the C2 Class with a win for Madore and Lieupart in 23.01.49. The best British paddlers were Kay/Pearton (11th) Goode/Williams

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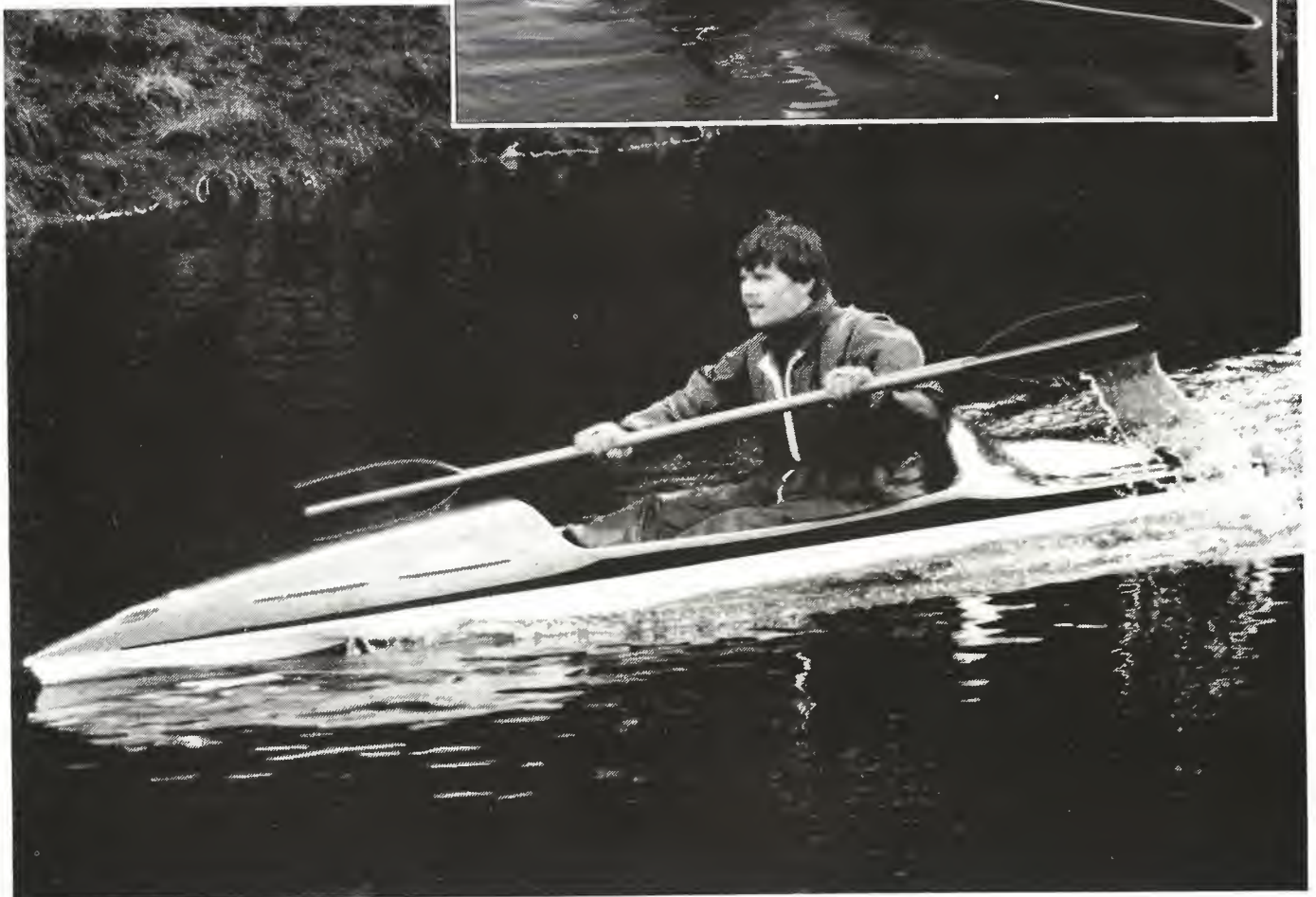
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World K1 Slalom Team Champions (Fox, McConkey and Dolan)

(18th), Cooper/Terry (23rd) and Horrod/Stanwyck (25th) 25.09.25.

Consequently, the following day, hopes weren't high for medals in the team events. The ladies team however managed a bronze medal, beaten only by West Germany and France. It was unfortunate that Sue Hornby, Gill Robbie and Corrine Helm missed the Silver medal by less than one second after being six seconds up at the half-way split.

**Team results were:**

**C1.** 1. France 25.27.87. 2. Yugoslavia 25.08.05. 3. West Germany 25.41.51. 5. Great Britain 26.08.26.

**K1 Men 1.** West Germany 22.48.14. 2. Austria 22.55.10. 3. France 22.55.19. 7. Great Britain 25.06.34.

A disappointing World Championships River Race finished with one medal—a team bronze. Martin Boshier the Team Manager blamed the failure on the choice of boats—too little volume.

The scene now moved to the slalom site with the river level still dropping—the river was looking more and more like the Tryweryn every day.

Whilst the River Race was on—we were surprised to see some nations, notably Italy and West Germany, paddling an imaginary, but similar course in training. The paddlers from these teams knew the course 48 hours before it was due to be announced. We protested, seconded by the USA and a few hours later the course was scrapped and a new one designed and issued. The next morning the Italian team tried to hang their own gates and paddle the course, only to be caught by Bill Endicott, the USA coach.

Friday finally arrived. The team support crew swung into action and in the good tradition of ladies first, practice runs started.

The first British paddler in the competition was Gail Allen, at 17 she is a newcomer to the team and the youngest paddler.

At the finish it was obvious that she had produced a good fast run—241.7 seconds and 10 penalties placed her in the 1st spot of the paddlers to have taken their first run. A few minutes later Sue Garriock completed her first run in a disappointing time after having to

paddle back up for a missed gate. Jane Roderick had a poor first run picking up 65 seconds penalties but then Liz Sharman came down in a time of 234.18, the fastest of the day, with no penalties. That placed her 4.57 seconds clear of Marie-Francoise Grange (France) who was also clear.

Almost before the results were posted, the first C1 paddlers appeared. Pete Bell was on the course within minutes having performed excellently in training. He finished in 245.39 but with 15 penalties with Jess Taylor, slightly faster on the water, just in front. Martyn Hedges first run was a disaster. Although fast he picked up 50 penalties on the reverse gate 8. The last British paddler down was Peter Keane who was determined to beat his 7th places at Jonquiere and Bala. After his first run he was placed 5th in 237.31 + 10. Then all eyes turned to Jon Luggbill of the USA who was attempting to retain his crown for the third time. Watching the TV monitors it was clear that he was still the top C1 paddler with an impressive performance at the top of the course. As he appeared in the lower section it was notable that at gate 26 he was almost 20 seconds up on the previous competitor and finally Luggbill's time appeared. 221.94—clear—some 12 seconds up on any other paddler.

Thirty minutes later the second runs commenced. Gail Allan again performed well improving her time by two seconds with 5 penalties to finish in 6th place in the world, a position she never thought possible six months ago. Again Sue Garriock put in a disappointing run finally finishing 24th out of 33.

Jane Roderick appeared on the course after her disappointing first run. The gates passed clearly—23—24, where she was 10 seconds up on her previous split time, then at the easy gate 25 (judged by Roger Annan, Chairman of the BCU Slalom Committee) she touched the red pole with her shoulder. A touch which was to cost her the Gold medal. Her score of 236.34 was enough to move her into first place with 11 paddlers still to finish. Hearn (USA), Ebbers (West Germany), Marie-Francoise Grange (France) all finished behind Roderick then Liz Sharman started her second run. It was obvious that she was going

for a fast time but early on she picked up a five second penalty. The seconds seemed to be flying by, then Liz appeared on the bottom of the course and crossed the line in a time of 227.34 to re-take first place. With five paddlers left we held first and second places but Ulrike Deppe the present World Champion had still to paddle. In fact Deppe finished in 248.10—clear, not even close to the British girls who proved Britain's new found strength in Ladies Kayak with Liz Sharman and Jane Roderick picking up the gold and silver medals while young Gail Allan (6th) is an excellent prospect to join them in 1985.

Interest turned to the C1 class where Britain's Bell and Taylor were unable to improve on their first runs and finally finished 17th and 23rd respectively. Hedges, going for a flyer in an attempt to beat the Yanks, again 50'd gate 8 and also collected three fives to finish a disappointing 34th. The top British paddler was Pete Keane who paddled—clear—down the course in 234.38 and missed the bronze medal by 11/100 of a second to Jozse Vidmar (Cz) David Hearn (USA) took the silver medal whilst Jon Luggbill was unable to improve on his first gold medal winning run.

The first day came to a very satisfactory close for the British. That evening all the team managers gathered in the town hall for a reception and Oliver Cock joined the party.



Graham Goldsmith, veteran in the C1 river race

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**British team at the opening ceremony**

Oliver decided to re-visit Merano using the testimonial fund collected from members. In 1953 Merano hosted their first World Championships, Oliver was British Team Manager and this was a sentimental trip for him, which was not overlooked by the organisers.

7 o'clock the next morning we were down at the river again for the practise runs.

The individual runs started with all the British paddlers going together in the final group. Jim Dolan paddled a clear run in 218.36 to finish 10th with Paul McConkey who was faster on the water but collected 20 penalties to finish well down the field.

