

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NINETIES

# canoe

## focus

12-99

No. 122

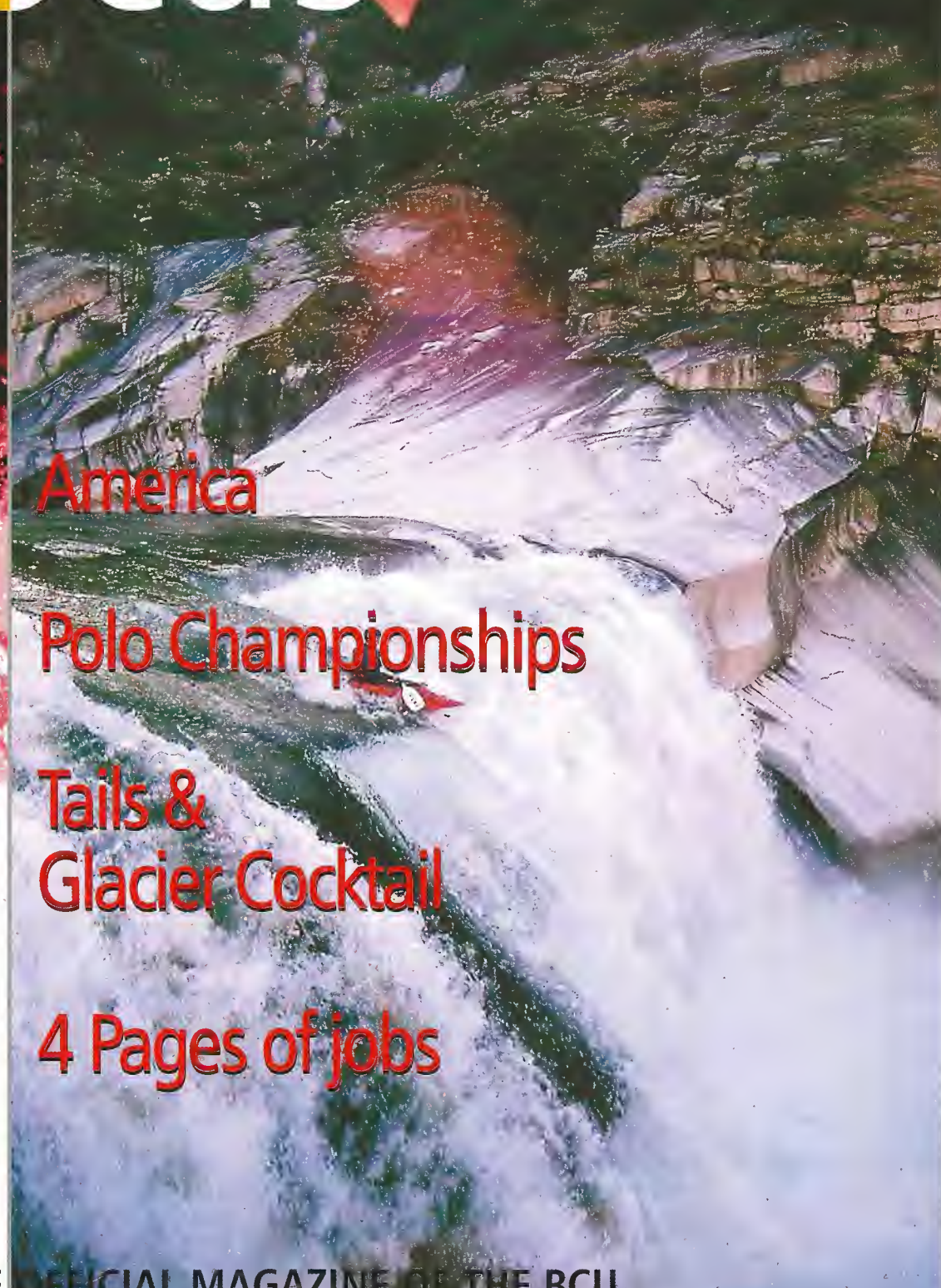
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4 Pages of jobs

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Front cover:

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BCU DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

## Canoe Focus

The official magazine  
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canoeing activity

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more access to  
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and finance

**More Coaching**  
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quality and  
quantity of coaching

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winning more  
international, world  
and olympic medals

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Your contributions make Focus happen. The quality and variety of news, articles, reports and photographs depend on the submission of material from you. Very few contributors are professional writers and photographers. Please don't be put off writing because you have no experience! Canoe Focus is all about canoeist to canoeist dialogue: a paddler's magazine written by paddlers. **Technical Information.** Contributions are acceptable in clear handwriting or typed (double spaced). PC disks (3.5 or 5.25) can be read from most Word Processing programmes especially if saved as an ASCII file. Macintosh Files saved as DOS or ASCII can also be scanned. Photographic images are preferred on transparencies (colour slide). Artwork and line drawings should be clear and large. All material is accepted on the understanding that the BCU and its agents cannot be held liable or responsible for loss or damage, although every care and effort is taken to safeguard material. Next Copy date is the 20th DECEMBER 1999. Material arriving at FOCUS after this date cannot be included in the FEBRUARY 2000 issue.

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Robin Hood Watersports

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EST. 1981

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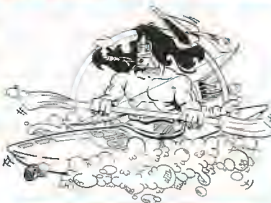
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COMMENT

# input & ideas

## BCU Key Achievements 1999

This has been a year of consolidation within the organisation after several years of organisational change.

- The BCU's efforts to create a more devolved organisation continue with draft Memorandum and Articles of Association for an English Canoe Association and for a re-focused BCU before its solicitors.
- The BCU Planning and Facilities service has launched the BCU Facilities Strategy and work continues to implement the strategy in particular the BCU National Canoeing Development Centre's place in the UKSI Network and the development of a network of Performance, Development and Training Centres.
- The Coaching Service has successfully developed a new federal structure and can now move forward with the appointment of both a new UK Director of Coaching and an English Director of Coaching.
- The BCU World Class Potential Plans near completion and are underpinned with the organisations Young Peoples Programme.
- New initiatives with regard to Communications have been launched, with the BCU Web-site nearing 100,000 hits a month and the job description for a Communications Manager agreed.
- All categories of canoeing rely heavily on Access to waterways. After twenty years of negotiating Access to rivers by canoe is on the government agenda.
- As members of the Canoeing Angling Liaison Group the BCU contributed to the production of a key document - guidelines on "Agreeing Access to Water for Canoeists". In competition the BCU has reached new heights of success with World Champions in Canoe Sailing - Lester Noble, in Canoe Marathon's Men's Kayak Singles - Ivan Lawler and Women's Kayak Singles - Anna Hemmings. For Ivan this was his sixth World title making him the most successful British Canoeist of all time.

The BCU's plans for the Olympic Games continue with Paul Ratcliffe, Slalom, maintaining his position as World number one. Paul's domination at the final World Cup round and pre-Olympic event in Sydney, winning by over three seconds, secured him the overall World Cup title for the season as well as the mantle as Olympic favourite.

In Sprint Racing the BCU has been highly successful and fully expects to place the majority of the team in finals in Sydney with several boats now in medal contention. Britain won three Silver and one Bronze Medal in the Pre-Olympic Regatta.

- Great Britain qualified nine boats for the Olympic Games (five Sprint, four Slalom)
- In Canoe Polo, at the European Championships, Great Britain fielded four teams including two teams, a men's and a women's, in the demonstration U23 event. All of the teams competed with distinction producing one Gold and three Silver medals.
- The BCU has firmly established its Performance Department.
- The BCU President, Albert Woods retained his Presidency of the European Canoe Association and within Britain, Albert was elected a Vice Chair of the National Olympic Committee.

The Marathon Racing World Championships were awarded to Great Britain for the year 2001 and will take place in Stockton on Tees. These Championships will provide a key catalyst for the development of Flatwater Racing in the North of England.

## Torch Trophy

Congratulations to Di Lawler of Elmbridge Canoe Club, who will be awarded a Torch Trophy Trust award in recognition of her outstanding voluntary work.

The Torch Trophy was founded in 1962 with the object of encouraging voluntary work for sport and outdoor activities at club level throughout the United Kingdom.

Di will receive her award from His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

## Devizes To Westminster Supports The Sports Aid Foundation

The organising committee of The Millennium Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race will be encouraging competitors to raise money for the Sports Aid Foundation during next Easter's race. The D/W has a fine tradition of raising money for good causes and the SAF who have helped several canoeists over the years will be fine recipients of this fund raising effort.

## Coaching Department

Many of you will be aware of the difficult times that have been encountered in the Coaching Department. With Geoff Goods illness and sad death combined with a funding dispute between the South Nottinghamshire College and the FE Funding Council. Taking forward developments in this very important area of our work has been very difficult.

Mike Devlin has been our Acting Director of Coaching and I would like to pay tribute to Mike's outstanding contribution to the Coaching Service, his dedication, commitment and sheer professionalism has kept the service going and developing through difficult times.

Following Paddlefest it has become clear that the role of the new UK Director of Coaching had not been well enough explained. The intention is not to replace the previous Director of Coaching on a like by like basis. The new UK role will be strategic and will ensure a standard approach to a new vision for coaching across the UK. The new English Director of Coaching's role will more closely resemble the old position and the postholder will have operational responsibilities for the implementation of the vision on a national basis.

## Direct Debit

A gentle reminder to all those who pay by Direct Debit, as you do not complete an annual membership form it is very important that you let us know of any change of address so that we can stay in touch.

## Lindemans Wines

Lindemans wines are a new sponsor to the Great Britain Olympic team. For every bottle of Lindemans Cawarra Unoaked Chardonnay and Lindemans Cawarra Shiraz Cabernet sold, the company will donate funds to the Great Britain Team.

In addition the sponsorship will be supported by several competition opportunities.

## New Millennium-Farewell to 1999

The BCU has played a major part in the development of canoe sport during the past one hundred years and we can all look forward to the new millennium with increased optimism for the future development of our sport.

Starting with the International Canoe Exhibition in February and continuing throughout the year, until the Paddlefest in the Autumn, lets make 2000 the year of paddlesport.

Chief Executive  
Paul Owen

# MORE ACTIVITY

## NOTICE BOARD

# news & info

### The Venture Centre, Isle of Man

Instructors wanted for 2000 Season. BCU, SPSA, MLTB, NSRA, RYA, GNAS, BOF. Our family run centre offers multi-activity courses for schools, youth groups and corporate groups. Season runs from April to August. Varying length of contracts available.

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Minimum 17yrs. Contact Simonnn Read on 01624 814240 or write to The Venture Centre, Maughold, Isle of Man IM7 1AW.

## The 8th Earl of Spencer Centre for Young People

On Friday 3rd September Charles, 9th Earl Spencer, officially opened The 8th Earl Spencer Centre for Young People. This new purpose built facility is headquarters to the Clubs for Young People, the Northampton Canoe and Kayak Club, the Northampton Rowing Club and the Nene Whitewater Centre.

The site boasts the UK's first pumped Whitewater course, ideal for canoeists rafters of all ages or abilities and suitable for leisure or competition use. The whole facility is designed to give 'Access to All' which includes ramps for wheelchair use around and a lift in the building.



**Left:** Paul Southworth, Chairman of Trustees, receives the cheque from Roger Fox, Sports England, with Earl Spencer.



**Right:** Rafting on the opening day

### Important Safety News

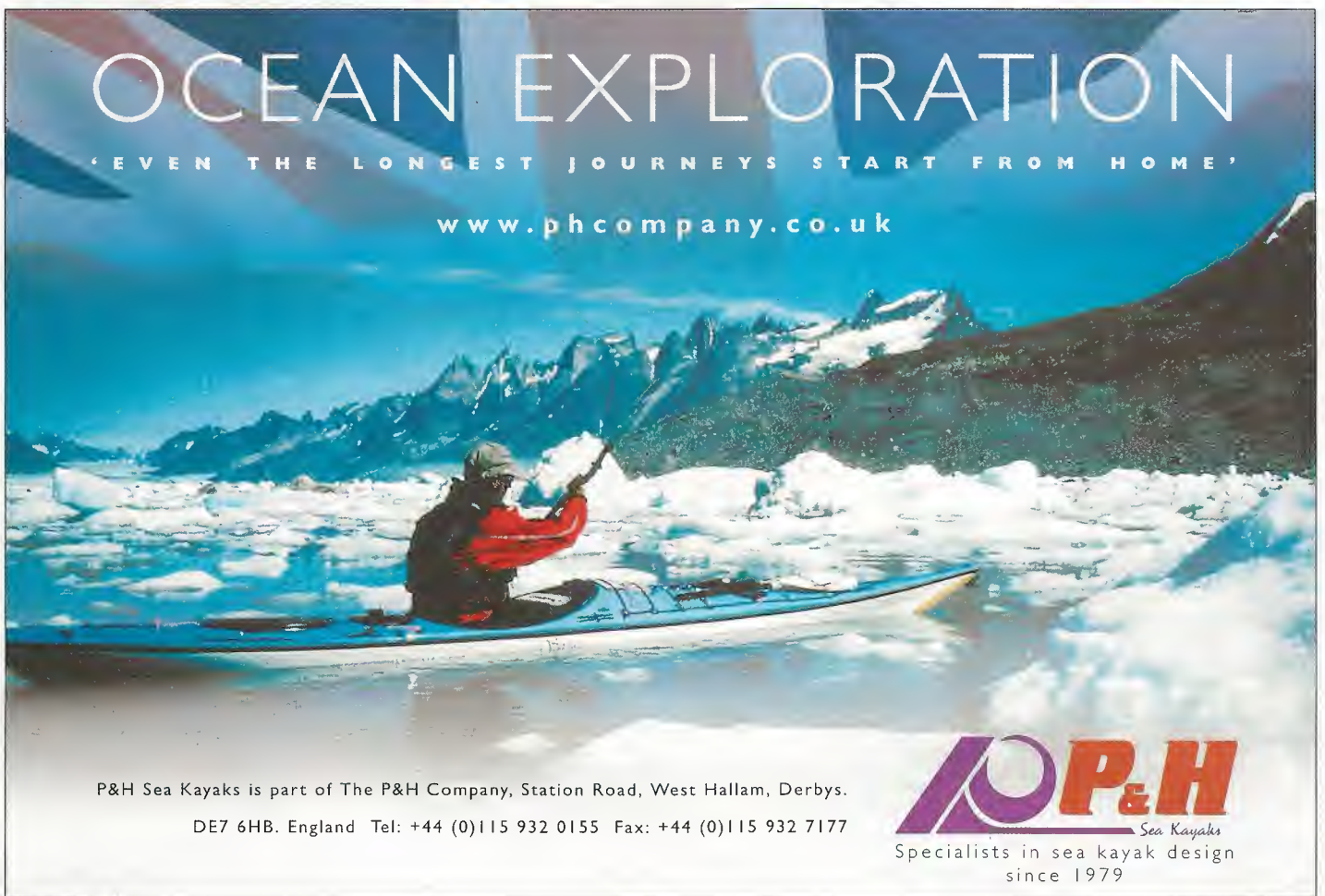
River work on Afen Eden, North Wales. The Environment Agency has refurbished the old fish pass at grid reference 711289 on the upper section of the Eden. It now represents a significant hazard to groups/canoelist accessing the river above that point. Paddlers are advised to exercise caution while approaching the fish pass.

Portage is possible on both banks. Those wishing to portage River left should egress at the ford 100m upstream of the structure and walk along the track to access below the trap on river left. Portage on river right may be possible by breaking out immediately upstream of the trap on the inside of the bend, this will be difficult at higher levels.

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**Harmony on the River Spey**

On the 19th September fourteen fishing related guests enjoyed a paddle down their own stretch of the River Spey with some of the local canoeists. Organised by river adviser, David Craig of Lagganlia Outdoor Centre, ghillies, factors, one of the landowners and other fishy people were paired up with a local paddler. They paddled down through their fishing beats and enjoyed the good grade 2-3 rapids. As they arrived at some of the fishing beats the ghillie in charge of the stretch was given chance to explain the fisherman's angle and discuss any possible improvements to the route through their patch that would suit both parties. One ghillie tried to steer his canoe to the place that he always tried to send canoes and found that it was a very poor route compared to the one that everyone else was taking.

We all learned a lot from each other but the best part was actually working/playing together rather than talking at a distance. Discussions are ongoing and new developments for



even better access are being considered, but the process seems to make a lot more sense now that we have had our day out.

George Logie

**BCU Freestyle Committee Business**

The committee met at T-Y-F No Limits Adventure, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, on Sunday 26th September.

As part of the rebuilding of Bolters Weir, on the Thames at Maidenhead, Berkshire, is the project to develop part of the weir for playboating. Once completed it will be handed over to the BCU Southern Region to manage. The project will require funding and the committee have agreed to donate a sum of monies. Further funds will be required and the BCU are open to suggestions – more news on this and the development to follow later.

CE approved helmets – It was agreed that for events taking place under committee approval, selection/ranking, would in no doubt become a requirement. However, the BCU is still deliberating the issue all the disciplines and as yet have not made a decision. Once this is made the committee will then discuss and put out a bulletin to advise paddlers.

A BCU Freestyle yearbook is planned for the first time during 2000. It is to include an Events Calendar, Ranking lists, Rules, Boat Specifications, Freestyle Committee and many other details – watch this space for more news!

Finally good luck to the Freestyle Team representing GBR in New Zealand early December '99.

For further information visit the Freestyle Webb site [infor@ukrodeo.demon.co.uk](mailto:infor@ukrodeo.demon.co.uk)

**Symonds Yat Rapids**

● The National Appeal has now raised over £36,500.00

● The application to the Lottery Sports Fund has been initiated under the new rules.

● We are now concentrating on formalising an agreement with the fishery owner and dealing with the necessary statutory consents that are needed for the project to be legally carried out.

● We still need pledges, Donations and letters of support, please.

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## NOTICE BOARD

### A New Venture for Slalom.

Slalom is to have an additional format for the new millennium. Starting next year there will be a series of club events to which all club members will be eligible to attend. These events are in addition to the ranking events in the Slalom calendar and will be scattered across the country in order that most Clubs will be able to access several of the events.

The events will be similar to the well-tried format of the Inter Club Event. However, in order to encourage new and lower division paddlers, the emphasis of the competition will be between Division 2 to Division 4 paddlers and anyone wishing to try slalom. The Division 1 and Premier paddlers will have their own competitions through acting as Officials and coaching. This way every paddler can enjoy a weekend's competition and be assured that their effort makes some contribution to their Club's final position in a club League Table.

