

THE CANOE SPORT MAGAZINE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

# canoe

## focus

04-02

No. 136

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Kenya

Canada's

Fifty

A hidden paradise

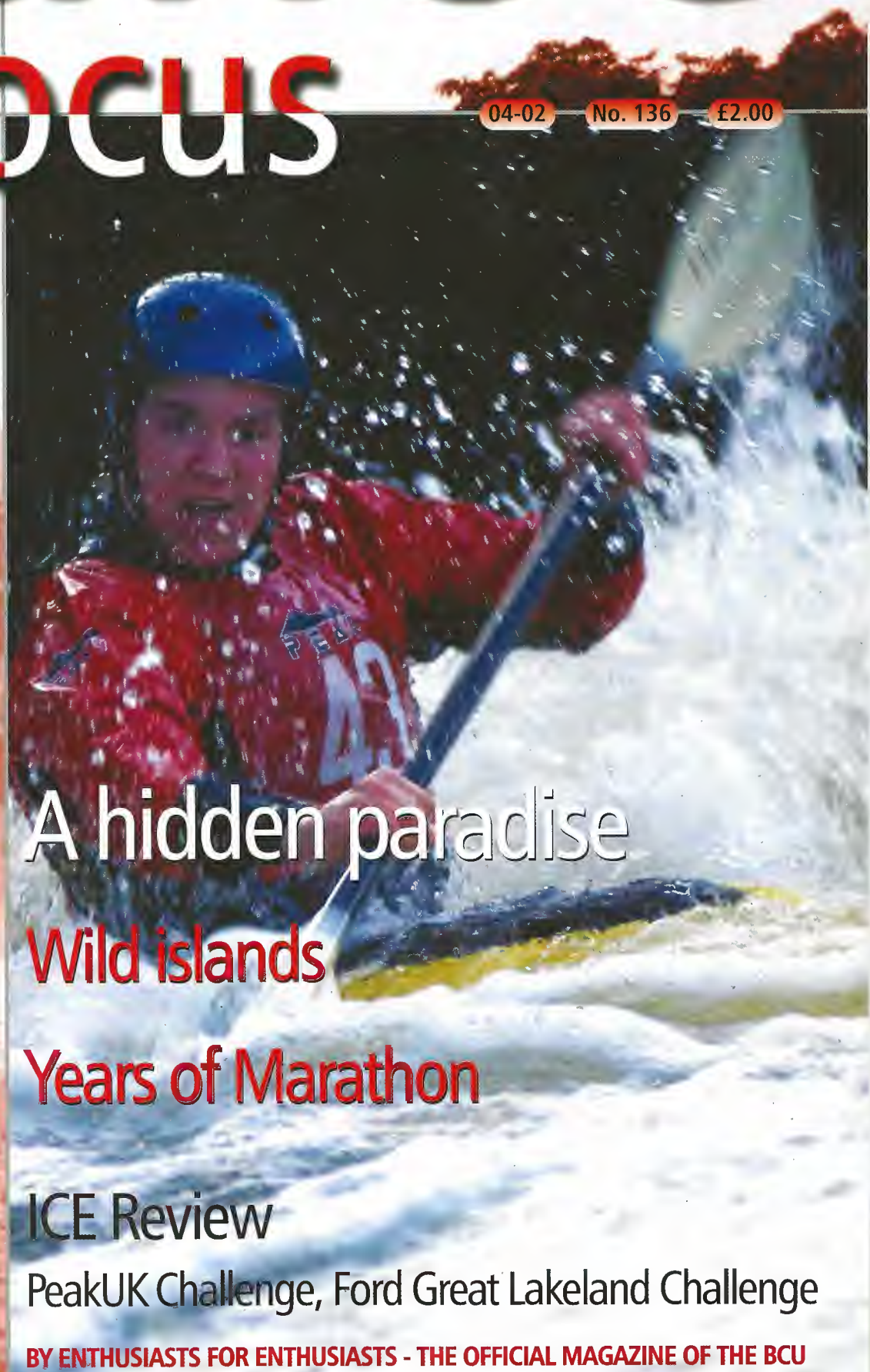
Wild islands

Years of Marathon

ICE Review

PeakUK Challenge, Ford Great Lakeland Challenge

BY ENTHUSIASTS FOR ENTHUSIASTS - THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE BCU





## Canoe Focus

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quality and  
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olympic medals

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Suzy Hornby and

Paul Smith

Good paddling to you all!

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Jessops, Avoncraft and Reeds

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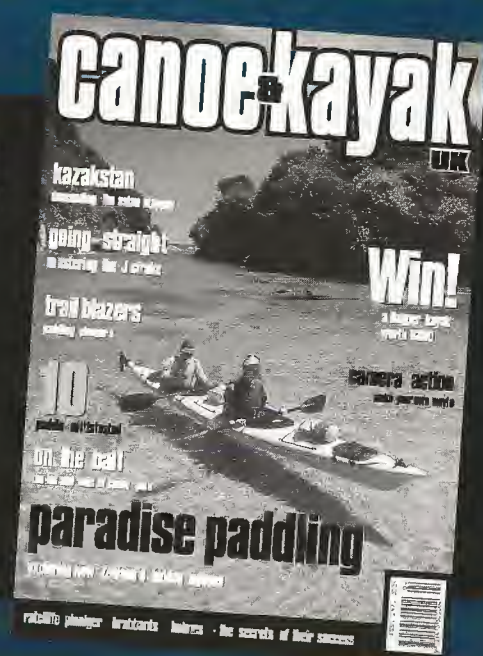
# canoe & kayak

MAGAZINE **UK**

## THE ESSENTIAL PADDLING READ!

From sea kayaking to slalom, freestyle to polo, marathon to open boating... if you get your kicks from canoeing or kayaking then don't miss out. Full of interviews, gear tests, trip reports, Canoe and Kayak UK is THE independent magazine for the modern paddlesports lover. It is written and edited by a dedicated team, who are as passionate about their writing and photography as they are about their paddling. But don't take our word for it, visit your nearest newsagent or order a copy today and see for yourself.