Then Fox appeared with a clear run at gate 20, 6 seconds up on the split time. Eventually he finished clear in 209.16, 16/100 seconds slower than Lubox Hilgert (Chz) who had collected a five to push him down to 7th. There were still 15 top paddlers to go and there was relief every time the clock ticked passed 210.00. Prijon (W.G.), Prigent (FRA), Woolfardt (Austria) and Sattler (Austria) but Fox ended the run in first place with ten paddlers breathing down his neck.

The British C2 paddlers produced good results but Jamieson/Williams collected a 50 which pushed them down the order considerably. It was obvious after the first run that the gold medal would be a fight between three sets of brothers-Haller's and Garvis's (USA) and Calori's (FRA).

The second men's kayak runs began with little change. Most paddlers did not improve but there was one surprise when Cizman (YUG) produced a time which was to pull him up to 4th place.

Richard Fox started with the other British paddlers on the course. Dolan finished in 216.71 clear-to hold onto a final 10th place as Fox cleared gate 10. As Paul McConkey approached the finish Fox was at gate 20, the split and typically 'Fast and Clean'. The clock ticked over 205-206-finally stopping at 207.18, an improvement of two seconds and again we waited as big names finished in slower times.

Finally it was confirmed-Richard Fox is the first man ever to retain the Men's Kayak World Championships.

Before we have time to breath the C2 class has started. To no-one's real surprise Haller/Haller (USA) headed Calori/Calori (FRA) for the gold medal. Jamieson/Williams hit gate 30 and lost the bronze medal by 2 seconds settling for 7th. Smith and Smith finished 16th in 272.12 and Joce/Owen were 20th. Another satisfactory day was over. Just the team events remained-a section of canoe slalom in which Great Britain have built up quite a reputation.

The illness to Roger Manwaring had meant that the men's kayak team of Fox/Dolan/McConkey had only had a few days to practice. Despite her poor individual result Sue Gariock had been pre-selected to paddle in the team whilst Martyn Hedges after his result wanted to opt out but was persuaded to paddle with Keane and Taylor, all well practised at the event.

The first teams away were the ladies. After the first run we were lying in second place behind West Germany but the order was to change dramatically. The West Germans were unable to improve on their first run and were passed by Czechoslovakia (bronze) and Britain who were pushed back into second place by an excellent performance from the French squad of Grange/Arnaud/Ferusalmi, who finished in fifteen points clear of the field.

Next the C1's, a class which was predictably won in fine style, by USA. The fight was on for the other medals with four teams in contention-France, West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Great Britain. The final scores gave Czechoslovakia the silver medal and Great Britain the bronze, less than half a second behind. However, the drama was not yet over, as the British squad were adamant that no paddler had hit gate 3 as indicated. This was confirmed by the British bank observers and the gate judges. However, the protest was rejected by the Yugoslav Chief Judge. The men's kayak teams started but after the first run our squad was lying in a

disappointing 5th position after collecting 20 penalties. However, we were the first team off and the second run was heralded by shouts of encouragement which were soon obviously signs of a good British effort.

Twelve seconds up on the first run and clear we waited for all the top teams to come. France and Czechoslovakia came close but both had penalties so that left the West Germans as the only strong opposition. They appeared at the bottom in 230.16-2 seconds up on the British. Then came the agonising wait for penalties-(finally they appeared-5 penalties)-and another gold medal went to Britain. We have retained the men's Kayak Team World Championships for the third time. Jonquiere, Bala & Merano.

Only the C2 team event remained with Britain defending the Gold medal unexpectedly won in Bala. As last team off we were able to watch the opposition scores go up but after the first run Britain were lying fourth behind Czechoslovakia, USA and West Germany. The first team off on the second run were Czechoslovakia who produced an almost identical time to their first run which looked likely to win the gold medal. The USA, West Germany, the Poles and France all improved their placings leaving Britain ahead of only Australia and 12 seconds down on France in 5th place.

The lads had an excellent run improving on their time. Again, as normal, the penalties did not appear for some time. If it was clear they would win the gold. They were out of calling distance to see if they had any penalties so we waited until finally they appeared-10-so the team moved into 3rd place and won the bronze medal.

The Championships were over-only the closing ceremony left. Our medal tally in Slalom ended up the best ever. 3 Gold medals, 2 silver medals, 2 bronze medals. For the first time ever we were top nation with 15 points beating USA (14 points) and Czechoslovakia (8 points).

It was with some pride that we listened to the National Anthem at the prize giving and applauded the British competitors on the rostrum. The ceremony closed with the lowering of the ICF flag which was passed on the Major of Augsburg and a representative of Garmish who will stage the 19th World Slalom Championships and 14th World Wild Water Championships respectively in 1985.

There is something to go for!



**Jane Roderick, World Silver medalist**

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# HOLME PIERREPONT

## A centre for canoesport

"I have a dream today" was the theme of an article that appeared in *Canoe Focus* in the summer of 1982, presenting an imaginative and enthusiastic vision of the possibilities for establishing the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre as the focal point for canoeing activities in Britain. Many others with imagination and optimism had dreamt the same dream since the Centre was planned in 1969, and gradually as the years past their perception of Utopia began to achieve reality.

The decisive feature in the development of the Holme Pierrepont facility for canoesport, having built the Regatta Course at a cost of £1 million plus, has clearly always been the construction of the artificial slalom course. The cost of this project, estimates for which have ranged between £1½ million and £3 million, had brought palour to the cheeks of even the most sanguine of devotees, and has, quite understandably, severely handicapped the endeavours of the Union to achieve any practical progress until very recently.

During the 1970's however, an enormous amount of necessary preliminary technical work and research was undertaken, including the construction of a full-scale model of the course, 30 metres long, and the production of detailed drawings and costings. It was unfortunate therefore that the initiative that had been created in earlier years was frustrated by the financial recession that began in 1979 and was followed by massive public expenditure cuts. In addition the Union were very much pre-occupied with preparations for the organisation of Canoe '81 and the three World Championships in Racing, Slalom, and Wild Water Racing, from 1979 until early 1982, and it was only when the gigantic administrative burden imposed by these events had been finally disposed of, that the Union were able to devote their full attention to the Artificial Slalom Course once again.

The Action Committee, established initially by the Slalom Committee, and re-constituted by the Council of Management in 1981 to promote and progress the Artificial Slalom Course, never doubted the enormity of their task. To persuade the various agencies and organisations from whom funding and technical expertise was to be sought — the most important of which were the Sports Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and the Severn Trent Water Authority — that their project should be afforded greater priority within their respective capital expenditure programmes than other schemes, was a task that would have daunted the most vociferous and influential of pressure groups. How, for example, were the Union to persuade Sports Council that their Artificial Slalom Course should receive more favourable treatment than a national indoor athletics stadium, or an indoor bowling centre, or an indoor velodrome, or a speed skating centre, etc., particularly having regard to the investment during 1980 and 1981 in the Canolfan Tryweryn White Water Canoeing Centre of some £200 thousand. Which project was to be delayed or replaced so that canoeing's needs, already apparently partly satisfied, could be accommodated. Which other governing body

of sport was to be disappointed? How were County Councillors to be convinced that their ratepayers should invest in a canoeing facility that did not directly benefit their electorae, and which would require reduced expenditure on other local services? What response could be anticipated from the Severn Trent Water Authority to the unique concept that 1000 cubic feet of water per second of their river should be poured down a slalom course for the express enjoyment of canoeists?

Undismayed, resolute, and with supreme confidence, the Action Committee have pursued single mindedly their ultimate goal. By persuasion, persistence and perspiration, they have satisfied the Council of management, that the Union's headquarters should be transferred to Holme Pierrepont immediately the course becomes a reality; encouraged the Joint Management Committee of the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre to seek and obtain outline planning permission for the Course; produced a promotional videotape explaining technical data and advertising the social and recreational benefits to be gained should the course be built; commissioned a Civil Engineering Report on updated costs and methods of construction; initiated a sponsored paddle and pledge scheme that has made available many thousands of pounds for assisting in the promotion and development of the Course; and most recently flown to Augsburg in West Germany important members of the Sports Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and Severn Trent Water Authority, so that those being asked to commit considerable public funds to a similar facility at Holme Pierrepont, would have an opportunity to view the artificial olympic slalom course situated there.

What has been the response to this tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Well, whilst the only certainty is that one may never be certain, the Union has cause for quiet optimism. Encouraging noises have been heard emanating from the inner sanctums of those who will decide, and whilst the ultimate may



*George Parr, Chairman of the Unions Technical Advisory Panel explaining the mechanics of the Augsburg Olympic Slalom Course to Michael Cowan, Chairman, Nottingham County Council Finance Committee, with Norman Sarsfield, Chairman, East Midlands Sports Council and Peter Thorpe, Regional Manager (Rivers), Severn/Trent Water Authority sitting on the left of the picture.*

not be achieved this year or next, and positively no final and irrevocable decisions have been made, hopefully it should not be too long thereafter.

1986 is the Golden Jubilee Year of the British Canoe Union. What a supreme achievement it would be, if 50 years after the founding fathers had conceived our organisation, that we were able to accommodate the whole of the sport and recreation of canoeing, with its diversity of interests and activities, on one campus, with supporting services and facilities in situ. "I have a dream today" .... which can be a reality tomorrow, and which may be a reality by 1986.

Whilst it is premature to indulge in self-congratulations, certainly the Union have now two excellent examples with Canoe '81 and the Artificial Slalom Course Project, of what may be achieved when there is unanimity of purpose, unselfish commitment to an ideal, and simple enthusiasm. It really does seem that given the incentives, for the Union all things are possible until they are proved impossible.