Entry Fees will be the same for all competitors, probably £5 for the weekend, which will consist of Team Events on the Saturday and Individual Events on the Sunday. The format also allows time for slalom coaching on Saturday with the emphasis towards junior competitors.

Teams can be made up of a combination of paddlers from different divisions but each team must supply an official for the weekend. An Officials event will be run on Sunday along with the Individuals events, which will be run in Divisions. Most prizes will be in the form of Vouchers, which will provide the winner with free entry to a ranking slalom competition below Div 1. All competing Individuals and Teams, who are members

of registered Clubs, will earn points towards their Club's accumulated score.

Final details are still being decided, however the intention is that these events will not clash with any Ranking Events, so this is your opportunity for a weekend away with all your club members with some serious competition thrown in. The system will be presented at the next Slalom AGM. Together with the dates and venues of the competitions. If this sounds like a good idea to you, make sure your club includes these dates in their club calendar for next year.

### Canoe Clubs

#### Sheffield

Have just received a cheque for £500 from Sheffield Leisure services enabling them to increase and update their old fleet of canoes. With much appreciated help from Oughtibridge Truck Centre they also have extra storage. The site at Oughtibridge continues to improve and is gaining popularity for introducing beginners to moving water and for slalom competition. Immediately after substantial rainfall the river attracts experienced paddlers to enjoy the many weirs. The site certainly has something for everyone, why not come along and see for yourself or have a go! Contact Rob on 0114 2332981.

#### Bromley

Their email address and website pages are as follows: [www.bromleycanoeclub.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.bromleycanoeclub.fsnet.co.uk) and email address of [info@bromleycanoeclub.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:info@bromleycanoeclub.fsnet.co.uk)

### Water Enthusiasts can take Pride of Place at the Dome.

Water enthusiasts are invited to send in photographs of themselves, in action, to be shown at the Dome in Greenwich, the centrepiece of the UK's millennium celebrations. Dome organisers are appealing for colour photographs depicting British life and what it means to be British. As well as action shots, it could also be a snap of a family gathering, sporting occasions, festivals, holidays – anything. The unique work of art, being assembled by artist David Mach, will measure a staggering 256ft by 10ft and will be the central feature of the Dome's 'Self Portrait' zone, sponsored by Marks and Spencer, which will be a celebration of what it means to be British.

All photographs should be sent to: The National Portrait, FREEPOST LON115234, London, SE10 0BR. Names, ages and hometowns should be marked on the back of prints.

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## NOTICEBOARD

## A glimpse of the Perception range for the new millennium

The Perception range has many changes for the new millennium including new models, specification changes and new colours but everyone will be pleased to hear there is only one minor price increase whilst some prices have dropped:

### New white water kayaks

Mr Clean has shown the way in Freestyle in '99 proudly holding the mantle of British Champion and First in GB Selections. Following in Mr Clean's wake, comes the Ultra Clean. We've added volume to Mr Clean's slender frame for bigger paddlers, made it more manoeuvrable, looser in the turn, for anyone looking for more all round performance.

Length: 246cm, Width: 66cm, Volume: 216 litres. Available March 2000. RRP £599.00

The Method is in its final prototype stage with release set for March 2000. It is river running playboat that mixes the performance hull styling of our high-end freestyle kayaks with an even volume distribution for general river running of all skill levels. The Method Air is big brother to the Method. Add length, volume and you have forgiveness for those who crave it and comfort for those who need it.

Final specifications tbc. RRP £575.00

### New Touring Kayak

The Captiva is a larger version of the extremely popular Carolina, with additional length and a bigger cockpit to comfortably accommodate paddlers too large for the Carolina. Length: 488cm, Width: 64cm. Available April 2000.

RRP £350 standard specification, £499.00 expedition spec.

Perception Whip-it, Whiplash and Corsica Overflow Reduced to £399.00



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## Charity Challenges: The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Fundraising trips with a personal contribution of £199 and a fundraising target of around £2100. This covers almost all cost involved (Flight etc) We have some really exiting challenges that will get participants friends digging deep to support their challenge in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind

The Challenges are:

- Cycle Cuba
- Mountain Bike Morocco
- Trek Sinai Desert
- Mt Kenya Trek
- Mongolia Horse Ride
- Zambezi White water rafting.

For a copy of the brochure or any questions people can contact me on the following numbers email [colin.hill@gdba.org.uk](mailto:colin.hill@gdba.org.uk) (office hours tel) 01539 737500 (Tel Brochure hotline 25hrs) 0870 8042000



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# news & info

## Canoeing the Mighty Zambezi

'2001 An African Odyssey'

To include the Solar Eclipse from Mana Pools Thursday 14th June to Thursday 28th June. Ten days Canoe Camping on the Lower Zambezi from Kariba to Kenyemba to include the Solar Eclipse on the 21st from Mana Pools. 90% chance of clear skies. Bookings essential now with a deposit of £100. This trip will only be available to a maximum of 16 paddlers and a minimum of 8 is required to guarantee departure. The original deadline of mid November 99 has now been extended to mid February 2000. Cost from £1300 to £1500 per person; full deposits can be refunded if it exceeds this amount, as actual cost becomes available in June 2000. This trip has been specially designed and negotiated through a reputable tour company, 'Safari Consultants Ltd, Atol 3783 and Aito 1091'

Full itinerary and costing available from, **Mark Feather, 13 Asquith Avenue, Scarborough, N. Yorkshire, YO12 4EU. Tel: 01726 364157.**

## Stone Div B River Race

Due to take place on the 5th December 1999 has now been moved to Sunday 12th December 1999

Entries by 11.00am

Race start 11.30am

Giant Slalom in WWR's 14.00

Entries to: **Phil Gooding, Highfields Farm, Hilderstone, Staffordshire, ST18 8SF**

## Leicestershire Schools Canoeing Association (LSCA)

The aim of the association is to run enjoyable, low level, low key competitions for young people aged between 8 and 18 as an introduction to national ranking events.

The events aim for success for everybody there are a number of prize categories based on different age ranges and everybody who enters receives a certificate.

The events consist of a series of three slaloms, three long distance relay races and a short distance sprint Regatta. Most of the events are run over the winter to encourage young people to continue year round activity. Entry to all events in the series is encouraged, but prizes can still be obtained if this is not possible. All events are run on the River Soar at the Leicester OPC (Loughborough Road Birstall).

## Diamond Series & Team Relay Marathons Flat Water Mini Slaloms

31st October 1999	14th November 1999
5th December 1999	13th February 2000
12th March 2000	12th March 2000
Lightning Regatta	21st May 2000

The Slalom event is based around a short course of between 4 and 10 gates which youngsters have to negotiate in as short a time as possible. Courses are appropriate for novice and more

experienced paddlers.

The relay races are based on teams of four completing 10 miles between them. It encourages teamwork between the competitors and the backup team. The Sprint Regatta is run over 200 metres in special lightweight straight running kayaks.

The association performs a valuable role in the encouraging young people to enjoy competition and aim for improvement year after year.

For further information call Angie Hampton – 0116 2674428. See Youth page 15.

## XXIV edition of the International Regatta of the Black River

From the 8th to the 15th of January, 2000, in the Patagonia, Argentina.

The regatta is a marathon canoe race along most of the Rio Negro length, starting at Neuquen, capital of the so-called Province on the western side of Argentina 200km from the Andes Mountains, travelling as far as Viedma, capital of Rio Negro Province on the eastern side of Argentina on the northern edge of the Patagonia. The river flows very fast at the start, around 6-8 mph, 500-600 cubic metres per second, with no rapids or obstructions.

All participants will have to confirm their enrolments officially before the 20.00 hours of the 10th of December, 1999.

For further information contact [regata2000@lasgrutas.com.ar](mailto:regata2000@lasgrutas.com.ar) or [www.playaspatagonicas.com.ar/regata2000](http://www.playaspatagonicas.com.ar/regata2000)

## Millennium Thames Tour

The Canoe Camping Club is arranging an international 2 week canoe-camping tour of the Thames to be held over the period 22nd July to 5 August 2000. Known as the Millennium Thames Tour, the event replicates the 1993 International Thames Tour, canoeing from Lechdale to South Bank, London SE1. The tour schedule includes some days off the water and in total a distance of 143 miles (230km), will be paddled down this historic and attractive river. The tour has International Canoe Federation and British Canoe Union approval.

As an alternative to canoe camping, four camping/caravan sites are also arranged en-route to enable the tour to be joined on a daily basis.

Also see the BCU website: <http://www.bcu.org.uk>

Booking is now open. For more information and an entry form contact: **Peter Bullamore (MTT), 20 Rostwold Way, Norwich, NR3 3NN. Tel: 01603 440462** email: [Peter.Bullamore@ic24.net](mailto:Peter.Bullamore@ic24.net)

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# ACCESS

## news & info

### Change of Address

Tony Kavanagh, who is local access officer for Bassenthwaite, Buttermere, the River Cocker, Crummock Water, The River Derwent below Bassenthwaite and the River Ellen, has moved to 5 Rose Lane, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9DT.

### EA Research Project Update

The literature research into "The effects of canoeing on angling and fish stocks" has produced no significant information. The questionnaire, which we sent to RAOs and posted on the BCU website, has produced little further information. The researchers are now proceeding to conduct a Delphi exercise using 5 coarse fisheries and 5 game fisheries biologists to produce an experts opinion. Further consultation with the BCU is programmed.

### River Wharfe between Linton and Barden.

You may be aware that there continues to be Some issues with regards to the access to the River Wharfe between Linton and Barden. I am currently re-negotiating this agreement. Until this is resolved I would urge all clubs to abide by the dates set out in the yearbook. In addition if approached by an Angler you are advised to say that you are a member of Leeds canoe club ( this relates to the nature of the existing agreement)

### River Tees Abbey Rapids Access, Winter '99/00

The BCU N. Region executive committee have again decided to support the limited access agreement for the Abbey Rapids section on the R.Tees over the winter period 1st Nov. to 30th March '00. This agreement allows access to the water from the south bank only, below Thorsgill beck (just above Egglestone Abbey) down to Abbey bridge. Users should be BCU qualified instructors and are advised to contact 'Four Seasons', 44 The Bank Barnard Castle (tel. 01833 37829) beforehand, since no more than ten canoeists are to be on the water at any one time.

### River Leven Open Days

The system will remain the same as in previous years, ie numbers limited to sixty on the water, all paddlers to wear a bib. Bibs are bookable up to two weeks in advance. Bookings to be made by telephone from Sten or Angela Sture 01229 582257. The cost is £1 per bib per day with a £5 deposit per bib. All money payable on the day.

December '99: Sunday 5th and Sunday 12th

January '00: Sunday 23rd

February '00: Sunday 6th and Sunday 20th

March '00: Sunday 5th and Sunday 26th.

### Courtesy

This is another of our calls to canoeists to be courteous at all times to landowners, local residents, anglers and anyone else. The majority of canoeists do behave well; this is so important in sustaining the image that canoeists are reasonable and responsible. The right image will make it easier for canoeists to get better consideration on access to water. If you encounter access problems, do remain courteous, but report details as soon as possible to your local or regional access officer as listed in the BCU Yearbook.

### Access to Open Countryside

On 15 October it was reported in the press that the Countryside Agency had suggested that the Government should only provide extra access on foot. Letters were sent to the Environment Agency, Sport England and to DETR urging that the Environment Agency be given the responsibility and the resources to address the issue of access to and on water for boaters; an assurance has been sought that this issue is still on the agenda; a letter was also sent to the Countryside Agency. By the time you read this we will know if the Government has included an Access to the Open Countryside Bill in the Queen's Speech on 17 November.

### River Arun

Our voluntary local access officer, Ralph Buckingham, has had to stand down due to a change in his job. A sincere thank you to him for many years hard work on behalf of canoeing on the Arun, which is a well used and important river for canoeing. A volunteer is now needed to carry on his good work; if you would like to take this on, or know someone who could, please contact regional access officer **Noel Humphrey on 0181 654 0845.**

### Tidal Thames

Please remember that, when paddling on the tidal Thames at night, an all round white light must be displayed on your canoe or kayak. The Port of London Authority, who control the tidal navigation, are happy to accept the flashing LED lights used on cycles. It is advisable to either carry a torch or wear a head lamp with a white light for emergency use to warn other vessels. Special lighting arrangements apply to the Devizes to Westminster race held each Easter; details are given to competitors in their rule book.

### Access Development 2001 – 2005

The Access Management Committee is starting to look ahead to the access strategy for England, which will be needed for the period of the next BCU Development Plan running from November 2001 to October 2005. The present policy, printed on page 52 of the BCU Yearbook, will be thoroughly reviewed. It may need some change. It may be that we need to persevere along present lines, because policies of an access nature take time to achieve. The opinions of members are important and will be considered. If you have something to say, please drop a line to your regional access officer.

### New NW Access Team Members

Welcome to three new local access officers. The River Darwen has been taken on by Brian Woodhouse, 31 Gibb Lane, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 5PB; for the River Weaver there is Dave Moore, 41 West Avenue, Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7ER and for the River Dane Ian Howard, 4 Lodge Lane, Lostock, Gralam, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7PH.

### New Weir on the Suffolk Stour

Between Sudbury and Bures. The Environment Agency is building portage platforms above and below, following discussions with BCU Regional Access Officer Lesley Quinton.





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YOUTH  
news & info

# Lottery Boat Launch

**T**anbridge Canoe Club kicked off the new canoe polo season with the launch of their new boats and equipment.

The equipment was part of the BCU Youth Scheme Lottery bid for equipment for youth paddlers to assist club development and increase opportunities and events for young people. Tanbridge were selected in the West Thames area for the excellent work they have been doing with young people and as part of the bid produced their own three year development plan for the Club which links into the BCU Area Plan for the West Thames.

The lottery provided £3,600 towards the equipment and the club was supported by Tandridge Council, Surrey Playing Fields and Oxted Parish Council to find the additional funding along with assistance from the BCU LSE Region.

### Youth Polo Competition

The equipment was soon pressed into action at a youth polo event run by Tandridge in conjunction with Aqua Sports at Mercers Park Lake the following weekend, with 40 young

paddlers from around the area able to test their skills in the new boats.

Sue Hornby.

Holding the cheque from Sport England, Paul Knight, Chairman TCC and Alison Butler - Sport England. Holding the ball - Wyn Weston Tanbridge District Council



## Results Boys

1. Chris McCabe U14
2. Andrew Vidler U14
3. Pablo Ferrer U18

## Girls

1. Brodie Lyon U18
2. Kate McGregor U18
3. Sarah Holtam U12

## Age Category Winners

- Boys**  
U12 Callum Sida Murray  
U14 Chris McCabe  
U18 Pablo Ferrer

## Girls

- U12 Sarah Holtam  
U14 Julia Vann

# Slalom at Westminster!

**W**estminster Boating Base recently pioneered the first slalom competition for youth on the River Thames in London. Based just below Vauxhall Bridge the Base is well known for their prowess in youth slalom – using the tidal aspects of the Thames they train many youth slalom paddlers and have twice won the London Youth Games Slalom Event.

As a BCU Top Community Club they volunteered to run a Youth Slalom as a focus for the sport on the Thames in London and to encourage newcomers to the sport. The date for the event was selected to co-incide with the closure of the Thames Barrage – thus utilising a day with minimal flow during the competition.

Young paddlers from the London area competed over a 14 gate course in three age groups. Chris McGrath (under14) from Islington Boat Club put up a fast time to take the lead on the first runs, which he retained to take the overall win of the event. Chris had proved his speed form earlier in the year by winning one of the classes in the Paddling Ergo Challenge at the London Youth Games Regatta, so certainly looks like a name to watch. Brodie Lyon also showed excellent form to take

the overall title for the girls event.

This event together with other events in Central London, such as Islington Boat Club slalom series, are providing young people with new opportunities and experiences to encourage progression in the sport.

Paddlers enjoying the day at Westminster Bridge



## YOUTH

# National Bellboat Championships

## A Cracking Success

**T**he first ever National Bell Boat Championships were held at the NWSC, Nottingham on Saturday 9th October. We already had 15 teams pre-entered but on the day 21 teams of 10 competitors took part – we were delighted with the numbers. Naturally what really made the day was the total enthusiasm of all the youngsters and helpers that took part. It really was a great advertisement for Paddlesport as the cheers rang across the lake right to the other side of the River Trent. The racing was very close with the judges having to keep their eyes very tightly secured to the finishing line as boats crossed the line only metres apart at times. Equally competitive was the adults race in which we had 8 boats competing (i.e. 80 adults!).

Our thanks went to David Train for presenting the trophies and would also like to Richard Ward on what an excellent commentary throughout the racing.

What a great start to this event and we look forward to making it even bigger and better next year. The likely date for our Millennium event is Saturday September 23rd and due to popular demand we are looking at adding extra categories so that more people can come racing. If you know of a school who did not take part this year but may be interested in taking part next year, please telephone us and we'll put your details on our list. Thanks to all the helpers who brought all of the children and without whose help the day would not have happened. If you are interested in becoming a bellboat helm, please contact the National Youth Officer at the BCU and we can arrange courses for you to come along to. Even better, if you can twin up with other schools, we can run a course specifically for you.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the Year 2000!

### And here's what you said about the day (please excuse the editing).....

"What a fantastic family day out we all had at the National Bell Boat Regatta. My daughter was part of the under 11's Paddle Plus team, which consisted of eight children: Callum, William, Mark, Matthew, Ben, Paddy, Ryan and my daughter Hannah. As a parent watching our small children climb aboard the Bell-boat I must admit they looked lost. Out of all the groups entering the competition ours were definitely the smallest and possibly the youngest children there. Whilst offering lots of encouragement I can remember saying to the children "it's not the winning but the taking part that counts" basically I held little hope of any success.

Then they were off, a slow start, then they began to go faster, and faster, and even some semblance of order in their paddling started to appear, they began to catch up with the other teams, and were even beginning to pass them by. Finally they were just in the lead as they came to the finish line. Well I just couldn't believe it, we had won. As the children came towards the pontoon they were all singing and waving their arms in the air. They looked like champions. All the parents were shouting and cheering with excitement. However that was only the beginning, and after lunch we prepared for the semi finals. This time we are a little more hopeful of success. I couldn't even try to offer an account of this race it was so



exciting. It was neck and neck with the six boats all the way. On the bank, parents and siblings were screaming encouragement, jumping up and down with the sheer thrill of the race, who would have believed it. And yes the under 11's paddleplus team had done it again they had won. What heroes.