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# COMMENT

**Paul Owen**  
Chief Executive

## BCU AGM

**Former Chair of the BCU board David Gent was elected an Honorary Vice President of the British Canoe Union at the AGM held on March 9th. David, now Regional Director of Yorkshire for Sport England, made an outstanding contribution to the development of the BCU as Chair, and through the role of Vice President he will be able to assist the organisation in its strategic development.**

**Dave Belbin was elected as the new Treasurer of the BCU, and Ian Janes, Sue Janes, Andy Rawson and Graham Wardle were all elected to the board. At the BCU board meeting held prior to the meeting, BCU awards were made as follows:**

<b>David Enoch</b>	<b>Award of Honour</b>
<b>Heather Brough</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>
<b>Tamsin Phipps</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>
<b>Gerry Rodgers</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>
<b>Jim Rossiter</b>	<b>Award of Merit</b>

## Access

Many thanks to Mr Gerry Steinberg MP, Mr Terry Davis MP, Lynne Jones MP, Dr Vincent Cable MP and Mr Alan Simpson MP who gave their names to an Early Day Motion number 978 in the House of Commons, which stated:

"That this House welcomes the DEFRA-commissioned report, Water-Based Sport and Recreation: the facts, from the University of Brighton that re-affirms the unique legal position in England and Wales which restricts water-based recreation, and identifies the need to open more inland water for access needed for most sports and recreations, in particular the special access difficulties faced by canoeists; and urges the Government to introduce measures to provide fair, equitable and secure access to inland waters for water-based sports".

Please, if you have not already done so contact your MP. Even if you have already been in touch, write again

drawing attention to the Early Day Motion. Also, write to the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR.

The Access 2002 lobby has only been possible because of the dedicated support of canoeists; on behalf of the BCU I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

## World Canoeing Day

The ICF have announced that World Canoeing Day will take place on June 5th. The day will concentrate on developing the recognition of canoeing worldwide. The idea is for paddlers to show themselves as defenders of the environment with the slogan of keeping the water free from any pollution.

## A better deal for Direct Debit

Members who renew their membership by direct debit will get a better deal as not only will you pay at last year's rates but you also get a better quality membership card. As production of these cards takes a little longer than the 'normal' membership card, members renewing close to their expiry date will pay the lower rate, but will be issued with a temporary card. The better quality card will follow on.

## The season ahead

The competition season is nearly upon us and on behalf of everyone associated with the BCU we would like to wish all British teams well in the months ahead.

## International Canoe Exhibition

Held in February the International Canoe Exhibition was again a great success with several thousand visitors. Congratulations must go to Brian Stanbridge and his organising team for putting together a very professional show.

## Outdoors Show

About thirty thousand visitors attended the Outdoors Show at the National Exhibition Centre in March and the BCU were pleased to staff a very busy stand. The success of this particular exhibition finally demonstrated that an outdoor show can really work in the UK and it provides an exciting opportunity for the future. The BCU are actively investigating the possibility of holding the International Canoe Exhibition alongside the Outdoor Show in 2003.

## Making a splash in the world of watersports

The College of Falmouth is the first in the UK to develop courses totally dedicated to watersports.

Already renowned for its numerous marine courses, the Marine School at the College of Falmouth has now added another string to its bow.

Starting in September 2002 these courses will allow students to study on the water and gain a National Diploma or an NVQ level 2 qualification at the same time.

John-Paul Eatock, Programme Manager at the College of Falmouth commented, "This is an exciting time for us as we have developed courses that will help students gain National Governing Body Awards, whilst allowing them to go on to Further Education, Higher Education or work in the outdoor industry. With our ideal location, at the heart of Cornwall, we are the only F/E College in the UK to specialise in a wide range of watersports."

There has already been significant interest in these courses and students will be able to experience surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, sailing and powerboating whilst gaining National Governing Body Qualifications."

Anyone interested should contact the **College of Falmouth on 01326 310310.**

## Around Britain Challenge

The Around Britain Challenge is progressing well towards its target launch date of Friday 10th May from The Tower, London. The team has three main objectives:

- Circumnavigate Great Britain by Handcycle (David Abrutat) & by Sea Kayak (Nigel Rogoff).
- Increase the profile and awareness of the role of the National Blood Service by attracting 100,000 NEW blood donors in 2002.
- Raise £100,000 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the RNLI.

Nigel and David are currently training hard at venues in the UK and Spain. The website [www.abchallenge.org](http://www.abchallenge.org) now has a secure online donation facility and an online ordering system for T-Shirts (£15 which inc. p & p).

With less than four months to go, the team is still very short of funds, equipment and volunteers to join the cycle or kayak teams to make this all possible. The Around Britain Challenge aims to make a real difference to the NBS who helped Nigel and David to live. They cannot achieve this without your support. For further details contact the **Project Manager David Abrutat Tel 07989 388063** email [abrutat@orange.net](mailto:abrutat@orange.net).

## Herts Canoe Lifeguards assisted

Local property maintenance company J Root Maintenance Ltd of Ware, Hertfordshire have kindly provided the Unit

Members of Herts Canoe Lifeguards with new-style lifeguard polo shirts.

Herts Canoe Lifeguards provide Safety Covers (water rescue services) together with specialist courses and risk assessment on water safety for inland water users. These include organised groups of schools, youth groups, Scouts, Guides and individuals. Various Safety Covers over the past year have included the World Marathon Championships in Teeside, The London Triathlon, The Worlds Marathon Swimming Series in London's Victoria Docks and many more.

Malcolm Ferris-Lay, spokesman for Herts Canoe Lifeguards said, "Thanks to J Root Ltd the donation of these shirts will raise the unit's profile at events where the public attend, thereby increasing awareness of the work of lifeguards throughout the country". For more information please contact: **Malcolm Ferris-Lay, Publicity, Herts Canoe Lifeguards 01582 813814 or 07771 567929**

## World heritage sea kayaking

St Kilda, Outer Hebrides – June 2002

A new adventure holiday has just been promoted – sea kayaking round the World Heritage Site of St Kilda - Scotland's most fascinating island archipelago, together with the mysterious Flannan Isles and other offshore islands around Scotland's Outer Hebrides. The expedition will be supported by motor vessel with full-board *continued on page 8*

## Sportsaid and Group L.A. Fitness to support sports stars of the future

Top television sports presenter Gabby Logan was joined by a host of international sports stars at the launch of a major initiative to support some of the UK's most talented sporting youngsters.

A unique agreement between Fred Turok's rapidly expanding health and fitness club chain L.A. Fitness and the charity SportsAid will see more than 160 young people benefit from free use of training facilities and cash grants.

Some of those youngsters were rubbing shoulders with the likes of athletes Donna Fraser and Catherine Murphy – both beneficiaries of SportsAid grants as up and coming young sports stars – when the initiative was launched at London's Le Meridien Waldorf Hotel on

Monday February 4th.