*The Olympic artificial canoe slalom course at Augsburg, West Germany.*

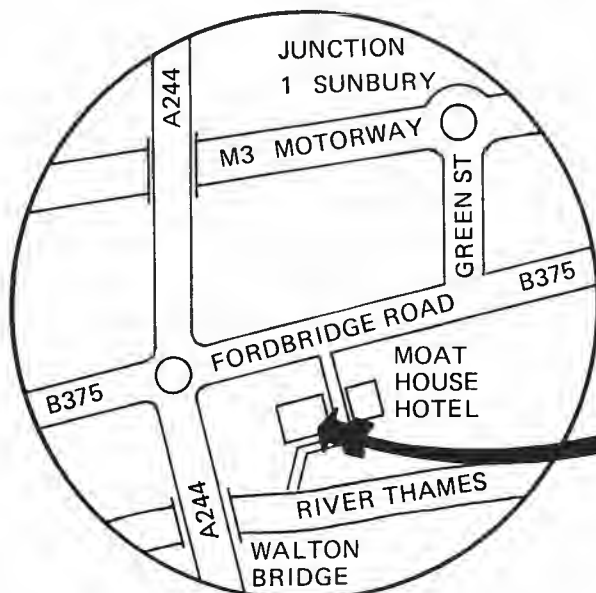
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# CANOEING IN THE SEYCHELLES

Kevin Hyde

In April 1980 I went to Seychelles from the Hurst School, Basingstoke to teach Science. I took with me a small amount of luggage and my 'Shadow' slalom kayak.

Seychelles is a small island, 17 x 3 miles, situated 4° south of the equator in the Indian ocean. It is very mountainous, surrounded by many beautiful reefs covered by crystal clear blue sea.

During the first 3 months I was able to explore the Island by canoe, visiting many deserted beaches and often a turtle or dolphin would pop up from the sea gaping in utter surprise.

There were two canoes on the island of Mahé both tynes, a double and a single. They were used for hiring to the tourists, there were no spray-decks and the paddles were not feathered. The local Seychellois could not afford to use these canoes even for the half hour sessions.

Seychelles was such an ideal place for canoeing, with hot weather, warm water and good surf, that I decided to try and introduce the sport to the nation. I obtained a meeting with the Minister for Sport who agreed in principle with my idea, but we needed some money.

In January 1981 I was transferred to a new school, 'The National Youth Service'. This was a residential experimental school for students from 15-18 years. They lived in the school in dormitories, and learnt to look after themselves, as well as farming, fishing, health and academic education. There was plenty of scope for sporting activities so I was allocated a sum of money to purchase a canoe mould and fibreglass from UK.

In July the mould, fibreglass and resin, supplied by Trylon, arrived by ship. I took over an old cinnamon drying shed and set up a workshop. I had a dozen students for eight

afternoons over a month and during this period the students learned to build canoes. Over 3 months we used up all our fibreglass but had a proud fleet of 12 'Bats'.

At the same time I gathered together a group of keen lads, who I taught to canoe. They took their 1 star, 2 star, 3 star and proficiency awards, surfed on the reefs, did many long trips (20 miles in a BAT!!) and then they started teaching other students. Over a six month period they gained teaching experience, were taught safety and group leadership, rescues and techniques so that by March 1982 many had reached Instructor status.

During that March we held a canoe display with the five instructors showing paddling techniques and rescues. Most of the school came to watch and certificates were given to all who had passed their canoeing tests. The national press and radio turned up and took canoeing to their hearts recognising it as the Seychelles new sport. The radio station presented a special programme on just this.

The display was followed by a rolling competition, the winner succeeded in completing 57 rolls and then the first game of canoe polo was held in the Seychelles. The afternoon was a staggering success.

In April I left Seychelles, relying on the canoe instructors to foster the sport. I left also my 'Shadow' and before I left ordered an 'Islander' mould.

I returned to Seychelles for two weeks in March 1983. It was great to see that canoeing had flourished. There were 30 Bats and 3 'Islanders' on the island with plans to build many more. While there I checked out two more areas from where they planned to canoe and helped organise a flat water slalom. I achieved a personal ambition to circumnavigate the Island of Mahé, a distance of fifty eight miles.

Canoeing is becoming more and more popular. Perhaps one day we will see Seychelles in the Olympic games. Even so, many children and adults are getting enjoyment from a fast growing sport.

At present George Chang-tave a Seychellois canoeist, is in the UK where he is spending 3 months on various canoeing courses, hopefully returning as a UK qualified Instructor to further forward the sport.

## 1000TH MIRAGE

Friday the 29th April marked an historic landmark for the Chester based company, A.C. Canoe Products Ltd., UK manufacturers of the Ace/Perception 'Mirage' polyethylene kayak, when they produced their 1,000th boat. This has been achieved in only seven months since commencement of production in October last year. Steve Leary, Production Manager, reported that to meet the demand they had had to work seven days a week and that only two boats out of the 1,000 had had to be scrapped. Managing Director, Robin Witter, commented that every boat made was sold and that delivery times were currently 2-3 weeks though he hoped that the Company would be able to supply boats ex stock from the end of July when a second machine will have been installed. An additional model, the 'Dancer', a 3.5m whitewater fun boat, will also be available from early June.

The Company presented the 1,000th 'Mirage' to the British Canoe Union to be raffled with the proceeds going towards the Ar-



tificial Slalom Course at Holme Pierrepont and our picture shows President of the Union, Mr. David Wain, accepting the boat from Robin Witter and toasting the continuing success of the Company.

(See Focus Extra next time for details of raffle).



## WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

### Mike Jones Adventure Award 1984

Application forms for the 1984 award will be available in August 1983 from The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, who administer the Award.

Any canoeist planning an expedition in 1984 can apply for a form to: Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queens Gate Terrace London SW7 5PR. Tel. 01-584 9315. or Molly Jones 1 Birchwood Drive, Utley, Keighley, W. Yorks, BD20 6DA. Tel. 0535 604119. Closing date for applications will be 26/20/83.



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## CANOEING CARPET BAGGERS

Hounddog has met many golden tongued canoeists over the years, and no one would deny that like most enthusiasts for their sport, canoeists are just as capable as most when telling "fishermens stories". Two recent examples of romancing however, go far beyond mere exaggeration and blarney, clearly involve criminal deception and fraud, and have been the cause of much unpleasantness and disappointment. Viewers of the Esther Rantzen programme will have heard their tireless investigator, reporting the strange case of the imaginative Hollander, who advertised canoeing holidays on the River Nile in the British and Dutch press. The idea was that novice canoeists would assemble at Lake Victoria, and after a short period familiarising themselves with equipment, amble down the Nile for 4000 odd miles taking in the sights as they went, and generally having a thoroughly relaxing time, until journey's end at the Mediterranean. The fact that the Nile has been canoed from source to mouth by only a handful of experts, that the dangers en route range from bandits and crocodiles to malaria and the Nile cataracts, did not deter this enterprising young man from collecting deposits from unsuspecting canoe tourists and disappearing with the proceeds. The second woeful tale of canoeing skulduggery concerns the antics of one Geoffrey Evans alias Henney, who described himself as the leader and organiser of the glamorously titled British Peruvian Canoe Expedition, notified the Royal Geographical Society's Expeditions Advisory Service of his grandiose plans to venture into the unknown, collected sponsorship and money from generous supporters, and then disappeared without trace leaving behind some very angry expedition members. Needless to say the police, and others, would be very interested to learn of the whereabouts of these two swindlers, and any reader able to help should notify Headquarters as soon as possible.

## CANDIDATE CANOEIST

There must be some readers of *Canoe Focus* who remember Lindsay Williams, competing in the slalom C2 with Dave Allen at the 1972

Munich Olympic Games. Lindsay was the Labour candidate at the recent Bye Election held at Penrith following the elevation of Willie Whitelaw to the Peerage. Unfortunately he lost his deposit, which for canoeists was a great pity as he could have joined two other wielders of the blade, newly elected to Parliament following the general election Tory landslide, Martin Brandon-Bravo and Colin Moyinihan, who are both well known oarsmen. Politics seems to be the "in" activity for sportsmen these days, maybe someone should start a "sporting party" to join with those other interest groups, the ecologists and the culture lobby.