Now the finals. Remember we had entered the race with the smallest team and many of us held little hope of any success. But they had won both heats. Now we were with the big boys, although tired the children were enjoying every minute and completely focused and ready to go. And go they did they gave their all and did a fantastic job coming in 4th.

After the race the children were given certificates to show for all their hard work and a group picture. But they had received more than that, they had learnt to work as a team and felt the camaraderie of taking part which I think is invaluable. Can I just finally say a big thank you to all for taking part. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all the parents when I say it was a joy to watch. I hope that all the children learned something special from that day and that is, the importance and fun of being part of a team. Thank You."

Joanne Day.

### ...and to end with, who said the adults didn't enjoy themselves... here's an extract from a note we received from Andy Lowndes

"The 1'st national bellboat championship was a great success, not only for the children taking part, but also for the parents. The adult's even entered a team in the hastily arranged over 21's race, managing to finish a healthy, or was that unhealthy 2nd. Thank's to all concerned for arranging this day out and we can't wait for next year. Training for the adult's team has already started with most member's meeting every Sunday night in the Tree's public house.

### Leicester Youngsters take to the water for the first time in a Bellboat.

Children from Mellor primary school, Leicester are spending the Autumn term discovering Bellboats. They have had an assembly presentation about the Bellboat and are now taking to the water each week. They also plan to make and decorate their own bellboat paddles.

One class per week visits the Leicester OPC and the children take it in turns to try out Bellboating. The children who are waiting their turn have a great time studying riverside animals and plants and sketching what they can see.

All of the children have enjoyed their trip on the water and are full of enthusiasm to have another go in the future.

### The results were as follows: Under 11's race times

1st Storey Water Sports Centre, Nth Woolwich.  
1:34.92  
1:28.15  
1:20.85  
2nd Albert Village, East Mids.  
1:49.36  
1:33.26  
1:23.16  
3rd Rushwick School, Worcs.  
1:29.80  
1:33.97  
1:24.15

### Under 13's race times

1st Fladbury Pinvin, Evesham.  
1:25.19  
1:17.83  
1:11.62  
2nd Paddle Plus, Leicester.  
1:24.14  
1:21.57  
1:17.39  
3rd Royal Victoria Docks, London.  
1:34.53  
1:21.45  
1:18.27

# Money, money, money... Northampton Scoops Again!

**N**orthampton CC has been successful in their Awards for All bid receiving a grant of £1860.

The bid focused on taking Northampton Canoe and Kayak Club into the New Millennium with members spread across the spectrum of the community. New boats are needed to cater for people who do not fit into standard, common, mid-range boats (small young people and extra large adults). The Club will attract many new members with the move to the new club house and they want to keep these new members for a

long time. The coaches at the Club know that to keep these people, they need to build success into the activity from the outset and the boats referred to will enable this to happen as helping with future progression.

Has your club had any luck? Have you joined Hillingdon and Elmbridge with Awards for All success stories. Let us know. Remember, you can still apply for Awards For All funding – contact your regional Sports Council for more info.

## Goes Open

The new scheme for young people You will have all heard of the new Young Paddlers Scheme but just to remind you it's aim is to:

- Encourage more young people to come into and stay in the sport"
- Show them all aspects of the sport - both competitive and adventurous
- Provide signposts into Clubs where their skill and development can be nurtured
- Fit the equipment to the child and not vice versa

In order to deliver the scheme, there was a requirement to attend a workshop. The reason for this was to provide you with some excellent coaching resources, to brush up on your knowledge of issues affecting young people and to meet other coaches in your area whom you could work with in delivering the scheme with your group.

### Well, things have changed.

To deliver Paddlepower 1, you need to be or have access to a Level 2 coach or above

Paddlepower 2 can be delivered by anyone – a club helper, parent or coach. Now, To deliver the scheme with your group you need only complete an application form, which is available from the BCU Coaching Department. So get dialling!

We will still be running Paddlepower workshops around the country to support you in delivering the scheme so watch this space for further details.

## Just to remind you, this is what it is all about

### An outline of the scheme

The Young Paddler Scheme is split into 2 parts:

PADDLEPOWER 1 - The Young Paddlers Scheme

PADDLEPOWER 2 - The Challenge logbook.

Each young paddler receives their own record/logbook (the current cost is £1.50) and they work through this at their own speed. The Coach supports and develops the work the young person is doing. The Coach holds a supply of sticker certificates (included in the cost) and awards these to the youngster as each level is achieved.

### What do Young People have to do to achieve the awards?


This scheme focuses on giving a youngster the best start. It helps them to develop efficient forward paddling and boat handling techniques - skills which are required in all paddlesport activities.

There are 7 progressive levels to work through which take the youngster through one star and two star skills.

This logbook focuses on giving young paddlers challenges and targets to keep them interested in the sport.

The logbook sets 5 challenges each of which is made up of:  
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 Trying out different types of boat  
 Taking part in various events  
 Obtaining awards like the 1 Star






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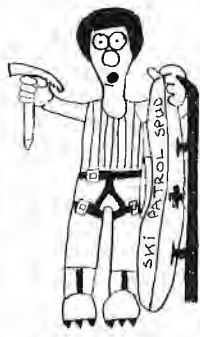
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# How To D

America. Long way away isn't it? Although with cheap international flights and shorter boats making travel easier, it may not be quite as far away as you think. Its accessibility certainly came as a pleasant surprise to us, when after a few years of doing trips to some fairly uncivilised places we decided what we really wanted this year was an out and out, full-on holiday. The USA beckoned. Here are a few hints for anyone else who fancies it...

## Flights

The first question to resolve is flights. Here's a tip; we flew with Virgin and Air New Zealand, both of whom agreed in advance to carry the boats. Whilst in the US we bumped into a couple of English lads who had booked with Delta and not checked about baggage restrictions. When they arrived at Heathrow, Delta refused to carry their boats. Not the best start to a holiday. Another point worth mentioning is that you can save money by booking early and using an ISIC card, which are available to pretty much anyone.

## Transport

Next, how are you going to get around when you get there? If you're going for just a couple of weeks then renting an RV is probably best. This is cheapest to arrange on the phone from home before you leave, and can cost as little as £350 per week, i.e. less than £100/week between four. If you're going for a bit longer then buying your own transport is definitely the way forward. We were going for three months so this was our bag. Several tips here, rent a car and take a few days to look around, then spend as much as you can afford. Bear in mind that if you buy a nail you'll spend a lot of time and cash keeping it going. Buy something decent and most of the expenditure can be recouped when you flog it at the end of the trip. We scored a way sexy 5.8L V8 Chevy van (christened Meredith) for £3000. A high initial outlay OK, but between four people, even if you take a grand loss when selling it on, you've paid only £250 for three months transport.

Of course having a friend (or a friend of a friend) who's local will always make things a lot easier. This is because you can then register and insure the vehicle in their name. This is cool as trying to insure a vehicle without an address is almost impossible and trying to sell a vehicle registered in your name after leaving the country is likewise. I know this all sounds a bit sensible but you can always make up for it by buying something wildly impracticable that does eight miles to the gallon but has immense style.

## Food

Equipping your chosen transport with a few basic creature comforts can help reduce the amount you spend on food (although eating out is fairly cheap, and hence this is only really a consideration on longer trips). We plugged for a two-ring gas burner; a seven-gallon water container and a cold box into which you throw an ice-block every few days. In our case the self-catering approach may have resulted in near-terminal pasta fatigue but it was certainly cheap. If even minimal catering is beyond you, then mexicans are cheap, healthy and filling, and make a nice change from burgers.

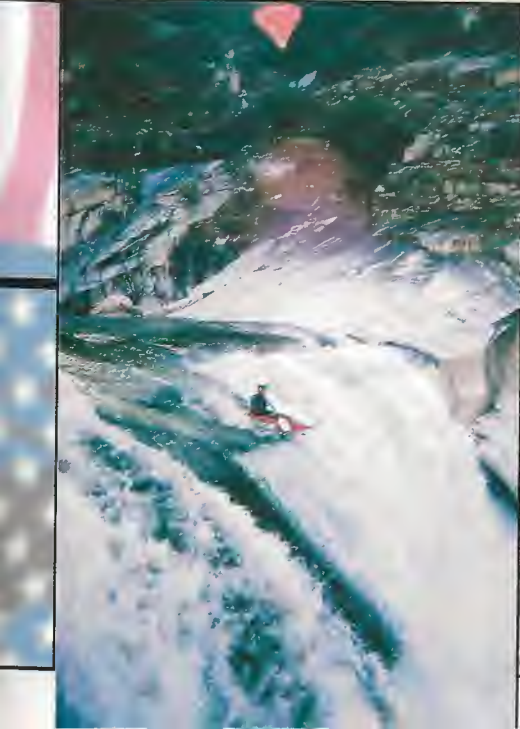
## Accommodation

Accommodation ranges from hotels, through motels and campsites to parking up in



# o America

## (or The Young Persons Guide to Early Retirement)



convenient lay-bys. Private camp sites will generally have showers, water and toilets, and cost £10-15 for one large vehicle and tent, tarp or cluster of bivvy-bags. State run sites are generally more basic with no showers, but are £5-10 cheaper. Of course you always have the option of showering in one and sleeping in the other. Sleeping outside designated areas isn't a problem (except in state parks) provided you don't do it anywhere too daft, and necessary ablutions can always be performed at the local gas station.

### Right, enough Rough Guide rubbish, lets talk water...

#### Choose your weapon

Obviously your choice of boat will depend on what you want to do. Run California's classic grade fives or play like a demon. We wanted to do both. And get a tan.

The answer was the Pyranha Ina Zone 240. Now I'm a bit of a svelte geezer and could get away with an Ina 220 for playing, however using the 240 gave enough volume to run some pretty gnarly water while retaining serious play-potential. And they were really comfy to lie on while getting a tan. Nice.

#### Choose your partners

If you only have one vehicle then there are several possible approaches to organising shuttles. Running or mountain biking are two, but a far more rewarding way is to use a local. Locals can be obtained either from kayaking shops or at the riverside. The yanks seem to have a different and far more sociable approach to boating than we do, and plenty of them just turn up at shops or rivers looking for people to paddle with. We met loads of really cool folks this way, and they're also a good source of information on flows, access points and playspots. Choose your water: Our intended itinerary was somewhat vague, being the West Coast over June, July and August. Basically we started in Los Angeles and headed North all the way to Canada. We then hung a bit of a right and came back down through Idaho and Utah. This wasn't a bad route and we did a lot of rivers. If you wanted a shorter trip though, California alone has more than enough to keep most people going. If you flew into San Francisco and picked up a pre-arranged RV, you could then spend a couple of weeks cherry picking the finest white water in California, and you could probably do it for less than a grand each.

Obviously I can't speak for the East coast, but of the rivers of the West a few really stood out and deserve far more than the passing mention given here. My favourite run in California was undoubtedly the South Fork of the Yuba. This is a fantastic stretch of near continuous grade IV-V. Most of the rapids are formed by huge smooth boulders that just beg to be splatted and smeared. On top of that there's also sparkling clear water and naked girls sunbathing on the banks, which makes it pretty hard to beat. It was made even more special for us due to the manner in which we ran it. As

usual we strolled into the local kayak shop and asked if anyone fancied a paddle, in response the owner (a chap called Dave), bunked off work to show us his local river. Hence instead of breaking it up and inspecting stuff, we were able to just blast the lot. My strongest memory of that day is pulling into eddies laughing like an idiot before asking Dave what was coming next, to which he consistently replied



"More cool rapids man!" before peeling out into the flow.

The Little White Salmon was a completely different kettle of fish. It's up on the Oregon / Washington border and apparently it was the run to do. Everyone had told us that it would push us to our limits, and they were right. The get-out is where the Little White flows into the Columbia River and on the drive to the get-in I couldn't believe how much height we were gaining. A quick look in the guide book revealed that for five miles the river falls at 240ft per mile as it cuts its way back down to the Columbia through a steep, deep, and heavily wooded canyon. From the moment we got on, the speed and power of the water was incredible. What was more incredible was the way there was absolutely no let up in it. Nonetheless for about the first three miles things were going great; we were breaking the river down nicely and paddling well as a group.

The fun started when we reached a fall with a huge tree wedged diagonally across the top of it. To get around it necessitated a seal launch into a pool to the side of the tree, followed by a ferry across the main-flow, which flowed directly under the tree and into an undercut wall. It was, all in all, quite a nasty looking spot. The first two of us made the ferry without too much difficulty, but as Justin was making the move, we're still not quite sure why, he caught an edge, went over, and vanished under the tree. On this occasion the heart-in-the-mouth sensation didn't last too long as with a strength born of panic, Justin dragged himself up a branch on the upstream side of the tree and appeared on top of it. His boat then emerged from under the tree and was speedily recovered. His paddles though were nowhere to be seen.

It was at this point that we realised that we weren't carrying any splits. Oops. (not quite what we said at the time). Hence Justin's only option was a walk out through a mile or two of steep forested gorge. We agreed we would get down as quickly as possible and then walk back to find him.

But we had forgotten just one little thing, between us and the get-out lay Spirit Falls, a 30ft waterfall renowned for giving even the locals a good thrashing every now and again. To be honest, when we reached it, I didn't think it looked that bad. The river falls into a natural amphitheatre with most of the water going river right and showing a pretty obvious line. The hole at the bottom looked chewy but nothing terminal. This just goes to show how wrong you can be.

Daz went for it first. He got a good line and seemed to have cleared the hole. From this point on though, it all went a bit pear shaped. The boat hit a boil and was half bounced / half thrown back into the hole and under the falling water. Then he vanished. What followed was the worst ten minutes I've ever had on a river. We ran around, we shouted for Daz, we shouted at each other, but as the minutes ticked by the adrenaline went down until we were left standing just staring at the base of the fall. Neither of us could really believe what was happening. There was no way to get down to the

bottom of the fall and nothing to do. He was gone.

Suddenly there was movement to the side of the main fall and Daz paddled out through the curtain of water, waving and smiling. I felt like killing him. It emerged that when he had gone back into the fall, his deck had blown in and he had gone down,

only to come back up wedged against a pile of logs in a cave behind the fall. He still had his boat and paddle with him though and after securing his boat to the logs he dragged himself out on top of the pile. Next he emptied the boat and worked his way around to where there was less water coming over the fall, before getting back in and seal launching out through the downpouring water.

While all this was going on Justin had been having a mini-epic all of his own. He had heard all the shouting, thought he was near the end, and headed down through the trees back towards the river. It was at this point that he slipped. The next fifty feet passed quickly as he tobogganed down a rocky slope with the boat underneath him. He finally came to rest in a tree about six feet clear of the water and about 20 ft above Spirit Falls. It would have made a great story had the tree that stopped him not been there, but personally I'm very glad it was.

By this point, to be honest, I'd had enough. We'd been on the water for five hours and had been concentrating for all of it. Fortunately the last mile was fairly manageable and finally we reached the get-out. I have never been so glad to finish a river. There was obviously only one way to round off a day like that, so we headed off to Hood River for a fund-raising party being thrown by the US rodeo team where unsurprisingly, we got utterly lashed.

I'd love to ramble on about Bald Rock Canyon on the Feather, and Burnt Ranch Gorge on the Trinity, both of which are classics. However I'm going to restrict myself to just one more magical place, and that is... Skookumchuck! I'm sure you've all heard about it by now, but really, everybody should go there. It should be on the NHS. It's that good. We only went there on the spur of the moment, having initially planned to spend a week on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. However on arrival there we discovered that it rained a lot (it's officially classified as a rain forest), and having been spoiled by six weeks in California we didn't want to stay anywhere wet. Hence instead of spending a week on the peninsula, we spent a day in the forest and an evening lounging in a hot spring, and then caught a cheeky ferry to Canada. Luckily we were right on time for a big wave at Skooks.

Imagine a standing wave 6 ft high and 30 ft across. It's got green sections, breaking sections and an excellent second wave. You can share it with three other boats and a surfer. It's just like that. And when you're knackered, you join the crowd of spectators on the bank and tan for a while. For me, the best bit of the day was right at the end when it was getting tricky to get onto the top wave. I started playing the second wave

and discovered something really cool. The top wave periodically goes completely green before breaking again, and if you're sitting right behind it, one moment your view of the world consists of a huge hump of green water, then all of a sudden everything goes white. It doesn't sound anywhere near as good as it was, but believe me, at the end of the day, with your ears filled with the roar of the water as you surf, spin and shout, it was pretty special.

Alas, fairly soon after this I had to pack my bags and head home. Nonetheless, We had a fantastic trip and I would recommend it to everyone. I hope this has wetted your appetite, it's well worth the effort. ●

**Story and pictures:** Ned Powell

**Paddlers:** Ned Powell, Mal Stephen, Justin Carmichael, Daz James.

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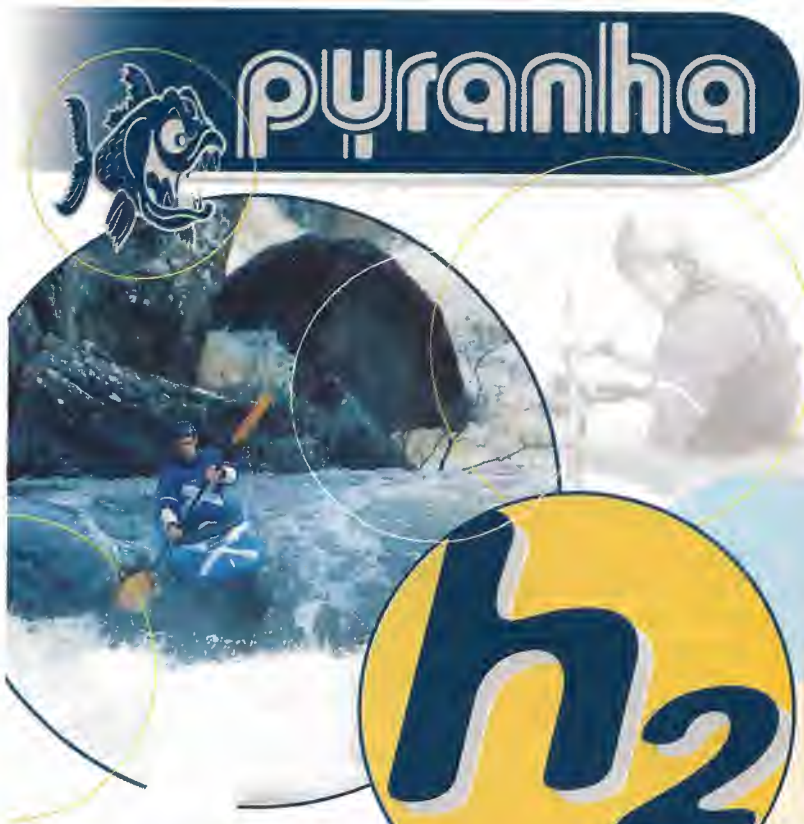
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# Liffey Descent 1999

## Gemma



**I was fed up of being left at home whilst Mum went off paddling so THIS time I wrote to those nice people at Ace Canoes of Chester and asked to borrow their double Explorer to paddle on the Liffey.**

After three months of up and down on boring canals and lakes the weekend arrived it was on the ferry when Mum realised that she had left the buoyancy bags and orange juice on the lawn at home, 'Oh dear'.