"There is so much talent in this country that needs encouraging and supporting and L.A. Fitness is of course in a unique position to

stage," said Fred Turok.

More than 60% of the British medallists at the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games received support from SportsAid as young rising talents.

The charity has now identified youngsters from a range of sports who will be 'adopted' by more than 40 L.A. Fitness clubs nationwide. Each club will give complimentary membership to two senior sports people as they strive to be among the very best in the world. Clubs will also endeavour to raise funds throughout the year to provide financial support for at least two potential champions of the future from their own communities.

"As someone who personally benefited from SportsAid as an aspiring athlete I know just how important their support is when you're trying to be the best that you can," explained TV personality and 1990 Commonwealth Games gymnast Gabby Logan.

The deal will see staff and members of L.A. Fitness supporting up-and-coming young hopefuls such as 17-year-old fencer Laurence Halstead, canoeist Nanette Kelly, tennis player Anne Keothavong and athlete Vernicha James.

"We are delighted and honoured to have been chosen as the official charity partner of such a progressive and successful company as L.A. Fitness," said Chris Goldie, Director of SportsAid. "Our partnership will place L.A. Fitness clubs at the heart of their sporting communities and we very much hope that their members will want to play an active and significant part in the promotion of sport, fitness and a healthy lifestyle to young people all over the country. Together L.A. Fitness and SportsAid will create a better sporting future for youngsters up and down the UK."

For further press information please contact **The Clive Davis Partnership. Tel: 020 8669 8268, fax: 020 8773 4945, e-mail: [clive.davis@virgin.net](mailto:clive.davis@virgin.net)**



help get youngsters on the right track to realising their dreams and achieving sporting success on the world



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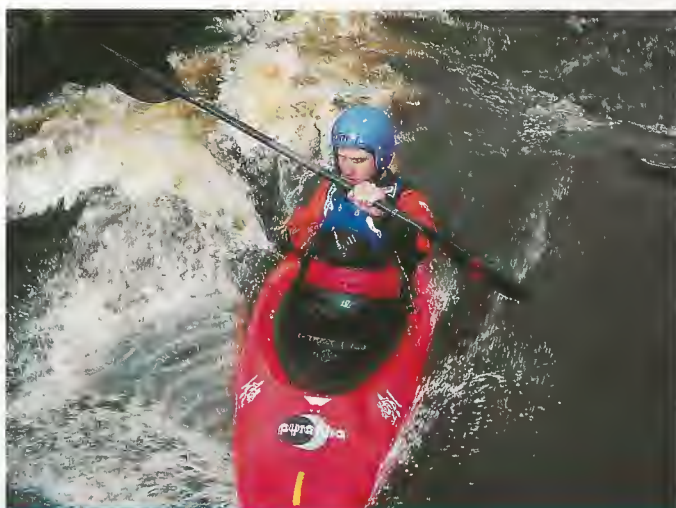
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# Fleece to see you

Reed Chill Cheater's top-to-toe Transpire Fleece range has sold really well across the country since its launch last year. These technical, fast-wicking fleeces are snug, close-fitting, stretchy and super comfortable, allowing a paddler to keep a warm dry 'glow' close to where it matters, without feeling sweaty. The separates now available are socks, pants tops and a balaclava hood that can be pulled down and worn as a comfortable neck cowl.

For further information on this product contact Reed on 01271 815828 or email [reed@chillcheater.com](mailto:reed@chillcheater.com)



## Urgently seeking paddlers

Hebridean Challenge a five-day adventure sport race in the Outer Hebrides from

May 6-10 is urgently seeking paddlers. We have several teams including some good ones who are entered but still lack a paddler. You need to be paddling at or above BCU 4\* SEA level and preferably hold the actual BCU cert.

We're still also happy to take actual team and solo entries. Entry fee is £300 for five-person self-supporting teams and £100 for solos, who will be heavily vetted as to their suitability for this gruelling event! Anyone interested please contact me via

[steffisar@aol.com](mailto:steffisar@aol.com) or ring 01851 870716.

Many thanks, Stephanie Sargent, local organiser & Level 3 Coach Sea. Hebridean Challenge is a non-profit Community Trust and is still also seeking corporate sponsors and donations of prizes- all offers and suggestions gratefully received!

## Vagabond

In the February issue of Canoe Focus, the contact details of Vagabond were incorrectly printed. For the record they should be as follows.

### Vagabond

8 Lark Hill, batley, West Yorkshire WF17 0QR  
Mobile: 0775 2234173;  
International/UK office  
Tel: 01924 359801;  
Fax: 01536 522156;  
email:  
[carve\\_vgb@hotmail.com](mailto:carve_vgb@hotmail.com)  
www.

[thecarvingvagabond.co.uk](http://thecarvingvagabond.co.uk)  
We apologise for any confusion caused.

accommodation, and under the leadership of one of Scotland's finest sea kayakers.

Now, with the support of Adventure Hebrides, sea-paddlers will be able to visit these fascinating places, with the comfort of the on-board facilities of a 67-foot ship, the MV Cuma. The vessel will provide full board and accommodation and allow paddlers to visit the St Kilda archipelago, as well as other island groups to the west of the Hebrides, including the Monarch Isles and the Flannan Isles – infamous for the mysterious disappearance of its three lighthouse keepers one hundred years ago.

Lying in the Atlantic Ocean, some 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, themselves off the west coast of Scotland, the St Kilda island archipelago was Scotland's first World Heritage Site. The trip leader will be one of Scotland's finest sea kayakers, Murdie Campbell. Murdie is renowned for his extreme kayak exploits, and was awarded the Scottish Canoe Association Gold Medal for his Northern Rocks Expedition in 1992 – the unsupported, and never repeated, kayak trip from the Hebrides to North Rona and Sula Sgeir (40 miles north of the Butt of Lewis). In 1999 he paddled the 38 Atlantic miles to St Kilda! Murdie is a BCU Senior Instructor Sea and A1 Assessor.

The 8-day trip will run from Saturday 1st to Saturday 8th of June 2002. The price, which includes all food and accommodation, is £1275. The trip is limited to ten sea-kayakers. More information can be obtained from the web site [www.canohebrides.com](http://www.canohebrides.com) or by telephoning Tim on +44 (0) 1851 820726.

## SAS surf into cyber space

Perranporth Beach, North Cornwall

Surfers Against Sewage one of the UK's leading environmental pressure group's relaunched their exciting new look web site on Friday, 1st March with the help of Olympic Gold Medalist, Ben Ainslie.