## 30 YEARS AGO THIS AUTUMN 1983

The Editor persists in his refusal to allocate space for reminiscing, and so once again Hounddog has been obliged to forego the witty epithets prepared for readers' enjoyment, in the name of historical edification. However, the following extracts from the Autumn 1953 issue of *Canoeing in Britain* are well worth the sacrifice —

### "Canoe Slalom World Championships 1953"

One Step Forward — *When the first news of the placings of the British competitors in the Canoe Slalom World Championships in Merano, July 25th and 26th, was received, it caused some disappointment among members who, in view of all the progress canoe slalom had made in recent years, had hoped that the names of our men would appear higher up on the ranking list. Placings of 40, 43, 44 and 56, compared with the results achieved in the last World Championships in Steyr (1951): 39, 42, 46, 49 and 50, do, on the face of it, not show much of an improvement.*

### Coronation Regatta on the Serpentine

*Royal Henley with all its pageantry and perfection came to London on August 6th, 7th and 8th, when the Coronation Regatta, sponsored by the "News of the World", was held on the Serpentine in Hyde Park. Some 1,000 oarsmen and canoeists joined together to make this event the most outstanding regatta of the year. Glorious summer weather, tempered by a cooling breeze, gay flags, stands and marquees on the tree-lined background of beech and elm, sycamore and chestnut, tens of thousands of spectators set the scene for the greatest spectacle ever staged on this 200-year-old lake in the heart of London — from our point of view the greatest boost for canoeing we ever have had. The regatta was a success in every way, and it is our great hope that it might be made an annual event. We had entries from Sweden, Germany, the Saar and Jugoslavia which made the event the greatest international canoe regatta held in this country since the Olympic Games 1948.*

### The Sella Race in Spain

*Seven nations — Switzerland, Britain, Belgium, France Italy, Germany and Spain — competed in this year's "Descenso del Sella" race in Asturias, in Spain, on August 8th over a course of approximately 12 miles from Ariondo to Ribadesella — a total of 42 entries. The race was divided in three stages, the first of which was won by France, and the second by Germany, Belgium being second in both. In the final stage the Belgian pair, van de Moere-Braeckmayer, went on to win in 102 min. 11 sec., followed by France and Italy,*

*beating the existing record by 3 min. 49 sec. A spanish team came fourth. Our team, A.G. Freeman and G.E. Scarborough, came sixteenth after their craft, together with many others, had been seriously damaged in the low water, caused by the lack of rain during the preceding weeks.*

### A New Channel Record

*Not so long ago the crossing of the English Channel in a canoe was considered a risky adventure. In course of the years it has become a record-breaking affair. This year R. Waterhouse, Commodore of the Deal Canoe Club, set up a new record when, on September 4th, he crossed the Channel from St. Margaret's Bay to France in 4 hours 8 minutes, one minute less than the previous best time.*

## HEADQUARTERS HIATUS

Memorandum sent from the Coaching Office at Headquarters to bewildered instructor, I quote —

*"I enclose what I believe are your urgent forms from the list. From the back of 01 you will see the A. 14, A. 16 and A. 19 are to be incorporated into A7. Unfortunately A7 is not yet ready. I have no A. 14 or A. 16 but enclose 5 A.19. Also A21 and A.22 have never materialized and have been deleted from the list. Everything else is following at a more leisurely pace."*

And just to emphasise the effect upon staff of employment at Headquarters, the membership secretary recently sent her monthly salary cheque to Atlantic College in response to an inquiry regarding Club Membership of the Union. That really is dedication beyond the call of duty. Whilst on the subject of headquarters, collectors of useless statistics may be interested to know that the small off-set lithographic machine purchased by the Union just 3 years ago, has recently produced its 17 millionth copy. Ecologists please note that this represents half a Brazilian Rain Forest.

## OLYMPIC ODDITIES

The latest information to be received on the "hot line" from Hounddog's American Special Agent in Los Angeles, regarding preparations for the XXIIIrd Olympic Games next year, is likely to confirm the worst fears of those sporting dogmatists anxiously awaiting the next money raising gimmick to be agreed by the Organising Committee. It is fairly well known that most of the technical facilities required at the various sports venues are either in situ or will be provided through commercial sponsorship. The international swimming pool had caused some concern due to its cost, but then along came Mr. Macdonald of the Macdonalds Hamburger chain, and agreed to underwrite the new installations. One minor point arose in the negotiations with International swimming Officials — the pool was to be designed in the shape of a "Big Mac", the diving boards would resemble an enormous hot dog, and tomato ketchup would gush from an ornamental fountain. Fortunately for the image of amateur sport, these proposals have been quietly shelved. Had the advertising men had their way however, the possibilities for innovation were limitless — giant beer cans, cigarette packets, soapflakes containers, a Regatta Course in the shape of a coca cola bottle. Baron de Courbetin, what did you start in 1896?

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# SEA CANOEING



## THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN KAYAKING SYMPOSIUM, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, 1983

'International' turned out to be an apt description of this exciting event, whose 160 participants and speakers gathered from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, New Zealand and (in one case) from as far afield as Norway. Jointly sponsored by the Pacific Canoe Base, the University of Victoria and the Ocean Kayaking Association of BC., the symposium took place partly at the University and partly on the waters of nearby Cadboro Bay, with a concluding group paddle among the islands near Sidney, BC.

The Guest Speakers: It can probably be asserted without fear of dissent that Victoria has never before played host to so illustrious a gathering of world-class ocean kayakers. Derek Hutchinson opened the symposium also contributing several film lectures, including his superb 'Kayaks to Prince William Sound'. Frank Goodman talked on concepts of design initiating much excellent discussion (there was keen interest in his experimental findings on the effects of shape, windage, weight, etc on canoe speeds). Later in the symposium Frank presented a stunning slide-lecture on his expedition with a small fleet of Nordkapps through the ice choked seas of Baffin Island.

In spite of having his wallet and passport stolen at San Francisco, en route to Victoria from New Zealand, Paul Caffyn managed to arrive in high spirits. His slide presentations included the story of his mind-boggling 9500 mile circumnavigation of Australia, his circuit of Great Britain and the New Zealand voyage that covered Fiordland and the South Island West Coast.

Vancouver deep-water expert John Dowd talked on the subject of long open water crossings, stressing the special navigational and physiological hazards that must be planned for, in multi-day runs like those he has undertaken in the Caribbean. John and Lee Moyer (Seattle designer) used the very high level of audience response to John's ideas as a basis for one of the weekend's liveliest discussions. Barry Smith, noted as one of the participants in the British Cape Horn Expedition, examined the philosophy of sea kayaking and his comments on positive values such as physical accomplishment and spiritual wellbeing, and on some negative aspects such as excessive competitiveness and ego-building, provoked a stimulating exchange of viewpoints among the participants. The symposium as a whole was ably orchestrated by

## WEATHER HITS EDDYSTONE TRIP

This year's sea canoeing trip from Plymouth Hoe to the Eddystone Lighthouse was yet another casualty of the British Summer.

Saturday 11th June brought strong winds and cold conditions for paddlers who had assembled at Plympton Scout HQ. The planned trip was not practicable for such a large group, but because of their enthusiasm and the hope of raising several thousand pounds for the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust an alternative route was selected around Plymouth sound. Each lap was over eight miles and 20 of the 46 paddlers who braved an aggressive sea managed four laps.

The afternoon deteriorated into thick drizzle and poor visibility, in addition to the strong breeze, but with the excellent safety boat cover provided by RAF Mountbatten and the Royal Marines many paddlers were able to keep going in conditions which would normally have kept them well away from the sea.

It was particularly encouraging for the organisers and the C.L.I.C. Trust that so many canoeists were prepared to make such a

splendid effort in order to raise money for charity. The disappointment of not making the Lighthouse trip this year does not seem to have deterred the growing support for the popular annual gathering. Geoff Bladon is already recruiting for next June and all canoeists are assured of a friendly welcome. We hope that George Skinner of Scott-Bader Commonwealth will be able to repeat the promotional and social events which undoubtedly make the weekend such a success. Statistically, the dates we choose for this paddle should give us nearly a ninety percent chance of suitable weather conditions, so next year we are due for a good trip! If you're interested contact Geoff Bladon, Police House, Clovelly, Devon, EX39 5RR.

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master of ceremonies Vic Lindal of BC's Recreation and Sport Branch.

Insights and Ideas: The facts, comments and opinions that emerged during the conference would easily fill a book. A random selection of points raised include the following:

Weight of ocean touring boats: It is worth adding weight to create a robust kayak. A weight-difference of ten pounds means a speed difference detectable only by 'electronic timing'.

Expedition speeds: Regardless of individual athletic prowess, a touring group will travel at the speed that is comfortable to its weakest member — perhaps under three knots (The weakest paddler is the strongest!)

Safety: A competent ocean paddler plans (and is equipped) for self-sufficiency and self rescue, but uses prudence in order to avoid the circumstances that call upon either self-rescue or outside help.

BC coastal landings: Kayakers should be aware that visits to native Indian lands and sites must be arranged by means of diplomatic approaches to the relevant land officials.

Ecological considerations: In our rapidly increasing numbers, we ocean kayakers have a growing ecological significance. 'No trace' camping and cautious, considerate invasion of wildlife areas (such as colonies of sea lions) are imperative.

Ocean Kayaking in general: It is fun! This was a point of unanimous agreement, as reflected in the prevailing mood of the symposium.

Philological Footnote: Scholarly readers will be interested to learn that, for many of us at this conference, the opportunity arose for the a true "symposium" (from the Greek as used by Plato: 'A gathering for conversation over drinks').