At the last moment my older sister Sally decided to come with us to be 'bank support' just one little thing though she can't drive. Never mind with a 'girlie' fluttering of the eyes and a pathetic look a lift to rendezvous points was arranged.

Mum decided to do the car shuttle after the race at least this meant that we didn't have to get up at 7am to use the organised shuttle bus.

By the time everything was at the start it was lunch time by my stomach clock, so cold pasta and bananas were order of the day Uggggghhh.

The paddle upstream to the start was hard work and the 'starter man' was pulling his hair out and awarding 5 minute penalty points to everyone who left the bank early All the playboaters cheered at this.

Finally it was our turn to go so we crept out in case he shouted at us, and were the last to cross the start line.

Strathan Weir was carnage (Mums word must look it up in the dictionary), swimmers boats, and rescuers everywhere, Mum said not to take on any passengers, (I might have done if it was a 16 year old lad though).

The racing boats that had capsized soon caught up with us in the 'Jungle' and were so impatient to pass that they were going into the trees and banging into us. 'Don't they know you can't rush a woman?'

Temple Mills boats couldn't decide which route to take down, they soon moved when they saw us and the bow wave like a destroyer we were making. We survived that one.

The lake and the portage what a slog that was! Sally met us there and offered to help us, Not likely Mum said or we'll be disqualified. Our backs ached after carrying the boat.

---

Jane Edwards is a Coach level 2 and a Trainee Coach level 3. Gemma is 14 and has her 3 Star. They normally paddle 'Blades'. Both are long time members of Crewe & Nantwich Canoe Club, and the Scouting Organisation.  
**Article by Jane and Gemma Edwards**

---



Club?), I don't think they had realised how fast we had come over and Mum in the driving seat hadn't turned fast enough and nearly ended up on the bank with them. But we were still the right way up. Wrens Nest I couldn't remember the name of this so just shouted, "I don't want to do this Crows Nest" I paddled backwards

while Mum paddled forwards to get out of the trees. We wuzz going nowhere. There was no chance of a portage so we just had to go.

Palmerstone there was lots of help here trying to point out the safest route, hard right and we would miss 'sculling for support' which I wasn't looking forward to. We got it right missing all the wooshy water going all ways.

A racing Canadian boat pushed in front of us here and told us he'd swum all the weirs and didn't think this one was going to be any different. Finally we went and after a suck back went away OK.

Chapelziard we came to drop 'what no rescue?' it's amazing how your paddling skills improve.

Nearly there we decided to put a spurt on now and crossed the line at 3 hours 1 minute. 1st Ladies Doubles and 16th in our section.

Would I do it again??? You bet I would. Next time though I'll tape the map of the weirs they give you, the right way up.

## Jane



Camping at Carmac was a big improvement although we made a mistake pitching so close to the play ground thinking there would be no children there to make a noise 'mistake'.

A canoeist arrived after midnight pitched their tents leapt over the fence into the playground to have a go on the 'death slide'.

He found a tube in the ground asked very loudly "is this the toilet?" proceeded to shout down it, which caused it to boom even louder from the other end. By this time everyone who'd gone to bed was now awake again.

## Jane and Gemma

It was a brilliant weekend and race, many many thanks to Ace Canoes for lending us their boat the Explorer again.

Technically it performed flawlessly, although designed for touring it has ample space to get just about all you need for a weekend exploring.

As far as we were concerned it went in long fast straight lines, handled really well on the lots of occasions that we had it on it's edge, and with a bit of practise it is fairly easy for two people to roll up.

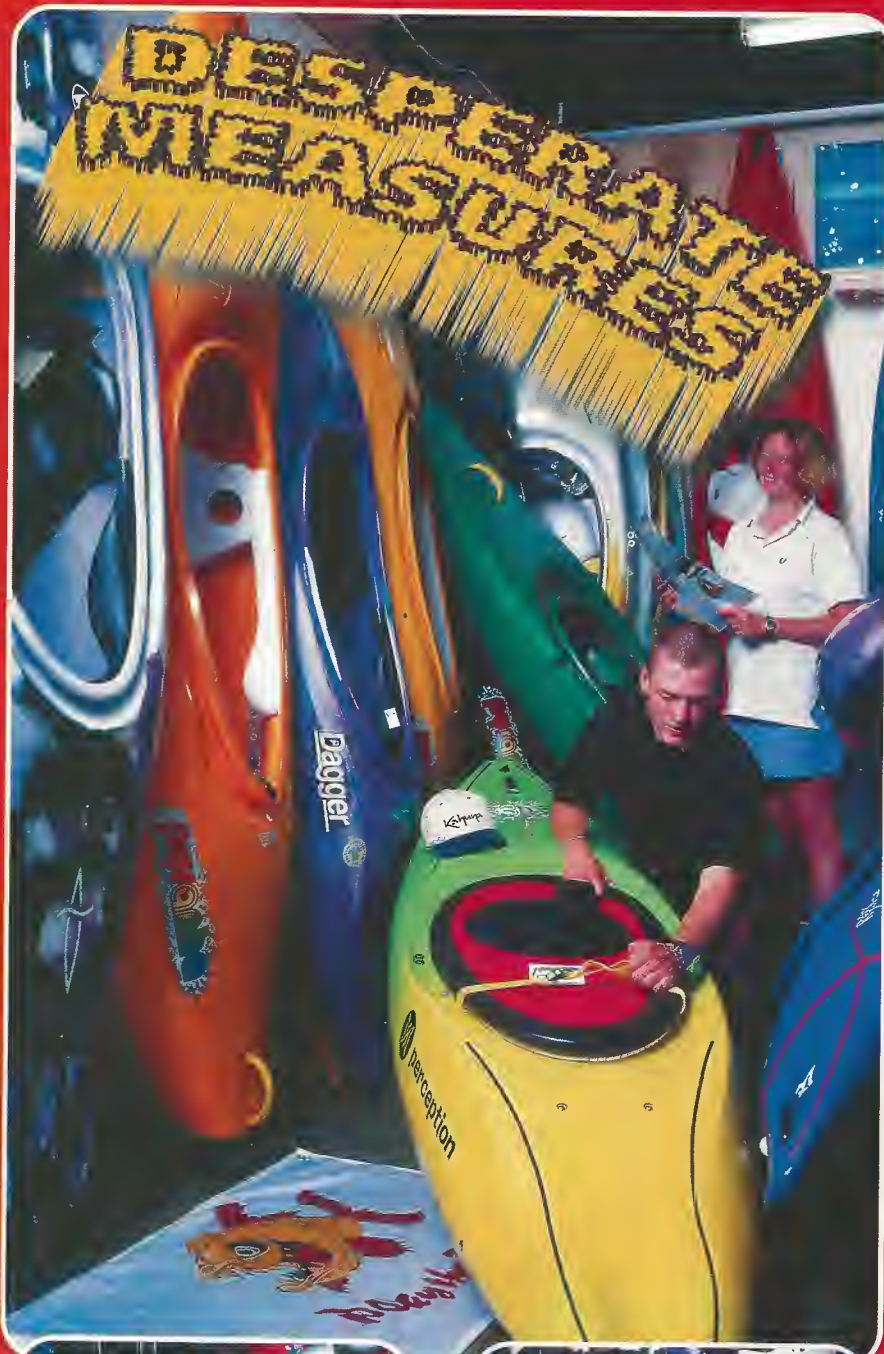
We brought it back in one piece which is more than can be said for the several 'fibre glass' boats we saw along the river which were in 'bits n pieces' their owners trying to stick them back together.

And perhaps as important as all the technicalities it's a nice pretty mauve colour.

If I/we were in the market for a 'double tourer' I would be knocking on Ace canoes door, it is the type of kayak that you could use for just about everything including, racing, touring, and playing in. Again 'Thank you ace canoes!!'.

And thank you Jamiesons for organising another super weekend.

Rapids ahead, the bridge was crawling with the rescue team in case we got wrapped around a pillar. To avoid this some serious 'ferry gliding' was in order. Next the Sluice as I was in front I could see the 'rescue divers' were all too busy collecting boats and people so we took the Chicken route, nearly taking out one of the divers who hadn't realised we were so long and stopped about 3 meters from the drop. Lucan I hadn't seen so many people crowded onto the bank opposite the weir, (was this my Fan



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Sport England has also now provided details of the plans for the English part of the UKSI. From a canoeing perspective, we can expect to see improved facilities throughout England. Within London and the South East and Southern regions there are plans to spend up to £33M at various sites. In particular, a Regatta Course and boathouse improvements in the Thames Valley area are planned. In addition, the facilities at Bisham Abbey will be upgraded to include a sports science and medicine facility. In the East Midlands, £25M has been earmarked at various sites and Holme Pierrepont has been singled out for development. A Canoeing National Development Centre and a general upgrade of all existing facilities are planned. Sport England has confirmed that up to £120M of Lottery Fund money will be made available to support the English element of the UKSI between 1999 and 2001.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland a great deal of work has already been undertaken in terms of developing the individual

sports institutes and these institutes are part of the UKSI. The Scottish Institute of Sport was launched in 1998 and is based in Edinburgh within Sport Scotland. Six area institutes will be operational in Scotland from 2000. The Institute has employed a number of coaches and athlete services are now coming on line. In Wales, the Welsh Institute of Sport is the nerve centre of UKSI Cymru and this has been evolving over the past six years. In Northern Ireland the UKSI Network Centre was launched in June 1999. Based on the University of Ulster site, it will consist of a nucleus of training facilities and support services.

All of this is good news for Sport in the UK and can be viewed as a positive step towards seeing British competitors and teams competing on equal terms on the world stage and winning medals.

John Anderson

### Sprint Racing Pre Olympic Regatta- Sydney Australia

Following on from the World Championships held in Milan in August, the Pre-Olympic Regatta took place in Sydney during the period 26-28 September 1999. At the World Championships, Great Britain qualified 7 athletes to compete at the Sydney Olympic Games. The Pre-Olympic Regatta, with a competition schedule and climatic conditions mirroring those, which will be experienced at the Games in 11 months time, was ideal for our Olympic preparations. The Sydney International Regatta Centre at Penrith is the venue for all Olympic Sprint and Rowing events. The facility built on the site of a former sand and gravel quarry is the result of extensive restoration works and the Regatta Course and White Water Stadium are excellent facilities.

Great Britain sent a small team of 5 athletes to this competition all of who had qualified an Olympic place. The competition attracted over 200 competitors from 24 nations and the top athletes from the World Championships were all in attendance. In the K1 500M event, Ian Wynne finished in the silver medal position being narrowly beaten by the World Champion Akos Verecki from Hungary. In the K1 1000m, Ian again won the silver medal behind Verecki with Tim Brabants taking the bronze. Tim finished in 6th place in the K1 1000M at the World Championships and these 2 British athletes have been producing World-Class results all season.

In the K2 1000M Ross Sabberton and Paul Darby-Dowman took the silver medal, only half a second behind the winners Erban and Riszdorfer from Slovakia with the French crew of Babak and Preaux third. Ross and Paul finished in 9th place in the final at the World Championships and have their sights firmly set on next year's major events. In the ladies K1 500M, Tricia Davey overcame a troublesome tooth infection to reach the final where she finished in 9th place. The only Great Britain crew missing from this Regatta due to work commitments, who had qualified an Olympic place, was Andy and Steve Train (C2 1000M).

Over the past 2 seasons our Sprint Racing Team has been going from strength to strength culminating in the Olympic qualifications. The selection for these Olympic places will be decided early next summer and with the depth and quality of our Squad improving all the time, the competition for Olympic selection is likely to be fiercely contested. We wish all our athletes good fortune in their training preparations over the winter months.

John Anderson

### Madeira Round the Island Race.

**Matt and Paul Enoch of Nottingham Kayak Club cross the finishing line in Madeira to become the fist British winners of the Madeira Round the Island Race.**

**This 141km race is run over 6 days and 10 stages and is a complete circumnavigation of Madeira in sea doubles. There were about 50 boats this year from Portugal, Brazil, France, Belgium and of course Britain.**



**Also racing this year were Matt Foulger and Jamie Christie of Nottingham who were 4th and Stuart Smith of Nottingham with Ben Nelson of Addlington who were 7th.**



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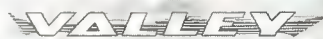
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# WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE competition



## European Marathon Championships

Gorzow Wlkp., Poland 4/5th September 1999

**Anna Hemmings adds European title to her world crown, Connor Holmes takes silver and G.B. juniors come home with 4 medals**

### RESULTS

#### K1 Senior Men

1. Istvan Salga HUN	2:18:14
2. Connor Holmes GBR	2:18:19
3. D. TeLinde NED	2:19:03
9. Danny Golder GBR	2:21:41

#### K1 Senior Women

1. Anna Hemmings GBR	2:29:39
2. Maria Santos ESP	2:29:40
3. Kornelia Szonda HUN	2:32:26
8. Sonja Bapty GBR	2:55:21

#### C1 Senior Men

1. Pal Petervari HUN	2:44:04
2. Radoslav Rus SLO	2:45:17
3. Gabor Kolozsvari HUN	2:49:06
6. James Lee GBR	3:05:11

#### K1 Junior Men

1. Denes Szaszak HUN	1:31:55
2. Balazs Borsock HUN	1:32:07
3. Nathan Johnson GBR	1:32:11
6. Scott Kemper GBR	1:33:55

#### K1 Junior Women

1. Abi Cattle GBR	1:40:12
2. Anne Reinholdt DEN	1:42:07
3. Orsolya Harkai HUN	1:43:45
4. Jo Bates GBR	1:44:03

#### C1 Junior Men

1. Maciej Truskawski POL	1:50:18
2. Adam Ginter POL	1:50:43
3. Balazs Kosdi HUN	1:50:47
7. Toby Shipway GBR	2:03:36

#### K2 Senior Men

1. Julio Martinez, Rafael Quevedo ESP	2:18:01
2. Viktor Szakaly, Attila Jambor HUN	2:18:02
3. Jorge Alonso, Santiago Guerrero ESP	2:18:03
9. James Block, Steve Harris GBR	2:22:42

#### K2 Senior Women

1. Renata Csay, Andrea Pitz HUN	2:31:57
2. Marzena Michalak, Barbara Przybylska POL	2:32:20
3. Mara Santos, Pilar Del Villar ESP	2:34:27
4. Andrea Dalloway, Helen Gilby GBR	2:37:42

#### K2 Junior Men

1. Rui Ramos, Pedro Gomes POR	1:17:56
2. Adam Kennedy, Tim Sowry GBR	1:18:11
3. Balazs Barina, Zsolt Matrai HUN	1:18:51
9. Ed. McKeever, Ali Rosier GBR	1:23:17

#### K2 Junior Women

1. Isa Ed, Yrsa Larsson SWE	1:29:22
2. Kinga Odor, Violetta Szarvas HUN	1:30:55
3. Jenny Spencer, Liz Holmes GBR	1:32:12
7. Vicky Surrage, Clare Gillbe GBR	1:34:09

Coming just five weeks after the World Championships in Hungary there were several paddlers with scores to settle and points to prove at the Europeans in Poland.

Kornelia Szonda from Hungary had been second behind Anna Hemmings at the Worlds following a disastrous portage and was clearly out for revenge. These two were soon clear along with Santos of Spain and paddled most of the race as a group of three.

At the final turn however Szonda again made an error and took a swim leaving Santos to challenge Hemmings. Anna made no mistakes though and seemed in command in winning her second major marathon title.

Ivan Lawler had decided to rest following his fifth world marathon title and in Poland was a welcome addition to the coaching staff. Connor Holmes and Danny Golder raced the K1s with Connor out to improve on his disappointing 8th place in Hungary. Always up with the leaders he could not quite match the finishing sprint of the

Hungarian Salga who had given Lawler such a hard run for the line at the Worlds. Nevertheless a European silver medal is not a bad way to finish the season. Danny Golder made the top ten with 9th place.

James Lee was 6th in the C1 race although it has to be said that there was a fifteen minute gap between the first five and the rest of the field.

The Senior Men's K2 had a lead group of ten boats for much of

the race but ended as a four boat sprint between the two Hungarian and two Spanish boats. The

Hungarian World Champions were beaten into second place by the Spanish who had been 4th at the Worlds and the Spanish World silver medallists took 3rd spot. Greg Slater & Paul Slater had looked happy in the lead group throughout most of the race until Paul had problems with his forearms and they had to retire. James Block & Steve Harris on the other hand never looked comfortable although they managed a top ten placing finishing 9th.

In the Senior Women's K2 race, the Hungarians and Poles finished 1st and 2nd as at the Worlds with Andrea Dalloway & Helen Gilby moving up one place to 4th by beating the second Hungarian boat. Lucy Hardy was carrying an injury and she and Beth Campbell had to retire.

The juniors had a great set of results. Abi Cattle lead the Womens K1 field off the start with Jo Bates in second place and then steadily increased her lead to 2 minutes to take the Junior European title. Meanwhile Jo had slipped to 4th finishing just 18 seconds behind the Hungarian who had won at the Worlds.

Nathan Johnson also led the field off the start with Scott Kemper in about 5th. Scott though took an early swim at the first awkward bridge pier putting him at the back of the field. At the last portage Nathan was still with the leaders and Scott was back with him in 4th place. However the effort of catching up took its toll and Scott dropped to 6th as the pace increased. Nathan was still there at the finish and although beaten by the two Hungarians he was a happy man to finish his junior career with a European medal.

Adam Kennedy & Tim Sowry had been disappointed by their 7th place in Hungary and were determined to do better here. This time they were near the front of the lead group and when it eventually split they were there with the Hungarians, Portuguese and Danes. With 2km. to go the Hungarians and Danes were dropped but Adam & Tim could not hang onto the Portuguese crew who had outsprinted them at the Worlds, and finished in the silver medal position.