Ben stated "Anyone who enjoys water sports will know how important it is for the water we use to be clean and pollution free. Without organisations like SAS, water users would not have a voice and our water environment would still be seen as a bottomless dustbin for our waste. I am delighted to be able to help SAS take their message to an even wider audience by relaunching their website".

The new SAS web site was launched from the top of Chapel Rock, Perranporth on the North Cornish Coast. Key features of the new site will be a private SAS members only area; with an e-zine style online magazine, exclusive articles and photos. Improved communication channels with academia and the public providing an excellent educational resource and improved usability.

"The SAS website has become an invaluable tool to the campaign. As well as enabling us to spread the word about our achievements, ideas, events and products to a global audience, it has become an information resource for anyone who cares about the state of our water environment and who wants to do their bit to make a difference". - Vicky Garner Campaign Director, SAS

**If you require further information please contact Kim Harris on 0845 4583001 or [kim@sas.org.uk](mailto:kim@sas.org.uk)**



## Photo competition winner

Congratulations to Kate Donnelly of Gosport, Hampshire a Nookie £50 discount voucher is winging its way to you.



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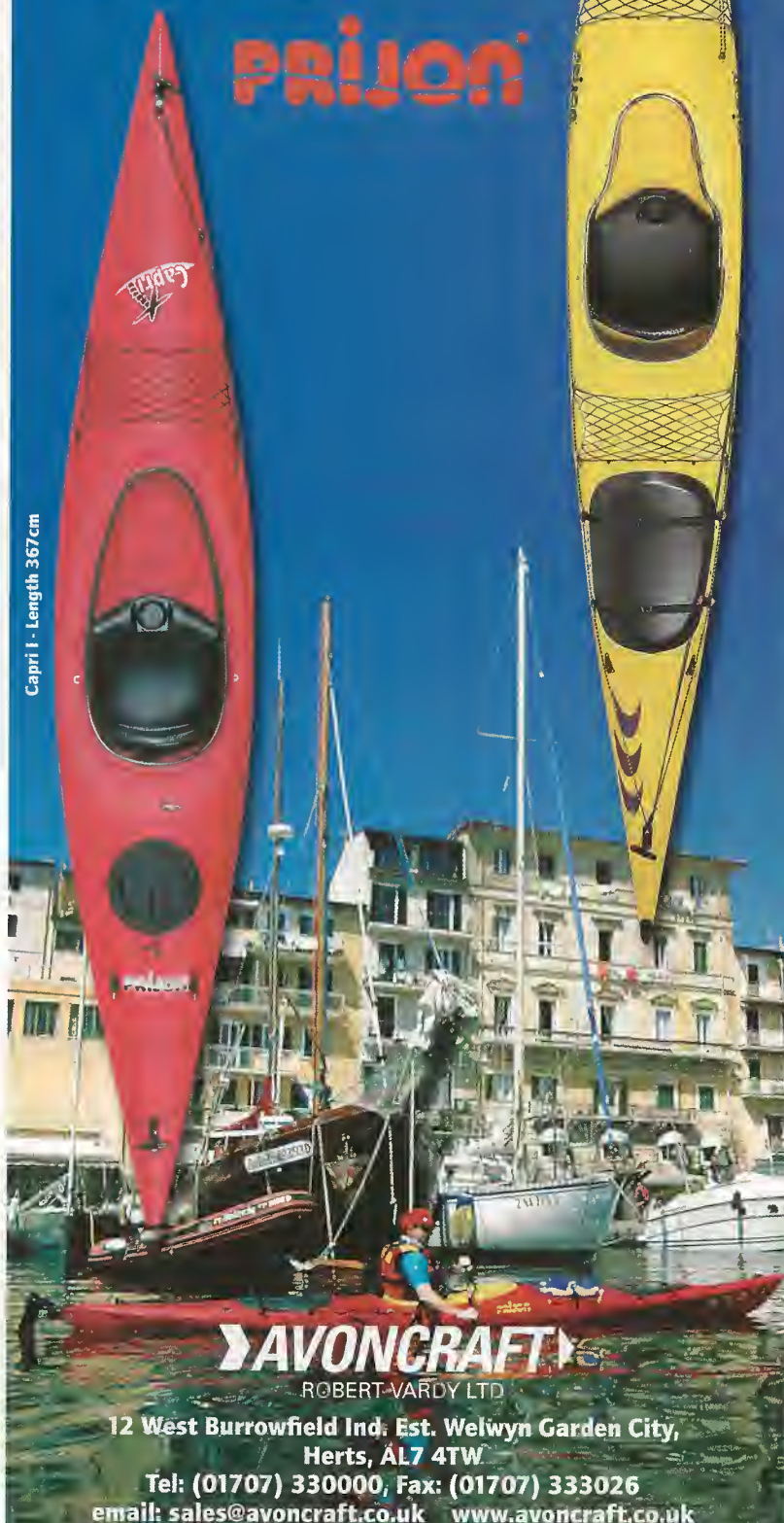
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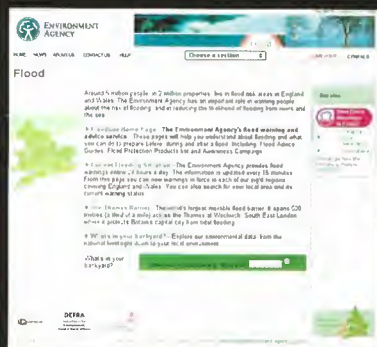
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# WILD web

The internet is essentially a giant library of information, and is increasingly becoming the first port of call for information on any subject. Enthusiasts are adding daily to this morass of information, each with their own eclectic focus and set of interests.

When planning a paddling trip the internet is now a realistic source of river and travel information, with everything from where to go to how to get there and what to take. [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com) is an excellent free service providing maps and directions, as well as journey times, to and from any place in Europe. With the ability to zoom in and out, and print any map there is



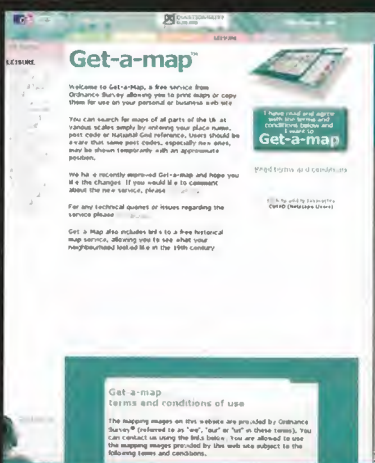
no excuse for getting lost. The Ordnance Survey also provide maps that can be downloaded based upon key word searches at [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap).