Philip Teece

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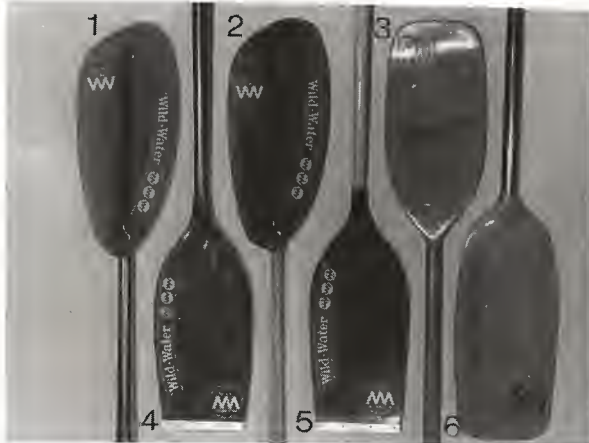
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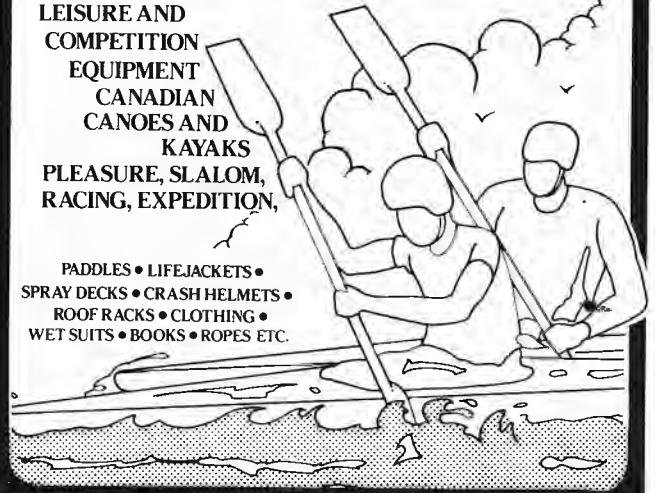
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# CANOE CAMPING CLUB JUBILEE

When the British Canoe Union was formed, the largest of the clubs joining together was the Canoe-Camping Club. In 1932 two groups with overlapping membership and very similar interests had united. They were the British Canoe Association and the Canoe Section of the Camping Club and they quickly joined forces into what has become the Canoe-Camping Club, which is still a section of the Camping Club, so canoeing members have all the privileges of the parent body.

To celebrate the jubilee, the Canoe-Camping Club held a 50th Anniversary Reunion during the weekend 18/19 June 1983 at the Camping Club Site beside the River Thames at Chertsey, with a meal in the recreation room Saturday evening and a leisurely run to Walton Bridge and back on Sunday morning.

The reunion attracted well over 100 members and their guests. At the meal there were many with long membership of the club, including two who were in at the start. Jack Gasgoyne was one, and he cut the birthday cake. The other was John Dudderidge, who had gone on to do great things nationally and internationally via the BCU. He told members something of the early days. Several canoeists of long-standing, who are now vice-

presidents of the CCC., were present: David Hirschfeld, of Tyne Canoes fame; Maurice Rothwell, who also did great things with Manchester CC, Kathleen Tootill, who can account for many adventurous pioneering trips; and A.B. Howard, probably best known for his early fold bicycle that stowed in his folding canoe.

Greetings from the parent club were brought by Chairman Molly Rayner and from the BCU by Director Ron Emes, much of whose early canoeing was with the CCC.

The weather during the weekend was June as it ought to be, so the Sunday morning run was a colourful and warm event. Although most of the craft were glassfibre kayaks, as might be expected, a lot of interest was centred on some vintage folding canoes. The oldest was a Klepper two-seater built about 1932 and restored by John Waterlow who paddled it with his father.

The Canoe-Camping Club has a large membership, many of whom join together for activities in regional groups. Although interest is mostly in touring the club includes members whose main activities are competitive. The General Secretary is Caroline Pennington, 21 Gloucester Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2UQ. (Tel. 01-979 5727).

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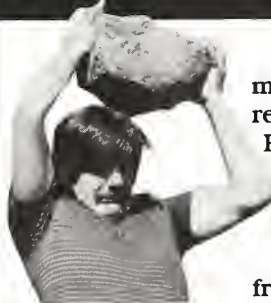
Left — The oldest craft on the celebration run on the Thames was this 1932 Klepper folding two-seater, crewed by John Waterlow and his father.

Above right — The River Thames directly alongside the camp site and Chertsey Bridge make an attractive setting as canoeists prepare for the start of the 50th. Anniversary run of the CCC on Sunday 19 June.



Below right — At the 50th Anniversary meal of the Canoe-Camping Club on 18 June, founder member John Dudderidge (centre) sits with other long-standing members: Ron and Joan Aldritt, Ivy Blandford, Keith and Peggy Alderton.

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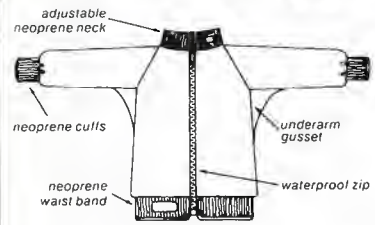
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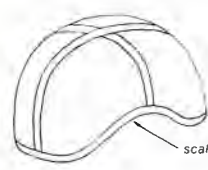
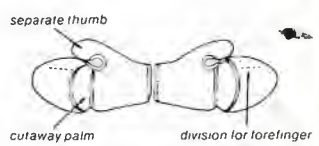


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# Action on access

## WHAT FUTURE ACCESS?

The dust has now settled regarding the agreement by all parties on the Terms of Reference of the Statement of Intent.

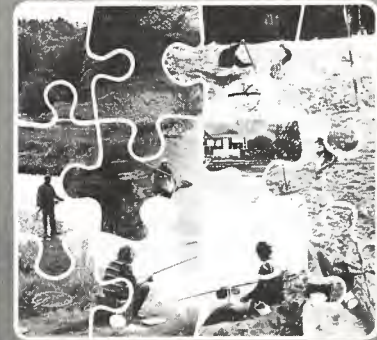
It may be argued that making agreements is the easy part, implementing them is a different problem altogether. Already some regions are working industriously to prove the merits or demerits of our agreement. Only by their efforts can we collate the necessary information to either seek amendments, revisions or total review of the scheme. This feed back is essential over the next twelve months if we are to achieve any major progress. There are of course other groups who by

virtue of their geographical locations, and hence their traditions for 'feuding' and 'battling' with the angling fraternity who may still consider the statement a 'sell out by the few against the interests of the masses'. To them, I ask that their patience and support be given over the next twelve crucial months. The problems of Access, not just to water is a national one. Our lead is therefore under the close scrutiny of many national governing bodies. Our successes or failures, especially in those highly contentious and traditionally volatile areas will be watched with interest.

SPORTS COUNCIL

The Sports Council  
151 Upper Woburn Place  
London WC1H 0DP  
Tel: 01-961 1277

## Angling & Canoeing STATEMENT OF INTENT



## Access for sport & recreation in the countryside

Further to the previous article and to still further indicate the recognition of all aspects of Access, the Sports Council Research Unit funded jointly by the Sports Council and the Countryside Commission, have been commissioned to produce a study. This study which was formally for the purposes of identifying and seeking means to improve access to land, has now, due to intervention by the BCU at Central Council for Physical Recreation Executive Committee level, been extended to cover access to water.

It is hoped that the project will take in the

region of twenty four months, although dissemination of findings and discussion of policy implications will probably extend into 1985. Consultation will be encouraged with a wide range of groups including governing bodies local authorities, government departments, Country Landowners Association, National Farmers Union and others throughout the key stages of the project.

In identifying the need for improvements to all aspects of Access, the Sports Council in their ten year development plan have stated: 'The Sports Council is concerned to promote

active sport and recreation in the countryside natural waters and canals. The growth of participation is at least 10% per year. There is a need to secure management agreements with private and statutory water owners to permit appropriate access to these areas under reasonable conditions. The Sports Council will consider grant aiding for this purpose.

The BCU will continue to play an active role in contributions to the study paper, it is therefore imperative that we all pull together and provide the centre with constructive information.

## FINAL COMMENT

### "William Webb Ellis are you mad"

To any of you stalwarts who have ever handled the "queer" shaped ball, you will be familiar with that famous phrase that was uttered many moons ago across the hallowed soccer fields of Rugby, when a bright young spark picked up the ball and ran. The only likeness between this young fellow's action which has since brought enjoyment to millions in the form of Rugby Football and the sport of canoeing, is that indeed some canoeists must truly be mad!

A recent report from David Rushfirth regarding a situation which has developed on the Brathay in Cumbria has surely highlighted this fact. We have in fact "bitten the hand that feeds us". For it is sad that we should have so few allies in the riparian world, and by stupid and irresponsible action seek to destroy those that we do have. The Kirkstone Slate Company have been forced to withdraw their support and approval for the launching of canoes within the curtilage of their property due to the thoughtless and indiscriminate parking of vehicles thus preventing employees and trade deliveries being made. The company's letter to me outlined quite clearly, that despite this inconvenience and the abuse received when people were asked to move vehicles they had patiently sought a peaceful settlement. Only now have they sought to forbid access to canoeists via their land. I personally am amazed that they put up with us so long!

However, as a peace offering David Rushfirth has offered some alternatives, and you are requested to assist David in re-establishing good relations. I have produced a sketch map which outlines suitable launching sites, and parking facilities and remember if you give me your support you can always expect to get mine.

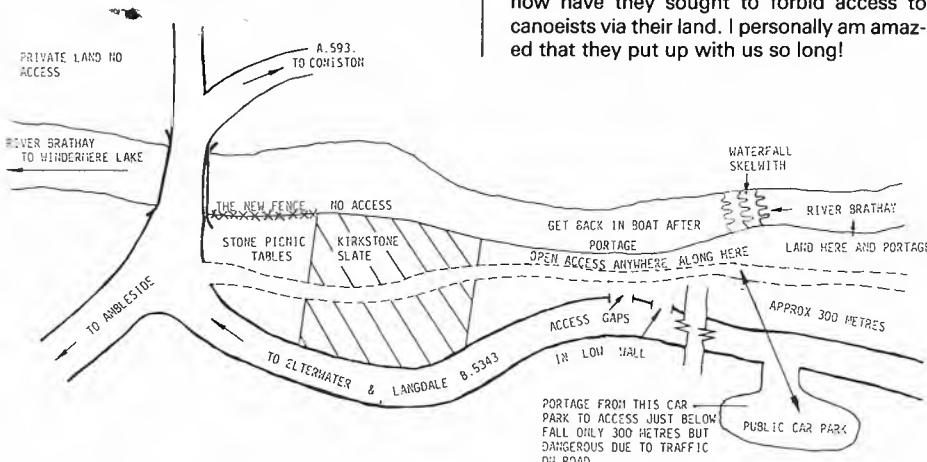
**Roger Irwin — BCU NAO**

For more details contact: David Rushfirth, 44 Bleasdale Avenue, Staining, Nr. Blackpool FY3 0DW.