In the Junior Women's K2 race Jenny Spencer had been paired with Liz Holmes for the first time. They got a reasonable start with Vicky Surrage & Clare Gillbe on their wash. Just after the first turn Vicky & Clare got entangled with a fishing line and took a swim. They fought on though finishing in 7th place ahead of the Hungarian crew who had taken the silver medal at the Worlds. Meanwhile the leaders were spreading out with the Swedes taking the gold medal a minute and a half in front of the Hungarians and Jenny & Liz coming home for the bronze to bring the

GB medal haul at these championships to six.

Article and photos by David Enoch



Anna Hemmings



Connor Holmes



Kennedy & Sowry



Abi Cattle



Nathan Johnson



Jenny Spencer & Liz Holmes

WORLD CLASS  
PERFORMANCE

## Tour de Gudena 1999



**In the Senior K2 race, world silver medallist Christiansen of Denmark paired up with Krantz of Sweden and controlled the race from start to finish despite a determined effort by last year's winners, the Kongsgaard brothers of Denmark.**

Danny Beazley & Paul Enoch ended the first day in 5th place with Peter Burbridge & Karl Gilbert and Rob Williams & Ewan Cox in the next group in 8th and 10th. On the Sunday Danny & Paul managed to stay in the leading group of four, putting them in with a chance of 3rd place overall. Outspurred at the finish by the crew they had beaten by 1 second on Saturday they finished with identical times in joint 3rd place.

Rob & Ewan finished 7th overall to take the Veteran K2 title for the second year running with Peter & Karl 7th senior crew.

Scott Kemper had an outstanding race to win the Junior K1 by 18 minutes. His 7th place overall in the senior race is the best British junior result since Ivan Lawler was 3rd overall in 1984.

The 1996 winner, Toppe of Norway, won the Senior K1 race by 1 second. Chris Bland had a fine race to take 4th place. He was in the leading group of four throughout Sunday but could do nothing about the 4 minutes deficit he was carrying from finishing behind the leaders on Saturday. Duncan Capps finished 6th having done much on the Sunday to encourage a very tired Scott Kemper through his bad patches.

The G.B. team had exceptional results over the shorter 57km course. Sue Gray & Yael Chance were untroubled in winning the Senior Ladies race by over 2 minutes although the fastest woman's boat of the race was the Junior K2 winners of Vicky Surrage & Clare Gillbe.

Abi Cattle had a comfortable margin over the European silver medallist in the K1s at the end of the first day. However she then had serious problems with weed on her rudder on the Sunday involving several stops and finished in 2nd place overall.

In the Men's U16 race, Andrew Kelly finished Saturday 2 seconds down on last year's winner with Ed. McKeever 3rd. On the Sunday these three got away together until Ed. was dropped 1km from the finish. Andrew won the burn-in, but only by 1 second to finish as runner up with Ed. 3rd.

Article and photos by David Enoch



Victorious Ladies - Chance, Gray, Gillbe and Surrage



Andrew Kelly, 2nd in U16 Men K1

Chris Bland - best British K1 in 4th place



Beazley and Enoch



Junior K1 winner, Scott Kemper



Surrage & Gillbe off the start on the second day

RESULTS  
120km. Course

## Senior Men K1

1. T. Toppe	NOR	8:33:36
2. R. Kristensen	DEN	8:33:37
3. S. Burkhardt	GER	8:33:42
4. Chris Bland	GBR	8:37:35
6. Duncan Capps	GBR	8:49:23

## Senior Men K2

1. T. Christiansen, T. Krantz	DEN,SWE	7:54:17
2. M. Kongsgaard, M. Kongsgaard	DEN	7:54:57
3= Danny Beazley, Paul Enoch	GBR	8:00:32
3= P. Heller, Jens Lyk	DEN	8:00:32
7. Peter Burbridge, Karl Gilbert	GBR	8:17:18

## Junior Men K1

1. Scott Kemper	GBR	8:55:53
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## Veteran Men K2

1. Rob Williams, Ewan Cox	GBR	8:12:43
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## 57km. Course

## Senior Women K2

1. Sue Gray, Yael Chance	GBR	4:07:30
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## Junior Women K2

1. Vicky Surrage, Clare Gillbe	GBR	4:06:45
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## Junior Women K1

1. A. Reinholdt	DEN	4:07:48
2. Abi Cattle	GBR	4:10:22

## U16 Men K1

1. K. Lovberg	DEN	4:01:58
2. Andrew Kelly	GBR	4:01:59
3. Ed. McKeever	GBR	4:03:15

WORLD CLASS  
PERFORMANCE

# Canoe Slalom

## Looking forward to 2000

**Below:** Ladies K1 team - bronze medal winning run.  
Photo Barney Wainwright

### Results

#### World Championships – Seu D'Urgell – Spain

##### Finals

###### C1

1. Emmanuel Brugvin FRA 205.84
2. Robin Bell AUS 206.45
3. Michal Martikan SVK 207.00
12. Stuart McIntosh GBR 219.40

###### K1W

1. Stepanka Hilgertova GER 226.30
2. Beata Grzesik POL 228.62
3. Sandra Friedli SUI 229.58
15. Heather Corrie GBR 254.52

###### C2

1. Jiras/Mader CZE 224.46
2. Kolomanski/  
Stanislawski POL 225.30
3. Biau/Daille FRA 228.44
9. Smith/Bowman GBR 233.56

###### K1M

1. David Ford CAN 198.53
2. Scott Shipley USA 198.99
3. Paul Ratcliffe GBR 199.13
6. Ian Raspin GBR 199.42

#### World Cup 5 Results Finals

##### C1

1. Stanislav Jezek CZE 239.85
2. Michal Martikan SVK 240.87
3. Patrice Estanguet FRA 243.03

##### K1W

1. Susanne Hirt GER 250.93
2. Rachel Crosbee GBR 257.38
3. Stepanka Hilgertova CZE 257.66
11. Heather Corrie GBR 294.72

##### C2

1. Hoschorner/Hoschorner SVK 249.37
2. Adisson/Forgues FRA 252.64
3. Kolomanski/Stanisweski POL 254.12

##### K1M

1. Paul Ratcliffe GBR 223.54
2. Thomas Becker GER 226.49
3. Scott Shipley USA 226.41

**Right:** Paul Ratcliffe Bronze K1.  
Photo Barney Wainwright

### Paul Ratcliffe, World Cup Champion is Britain's hope for Gold, and the World favourite for Gold in the Sydney Olympic Games – 2000.

The important slalom races this year were the World Championships held in the Spanish Pyrenees at La Seu D'Urgell and the World Cup Series culminating in the Finals on the exciting new Olympic Course at Penrith, Sydney, Australia.

There were disappointments at the World Championships held at the beginning of September when four days of high drama saw British ambitions dashed. Paul Ratcliffe had to be content with a bronze medal and the women took the Team Bronze but unfortunately none of them reached the top ten in the individual class. It was, however an interesting event and many lessons were learned. Sport at its peak, World Championship and Olympic level is about winning. Current culture adds to the pressure when it insists that only Gold matters. Personal bests are also important and among the other factors which help to make future Golds. During the World Championships Britain achieved an individual medal and a team medal and the British men retained the Nations Cup. Paul Ratcliffe had hoped for a Gold but a two-second penalty on the second run of the finals put him into Bronze position.

The event saw the largest number of nations ever to compete in world slalom; Britain was one of 40 nations to compete in Seu. In C1, K1W and C2 only 15 boats qualify for the Finals of the World Championships and Britain qualified one boat in each class. In the Men's K1 class 20 boats go through to the final and Britain had two boats reaching the final. Most importantly of all British athletes qualified 1 boat in each class for the Olympic Games reaching the published quota available.

In the final analysis Britain ended the World Championships with four men achieving personal best. Stuart McIntosh continued to show the consistency of the earlier World Cup races when he finished in 12th place. Ian Raspin paddled a spectacular qualifying race coming 6th and attaining a personal best. Although Campbell Walsh failed to qualify he showed his

future paddling paces when he improved his second race time by 15.02 seconds achieving the 5th fastest time of the day.



### World Cup 5 – Penrith, Sydney, Australia

Some of the lessons learned from the World Championships went with our paddlers to the new Olympic course in Sydney where Britain achieved a gold and silver medal.

There was no doubt about Ratcliffe's determination to win on the Olympic Course after his disappointment at the World Championships. He had a sensational qualifying race when he finished first. There was a nerve-racking blip when the final race did not begin well. A two second penalty put him in to second place behind former World Champion, Thomas Becker. But confidence is about overruling blips and there were no penalties on Paul's second race, Thomas Becker, on the other hand picked up 4.

The 3rd man in this race was Scott Shipley of the USA. He was tied, with Paul, in first position on points after World Cup iv in Augsburg and he had beaten Paul into second place at the world Championships. He was as eager as Paul to take the gold. Although Scott had two clear races he was not fast enough to take the lead. Paul Ratcliffe became World Cup Champion for the second year running.

Rachel Crosbee had taken a bronze in the Tacen World Cup but had a disappointing World Championships when she failed to qualify. The new Olympic Course in Australia was her last chance to improve on the Tacen Bronze. After careful racing in the qualification event Crosbee and Corrie both qualified for the finals. Crosbee, who knew that she had the necessary speed for a medal kept her cool, kept clean and took the silver medal. Suzanne Hirt of Germany was first and Stepanka Hilgertova of the Czech Republic was third. Heather Corrie also improved on her World Championship position to come 11th.

The British Team training for the 2000 Olympic Games is in confident mood. Paul Ratcliffe will start the new 2000 season as the clear favourite for Olympic Gold in the MK1 event. The tough, technical and physically demanding course at Penrith suits his powerful style.

The Olympic Slalom 2000 promises to be one of the show piece events of the Sydney Olympics and it is our intention to have our paddlers right there.

Article by Jennifer Munro

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Stornaway Coastguard in action



'The Outer Hebrides archipelago lies in the Atlantic Ocean off the western seaboard of Scotland, the last inhabited land before North America and has been described as 'Islands on the Edge of the World'. North Uist is the jewel in the Hebridean crown. Spectacular hills and sea cliffs. Rolling moorland speckled with fresh water lochs, the machair flatlands studded with wild flowers and teeming with birds. All this and bordered by miles of clean uncrowded white sand beaches and clean green water. The variety makes this one of the best coastlines in the world for exploration by sea kayak.'

**Article and photos by** Amelia Bryant

### 'A sea kayakers paradise whether beginner or expert!'

This arrived through my door! Quote's from the Uist Outdoor Centre's programme for the symposium.

I didn't even think twice, I booked a boat, paddle, B&B and a flight and that was that! I had often heard of this gathering of sea-paddlers in the Outer Hebrides, it sounded remote and wild and this opportunity was not to be missed!

#### FRIDAY:

On arrival I was met by Bryn an instructor from the centre; a friendly young laid back guy with a smile that later, I would find out made the school girls blush. Straight away I was taken to the local school for a rolling-clinic session, which I had specifically made sure I was booked for. There were four of us and an instructor each. Already within an hour I had achieved an eskimo roll which, has been an objective of mine for quite a while thanks to Guy Jackson the local dentist and sea-kayak expert. I was now grinning from ear to ear this was excellent I was having a brilliant time already!

In the meantime, the glass windows that surround the pool area were full of school girl's faces wailing to catch Bryn's eye, he should have inscribed his telephone number on the bottom of his boat as he demonstrated another perfect hand-roll!

The symposium had started the day before my arrival, this consisted of: kayak-orienteering, a South Uist Day Paddle, 1-3 Star morning workshop and paddling the sea loch's of Lochmaddy. I was met by Alyson Keiller the centre's manager who was instantly very friendly and helpful and pointed me in the right direction for my B&B. Later we had talks and slides in the village hall, the first talk was given by John-Paul Eattock which involved 'Surf - tides, waves and surf etiquette'. The second was John Love from the Scottish National Heritage on 'Wildlife in the Outer Hebrides', both were very enlightening and engaging. Everyone then proceeded down to the village for a few pints at the Lochmaddy Hotel, which was followed by a Ceilidh - it sounded brilliant from my bedroom; I didn't make it! I'm ashamed to say, I was totally eskimo-rolled-out!

# The Third Outer & Surf Kayak

September 1999. Hosted by Uist Outdoor Centre

#### SATURDAY:

A hearty fry up and off I went to the village hall to browse over the options for the day, about six options and you want to do all of them! Some were for a full day and some for half days. I decided to choose a full days paddle to get out and experience the Hebridean wildlife and sea air. The trip was a circumnavigation of the Isle of Ronay approximately fourteen kilometres. The expedition was led by Steve Maynard, a five star sea coach and Katie Gibb a four star coach, and so the nine of us paddled off with packed lunches which I have to say were delicious. The leeward side of the island was choppy with a brisk easterly wind. We passed Heron nests; branches hanging from their homes as they clung onto the sides of the islands. The water was so clear and clean, tiny islands dotted everywhere almost like giant mole hills. After lunch we split into two groups some went back and the rest of us decided to carry on around the island. On the seaward side of the Minch, the wind was significantly stronger, gusting Force 4, the cloud was hugging the land and you could see rollers ahead as we moved away from the loch and out into the sea. The waves were breaking against the high impenetrable cliffs, it was looking feisty, my adrenaline was pumped. I suddenly felt very excited and the notion of being aware of my surroundings was magnificent, I was about to embark on a fair ground ride as the boat moved at a quarterly angle across the waves.

I felt safe in my kayak, after all there was Steve with more than a decade of coaching and the rest of the group were very experienced. As we Surfing on Sollas beach crossed the swell near the rocks, a wave broke under my boat - I

survived that one! Now I was feeling confident. It was hard work and gradually as we paddled around the island the wind and the tide was behind us, it was a fantastic day.

After three helpings of Chilli-con-came and a few glasses of red wine, there were talks from Duncan Winning OBE, President of the Scottish Canoe Association, his topic 'It's Inuit In't It', presenting the history of the kayak, the second talk was from kayak designer/builder and expeditioner guru Nigel Dennis, showing slides from his trip to Cape Horn and Easter Island.

#### SUNDAY:

The 'First Outer Hebrides Sea-Kayaking and Surf Competition' was organised by Alan Gibson at Radical Moves in Anglesea and John-Paul Eattock who is about to 'surf his way around the world' soon! and whose

# Hebrides Sea Symposium

Neil Thomas, Jim McCulloch and Leslie Gamall "Pulling the winchman in"



dog has just made an entry into the '2000 Edition of the Guinness Book of Records' the record being the "most extreme sports participated in by a dog"!!!!

I decided I was going to give surfing a go. I had told JP that I was very apprehensive about it, and was worried about being upside down for most of the time, he assured me that it wouldn't happen and if it did that was part of the fun!! I gave in - I decided to put the anxieties away and try it. Lots of people during the symposium had tried surfing whether they were novices or at an intermediate level; there was instructing for all. The competition was going to be on Sollas beach, here the sea looked ferocious, but was instantly distracted with the white sand as far as you can see with high dunes to exemplify seclusion, the sea was an alluring crystalline green, no litter, no pollution, no crowds, just 'surf dudes' having a competition in unspoilt nature - perfect!!

I entered the novice class, I was put into a play boot and given a quick surf lesson from Terry, a new acquaintance from the symposium. Points were distributed accordingly for Best Wave, Longest Wave, Style, Worst Move But Still With A Smile On Your Face! Longest Swim etc. or in my case how many times I was dumped underwater, luckily Terry was there to prop me back up, I couldn't rely on my eskimo-roll technique quite yet - not in these conditions anyway. Instead I would prop my head out of the water with my arm, while still capsized and wait for poor Terry to battle through the waves to put me back up again. I can see why this could become addictive, to get the best wave and ride it without being dumped!

When the competition was over at lunch we all piled back into the Land Rover to the centre.

Everyone was buzzing, chatting and exchanging stories from their various adventures - a great atmosphere!

After lunch we had a quiz. The prizes for this and the Surf Competition



Dave Adam with Stornaway Coastguards

were given: paddles from Ainsworth and Radical Moves, a helmet from A.C. Canoe Products, a bottle of Talisker whiskey, gift vouchers from Carlisle Canoes, beer from Skye Brewery, neckseals from Aquatec, Teva supplied sandals and video's and Outdoor Leisure Supplies donated a dry bag which had the following inside: first aid kit, fleece jacket, life jacket, whistle, there were plenty of prizes to be won!

That afternoon some of us went through the Canoe Safety Test syllabus, that was instructed by Jim McCulloch a paddler for twenty years and registered representative for Strathclyde East. The evening talk was given by Niall Johnson the founder of Uist Outdoor Centre and the Symposium, a keen wildlife enthusiast. His lecture was about

'Outer Hebridean Wildlife from A Kayak' with excellent photo's.

All these lectures made you not want to go back, to stay for longer and explore by kayak, the wildlife and islands in the remotest parts of Scotland.

## MONDAY:

I was feeling well and truly fit, I entered myself for the 'Race Around The Maddies', ten kilometres.

Six people set off, this included a young guy from Tokyo called Yojiro Hiki (who heard about the symposium by coincidence, he just so happened to paddle by the centre one day to stop for the night, he'd just paddled from Inverness!)

Along the way we saw a pod of porpoises, it was only brief but something I've never seen; a very sublime experience. I saw harbour seals popping up to find out what the hurrying was all about I was told to wave to the seals, as they're very inquisitive they'll come closer apparently. It was the only day I saw these mammals, the sea was calm, the wind had dropped.

At lunchtime the H.M. Coastguard from Stornaway came to give a talk. We were given the opportunity to fire some 'white-light' flares, this was to familiarise ourselves with the procedure - just in case it's needed.

The helicopter arrived to give a rescue demonstration, the exercise was to pick up a hypothermic victim from a party of kayaker's all rafted together - I volunteered to be the victim and I was hoisted up by the winch man into the Sikorsky helicopter - amazing! those men were brilliant.

There were many other sea-kayaking activities going on during the symposium such as; an Inuit paddle session, a day trip to the Sound of Harris, and the Sound of Barra, talks on navigation and weather. John MacAulay's lecture on cultural links between Hebridean's and the Norse, also author of books including 'Seal-Folk and Ocean Paddlers'.

Gradually people started to disperse, getting equipment together, loading kayaks on car roofs Some were exchanging addresses and others reclaiming the odd water bottle or sock!

Suddenly all the fun had ended - it was time to go home.

The whole experience is something I shall never forget the Outer Hebrides is a very special place.

I met a lot of new friends and experienced an outdoor centre that excels above the rest, I will definitely be going back next year! ●

# Whale's Tails

## Cocktails:

### Sea Paddling in Southcoastal Alaska



Southcoastal Alaska includes the region of the state that extends from the Copper River Delta, near Cordova, west along the coast of outer Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula, across Cook Inlet, to Kodiak Island and the eastern portion of the Alaska Peninsula.