So now you know how to get there you need to know what to do. A number of organisations are slowly adding local river guides to their sites, and guides to many countries are now available. For the UK the key site is [www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/](http://www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk/) which is constantly being updated, and refreshed. It is fair to say that the UK Rivers Guide now contains guides to all of the key rivers, and is a very useful resource. A number of local clubs are providing local information, and the Yorkshire University Canoe Club is a good example of this type of site at [www.canoeclub.org.uk/yucc/rivers.html](http://www.canoeclub.org.uk/yucc/rivers.html). Some parts of the BCU are also doing there bit, and the South West BCU has a very detailed guide to rivers in their area here [www.dccs.co.uk/bcusw/](http://www.dccs.co.uk/bcusw/). With BCU membership comes a licence to use the canal network of the UK for free. A great resource for finding about you local canals, and to plan round trips is [www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk) - though their habit of referencing stretches of canal by bridge number can be a little annoying.

If it is pollution you are concerned about then a good place to visit is the environment agency at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/).

With a little perseverance you can get information on the pollution status of any stretch of river in the UK. In addition their interactive map service gives all sorts of amazing information including predicted flood warnings for an area. Unlike Europe and the USA there is still no source for live river level information, although the environment agency does collect a vast amount of river level data for their flood predictions. It would be nice to have this live and online. The Welsh Canoeing Association is promising Welsh river levels here [www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk/waterinfo/levels.htm](http://www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk/waterinfo/levels.htm), though the page is currently under production.

Overall there is plenty of information if you care to look for it.



## Subsidised outdoor training

Society no longer takes the view that a well meaning untrained volunteer is suitable to introduce young people to adventurous activities. As high profile cases following accidents illustrate, volunteer leaders need to have the right experience and the right evidence of their competence. Anyone involved in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will know that there are rules and regulations requiring Award volunteers, supervisors and assessors to gain a wide variety of qualifications; a Mountain Leader Award to take a Gold group into wild country, or a BCU Level 3 coach (sea) if a group are planning a venture in sheltered coastal waters. Following several tragic accidents, most notably the Lyme Bay incident, the Adventure Activities Licensing Act (1996) sought to give assurance that good safe management is being followed. Qualifications through National Governing Body Awards (NGB) are one way that the Act identified to not only prove your competence but get relevant experience in a structured way.

Qualifications don't come cheap. A volunteer will not only have to pay for a training course, but they then have the expense of an assessment. Hidden costs may also be an inhibiting factor to anyone involved in the Award from gaining outdoor qualifications. Equipment, travel and time are all necessary to help achieve that logbook experience during the consolidation period between training and assessment.

At Plas y Brenin, whether it be training and assessing groups, providing subsidised training courses or simply an up-to-date weather forecast for Snowdonia, help is always on hand to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. If you can put together a group of 4-6 volunteers for a BCU Coach training course, we will run a subsidised course for you here at Plas y Brenin.

If you would like to know more about the subsidised course, then contact **Helen Barnard at Plas y Brenin on 01690 720214** or email her at [HelenB@pyb.co.uk](mailto:HelenB@pyb.co.uk)

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## Joint freestyle camp

Kayakojacko the Whitewater and Freestyle Coaching and Holiday provision specialists are proud to announce we are holding our first joint freestyle camp with former world freestyle champion and world renowned paddler Ollie Grau.

The Camp takes place in Germany and Austria and will use world class freestyle sites such as Augsburg, the Reid Wave and the Eurocup site Plattling. Dates are from 10th to 14th of June 2002.

There are limited places available so book soon to avoid disappointment. **For more information look on the web at [www.kayakojacko.co.uk](http://www.kayakojacko.co.uk) or call on 07775 762552.**

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[www.surfkayaking.co.uk](http://www.surfkayaking.co.uk)

## Date change for the Coach Level Five training at Glenmore Lodge

For aspiring level five coaches Glenmore Lodge has a new date for your diary. The proposed level five training course, scheduled for October 2002 has been cancelled and replaced with an August course date. The new date for the course is 10-16th August 2002.

Explained senior paddling instructor Ian Sherrington: "We felt this was a more convenient date for all and already have bookings. For this course we would prefer to employ the best coaches available to work with you in your chosen area of expertise. The earlier you book the better chance you give us to do this - the best get busy!"

The main thrust of this course is to provide an atmosphere in which prospective coaches can explore a range of teaching styles and approaches to coaching. An emphasis will be placed on the generic nature of coaching by working in a range of canoeing and kayaking disciplines. This six-day course will be based at Glenmore Lodge, the Scottish purpose built National Centre nestled at the foot of the Cairngorms. For more information on this and other canoe sport courses see [www.glenmorelodge.org.uk](http://www.glenmorelodge.org.uk) or telephone 01479 861256.

## West Cornwall Sea Kayak Experience

On Monday 3rd June 2002, Penzance and Hayle Canoe Clubs will be hosting a 12 mile Sea Race, together with a six-mile race, 3-mile 'fun' race and a minnows race in a popular event known as the West Cornwall Sea Kayak Experience (WCSKE).

This year the event coincides with a visit by the International Bays Trophy organisation bringing paddlers from Canada, Germany and France. The bays Trophy is in its third year and consists of a challenge both in terms of kayaking and culturally to visit each of the 28 nominated bays around the world. The WCSKE competitions are open to individuals, but there is also a coveted Club trophy for the club with the most points on the day.

Although classed as a 'fun' event, water conditions in St Ives Bay can be more than a little challenging and therefore competitors in the Sea Race are strongly advised to include the following equipment: - tow-line; flares; whistle, survival bag; vacuum flask containing hot drink; and split paddles.

The entry fees are: - 12 mile and 6 mile race, £5 a seat; Fun & Minnows, £3 a seat. Non-members of BCU, Hayle or Penzance Canoe Club, and SLSC will have to pay an additional £1.50 for insurance. Check in for all events is 9.30 am on the Monday but the organisers would appreciate knowing in advance of your intention to take part. **Contact Rob Ford on 01326 340427**, e-mail [rob@tmag.co.uk](mailto:rob@tmag.co.uk) for more details and an application form.