## More thoughts on Byelaws

Continued concern has been expressed over the possibility of local authorities 'slipping' through Byelaws, particularly 'enforcement' or 'closure' orders. Although not yet confirmed, an opinion has been expressed that some authorities may opt merely to publish the prerequisite information in the London Gazette and allow the statutory 28 days for appeal. This type of 'easing through' should be resisted, and all canoeists are requested to be ever vigilant where the terms 'Byelaws' and or 'water' appear in local authority communications or publications.

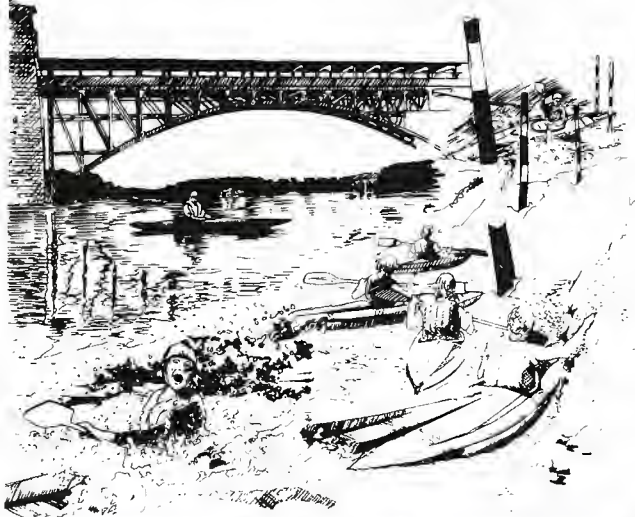
In support of this action the CCPR are continuing to lobby the Home Office and require information on all specific cases. This may be done via the National Access Officer care of BCU Headquarters.



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# Trade News

## FRUIT SUGAR

Appleford Limited are to sponsor Grayson Bourne in his medal bid at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

For over half a century the name of Appleford and its brands have been leaders in the health food industry. It is particularly suitable that the name of Eustace Miles, a former world amateur racquets and tennis champion who developed the now famous EM range of protein foods which figures in the diet of many athletes, should once again be associated with an amateur athlete at the top of his particular sport.



Mr Neville Kirby, managing director of Appleford (left) with Grayson Bourne, canoeist, who is confident of being amongst the medals in next year's Olympic Games.

## STRAND TO STOCK KEVLAR AND CARBON FIBRE

Kevlar and carbon fibre have now been brought within the reach of the DIY and small commercial user, with the addition of these materials to the comprehensive range of reinforcements stocked by Strand Glassfibre.

Available as cloth or tape both Kevlar and carbon fibre will be readily obtainable in large or small quantities from Strand's network of local branches.

Contact: Technical Department, Strand Glassfibre Ltd, Williams Way, Wollaton, Northants NN9 7PF (Tel: 0933 664455)

## CANOE SCHOOL ESTABLISHED

Whitewater Sports Britain's largest canoe retailer, have recently moved to new, purpose built premises at Shepperton Marina, Middlesex. Over recent years, one of the problems they have encountered is where to send customers who wish to learn to canoe.

To provide a permanent solution Whitewater have set up their own 'Canoe School' at Shepperton Marina.

Alan Jones, the Managing Director of Whitewater is confident that the new canoe school provides exactly what is required for the novice canoeists. The instructional programme, equipment and facilities have been carefully planned in conjunction with British Canoe Union Senior Coach, Bob Gray.

The small team of instructors comprise many of Britain's leading canoeists including Sue Hornby, the Commonwealth Ladies Wildwater Champion, Jim Jayes a member of Britain's slalom squad and Peter "Green Slime" Knowles who led the Fraser River expedition in 1981.

The school will be of considerable benefit to organisations and individuals in the Greater London Area, who have previously found professional instruction difficult to arrange.

For further details contact Whitewater Sports Canoe School, Shepperton Marina, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex, Walton on Thames 47978.

## BILLINGHAM 'PROTECH' FLAT-BACK LENS POUCHES

Billingham 'Protech' lens pouches give maximum protection to individual lenses, or in some cases, single lens reflex (SLR) cameras.

Because of their design and carefully derived size range, a pouch can be found that will fit your lens snugly, avoiding 'rattle'. They are used where a camera bag is either not desirable or simply not practical. Lens pouches can be carried in a variety of ways; by the handle provided over the shoulder, or probably the best way of all, around the waist. Carried in this fashion they free the hands and take the weight from the shoulders and neck. For over the shoulder or around the waist carrying, we manufacture an appropriate shoulder sling and waist belt, both of which are fully adjustable. Although the original prototypes were circular lens pouches, they had a tendency to roll everywhere when we put them down and to be uncomfortable when worn around the waist. By making the lens pouches with a flat back, this problem has been solved and the pouches have become very comfortable to wear.

Physical and thermal protection is provided in the form of 20mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ "') of high grade open-cell foam, around which is wrapped a waterproof Cordura and nylon outer. The lining material is a 'soft-coated' nylon, to avoid damage by abrasion.

The 'Protech' range is available from Billingham & Co, Unit 2, Lye Valley Industrial Estate, Bromley Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands.



On 2nd June Mark Gees Paddles suffered its third burglary within seven months. A considerable amount of tools were again taken. Due to the method of entry and the equipment stolen, the Police believe it is possibly the work of the same thief. To combat this intruder a sophisticated burglar alarm system has been installed.

Mark Gees apologises to his customers for any delay in supplying their paddles but hopes that they will understand and bear with him through this difficult period.

## BEWARE OF CON MEN

Haze Enterprises are concerned that somebody is taking deposits for SHADOW 79 slalom canoes at events.

The above person has no connection with HAZE ENTERPRISES who designed and are the sole manufacturers of the SHADOW 79.

This person is either taking deposits with no intention of supplying the goods, or has pirated our design and will face legal action when we trace him.

Ralph Childs  
Haze Enterprises.

# FOSTER'S DRAUGHT



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# FOSTERS ROUND-UP

## International Marathon & Regatta



*Paul Wells, tired but unbowed.*



*Stan Dibley, Director of Holme Pierrepont looking pensive having presented the Toledo sword to the stroke of the Russian K4.*



*Sorenson and Packness, Denmark-put out of the race on the canal.*



*Ian Ferguson (NZ), Steve Jackson & Alan Thompson with of Manns Breweries. Winners K1 1,000m*



*Last stage after six hours of racing.*



*Councillor George Chambers with a gaggle of young ladies from 500m K4. Hungary, Russia & Canada.*



*Second string K2's leaving Little Venice.*



*The British had a successful week-end-1,000m K2 Smith/Bourne, GB. Parvenovich/Superatta USSR, Jackson/Williams GB.*

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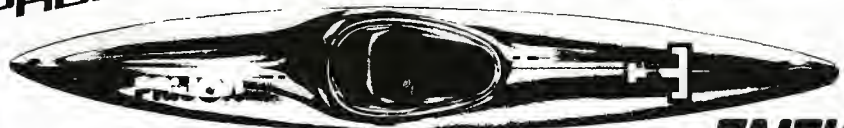


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# Dear Focus...

## BCU APPROVED?

Dear Sir,

We note the comments made in Canoe Focus under the Houndog column about the equipment approval scheme.

The BCMA doesn't take sides on which magazine (if any) it supports — individual members do as they wish, but there are a number of points about the approval scheme that should be made clear, and which show the Houndog article to be misleading to say the least!

BCMA membership comprises a fair number of 'responsible' members of the trade, and our concern for the BCU 'approval' scheme was such that we asked the Director of the BCU to attend one of our meetings to discuss the whole matter. This was after the BCU had made no attempt to communicate its intentions to the BCMA. Individual members first heard of the ploy when they were offered £200 down and approval to follow, by officials of the BCU at Crystal Palace.

BCMA members then discovered that only two boats had received 'endorsement' — one of these boats didn't even exist!

If the scheme wasn't to raise money, what was it for? Surely not to raise standards of safety and design and to cut out the backyard brigade and the 'make a quick buck operator' as Houndog suggests.

Approving boats that don't exist is neither good sense nor honest and the other boat 'endorsed' is hardly manufactured by a company that has been in the main stream of canoe-building.

The BCMA is unanimously opposed to the 'endorsement' scheme, and at its last meeting voted to have no truck with it in any shape or form. If many of the responsible members of the trade refuse to have anything to do with this scheme, how can it be for their benefit?

The BCMA will continue to work hard for safety and good design by continuing our efforts with such worth-while schemes as the B.S.I. M 91 standard and the BCU/BCMA standard for buoyancy aids.

After our meeting with the Director of the BCU it was quite clear to members that the scheme WAS a money-raising scheme of the standard green-shield stamp mentality, it WAS a gimmick and it WAS part of a desperate attempt to make money other than by increasing membership by offering a fair deal to its members.