#### Where to start?

This region is where the north Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Alaska's backs are broken by the rugged coastal mountains. Tremendous coastal ice fields cascade to the sea. Five species of wild Pacific salmon flood streams and lakes each summer. Humpback whales, Orcas, Dall's and Harbor porpoises, Black and Grizzly (Brown) bears, Steller's Sea Lions, Harbor seals, Minke whales, all-white Beluga whales, Sea and River otters, extensive sea and shore bird populations, and abundant coastal marine life to support all of the above biota all thrive in this marvelous region.

If I listed the species of birds in the region, we'd be here all day, and you would be bored. Suffice it to say that many will seem familiar: Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers, Kittiwakes, Puffins, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Gulls (several species), and that's not even addressing the impressive land-bird fauna: most obviously the healthy Bald Eagle populations.

There are very few sea paddling destinations on the Planet where you wonder if a wild salmon will be landing on your deck, the breath of a Humpback Whale raises the hair on the back of your neck, two species of Puffins buzz about your boat, a tidewater glacier booms in the distance, and a sea lion, a sea otter and a river otter dodge your kayak as you round a point into yet another breath-taking and beautiful bay. All in the space of a minute. Oh, and as if that weren't enough, as you head for the beach to camp that evening, you can scoop a piece of ancient, high-density compressed glacial ice under your decklines to cool your favourite appreciate beverage.

Abundant wildlife, stunning scenery, an extensive coastline, and access from a variety of locations (Cordova, Valdez, Whittier, Seward, Homer, and Kodiak) make the region a sea paddler's paradise. Thousands of North American paddlers enjoy cruising the thriving waters each summer - the paddling season doesn't really begin until winter starts to loose its grip on the beaches in mid-late May,



For more information, don't hesitate to contact me:  
Alaska Canoe Base, P.O. Box 3547, Homer, Alaska 99603,  
phone 907.235.2090,  
email:  
tomp@alaskapaddler.com  
by Tom Pogson

and the autumn storms discourage all but the hardiest of paddlers by mid-September. If you come in the heart of the season, be prepared to deal with healthy insect populations, not unlike (I'm led to believe) the onslaught I would be subjected to on the coast of Scotland. Impervious clothing and head nets or "bug-jackets" are a premium bit of kit. Having some pyrethrum (pik) to burn around the cooking area can be a real blessing as well. How does the saying go? "Better living through chemistry?"

The mere mention of Alaska brings to mind biting cold, throngs of wild caribou, moose, whales, glaciers, fantastic mountains and extensive fauna -

with extremely long hours of daylight. The sun can be above the horizon up to 18 hours - even in Southcoastal Alaska. Having good waterproofs is important, because it does rain in summer - no it does not snow (at least not at sea level in Southcoastal) - and the rain is sometimes accompanied by high winds - so a solid rainproof tent leads to comfort and "camp happiness".

There are numerous sea paddling outfitters in



# and Glacier

each of the launch points for southcoastal Alaska - search the web, or check Sea Kayaker Magazine for listings. Fly to Anchorage International Airport, and use a hostel, B&B, and bus service to make the transition and get to your selected launch town. Unsupervised rentals of kayaks are usually possible for experienced paddlers, but best make arrangements in advance, in the peak of the season equipment is in short supply. Many outfitters will supply ancillary gear such as dry-bags, rain gear, wellies, and more. In most coastal towns there is a healthy "water-taxi" population to speed you away from the dock to your own remote destination as a start point to your sea paddling journey. Water-taxis may not be for the budget-paddler, but they do offer a useful service.

For some of you that have a preference for British-style rudderless sea kayaks, you might be disappointed, and you have few options. British-style kayaks are becoming more popular, but are still far in the minority.



There must be some biological reason why the Humpback Whales and large seabird colonies are concentrated near the regions of extensive coastal glaciers, but I don't know what the reason is. I'm just glad that, even in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, their presence and abundance in southcoastal Alaska draws me like a fly to .....butter. ●

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# A Paddling Paradise

**Just imagine an area with a diversity of both flat and white water rivers, surf beaches that are unrivalled and sea paddling that takes your breath away and then add to this some of the most magnificent scenery and wildlife in the country and you have the ideal paddlers paradise.**

This area does exist in the UK, Devon and the South West has such a range of paddling venues that there just isn't enough space on this page to do them all justice. So the article that follows will give you an all to brief glimpse into that paddlers paradise.

The winter season offers any intrepid paddlers the opportunity to paddle such classical rivers as The Dart, The Exe, The Lyn and the Tavy, each with their own special characteristics from the grade 4 upper Dart to the peace and tranquillity of a paddle down the River Tamar. Some of the river sections and play holes offer hours of cartwheels, loops and the chance to pull off that elusive move that has been escaping your grasp all year.

For those who wish to surf on good clean waves in uncrowded waters you can do no better than to pick one of the numerous beaches dotted around the coastline, particularly on Devons south coast. Bantham beach offers some of the best surfing there is, on the south coast, with long rides on waves that pick up and drop as they proceed up the beach. If the conditions are no good there, then all you need to do is turn the car around and head to the north coast to try find that perfect wave.

What draws people to the coastline of an area to paddle? Maybe it's



For further information about courses or paddling in Devon please contact Mountain Water Experience on 01548 550675 or visit their website on [www.mountainwaterexp.demon.co.uk](http://www.mountainwaterexp.demon.co.uk) or email on [MWE@mountainwaterexp.demon.co.uk](mailto:MWE@mountainwaterexp.demon.co.uk)

**Article and photos by Mark Agnew.**

How can I compete? There are already a plethora of articles on foreign trips to the far-flung corners of the world and enough pieces on the new bits of kit around. So it is with a lot of prodding and cajoling that I put pen to paper, or in real terms just gave the computer a good smacking, that the subject matter for this article has turned out to be my own back yard and the area in which I spend 80% of my time working in, Devon and the South West of the UK.



instruction continually on the increase at all levels, from the voluntary sector to the higher end of the scale such as top class Level 5 coaches, then the paddling scene is on the up and up and can easily rival any other area in the country.

As an overall view the South West is the ideal area for any paddler to come and take advantage of a vast number of natural resources and venues. There is something for everyone at all levels and with an ever increasing number of facilities, course providers and top quality coaches in the area, the future of paddling is looking very exciting. Don't take my word for it come and see for yourself. For a glimpse of heaven come and paddle in Devon. ●

the long unspoilt clifflines, the wildlife or the not too distant pint from that quiet and out of the way campsite. With one of the longest coastlines in the county the South West region can provide some of the most idyllic and magnificent scenery. The wild life has to be seen to be believed with seals, dolphins and an abundance of bird life adorning the high cliffs and secret coves that only paddlers can reach. The experience of paddling for a day over crystal vicar waters and picking a secluded cove in which to spend a night under the stars and, with luck, catch a glimpse of the Milky Way is not one to be missed. Apart from thy natural beauty and diversity of water the area is a growing and developing arena for award and coaching courses at all levels. Over the last few years there has been a general and definite uplift in the standard and quality of courses on offer by a number of professional outfits. This has had the effect of improving the standard of paddling within the local community as well as attracting a vast number of new paddlers to the area. New ideas, techniques and disciplines are constantly being evaluated. For example Mountain Water Experience are in the process of developing their specialist open boat and playing boating Courses.

Developments such as these are continually pushing back the boundaries of paddling and producing some excellent top class paddlers. With this new healthy outlook towards paddling and the quality of

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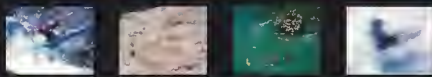
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## news & info

### Double – Glazing Firm Sponsors the Junior Wild Water Racing Team

A few tips on how to get Sponsorship

**A**s many athletes know sponsorship is not easy to find but a conversation with a friend just chatting about what I was up to led to a meeting with her boss Bob at Plas Tech U.K. our local Double Glazing Firm. They wanted to know what my ambitions were and offered to buy me a new race boat providing I had it sign written with their logo and agreed to help with their advertisement in the local press. Of course I jumped at this offer and ordered a new boat, Plas Tech said that they would also look for other sponsors for me as they realised I would need cash as well.

After writing several letters to National Firms I decided to write to local firms and this was more successful, I then wrote to



the local Sports Council and was awarded a £200 grant and they asked to be regularly updated on my progress then they would consider supporting me again. I've found that the key to getting support financially is by getting local support and by keeping local people informed of what I'm up to.

After being selected for the Great Britain Junior team and attending the World Championships in Italy I took a copy of the results to Plas Tech and explained my plans for the next year. They understood the progress I had made to get to Italy and the progress I could make in the next year and offered to buy me another new boat and help towards costs for racing. In return they wanted more press advertisements and they asked me to join them on their trade stand at our local show with my boat and I spent the day helping advertise their company. Plas Tech have also offered to buy the Junior Team kit for the next World Championship, we then arranged for Graham Froggett – Junior Team Manager to meet Plas Tech and I understand that team kit is now being organised.

Finding sponsorship isn't easy but I was lucky because Plas Tech sponsor an athlete every year and I was the one that they chose. If you are looking for sponsorship let local people know what you are up to, get in touch with your local Sports Editor and let him/her know what you are up to and most importantly don't give up there's someone out there to help.

## Canoeing activities in high flows

For further information about the Environment Agency call the general enquiries number on 0645 333111 or look at the website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Julie Clarke

### National Environment Agency Position Statement

It is the responsibility of the individual river user to decide whether or not they should go afloat, whatever the prevailing conditions may be. There is always a risk of accident to those participating in water-based recreation and each individual canoeist must seek information and advice on local river conditions before going canoeing, particularly in times of high river flows. When making the decision to go canoeing, individuals should consider their own skills and experience, and those of others who may be under their supervision. Information regarding river conditions is available from a variety of sources.

### The Agency sources are as follows:- Rivercall

In five of our Regions we have an information service called "Rivercall". The information on this service provides the levels of your local rivers. The objective is to update all information daily, however conditions are subject to constant change and information is not updated during emergencies. The numbers to call are as follows:-

North East	0906 619 7722
Welsh	0906 619 7755
North West	0906 619 7733
South West	0906 619 7766
Midlands	0906 619 7744

(Because of the changeable nature of Rivers the Agency cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided by this service at any particular time)

### The Environment Agency as the Navigation Authority

Where the Agency is the Navigation Authority for individual rivers, warning advice may be given regarding conditions. Local river user guides give details of regional and area contact numbers and all craft launched require a valid licence.

Contact numbers are as follows, please ask for the navigation section:-

#### River Thames

Office hours Thames 0118 953 5525

Recorded information Thames 0118 953 5520

#### River Medway

Southern 01903 832 000

#### Rivers Ancholme, Welland, Glen, Stour, Nene and the Great System

Anglian 01733 371 811

#### For general enquiries outside office hours

0645333 111

(This number is charged at local rate and depending on where you are calling from will take you to the nearest local office)

### Independent Access Agreements

Any independent access agreement in place to secure additional water available for recreation does not imply any assessment of suitability of the river for use by a recreational group.

### Flood Information

Please note: - The information which the Agency provides for river users should not be confused with 'Floodline' a new telephone information service that provides people with advice and information on how to prepare for a flood and information during times of flooding.

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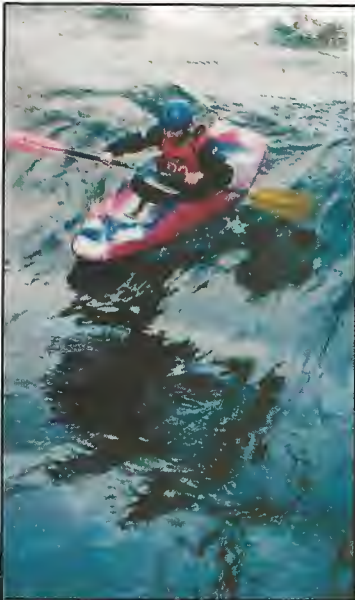
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# Paddlefest 99



Any suggestions on how paddlefest might be improved are welcome and we would encourage you to write to the BCU Office  
Adbolton Lane West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 5AS - we would be happy to hear from you.



Sprint boats, Slalom boats, River Races, Kayaks Canoes, Bellboats, and Hawaiian Outriggers. All manner of boats together over one weekend. K4 racing, National Junior Bell Boat racing, 'Div B' River Race, Peak multi-discipline event.

Yes Nottingham's National Watersports Centre was again home to Paddlefest 99.

Saturday dawned bright and clear with the Slalom Course in prime condition what a change on last year! Both the Regatta and Slalom course were soon buzzing with activity as Schools arrived to take part in the 1st National Bellboat Championships and the BCU car park was overflowing as paddlers and boats of all shapes and sizes arrived to take part in the Peak Challenge, the 'Div B' river race and K4 Sprint events.



Thank you to all who turned up to take part in Paddlefest and a big 'thank you' to all involved in the work prior to and during the weekend.



The Coaching Symposium was kicked off with a 'Pathways to Performance' keynote speech and a range of coaching clinics and workshops. Running alongside these were kayak and canoe performance clinics held on the Regatta Lake, Winfield Pool and Slalom course. Improved kayak and canoe performance advanced kayak and canoe performance and introductions to wild water racing and slalom - opportunities for all seeking input from a gathering of top coaches.

Also taking place over the weekend BCU Endorsement Courses, First aid training, Injury Prevention and Assessor Training Days.

As in previous years the Peak Challenge proved a focal point of Slalom course activity with a massed start river race, floodlit rodeo and extreme slalom.



New for Paddlefest 99 the National Bellboat Championships created great excitement during Saturday on the Regatta Course providing opportunity for Young Paddlers to be part of the weekend and enjoy introductions to paddlesport activity.

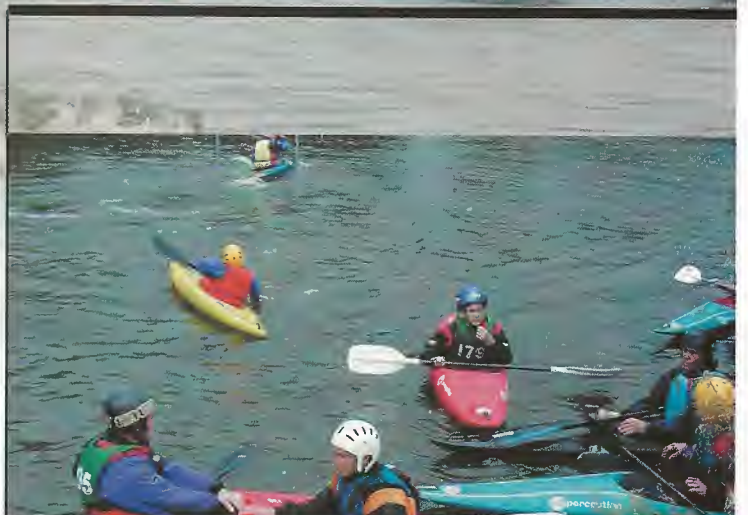
A K4 Sprint race was the pre-requisite to junior lightning races and heralds the hope that next year's paddlefest may be host to the Hasler finals.

A bonfire, fireworks and live bands sponsored by Pirtex brought Saturday to a late close with the more lively party goers continuing on into the early hours of Sunday.

A very full programme continued through Sunday with the additions of Diamond Slalom, mini slalom events and car boot sale.

Over the weekend paddlefest attracted over 500 paddlers in all and was again a great success, although not without a few problems, which we aim to work out for next year. Such large numbers of paddlers with so much taking place was at times a little overwhelming, however, as we begin to realise the full potential of paddlefest we look forward to paddlefest 2000.

So book the date in your diaries - 23/24 September 2000 - See you there!!



# Paddlesport

Creating a safer place for our children to play is everyone's responsibility... coaches,... volunteers,... ...sport and recreation organisers...local clubs and associations... schools...all levels of Government... the participants.

Within the BCU the responsible person for child protection is Nigel Timmins. If a senior person or club official / member is unaware what to do, they can contact him via the BCU Nottingham Office. We Should all BE INVOLVED.

## Dealing with harassment and Abuse

As a parent or coach, part of supporting your child's/students involvement in sport and recreation activities includes ensuring their safety while they're having fun. In this respect we all have a responsibility to make sure children are protected from abusive situations. This information will provide you with a guideline on what to watch for and where to turn if you suspect harassment or abuse.

## Dealing with Harassment and Abuse

While there are differing degrees of harassment and abuse, both provide serious setbacks to a child's enjoyment of, and participation in sport and recreational activities. Abuse is any action, physical or verbal, which exploits or potentially harms or damages a child's physical, emotional or psychological health. When a child is abused, he or she often experiences abuse by people older than them, usually by people they know and trust.

## Harassment or abuse can take many forms:

- Physical** – where a child is intentionally injured or made to do excessive exercises as punishment;
- Sexual** – where a child is exposed to, or invited to participate in sexual contact, activity or behaviour;
- Emotional** – where a child is made fun of, criticised, discriminated against or put under an unrealistic pressure to perform;
- Neglect** – where a child is not provided an appropriate level of care and supervision.

If you feel that the abuse is of a sexual or physical nature it must be reported to a Line Manager or Senior Person, NSPCC, Childline Or the Police.

Clubs are advised they should take the matter of child protection seriously and preferably appoint a person responsible for this area. If it is a small club it may well be the president or secretary. The important thing to remember is, they do not need to be experts in issues relating to child protection. It simply identifies someone who people can report to. It is not up to any club member or official to decide if child abuse has occurred, but it is their responsibility to take action, however small the concern.

## How to recognise abusive situations

As a parent, you know your kids best, look for signs that they are not their normal selves and may be unusually withdrawn, disinterested, unhappy or angry.

As Coaches also, there are many signs, both physical and

behavioural, to suggest possible abusive situations. Unexplained injuries, sexually explicit actions or language beyond their age, new friendships with older persons, or sudden changes in behaviour are just a few examples.

## Parents! What you can do about it

You can protect your child both at home and in the environment in which they participate. Encourage your child to talk openly to you about their activities and let them know that it's okay to tell when something isn't right. In addition, you should:

- Be aware** of your child's sport or recreation environment;
- Get involved** in their activities by getting to know their coaches, volunteers and other parents;
- Talk to your child** and their coach about what's okay behaviour and what your child wants to get out of their activity;
- Ensure their sport** or recreation association has a harassment policy and a screening process in place for staff and volunteers;
- Know how to voice** your own concerns;
- Listen to your child's** complaint and no matter how far fetched it seems, check it out;

If the problem is not sexual or physical abuse, try to resolve it with centre or club officials. Before approaching other community services have the situation corrected and, if necessary, remove your child from the activity.