## The CT Freestyle Festival

June 15/16

Building on the continued success of the 5.10 Coaching Festival, Canolfan Tryweryn, the National White Water Centre, is hosting a second two-day festival dedicated to the art of freestyle. Offering the opportunity to be coached by the country's leading playboat coaches and playboaters, this is first event of its kind in the UK. Workshops will cater for all standards of freestyle paddler, giving you the chance to learn from the pro's whether you're throwing your first end or linking your moves into a 45 second freestyle frenzy. Sunday afternoon will be a Freestyle Competition open to all (workshops include free entry into the competition). River access will be restricted to workshop students and coaches on Saturday to ensure a quality learning environment with normal access resuming on Sunday to allow practice time for the Freestyle Competition. What more could you ask for?

Festival details and booking forms will be available in April. To request your booking form contact **Canolfan Tryweryn on 01678 521083** or e-mail [canolfan-tryweryn@virgin.net](mailto:canolfan-tryweryn@virgin.net).

## Anglesey Sea Kayak Symposium

The dates of the main event are May 4th-6th May. BCU courses and day expeditions run from 7th-10th May. Coaching processes and assessor days are on 11th and 12th May. And build your own Inuit kayak runs from 28th April - 3rd May. **The venue is the Anglesey Sea & Surf Centre, Porthdafarch Road, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 2LP. Tel - 01407 762525.**

## BCU "Silly Hat" Medway Tour

Sunday 21st April 2002

Celebrate Spring once again with a casual paddle on the Medway in countryside of outstanding natural beauty. Just to get the event into the right mood we would like all participants to wear a hat... the sillier the better! Travel to Yalding (Grid Ref 690498) where you can either park on the road just to the North of the bridge or pay for parking in the field just to the South of the bridge. We will meet at Yalding Automatic Sluices (by The Anchor pub) at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. The aim is to paddle a figure of eight course in 4 stages as described in our leaflet. All grades of paddler are welcome.

There will be an entry charge (on the day) of £2.00 per BCU member on production of a current BCU membership card

and £3.50 for all other paddlers which provides third party liability insurance up to £2m for the duration of the event. For further information please **contact Norman Brooks on 01634 241350** e-mail: [norman.brooks@dds.delphiauto.com](mailto:norman.brooks@dds.delphiauto.com)

## The Bitches are back!

25th - 28th April 2002

Be a part of the action and enjoy yourself in sunny St. David's. Where is the action? In a place you would never believe could possibly exist in the natural environment - one of the biggest and most ferocious pieces of white water in the Western Hemisphere - The Bitches, just off the coast of Pembrokeshire, West Wales.

Why should I be there? To soak up the atmosphere and enjoy some Soul Searching in Pembrokeshire, be part of the event and enjoy taking part with the top kayakers from around the world in the latest and most radically designed boats. Rip it up whilst the tide is flowing at its fastest and the white water is at its largest. **For more information please contact: Sonia at TYF** [play@tyf.com](mailto:play@tyf.com) (01437) 721611.

## BCU Lifeguards Convention

13th/14th April 2002

Sea Cadet Centre, Weymouth Once again, the annual BCU Lifeguards Convention will be held at the Sea Cadet Centre, in the Dorset coastal town of Weymouth, over Saturday 13th April and Sunday 14th April 2002. The BCU Lifeguards convention offers individuals and clubs from all backgrounds, not just lifeguarding, an ideal opportunity to tap into the wide range of expertise and experience available from the BCU Lifeguards.

Total cost of the weekend will be £30, which covers your accommodation, training & assessment of most awards (some courses require additional fees), certificates, lunches on Saturday & Sunday and Saturday night's bowling and hot buffet - not bad hey! For further information about the BCU Lifeguards Convention, contact: **Graham 'Bertie..' Beckram BCU LG Convention Co-ordinator 24 Moorside Avenue, Neston, Cheshire CH64 6QT 07733 262039 (evenings only)** [bertie@boater.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:bertie@boater.freeserve.co.uk)

## The Doggy Paddle is back

After a one year break the doggy paddle is returning to the canoeing calendar and will take place on Sunday May 19th 2002. This annual charity recreational paddle is to be organised by Royal Leamington Spa Canoe Club in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and will be run in memory of Chris Perry who previously organised the Doggy Paddle. The Doggy Paddle gives canoeists their only chance in the year to paddle this beautiful 19 mile stretch of the River Avon between Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon, passing through the spectacular grounds of Warwick Castle and Charlecote Park. Further details, entry forms and sponsorship forms can be found at [www.doggypaddle.org.uk](http://www.doggypaddle.org.uk) or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to **C. Williams, 5 Packington Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1EP.**

## Lifeplan Nene Wavehopper Sprint

20th April 2002

Lifeplan Product Ltd are sponsoring the first ever Nene WildWater Racing Sprint race. The Race is a Wavehopper only event (Wavehoppers supplied) open to all abilities of paddler. The race will consist of two timed runs down the white water course, the fastest total time giving the winner.

This is event is an ideal introduction to the exciting sport of wild water racing. Lifeplan ([www.lifeplan.co.uk](http://www.lifeplan.co.uk)) are manufacturers and suppliers of quality nutritional supplements and will be giving every entrant a free vitamin supplement and providing the prizes. For more information about the race contact **Neil Blackman, 15 Willow Grove, Swithland Plains, Mountsorrel, Leic, LE12 7ST.**



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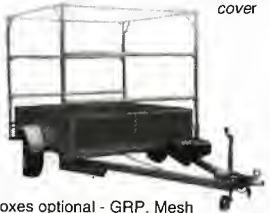
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# The first Peak Challenge



The 12th and 13th January saw the first competitive event of the year when the Peak Challenge hit Llangollen for the first time.

Despite low water levels on the River Dee (a depressing 2 on the gauge at Mile End Mill), around 75 competitors from all over the UK came to compete and have a bit of a knees up.

It all kicked off on Saturday morning at the Serpents Tail. Anxious organisers, tired and weary from 72 hours of non-stop rain dancing began to get the show on the road. Competitors either looked up to the clear blue sky and wondering where the rain would come from to get the hole running for the rodeo, or looked down the at the Tail and scratched their heads trying to pick out a route through the slalom course.

Now the term "Extreme Slalom" is bandied about, and many pointy boaters snigger at those who paddle stubby plastic bath tubs and attempt to "extreme-ifi" the art of pole dodging. However, several Premier Division slalomists were seen at the Tail scratching their beards and wondered whether a clean run was possible, especially when coupled with a 360 spin and a cartwheel half way down the course.

Low water does make the Serpents Tail more interesting, as micro eddies and a steeper gradient come into play. The course used these features and some evil grabby boils to great effect. Those with a bit of initiative sneaked on a few practice/demo/"how not to" demo runs, watched by a swelling crowd able to stand at the edge of the Tail, and the excitement grew.