It is a pity that just when the BCMA thought the BCU was trying to make sensible moves to co-operate with the trade to help everyone, including the canoeist, we now find that this silly scheme is undermining confidence in their integrity, and worse; trying to line the BCU pockets at the expense of the BCMA members.

D. Patrick,  
Secretary BCMA

Director of Coaching replies...

Dave appears to have forgotten our first conversations concerning an 'approval' scheme, and the subsequent letter from BCMA in December 1980 stating that the Association agreed 'in principle' and was happy to discuss the implementation.

There are a number of sound reasons why an approval scheme should exist. The BCU is constantly being asked by manufacturers (mainly of new products) for such endorsement. Individuals and various authorities (Education, National Associations, Clubs) and similar seek guidance on suitable equipment. It is in the best interests of the Sport that those who make good quality products and invest in design to improve performance, should be protected against the 'pirate' of various kinds. It was this latter area which prompted the original discussions between myself and the Chairman and secretary of BCMA, at a time when the markets of our established builders were under considerable threat.

From the BCU point of view it is very difficult to condemn specific inferior and unsafe products. A request for such has recently been received from a concerned member. A formal approval scheme enables this to be done without fear of involving costly and time consuming litigation.

As a result of the encouraging noises made by BCMA at the outset, and the fact that equipment approval schemes are on the list of legitimate fund raising measures suggested by Sports Council, to enable governing bodies to become more financially self-sufficient, proposals were put to the BCU council and adopted in principle.

I do not know where the idea has come from that the BCU would sell approval, regardless of other factors, to anyone willing to pay £200 or any other figure. It is just not true. Neither is it true that we were seeking to 'milk the trade'.

The fact is that time and resources devoted to an approval scheme, would involve loss of time and resources for other essential services. It is only worth the Union giving this measure priority, if those costs can be recovered. The advantage to the trade must be that the Unions name, endorsing products, would help to protect and/or improve their market. Why should the Union not be recompensed if the Unions name gives a manufacturer a commercial advantage?

The advantage to the BCU is that money resulting from the scheme shows a cash return, which can be regarded as 'profit', thus enabling projects and services to be funded which would not otherwise be possible.

Obviously the two important factors here are the integrity of the scheme and the level of the return which is sought.

The latter was open to negotiation. Unfor-

tunately the circulation putting forward to the trade our proposals for the details of the scheme as we saw it operating, was taken in the wrong way by BCMA members. They saw it as the BCU trying to present them with a fait accompli, and endeavouring to 'take them for every penny'! This was not the case, and a general meeting was subsequently convened at which an endeavour was made to meet the objections raised.

However, by then the attitudes of the Association members had hardened, and the clear message which we perceived was that the Union's name would not be significant endorsement on products, and there was therefore no commercial advantage to them. It was suggested by a member of the trade at that meeting that we should, instead, pursue directly the possibility of a buoyancy aid standard and endorsement, as providing the possibility for a more readily agreeable system.

Subsequent to that meeting, the implementation of the scheme was shelved. However, direct and unsolicited approaches from two companies were subsequently received. In the light of the fact that no other traders considered the Union's endorsement to be worth pursuing, we could not see any reason not to proceed with those who did.

In consequence, after due process of consultation and consideration, specific endorsement was offered to two manufacturers, and the value of that approval mutually agreed.

I am not happy that due to problems of production schedules, the Pyranha endorsement was allowed to be launched prior to the final assessment taking place, and this matter has been pursued. However, detailed consultation took place throughout the design stage, and I was confident that if the product finally matched the specification, a considerable improvement would have been achieved in the safety of polyethylene boats.

As one who has always held in high respect, many of our leading manufacturers, and regard a number of them as friends, I am particularly distressed that this issue should have caused a rift. Whilst I accept that there are features of the launching of the first two endorsements which are less than satisfactory, I am convinced that formal approval is desirable, workable, legitimate, and in the best interest of both the trade and the BCU.

G.C. Good.

Dear Sir

Up until a short while ago I was a member of the "British Peruvian Canoe Expedition" planned by Geoff Evans. I became involved in the expedition through the Royal Geographical Society's Expedition advisory service. Geoff Evans gave your address as his contact to the Society.

I thought you would be interested to know that 7 months before the expedition was planned to leave, Geoff Evans had disappeared off the face of the earth leaving myself and the other expeditions members with no explanations. In fact we have also found that to various possible sponsors including Arrowcraft who were making the canoes, he had gone under the name of Mike Henney.

Needless to say we all feel very cheated and angry. I am writing to you to make sure that Geoff Evans does not use your organisation to plan any further expeditions. If you know anything of his whereabouts we'd be most interested.

Sorry to sound so angry.

Dr. Debbie Morris. Bewdley.



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Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as a frightened canoeist. I recently bought a new spraydeck, the type with two small tags at either side, 2cm wide and 10cm long. When these tags are pulled, the sides of the spraydeck come off but the actual deck stays on because the front is still hooked over the cockpit rim.

I then went to Shepperton Lock and was paddling in the main current, playing on the standing waves. I am a fairly experienced canoeist, and was thoroughly enjoying myself. Then suddenly a boil tipped me over. I then tried to roll twice but failed. I then went to take off the spraydeck but I couldn't see the small tags in the murky water and couldn't feel them with my cold hands. I had been under for sometime and was beginning to fear for my life. Eventually I was able to pull out of the boat and the spraydeck came off as well. I came to the surface gasping for air. This episode frightened me as I was trapped upside down in my canoe. The tag should be ideally placed at the front of the spraydeck and be fairly large so that it is easy to find and pull off.

I sincerely hope you print this letter to bring attention the danger of some spraydecks with small and nearly useless tags.

Yours terrified,

**D. Simpson, Blackheath.**

*Director of Coaching comments.*

*This letter emphasises the point that paddlers should always test their ability to get out of their kayak, and give some thought to their equipment, before being faced with having to do so "in anger" — and then discovering the snags.*

*Surprisingly, perhaps, this is the only letter on file concerning the ineffectiveness of some release tags, although I do know that Mr. Simpson is not alone in his experience.*

*The BSI recommendations state: "When provided, a spray cover should be fitted with a release becket or strap to enable the canoeist, in an emergency, to remove the spraycover quickly from the cockpit rim. The spraycover should also permit the occupant to leave the canoe in an emergency without using the becket".*

*Unfortunately, some cockpit designs do not make things easy, and the desire to keep the water out perhaps takes precedence over the latter part of the recommendation.*

*Many paddlers customise their decks by fixing a plastic tube through the two loops, providing a bar which can be pulled with one hand to release the deck. Alternatively, a short length of thick cord will perform the same service.*

*Certainly I will take steps to ensure that more guidance is available in pamphlets and publications in the future.*

Dear Sir,

I would like to clarify a small point in the short article concerning canoe casualty statistics which appeared in the last issue and which might give rise to some concern.

The summary which I prepare covers all UK coastal incidents which involve canoes and which are the subject of SAR action — ie investigation or assistance by Coastguard Units, lifeboats, inshore lifeboats or helicopters. The figure for 'persons rescued' by lifeboats from canoes is therefore included in my summary, as are those assisted by other means when lifeboats were not involved. It would be unfortunate if the assumption was

made that the lifeboat figures were 'in addition' to the overall Coastguard total.

On the question of 'lives saved' this is always a difficult assertion to make for often given a little luck some survivors could easily save themselves within a short period of time; that is why this Service reckons on 'persons assisted' which, though rather less dramatic, is possibly more realistic.

**S.R. Richards**  
**Regional Controller**  
**H.M. Coastguard.**

Dear Sir,

I have always considered that the present divisional marathon system is unpopular to the vast majority of L.D. paddlers. Let me explain who the vast majority are — they are the paddlers who probably make up the bulk of BCU members who are those that should be catered for, and those whose opinions should be considered.

Although the divisional system may have been introduced originally to encourage the family paddlers etc. etc., it must be obvious that this is precisely what it has failed to do. It is almost impossible to achieve any promotion and/or any chance of even a place with K1's competing albeit being paddled by youngsters.

I, and about 500 others, have just thoroughly enjoyed the Fleet time trials which I appreciate is not the same as a divisional marathon but it had all the old atmosphere and produced all the "old" faces of the past Class 1 — 5 LD's we all used to enjoy.

Do members of the BCU staff ever get out in the field (hic! — river) to hear and see what the majority of paddlers require? If they had been at Fleet (and maybe they were), they would have heard the conversations and discussions on this subject.

Let's have some correspondence from the ordinary paddler like myself who no longer goes to LD's because of a system which discourages them from competing.

I trust the official reply will not include the enjoyment of the river and scenery — eventually most canoeists are competitive in spirit in one way or another.

**Stan Holtorp BCU Sl.**

**Esher.**

*(Long distance paddler — probably the oldest still wishing to compete).*

FEDERATION FRANCAISE  
DE CANOE-KAYAK  
17 Route de Vienne, 69007 Lyon.

Dear Sir,

In Canoe Focus No. 29 page 34, an article headed 'The French Connection' remarks that the Association CK/Mer is now officially recognised as 'The French authority for Sea-Kayaking'. I should like to bring to your notice the following: The Association CK/Mer is not recognised by the French Ministry of Youth and Sport or by the Ministry of Marine.

The Federation Francaise de Canoe-Kayak is the governing body for all of the activities comprising canoeing and kayaking, including, of course, sea-kayaking, to which it devotes much effort in establishing training centres and training instructing staff.