- Unexplained bruising**, cuts or burns on a child, particularly if these are parts of the body not normally injured in accidents.
- An injury for which** the explanation seems inconsistent. Changes in behaviour such as a child becoming very quiet, tearful, withdrawn, aggressive, or displaying severe tantrums.
- Loss of weight** without medical explanation. An inappropriately dressed or ill-kept child or one who becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt.
- Sexually explicit behaviour**, for instance, playing games and showing awareness which is inappropriate for a child's age. A child describing what appears to be an abusive act involving him / herself.
- Some one else**, a child or adult, expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Running away from home**, attempted suicides, self-inflicted injuries
- A lack of trust** in adults, particularly those who would normally be close to a child.
- Disturbed sleep**, nightmares and enuresis particularly if a child has previously been dry
- Eating problems**, including over-eating or loss of appetite ●

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Acrobat 270, purple, good condition, new end caps, excellent playboat and river boat. Can take to Holme Pierpoint for demo or sale. Contact Richard on 01302 531904 or e-mail: suesand@globalnet.co.uk  
Alien Playboat, full spec, 12 months old, only used dozen times, excellent condition hardly scratched, big saving on new, £400. Also Dancer, well used but never abused £120 on. Tel: Gary 0780 8582019 East Yorks.  
Amazing kit sale, state of the art American rubber shortly dry put with twin neck seal, as new £60 on, double Dutch kinetic slalom blades on double Dutch shaft, super light carbon, as new, £110 on, palm expedition high float life jacket, £55 on bargain, phone Gezza 01443 222035.  
Ardeche Two Seater, as new, with paddles, ideal for parent and small child, £145, junior life jacket £10, Cheshire 01270 624406.  
Blade, Mango, 18 months old, good condition can deliver, Teeside or HPP. £350 on. Contact Tom 0191 3831244 or Thomas.Beale@Durham.ac.uk  
Child's crew saver buoyancy aid, small, VGC, £10, small child's longjohn wetsuit, hardly worn, £15, medium child's longjohn wetsuit, good condition, £10, mailto:richard.davies@bigfoot.com, 01205359540.  
Cirrus TK1, spray deck, cockpit cover, 2 seats, excellent condition, £400. Telephone Norwich 01463 414024.  
Cut down C2, would suit canoe club, £120, please contact verenicoll@hotmail.com or phone me Andy Nicoll on 01400 250508.  
Canoe Trailer, suitable for modern boats (i.e. short). Complete with fitted cover. £160. Tel: 0114 2630178.  
Creek 280, red, VGC, 1 year old, Full plate foot rest, £300 on. Can deliver to Tryweryn, Llangollen, or nearby areas. Tel: Liz on Ludlow 01584 890775.  
Dagger Blast, green and blue, good condition, £300 on. Tel: 01283 734487.  
Dagger Freefall LT, £320 on Manchester area (Or can arrange to meet at a river) phone 0118 9240590 (weekdays)  
Dagger Freefall LT, red / black multicoloured unused and still in wrapper, £350, Tel: Stafford 01785 248684.  
Dagger Infrared, hardly used, full white water spec, airline design, airbags, only £450 on, Tel: 01904 780677.  
Dagger Ocoee, specialist white water play boat, air bags, thigh straps, pedestal etc, little used £650. Ring Sid on 01248 602670 or 0411 587756.  
Dagger RPM, red with blue and white markings, end caps, 1 year old, good condition, £450 on, Tel: Chris, 07971 087480.  
Dagger Transition, great beginner to intermediate boat and for river running, good condition, £340 on. Wokingham 0118 9788071 or 07881 934326.  
Diablo, Bright Red, full white water spec, includes air bags and nose cone stored under cover, £250. Taunton. Tel: 01823 277724.  
Eskimo Gambler, black, unused Eskimo quality, extremely comfortable river runner, £280 on. Tel: Bob 01509 853658 evenings (Notts).  
Eskimo Spud, Red, Good condition, £260, or will exchange for Whiplash of similar condition. Phone 01249 890662.  
Eurokayak Bubble, full white water spec, yellow, £250. Call Vince on 0151 2838543.  
Eurokayak Conquest, purple, £170. Phone John, Northwest area, 01695 51123.  
Eurokayak Conquest, 305cm, VGC, aqua blue, f/plate, b/rest, knee supports, rear drain bung and nose cap, £225 on. Also Ottersports paddle included. Possible delivery. Call Mike on 01354 650207.  
Eurokayaks Cyphur, extreme spec, double skinned, full plate footrest, drain hole, adjustable seat, scratched but plenty of use left in it. £200.  
mailto:richard.davies@bigfoot.com 01205 359540.  
Gigolo Surf Kayak, tri-fins, glass/diolin kevlar seat & cockpit. Fast as 360's no bother, offers £320. Tel: Marty 01232 461711 or 01960 353411.  
K1. Midas by Gaybo, Good standard racing boat. Fast, subject to paddler! £220-00 offers. Chris 01280 840495 Northants  
Lightweight trailer, for 6 open canoes or 9 kayaks or 12 bikes £350, Pyranha Master kayak skeg fitted, drain plugs (new 99) £250, Pyranha Master Lite kayak (new 99) £240, Creek (new 99) £250, Mountain 300 (new 99) £350 Contact 01332 383698 or fax 01332 736133.  
Mega Kayak, majestic model two man as seen in October issue, p33 top right, one seasons use can travel, £350 on, Tel: 01249 822542, Wiltshire  
Mega Performance Elympto slalom kayak, fully carbon and in brilliant condition never touched rough water. Also comes with Palm quaser spraydeck. Both in excellent condition. £400. Tel: Lee, Bristol 0117 9642475

Mi 370 plastic slalom style kayak, yellow, VGC £100 on. 6'8" Surf board with leash, VGC £100 on. Palm wave/surf ski, Plastic with paddle £150 on. Tel: Jon 01775 713361  
MI 380, Block foot rest, spray deck, thigh brace, air bags, ainsworth paddles, buoyancy aid. All in good condition. £275. Telephone Norwich 01603 414024.  
M1415 Tourer, turquoise. Excellent condition - used only a few times. £200. Tel: 01434 605118 (Newcastle area). Deliver to Tees Barrage.  
Moulds, Rack clearout. Moulds for the boats below free to a good home. Reasonable condition, need a polish: 1 Nomad, 1 Hacker (lowline slalom), 1 Echo (pre-lowline, similar to Dominator 81), 1 Pool bat, 1 Apollo, 1 Whip, 1 Extra deep hull for latter (general purpose), 1 Racing K1, 1 Tiro (junior size pre-lowline slalom). Collect from Adur Canoe Club, W. Sussex, call 01903 209309.  
Mountain 300, full white water spec, purple, good condition, £250. Contact Keith 0115 9764090  
Nomad extra slalom kayak, VGC, £140 on. 0151 6381555, or 0468 088876, NW area  
Nookie 15m throw line / bag, £20, contact Bill Dewick Tel: 01483 715710.  
Nordkapp HS, ocean cockpit, expedition model, yellow incl. Diolen hull, oval rear hatch, 3rd hatch behind cockpit, 3 bulkheads, retractable skeg, Henderson deck pump, comprehensive deck fittings, backrest, immaculate, 18 months old. £795.00 Tel: 01202 693366 (evenings) or 01202 841288 (daytime) and ask for Mark Taylor.  
Orion Surf Ski, 7'7" radical, high performance wave ski, intermediate capacity, 75kg, expert capacity, 85kg, £150. Ring Owen / Andy Tooting 0181 4882268.  
P&H cirrus sea kayak, constructed of carbon, retractable skeg, recessed split paddles and deck lines. Excellent condition used only twice, new house forces sale. Cost £1400 new 3 months ago will accept £900. Contact 0802 417395 or 01274 865403 or e-mail Mathew@street01 freeserve.co.uk  
Palm Canyons buoyancy aid, with tow line and karabiner, small / medium £60, contact Bill Dewick Tel: 01483 715710.  
Palm wave rider, surf ski, plastic, suitable for adult beginner, £60, nng Olwen / Andy Tooting 0181 4882268.  
Perception Corsica S, blue, good condition, £200 on. Ring Jim on 0121 3538983.  
Perception Dancer, red, good condition, WW spec, airbags, b/rest etc £250 on. Phone Phil 01803 857857 (Devon) or email Philip@tucker.freeserve.co.uk  
Perception Mr Clean, the cartwheel machine, 2 months use, £450 on, bargain phone Gezza on 01443 222035.  
Perception Overflow, good condition, airbags, backrest, well fitted out, deeper thigh braces version, blue in colour. An excellent higher volume kayak for only £275. Call Ian on 07392 748364 (Oswestry).  
Perception Pirouette S, (just out of its wrapper), used once, mottle grey colour with air bags. Call Oz on 01462 480457, £400 on.  
Perception Pirouette S, excellent condition, white water spec, full plate foot rest, Tel: 01636 682579 after 7 pm.  
Perception Supersport, white water spec, purple, VGC, £270, also neoprene spray deck £25, and Ainsworth K100 paddle £25, Tel: 01341 241475. North Wales.  
Perception Whip-It, red & yellow, £300. Phone John, Northwest area, 01695 51123.  
Perception Whip-It, 2 for sale, one twin colour drain plug, nose caps, adjustable footrest etc, little used £300. Other single colour, nose cap, foam footrest, £250.  
Perception Whip-It, red & white, good condition, £280 (may p / x for spud / attack) Tel: Max 01423 540653.  
Perception 317, boat that won the 97 worlds now considered a good all rounder, 3 months use, £400 on, phone Gezza on 01443 222035.  
Prijon Hurricane, red, white water spec, good condition, forced sell, £200 on, Page J on 07654 660439, leave name and number (Edinburgh).  
Prijon Invader, little used, full plate footrest, adapted for smaller person but may be reversed, VGC, £200 richard.davies@bigfoot.com, 01205 359540.  
Prijon Invader Light, WW spec, airbags, good condition. £225 South Wales area. Ring Raz 01834 869147  
Prijon Invader, Yellow, good condition, complete with airbags, £160, could deliver to popular venues. Tel: 01684 572280  
Prijon T slaloms, 6 available with airbags, great touring boat, £130 each, contact Stuart 0374 644660.  
Prospector Canadian Canoe, built by Tyrone Boats in Cedar & Epoxy, light use only, complete with paddles & trolley, £450, 01639 771798.  
Pyranha Acrobat 300, yellow, good condition, offers, Tel: 01296 422114.  
Pyranha Attak, Blue, full padding kit, hardly used, vgc. Excellent introductory playboat. Spins, surfs and wheels on just about anything. £250.00 on. Neil 01634 256074 (Kent)

Pyranha Blade, red, 18 months old and used enthusiastically, so it's no longer a nice shiny boat! Includes airbags, perception paddling and foam block behind footpegs. £325, 0118 9662488, Reading.  
Pyranha Creek 280, purple, good condition. Full whitewater spec. Nose cone. £280. Tel: 01434 605118 (Newcastle area). Deliver to Tees Barrage.  
Pyranha Freestyle cross link, full white water spec, red, £100. Call Vince on 0151 2838543.  
Pyranha Magic bat, very good condition, £140, paddle £25, Tel: 01283 543133.  
Pyranha Microbat 230, blue multi, good condition. Full whitewater spec. Nose cone. £240. Tel: 01434 605118 (Newcastle area). Deliver to Tees Barrage.  
Pyranha Razor, yellow, good condition, with spraydeck, £325 on. Ring Jim on 0121 3538983.  
Pyranha Razor, VGC, £275, spray deck £25, Tel: 01283 543133.  
Pyranha Razor, yellow, hardly used, good intermediate boat, £325, including spraydeck, can deliver to Nottingham. Phone Jim on 0121 3538983 (Birmingham).  
Pyranha Razor spraydeck, size M, twin seal waist, only used twice, £35. 01268 782361.  
Pyranha Rotobat, white water spec, pink, drain plug, full plate footrest, air-bags, backstrap, knees and thigh pads, spraydeck of two neoprene and nylon paddles, helmet, bag and nose clip. One wetsuit and one short sleeved neoprene. Booties, Two Pogies, Books, etc. Absolute Bargain £70. For quick sale Telephone David on 01923 285401. Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.  
Pyranha Stunt Bat, red, backrest, full-plate footrest, nose cone, drain plug, good condition, garage stored, ideal starter boat of Christmas present. £250 on. Tel: Steven 01353 861229 or e-mail steven.pierson@ic24.net  
Pyranha Stunt 300, WW spec, red, 12 months old, mainly used for instructing hence VGC, full plate footrest, back rest, hip pads, drain plug, etc. stored indoors, excellent all-round boat that would suit beginner / intermediate with paddle and neoprene spray deck, possible delivery. £325 on. Tel: 01572 812096.  
Revenge prepreg Nitro, used for one tournament as new £700. Paula 01293 417504 or e-mail siblep@gatwick.geco-praktis.slb.com  
Riot 007, Sunburst Orange, Good condition with surf seat. £450. Tel: 01438 231468.  
Roof Bars, manufactured ford name for the New model Escort and Roof bars Thule make will fit most model of car both in very good condition. £35 each set. Call Lee, Bristol, 0117 9642475.  
Roof Bars, for Peugeot 405, flat roof, £40, 0151 6381555, or 0468 088876.  
RPM, excellent condition, Great River boat, £395 on.  
Wave sport Stubby superb condition £375 on. Stunt Bat in pristine condition £235 on. Call Martin 0118 9268275. Can meet at Hurley.  
Savage Beast, blue, eight months old, good condition, £200 on. Ring Jim on 0121 3538983.  
Savage Beast, Blue 9 months old. Good river running/playboat for the average or slightly heavier paddler. Can deliver to Nottingham, £425, phone Rich on 0114 2678328 (Sheffield).  
Sea Kayaks, Nordkapp with one rear hatch behind seat £200. Two McClinty North Sea Kayaks both with deck mounted VCP hatches. £175 each. Pete 01963 23546.  
Sea Kayak, Valley Nordkapp, excellent condition with knee tube, rudder, compass etc £600. Also associated eqp. VHF Radio, Lendal carbon fibre paddles, 01485 601453.  
Sea Kayak, P&H Capella, polythene, retractable skeg, deck elastics, 2 hatches, VGC, £400, richard.davies@bigfoot.com, 01205 359540.  
"Shoreline" Sea Kayak, full expedition construction, twin hatches & bulkheads, pump, compass, paddle and split paddle, spraydeck, expedition buoyancy aid, £425. Tel: 01205 351806.  
Slalom Kayak Arrowcraft fury, lightweight carbon kevlar design, £210 on, Wokingham 0118 9788071 or 07881 934326.  
Spud, Probe, must go, £100. Ring Jim on 0121 3538983.  
Spud, white water spec, green, £270, also neoprene spraydeck £25, and Ainsworth K100 paddle £25. Tel: 01341 241475. North Wales.  
Stunt Bar x2, red / yellow, £170 each. Phone John, Northwest area, 01695 51123.  
Thule roof bars, gutter fitting which will fit most models and Escort roof bars, ford brand. Both excellent condition. Only £30 each. Tel: Lee Bristol 0117 9642475  
Topolino, blue spud, good condition, £240 on, based in Oxford, but could meet at Hurley, HP, Tryweryn etc. Phone Nathan on 01865 771005.  
Trailer, 10+ kayaks, full width box, Suspension needs attention, Phone Tim 01234 853638  
Turbo racing paddles, from Canada. High quality and very strong, carbon graphite. £150, please call Steve on 0850 034943.  
Valley Nordkapp HS Sea Kayak, glass fibre expedition boat with front and rear hatches, new back rest and decklines. £350 South Wales area Ring Raz 01834 869147

Valley Weekender, touring kayak, good condition, 399 on, Tel: 01628 525387, South Bucks.  
White water racer, supersavage, Gaybo, full kevlar, excellent, £425.  
Carbon wings L / H, suit white water racer, £80. Marathon K1 inc. seat £65. Phone 01203 373484.  
Whitewater racing kayak, Gaybo, Kevlar, good condition, with paddle, spraydeck and helmet (BCU approved). £100 on. Tel: Steve 01386 831508.

Wild Water, Explorer / Leader buoyancy aid with tow line and karabiner, small / medium £60. Contact Bill Dewick 01483 715710.  
Wild Water Buoyancy aid, vest type, small / medium, £25, contact Bill Dewick Tel: 01483 715710.  
Yamaha Malita 5 outboard motor, and motor mount, for Coleman Canadian Ram 15X canoe. Twelve months old and only used twice!! Two trips of 5 miles each way on local placid river!! Still running in and in mint condition, any trial. Reason for sale - wife prefers to paddle, doesn't like it, I love it!! Receipts from Robert Vardy at Avoncraft total £602 will sell for £489 on for quick sale. Includes tool kit and manual. Also any sensible offer accepted for brand new, unused portage trolley. Contact Geoff Cooper, Burton upon Trent area, on 01283 229426 or e-mail geoffcooper@lineone.net  
Zephyr X2 (Regina), Vinylster construction 17kg, Overstern Rudder. Fully Fitted with Kevlar seats. Excellent for Sella/Liffey etc. Brand new import from South Africa £450 Ring Chris 01761 451056

## Lost/Found

Found, on the Tryweryn on Sat 11 Sept 1999 a pair of Ainsworth paddles. Please phone Ian on 0113 2290405(Leeds), on weekday evenings.