Gate 2 required a flat 360 to be executed on what was a very small wave, further control was required to link down stream gates 3, 4 and 5, then reach the first eddy on river right where there was a target board for gate 6. Speed was needed to power into the boily eddy where an upstream gate 7 teased those in short boats by sucking them down just before they made it through. Gate 8 another target board on the last river right eddy before the stopper was one of the easier gate (even I got that one). On gate 9 a two ended cartwheel was required and then it was off down through the narrow slot that normally forms the stopper in higher water to the last few gates.

Despite the presence of Martin Shakeshaft (of Viva Sort fame) and his movie camera, no swims were recorded, but it was close. A number of "Rodeo Stars" were seen to be human after all, and that was the first event wrapped up.

After a bite to eat (and for some still suffering from Xmas DT's a beer or two) in the Chain Bridge Hotel the down river race was on. Four paddlers at a time raced head to head down the Tail and all the way to Mile End Mill! That's what you call an aerobic workout, though much needed after too much turkey and roast tatties. Pity the Sub6 paddlers and their kind, who struggled with their distinct lack of boat to the get out.

Oh yes and the first swimmer! Through sheer exhaustion one junior, female paddler (blonde hair, red inazone), who shall remain nameless popped her deck after capsizing on the campsite weir.

(don't forget to drink water!)

ge



# at Llangollen goes off



All done for the day, attention was turned to the night-time delights of slide shows, spinning disks and some band called Burdock.

For some of the 10 year old paddlers from Llandyssul, it was their first time in a nightclub. And for the nearly 18's it was a lesson in humility, big J's written on their hands so they couldn't be served liquor. Who was that old man who talked about rivers in Iran until he was fed with enough beer?

Sunday morning, the Rodeo and still no rain. the level had dropped to 2 on the gauge!

Despite the walls above the hole being built up the week before, the conditions were difficult. The low water required paddlers to have inch perfect control to position themselves on back of the pile to get vertical moves going without hitting rock. Many paddlers fell by the wayside, struggling to score points by not being able to link moves and washing or crashing out. However, a handful of better paddlers showed that it was possible to get high scoring rides and a battle royale, got underway with the last few competitors in short boats linking multiple ends and both sides, cleans, blunts and blasts.

Despite cracking runs from Cheesy, Snowy, Mark Birbeck, Sam Ellis and Mr Astles, the rodeo was eventually won by Richard Barber, from Eddylines, who decided he should enter his first ever rodeo an hour before the event started!

Hopefully all those that paddled enjoyed themselves. For many from Llangollen, Llandyssul and Mold canoe

clubs it was their first taste of competition, for others who usually paddle HP and Nene it was a challenge of a natural river.

The Peak Challenge is due back in Llangollen in October, when hopefully river levels and the later bar licence will make for an explosive weekend.

This year the Peak Challenge events feature new sport, master and expert categories where the bulk of the prizes do not go to the experts. Prizes are also awarded to outstanding funsters, for swims, crazy moves etc.... At the end of a tiring, but awesome fun weekend overall points were calculated for each discipline and results posted:

Overall Expert Men: Pete Astles; Overall Expert lady: Lynsey Evans; Overall Expert Junior: Tom Emmerson / James Barnes, joint; Overall Sport Men: Charlie Mott; Overall Sport Junior: Tom Nuttall; Overall Sport Lady: Louise Weir; Overall C1: Lee Pyke; Overall Master: Dave Bradshaw; Overall Junior Lady: Emily Wall.

Special Thanks to all the event sponsors: Peak UK, Riot Necky, Teva, Pyranha, Nomad Paddles, and Canolfan Tryweryn. Thanks to Llangollen Canoe Club for helping put on a super event, JJ Canoeing for use of the river, The Chain Bridge Hotel and River Lodge for letting us use their bars etc for scoring and partying. And thanks to everyone who helped, paddled and came along especially Matt Stephens for doing all the computer stuff yet again. ●

**Words: Ben Clinche - Llangollen Canoe Club. Pics - Pete Astles**

## Peak UK Whitewater Challenge Series calendar 2002:

- April 13th/ 14th** River Tryweryn. Bala. North Wales
- May 18th/ 19th** Tees Side Artificial Whitewater Course. The Tees Barrage. Stockton
- June 29th/ 30th** Holme Pierrepont Artificial Whitewater Course. Nottingham
- Sept 21st/ 22nd** The Nene Artificial Whitewater Course. Northampton
- Oct 5th/ 6th** Holme Pierrepont Artificial Whitewater Course. Nottingham
- Oct 26th/27th** UK Final River Dee. Llangollen. North Wales
- Nov 23rd/ 24th** Nepal - 1st Himalayan WW Challenge. Sun Kosi River. Sukute Beach (no overall ranking points) Check [www.peakuk.com](http://www.peakuk.com) and the paddling press for more info.

# Celebrating 50 years

## Info 2002 Bedford Canoe Marathon

So why not come to Bedford in 2002. There is the Anniversary Bedford Marathon, over the original Bedford to St. Neots course on Sunday 5th May, and the National Championships on 27 - 28 July on the Bedford circuit.



In 1951 the 'Bedford Boat Club' founded the 'Great Ouse Restoration Society'. Together they formed a race committee that instigated a canoe race to draw attention to the derelict state of the upper navigation of the River Great Ouse between Bedford and Eaton Socon.

There were disused derelict locks, breached weirs and broken sluices. In some places in normal summer conditions the depth of the river was only ankle deep particularly between Willington and Old Mills.

In 1952 it was intended to organise and run a canoe race from Bedford to Godmanchester, a distance of 25 miles, with a short course from Bedford to St. Neots of 15 miles on the first weekend in May which became the traditional weekend for the race. As there were only 14 competitors entered; three kayak singles, three Canadian doubles and three kayak Doubles, it was decided to run the race over the short course only, and so the Bedford - St. Neots Long Distance Race was born now known as the Bedford Canoe Marathon.

The Race Secretary Mr. Peter Banks organised the race for many years. It was run on a handicap system, so the shortest fittest canoes started first and the longest thinnest last. That was all very well until the first year an international K1 took part. Starting last it overtook the first canoe, an open Canadian, after about 6 miles between Willington and Old Mills. Needless to say Dr. Davies, who devised the formula, amended his calculations for the following year.