The relaxation of the French restrictions was achieved following the request of the Federation Francaise de Canoe-Kayak, supported by your Association (ie the BCU), the Association CK/Mer having no legal standing enabling it to do so.

I should like you also to bring to your members' notice the fact that this relaxation is only provisional and can be revoked at any time by the Department concerned, for instance in the event of a serious accident. Consequently, the FFCK urges its members to exercise great caution and restraint.

I think you will be persuaded by these facts to publish the necessary corrections in your magazine. Thanking you in advance,

**Marcel Venot**  
**President, Federation Francaise de**  
**Canoe-Kayak.**

*Editors Note:*

*I think Mr. Venots letter summarises the situation succinctly. The CK/Mer appears to be equivalent to Britains Advanced Sea Kayak Club rather than the Sea Touring Committee of the BCU.*

## RETRACTION

We printed a letter in focus 29 referring to the West Tanfield Slalom in Yorkshire.

We understand that members of Halifax Canoe Club were not involved in the incident at all and that any reference to that club was ill-founded and mistaken.

The editorial board of the magazine wish to apologise for involving the good name of Halifax Canoe Club in such an incident.

## CANOE POLO NATIONAL FINALS

Entries are invited from BCU affiliated clubs for the eliminating rounds for the National Canoe Polo Finals being held at Crystal Palace in February 1984.

There are three categories:-

- 1) Open. (Senior players must be individual BCU members).
- 2) Youth (Youth players must not be 19 in 1984).
- 3) Ladies (Senior players must be individual BCU members).

Preliminary eliminating rounds are being held on Saturday November 5th or Saturday November 12th 1983. All entries on the official entry form must be received after that date will only be accepted if regional eliminating rounds are under subscribed.

For entry forms please write to Brian Barfoot, 18 The Cedars, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 3JB giving the number of forms required



and including a large stamped addressed envelope.

### Canoe Polo Handbook

The Canoe Polo Handbook is now available, giving details of all competitions, tournaments, rules etc. Price 20p (this can be made up in stamps).

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# LIFEGUARDS CONFER



Weir Workout



Martin Pike testing the buoyancy of a polyethylene Kayak



Alan Rees, Corps National Training Officer



'Tired Swimmer' rescue techniques

## A report by Steve Stevenson

The Longridge Conference in April was opened by Greg Littledale, a driving force behind the weekend, and Chairman of the Corps Executive. The invitation was — learn and enjoy. We did!

Alan Rees, who succeeds Brian Sheen as National Training Officer, entered the arena with "Motivating the Unit". His approach was to invite us to examine *our* motivations and throw the floor open to general discussion. Feeding the fire with occasional questions, observations and personal opinions, he contributed his own experience of setting up a unit, as something to chew on.

The prevailing feeling seemed to feed amalgamating BCU and Corps awards and encouraging those as the preparation for coaching qualifications as much and as soon as possible.

Other strong suggestions included having COCLG Awards accepted in swimming pools, to facilitate canoeing useage, and the value of establishing the Corps as the BCU's safety arm, with responsibility for administering the safety awards, pursuing interests in safety matters, and offering a dynamic non-competitive, challenging activity to canoeists whose interests are so inclined.

### Sea Safety

The topic of sea safety and rescue received a humorous, but highly competent review by John Kuyser, who is in charge of canoeing at Calshot enhanced with a series of well-chosen slides, and followed by a vigorous surge of suggestions, assessment and observation from all and sundry — referee Kuyser in control. A lot of fun, yet (for me at least, a sobering session, as the things I had not got sorted in my head showed their teeth).

### Exposure update

From sobering to plain chewing for "exposure — the latest" from Donald Thompson. Donald is a layman, presenting a complex subject for other laymen. Frankly, I have seldom been so impressed as with his presentation (reproduced in full in Code and the Journal of Adventure Education). The subject

was spread out, simply shown, and the implications explored in some depth, with hardly a three-syllable word involved. Masterly, especially the explanation of the differences between 'mountain' and 'immersion' hypothermia.

### Practical Work

The afternoons practical session included an introduction to the development and history of the Corps Rescue Canoe, with several types to see and paddle (Tim Ward's Instructor canoe was also represented). A very wet session as it proved to be, with swamped canoes being rolled, self-rescued, and put through massochistic manoeuvres — yours truly failed to roll with the JAE'S editor on the deck, and drunk half the Thames!

A demonstration of the 'rolling raft' rescue and other Corps specialties-of-the-house was impressive, and led up to a mass paddle upstream to Marlow Weir, for experiments in stopper rescues. Sadly, Murphys law was in full force, and the boats failed to 'stick', despite prolonged efforts! A play session in the excellent standing waves of the main chute, ended the afternoon, and we returned to dry out and eat, before an easy going social evening with slide shows and chin-wagging.

### Oxford River Rescue

Sunday morning started with the absorbing history of the Oxford River Rescue Service — not a Corps unit, nor a canoeing one, yet with a lot of lessons to offer, especially in relating to land-based emergency services, and their problems with water emergencies. As a picture of the evolution of a tiny group to a well equipped and experienced service, I found it fascinating and informative.

### Resuscitation Time

Dr. Steven Barclay followed with an update on resuscitation — detailed, pungent and pointed, finishing up with his company's revival devices demonstrated.

### New Gear

Greg Littledale's presentation on 'new development and equipment' began with

various inventions of the Corps' displayed, and progressed to an examination of the state of the art — lively and useful.

## Get Wet Time

Rescue incidents, reviewed with Dr Paul Belcher of Atlantic College; rescue relay races; and shore to water rescue procedures and equipment, provided the afternoon's practical sessions.

As an outsider, I was impressed by the enthusiasm, competence and the open-minded keenness to progress, learn and share experience. With the current drive in the coaching body in safety matters, I look forward to a period of enjoyable and productive growth in safety practice, and the consequent expansion in available challenges.

## CANOE INSTRUCTOR HAILED AS HEROE

Samuel Roberts, of Crooklets, Bude, Cornwall, Chief Instructor with Adventure Days, paddled a rescue ski 400 yards in heavy surf to rescue a local fisherman who had fallen overboard from his boat, as daylight failed on Sunday 30 May.

He located Mr. Walton, the fisherman, about a quarter mile offshore, and managed to bring the semi-conscious victim back to where other members of the surf lifesaving club could assist with the recovery.

Our congratulations to Sam for his prompt, efficient and courageous action.

## CHARGES TO FOLLOW DROWNING?

The Police have re-opened the investigation into the death of 10 year old Ian Fisher of Saltash, Cornwall. Ian was a member of the Trail Blazers Club, run by Mr. John Arthur

Cotterill, who was the leader of the ill-fated group which paddled the swollen river Tamar in October 81.

Mr. Cotterill, who was not BCU qualified, himself capsized following Ian's upset downstream from Gunnislake. 14 year old Alan Turner stayed with Ian during his 50 minute swim, making several unsuccessful attempts to save him. For his efforts, Alan was the first to receive the BCU's new Award for Valour.

Evidence has been given to the police on behalf of the BCU. Mr. Cotterill was recently given a suspended three-month prison sentence and fined £100 at Abergavenny for indecent assault. He could now face a further serious charge.

Should the Director of Public Prosecutions decide on a criminal charge a precedent would be established in that none has ever previously been brought following death or injury to a student under instruction.

## Focus Classified

### FOR SALE

Shadow '79 Diolen hull, red deck with yellow stripes. Hardly used £100.ono. Ring Des Entwistle, Chippenham (0249) 720241.

KW9 Lightweight 15' Fibreglass canoe. Used once. Super condition. Fast and stable. Ideal for sea work and fast touring £85. Snipe as new in first class condition £65. Stan Holtorp 01-398 3118.

Lancer K1 for sale. Green. V.G.C. £175 ono. Rustington 70561.

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Sea Canoe - Huntsman. Yellow, front and rear hatches, deck-lines, chart elastics, towing line, spare sea paddles, (Paddle, buoyancy aid, spray deck available if required. Phone Leicester 824902.

Eclipse slalom kayak polyester/carbon hull, coremat stiffening, very light 19 lbs but very strong, lowline, colour red. Quick sale wanted hence £60 ono. Neoprene rim spray deck £8: Green polycarbonate crash helmet £4.50: Dolphin wet suit windsurfer model, hardly used, to fit 38" chest/6ft height £35: Dolphin wet suit paddle jacket, soft material arms, fit 38" chest £25. Telephone 01-959 2634.

K2 Lawrence Sprint 2 spray decks and foot pump £110. Angus Fitchet, Poole 671870 Eve.only.

Baron Falchion; blue glitter deck plus Harishok spray deck: good condition. £110 ono. Phone Plymouth 872491.

K1 Marathon and sprint kayak. "Javalin sandwich construction. £115. 216L Lendal pacemaster paddles £15. Telephone Chesham 786671. Surf Ski - fibreglass foam filled 'Roof S' £75. Telephone Chesham 786671.

Surf shoe, weaver type, little used in perfect condition £35. Junior Kayak - slalom profiles, suit very young paddlers. In excellent condition - made by BCMA company £35. P. Hollingsworth, Lark Rise, Marden, Hereford. Bodenham 623.

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Surfing, Sea Canoeing or just passing through - If you are looking for accommodation in North Cornwall any time of the year for your next

surfing trip or canoeing trip then try us. 100 yds from the sea and surf with private beach, surf-side bar and good food, choice of self catering apartments. Clubs - Groups - Individuals are all welcome. Atlantic Court, Widemouth Bay, Nr.Bude, Cornwall 028885 312 or 028885 634.

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