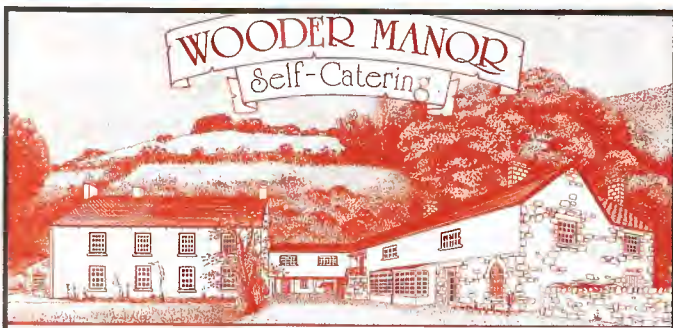
## Stolen

Stolen, 3 Kayaks, 1 blue Zwo, 1 red with blue multi art 240 inazone, 1 red and blue necky gliss, 1 set of purple werners, 1 set of black robson gemini's and 1 set of purple ainsworths, 1 red and black nookie bag, 1 sola wetsuit, york buoyancy aid, playboat spray deck, and 3 helmets 1 white, 1 purple, 1 blue protek. Reward for info leading to return of any equipment. Contact Paul Grigg on 01344 625908.  
Stolen, 2 Pyranha Acrobat 270 s, 1 is black, full WW spec, 4 seasons old, serial number: ADTL 512 AS-1MG, 1 is grey and blue, full WW spec, 6 months old, serial number: 811 BE-1JD, stolen together with paddy hopkirk roof rack with green padding from Ambleside, Cumbria on the 28th July. There is a reward for information leading to their return. Please contact Jonathan Green on 015394 32421.  
Carbon Kevlar paddles, from Tryweryn on 2.8.99. Left by the ski slope after right blade snapped. Phone no, on left blade. Phone Rich on 0114 2678328

## Wanted

Canadian open canoe, 15 or 16ft, must be in reasonable condition with no major dings or repairs, around £300. Call 0115 9307632 (Nottingham / Derby area).  
Inexpensive Trailer, suitable for a 17ft Canadian Canoe. Tel: 01954 781036  
Kirtion X-Lancer, reasonable condition, can collect. Tel: 01592 890453  
Old Town 119 or Pack, WWR any condition for demo purposes on courses. Tel 01332 383698 or Fax 01332 736133  
Padding Partner(s), wanted for sea kayaking and / or whitewater trips. I live in Chester, have 5 years canoeing experience and have my own boats / transport. If interested contact Jonathan on Tel: 01244 371438 or o.jonathan@iceland.co.uk  
Pyranha Inazone 230 or 220, for around £400. Call Rob on 01669 620057 after 6pm.  
Riot Hammer, must be in reasonable condition in Midlands or North East areas. Tel: 01527 877009.  
Pyranha Micro 230, shell in a reasonable condition, Tel: 01639 632477.  
Undamaged Nordkapp, HM with oval rear hatch - and rudder or not. Pete 01963 23546.





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# CANOING



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**ADVENTURE INTERNATIONAL**

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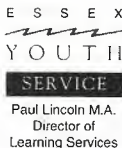
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Christina Devoti, Great Adventures, Grafham Water Centre,  
Perry, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 0BX.

Tel: (01480) 810521. Fax: (01480) 812739. Closing date  
for receipt of applications is 10 December 1999.

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BCU Level 2 & 3 Coaches and  
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**Please contact Simon Rouse**  
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Hours of duty are determined by the service and will involve evening, weekend and bank holiday working.

For a job pack and application form please call the Leisure Recruitment Line on 01707 357281 (24 hr answerphone) or for further information about the post call Ashley Cato, Assistant Manager on 01707 327655.

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**Mike Paine**  
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Tel: 01425 672347 Fax: 01425 673883

## CROFT - NA - CABER

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Contact: Andrew Cryer, Croft Na Caber Activity Centre, Kenmore, Loch Tay, Nr Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2HW  
Telephone: 01887 830 588 Fax: 01887 830 649

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Personnel

Delphi Adventure Holidays  
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Co. Galway  
Ireland  
Tel: 00353 95 42336  
Fax: 00353 95 42303  
Email: [delphigy@iol.ie](mailto:delphigy@iol.ie)

**delphi**  
ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

## The Lochgoilhead Centre

Level 3 Kayak coach required for the above centre from  
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Further info from Jeremy Game

**Tel: 01301 703217**

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Further information and application form:

Horstead Centre, Horstead, Norwich NR12 7EP  
Tel (01603) 737215 Reg Charity no. 303986  
[horstead.centre@zoo.co.uk](mailto:horstead.centre@zoo.co.uk) - [www.horsteadcentre.org.uk](http://www.horsteadcentre.org.uk)



## Trainee Instructors

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<http://www.mepal.co.uk>

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**E-mail CV to [randall@nykayak.com](mailto:randall@nykayak.com) or fax to 212-924-0814**



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Instructors will be based at one of our Centres in Wales, the Lake District or Scotland.

Interview days will be held during the year at the Outward Bound® Ullswater Centre.

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to:

Kate Jones, PA to the Divisional Managing Director  
The Outward Bound® Trust, Watermillock, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0JL

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For further information on both positions contact:

Recruitment, **NST Adventure**, Chiltern House, Bristol Avenue, Blackpool, FY2 0FA Tel: 01253 352525 Fax: 01253 356955  
email: [recruitment@nstgroup.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@nstgroup.co.uk)  
[www.nstgroup-travel.co.uk/jobs.html](http://www.nstgroup-travel.co.uk/jobs.html)

**NST**  
ADVENTURE

## WANTED! WATERSPORTS INSTRUCTORS

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For an information pack send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to:

**Scottish Centres,**  
**Loaningdale House,**  
**Carwood Road, BIGGAR**  
**ML12 6LX** - or phone  
**01899 221115**  
([personnel@scottish-centres.org.uk](mailto:personnel@scottish-centres.org.uk))

### Sealyham Activity Centre

Instructors needed for 2000 season at Multi-Activity centre in west Wales. BCU/SPA/RYA coaching qualifications required. Must be 18+ driving license preferred. Send letter of application & CV to:

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**Wolfscastle**  
**Haverfordwest**  
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Email: [TYM.TYM@VIRGIN.NET](mailto:Tym.Tym@virgin.net)



### Seasonal Instructor Staff

Qualified BCU and/or RYA Instructors are required to help run canoe and sailing courses and to assist in the general running of the Centre.

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Short term:- July - August

Applicants should preferably have a background in Scouting or Guiding.

Further details and application forms available from  
**Longridge Scout Boating Centre Quarry Wood Rd, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1RE.**

**Tel/Fax: 01628 483252**

EMAIL: [sitsvac@longridge.org.uk](mailto:sitsvac@longridge.org.uk)

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED, at outdoor centre in North Devon. Activities include kayaking, climbing, surfing and water-skiing. Vacancies from March to October. Applicants should ideally hold Level 2 or 3 Coach (Kayak), through full training towards these and other NGB awards will be provided. Freelance or live positions available. For application form contact - Owen Smith, West Coast Outdoor Adventure, Tel: 01237 477637

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**Newlands Adventure Centre,**  
**Stair, Keswick, Cumbria.**

**CA12 5UF**  
e-mail  
[jobs@newlandscentre.demon.co.uk](mailto:jobs@newlandscentre.demon.co.uk)  
Website:  
[www.newlandscentre.demon.co.uk](http://www.newlandscentre.demon.co.uk)



# competition<sup>P O L O</sup>



GB Men's U21 team



GB Women's U21 team



GB Senior women's team



GB Senior Men's team

**T**he continuing growth in popularity of canoe polo was illustrated by the level of entries - 15 nations in the Senior Men's competition, 10 in the Under 21 Men's Class, 8 in the Senior Women's category and 4 in the inaugural Under 21 Women's Europa Cup.

## Senior Men's class

In the Senior Men's competition five countries - France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and The Netherlands - had realistic medal pretensions, although Spain, Belgium and Eire were known to be capable of running the leading nations close.

Great Britain, Silver Medal winners at the 1997 European Championships, were initially drawn in the same group as Hungary, Finland and The Netherlands.

Their opening game, against The Netherlands, ended in a 0-0 draw. The late withdrawal of Finland thus meant that winning the preliminary group - important in that it would lead to a place in the easier of the two second round groups - would depend on whether the Dutch or the British were the more ruthless in disposing of the Hungarians.

The Dutch recorded a 12-1 victory. Chasing goals against any team can be counter-productive - composure is lost in a headless rush to score. But a controlled performance by Great Britain produced a 13-0 score-line over the hapless Hungarians and progress into the second round group with Belgium, Italy and Spain.

The top two in the group would claim semi-final places and, despite the continuing improvement of Belgium and Spain, Great Britain and Italy were favourites to progress. (In the other group - France, Germany, Holland and Ireland - one of the 'big five' would be eliminated).

Great Britain opened the second round with a 5-1 victory over Spain. This was followed by a 5-2 win over Belgium. With a semi-final place already secured, the match-up with Italy was, none-the-less, hotly contested and the result could have gone either way, Italy eventually winning by the odd goal in five.

This led to a semi-final rematch against the Dutch. Goals were as hard to come by as they had been in the preliminary group game. The British were conscious of the shooting power of the Dutch who, in turn, were wary of the counter-attacking strength of Great Britain. A game of cautious possession and few chances seemed likely to move into golden goal' extra time until a turn-over in the British zone, a break off the front and a long pass down the pitch saw Andrew Petrie scoring the only goal of the game.

Thus 1999 final was to be a repeat of the 1995 and 1997

European Championships - a match-up with France, the most unpredictable of the leading Nations, who had reached the final scoring freely, but playing in a more disciplined style than in previous seasons.

The British took the lead through a goal from a free shot by Andrew Davis, but the French levelled the score before half time.

The second half was a tense affair with few chances at either end. With the clock running down and extra time looming, a French shot was saved. The ball could have landed any-where, but it rebounded via a boat back into the hands of the French paddler and his follow-up shot hit the back of the net, leaving the British replicating their silver medal result of 1997.

## Senior Women's Class

In the Women's Senior competition the medals seemed likely to be shared between France, Germany and Great Britain.

The 8 participating nations initially played each other in a single league, the semi-finals involving crossovers between the first and fourth and second and third placed team.

Although Great Britain arrived as European Champions and World Silver medallists, they were certainly not the favourites to take Gold. The 1999 season had involved major team re-building, retirements of senior players resulting in only three of the eight women who had come so close to defeating Australia in Portugal 12 months earlier remaining in the squad.

The British women's first game was against another of the 'big three' - the French. The 2-2 draw was an excellent result and boosted the confidence of the players experiencing their first-ever Championship.

The wide variation in standard within the women's game was



# European Polo Cham

The 1999 European Canoe Polo Championships, incorporating the Europa Cup competition for Under 21 Men and Under 21 Women, were held from 10th to 12th September on a three pitch complex at the Hazewinkel watersports centre near Mechelen, Belgium.

highlighted by Great Britain's next four results - the 7-0 defeat of Poland, a slightly harder-earned 7-2 win over Spain and 11-0 and 11-1 victories over Finland and Portugal respectively.

The final league game, against Germany, brought the British back down to earth. 20 minutes of intense 5-out polo led to a 5-4 win for Great Britain, first place in the league table, (by one point from France), and a semi-final against Spain, the outsiders of the four qualifiers.

The semi-final went according to form, a 4-1 victory leaving Great Britain facing Germany, (who, slightly surprisingly, overcame France by 4-3 in the other semi-final), in the final.

The final was disappointing from a British standpoint. Having



held their own in the early stages of the game they fell behind and once faced with playing catch-up tended to lose their composure. Anxiety led to miss-placed passes, ill-judged shots and frequent turn-overs of possession. The Germans were quick to pick up on the British errors and the second half of the game was especially one-sided, the final result being an 8-2 defeat for Great Britain.

But the British Women can reflect on a season of significant progress. For a team in transition and containing four players who would have been eligible for the Under 21 team, 1999 was always looked upon as a stepping stone to the 2000 World Championships. The over-all performance, culminating with the winning of the Silver Medal, suggests that much has been achieved.

#### Men's Under 21 Class

The Men's Europa Cup Under 21 competition, first held in Essen at the 1997 European Championships, when Great Britain defeated The Netherlands in the final, seemed certain to be very competitive. If the Cup were to be retained the British - a relatively young and inexperienced team when compared with the other leading contenders - would have to play to their absolute potential.

All four of the other European 'big five' Nations - France,



# Canoe Championships



Germany, Italy and The Netherlands - were present, (together with the Australians, appearing as a guest team). The British were initially drawn in a group with Belgium, France, Germany and Ireland. The top two in the group would go through to the semi-finals.

Great Britain opened with a 3-0 victory over the Belgians and

followed this with a 10-0 win over the Irish. Whether they would be in medal contention on the final day thus depended on their results in what were always going to be the two hardest of the group games.

A 3-3 draw against the Germans meant that a draw against France in the last group game would be enough to earn a semi-final place, (France having already defeated the Germans). In the event nerves held, the score being 2-2.

This left Great Britain second in the group and facing a semi-final against the Dutch, who had topped the other group. The French perhaps had a slightly easier semi-final, against Australia, (who, perhaps surprisingly, had rested second place in their group from Italy).

The semi-final mirrored the Senior Men's meetings with The Netherlands. An extremely close-fought game ended in a 1-0 victory for Great Britain and a place in the final against France, who had won their semi-final 5-4.

The British now played their best polo of the tournament. Although conceding an early goal, 10 seconds before half time Daniel Spike levelled the scores. Two minutes into the second half David Edwards put Great Britain 2-1 ahead, at which point the French switched to playing 5 out. The British youngsters still managed to control the game and a third goal, from Nick Archer, with 3 minutes left on the clock, was sufficient to ensure a hard-earned victory.

#### Women's Under 21 Class

Although canoe polo is becoming ever more popular in Europe, the Women's game lags behind the Men's, as illustrated by the fact that only four nations entered the inaugural women's Under 21 Europa Cup. (That Latvia, not renowned for its polo strength, supported the event reflects poorly on established nations that failed to do so).

The competition initially involved a league, the teams then playing crossover semi-finals.

Great Britain's team - three 16 year olds, a 17 year old, two 18 year olds and just one 20 year old 'veteran' - had been selected with the future very much in mind.

Their opening game produced an 11-0 victory over Latvia. This was followed by an excellent 3-2 win over the French, the league phase being completed with the 3-0 defeat of Italy.

The crossover semi finals saw Great Britain playing Italy and France facing Latvia. The British recorded a 12-0 victory whilst the French overcame Latvia 9-0.

The final was going to be a severe test of such a young, inexperienced team. Perhaps they got off to the worst possible start - taking advantage of early mistakes, Stacey Feenan and Rachael Waites each scored past a French goalkeeper who appeared to be totally lacking in confidence.

Whether the British then relaxed or their opponents raised their game, as the French pressed to 5-out mistakes began to creep in. Although they competed to the end the British were over-hauled and ended up on the losing end of a 6-2 score line.

However, there was certainly no shame in this defeat against a far more experienced French team. The performance of the girls, not just at the Championships but throughout the 1999 season, bodes well for Great Britain's future international prospects.

#### The Future

Currently Europe boasts five of the top six men's, and four of the women's, seeds in world terms. (In fact, only five Nations - Australia, France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy - have, to date, won medals of any colour at a World Championship).

Thus the European Championships provide a useful form guide as the British men and women prepare to improve on the Silver medals both won in Portugal in 1998.

But next year's Championships could mark the beginning of the end of the strangle hold of the historically dominant nations. The main challenge seems likely to come from Asia and it would be no surprise to see Japan in medal contention, especially in the women's competition, when that country hosts the 2004 World Championships. ●

## Teams

### Under 21 Women

K Bridge  
R Waites  
C Carden  
C Winter  
K Grieves  
K Barnard  
S Freenan

### Under 21 Men

N Archer  
S McClure  
O Bishop  
M Morris  
D Bowles  
D Spike  
D Edwards  
M Williamson

### Senior Women

S Berry  
J Hillyard  
G Buchan  
D Ratcliff  
L Grayson  
K Sutcliffe  
P Grayson  
H Young

### Senior Men

G Bayne  
S Moffitt  
C Bussell  
A Petrie  
R Bayne  
N Parker  
A Davis  
A Vessey

## Results

### Senior Women

1. Germany
2. Great Britain
3. France

### Senior Men

1. France
2. Great Britain
3. Italy

### Women's U21

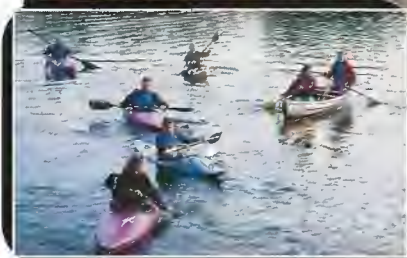
1. France
2. Great Britain
3. Italy

### Men's U21

1. Great Britain
2. France
3. Netherlands

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BCU Lifeguards  
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Surf  
Wild Water Racing

**British Canoe Union**  
**John Dudderidge House,**  
**Adbolton Lane,**  
**West Bridgford,**  
**Notts NG2 5AS**  
**Tel: (0115) 9821100**  
**Fax: (0115) 9821797**  
**E-mail: [info@bcu.org.uk](mailto:info@bcu.org.uk)**  
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# Canoeing a sport for everyone

## Why Join?

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One of the best ways to find out what canoeing has to offer is on a course. Under the expert guidance you will learn the basic techniques, and the simple safety rules, which will equip you to enjoy a lifetime of watery wanderings, or aquatic adventure.



## I would like to know more!

The British Canoe Union is able to provide lists of clubs and approved centres. As a member you will be able to get river information from BCU Access Officers.

## Who can join the British Canoe Union?

Anyone who enjoys canoeing or wants to canoe, whether a beginner, a weekend wanderer, a club canoeist or a serious white water paddler, the BCU welcomes everyone.

## Will my membership make a difference?

Yes, with every new member the voice of the BCU is stronger in representing its member's interest. This includes working with Government, national bodies and riparian interests to secure more access to our waterways and representing the paddlers interests abroad through the International Canoe Federation and the European Canoe Association.

## How do I find out more?

To find out more about our wonderful sport or to become a member of the BCU, please get in touch at: The British Canoe Union  
John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane,  
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS  
Tel: 0115 982 1100 Fax: 0115 982 1797

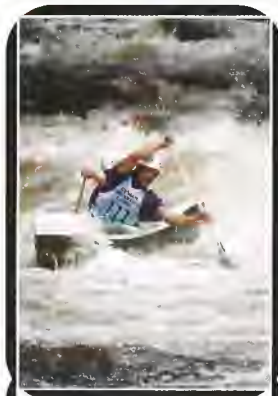
E-mail: [info@bcu.org.uk](mailto:info@bcu.org.uk)

Or visit our Web Site at <http://www.bcu.org.uk>



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Caledonia House,  
South Gyle  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9DQ  
Tel: 0131 3177314

WELSH CANOE ASSOCIATION  
Canolfan  
Tryweryn,  
Frongoch, Bala  
Gwynedd  
LL23 7NU  
Tel: 01678 521199

IRISH CANOE ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND  
House of Sport,  
Upper Malone Rd  
Belfast BT9 5LA  
Tel: 01247 469907



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## **NORTH WEST REGION**

Derwent, Ribble, Irwell, Goyt, Weaver, Dane, Eden,  
Lune, Kent

**0906 619 7733**

## **MIDLANDS REGION**

Avon, Dove, Derwent, Severn, Soar, Tame, Teme,  
Trent, Vyrnwy

**0906 619 7744**

## **WELSH REGION**

Wye, Usk, Tywi

**0906 619 7755**

## **SOUTH WEST REGION**

Hampshire Avon, Frome, Axe, Otter, Exe, Teign, Dart,  
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