Around 1958/59 the BCU issued a set of rules and recommendations for Long Distance Racing (LDR), therefore in 1959 the race was run under BCU rules and the new class

To recognise 50 years of marathon racing, Canoe Focus takes a look at the history of two races stretching throughout that period.

system introduced. In 1962 the organising committee agreed to affiliate to the BCU and classes were extended. It was decided that senior ladies and juniors should paddle a shorter course of 7.5 miles starting at Great Barford and finishing at St. Neots. A total of 165 competitors (111 canoes & kayaks) raced. However, due to the very cold weather conditions and a strong head wind that whipped up two foot waves on exposed stretches of the river, only about 50% of race entrants completed the course.

In 1963 after the difficult conditions of the previous year the safety and well being of the competitors was the main concern of the committee. Checking and accounting for all those that had retired was almost impossible due to late entries, class changing and substitution by some of the crews. It took so much time and effort a decision was made to totally enforce the BCU LDR rules, recommendations also included no late entries, class changing or substitution.

By 1969 the race had become a major canoeing event, in fact canoeing had taken over from the main reason for the event. Only a few of the original committee/marshals were still involved and they were nearly all members of Viking Kayak Club. It was agreed that Viking Kayak Club should take over the assets and float, keep separate accounts and run the race. That year the race had 227 competitors, 163 canoes and kayaks.

In 1974 with 19 classes on the entry sheet there was a record entry of 240 competitors (195 canoes & kayaks), despite a closing date for entries on the Monday before, no late entries and no class changing. In 1978 the BCU changed the name from Long Distance Racing to Marathon. In 1980 the BCU dropped the Senior, Ladies, Junior racing class system and instigated Divisions 1 - 7 ranked only on achievement. Division 1 top ranked paddler Division 7 novice, all regardless of age or sex. This particular year there were 54 competitors (43 canoes and kayaks).

In 1981 there were only 19 competitors (19 canoes). This was the last year the race ran the course with starts from Bedford and Great Barford finishing at St. Neots. After 29 years the course of the race was altered and the Divisions extended from 1 - 7 to 1 - 9.

Finishing times for the original course had fallen steadily through the early seventies as lightweight composite boats became widely available and the large entries created a highly competitive racing environment. From 1982 to the present the race has been run with the Start and Finish in Bedford. In the 1980's and 90's the courses most used were the 13 mile Bedford -Willington return, 8 mile Bedford-Castle Mills return and four mile Bedford circuit.

In 2001 the race was run over a new compact 6.5 km circuit around the Bedford riverside park attracting 155 competitors, 123 racing craft. This location offers spectators close up pedestrian and cycle access to virtually all the course features, with most of the racing elements needed to test today's marathon paddler viewable from the central area. There are hard and soft banked sections; two portage locations (improved for 2002); buoy, bridge and island turns; deep water straights and narrower twisting sections. ●

Below:

1st Bedford - St. Neots Race. 1952 Competitors and some Marshals





# of marathon racing

## Chelmer Canoe Race



The first Chelmer Canoe Race was held in 1952, however its origins go back several years previously when the Chelmsford Boating (now Canoe) Club, challenged other local canoeists to beat their single and double kayak's paddling times from Chelmsford to Heybridge Basin. In those days the thought of anyone paddling the 14 mile canal was considered very daring and certainly the cumbersome heavyweight canvas canoes of the time made it a real trial of strength and endurance.

This challenge attracted local press interest and the club decided to build on this by holding a canoe race with the dual object of publicising the club and drawing attention to the recreational potential of the canal, then virtually unused except by commercial barge traffic

The club was in regular contact with the Canvey Island Canoe Club, the only other club in Essex. Their members included the Prout brothers, paddlers in the 1948 Olympics. With some local publicity the first Chelmsford to Heybridge Basin Canoe Race was held on a Sunday in June 1952 starting from immediately below Barnes Mill Lock. About 10 canoes arrived to take part in the race. There were four classes - doubles, singles, juniors and ladies. About half of those taking part were from the Club and with the remainder from Canvey. Eric Boesch and I were in my Granta Folding Boat and the Prout brothers had a K2 - probably the first ever seen on the river. Stewards were provided at each portage place - mostly parents and friends. Unfortunately, the weather was unkind - it poured for most of the time - so much so that the timekeeper stormed home to change, declaring that we were all mad! We did not see him again that day nor did he help in future years! Needless to say the club was thoroughly trounced - we came second - last in most cases - though the latter was not the way we announced it to the press!

The race started at 10.00 and all entrants made a supreme effort (except the Prout brothers, who were able to take their time) to reach Heybridge Basin and 'The Jolly Sailor' before closing time, where we had booked a meal. This was eaten in the 'snug' lovingly maintained by Mona Clark and her sister, the joint licensees - the wet steaming clothes thrown at random on the floor (no wetsuits in those days) were hardly in keeping with the ambience of the bar.

The event attracted much favourable interest and the club decided to make it an annual event. The idea of holding a race of over 12 miles was a new experience for the sport and within a few years all three races became very popular and were joined by similar events at Harlow, Beccles and elsewhere. In those days the centre of canoeing was in west London, with most clubs being based on the Thames, where sprint racing was the norm. Their branch of the sport was governed by the BCU Sprint Racing Committee. This committee did not take kindly to the upstart events and

refused to recognise long distance racing as a sport. The thought of carrying canoes around obstacles was just not acceptable - as for the miscellaneous clothes and funny hats (intended to keep the users warm) - they were just not civilised. Undeterred by the BCU rebuff a Long Distance Racing Committee was formed outside the BCU, with officers from various East Anglia groups forming its committee. Eventually however, it became clear that this form of canoe racing was here to stay and the committee was reconstituted inside the BCU and the sport became respectable. At Chelmsford the race was hived off into a special organising committee, with Marion continuing as its secretary for over 20 years, receiving in 1971 a Certificate of Merit from John Dudderidge, President of the BCU for her efforts.

Entrants in all classes continued to paddle the whole way from Chelmsford to Heybridge Basin. The Chelmer continued to grow in popularity and for a number of years was one of 10 national "ranking" races, with over 120 canoes competing annually. However, the growing need for proper changing accommodation and toilet arrangements at Heybridge Basin, led the club to enter into a partnership with the Bentall Apprentices Canoe Club shortening the race to Heybridge Swift FC clubhouse at Heybridge village. A lessening in the popularity of Baddow Meads, including the closure of its cafe, led the club to move the start upstream, firstly to underneath the Chelmer Road bridge and then to the Kings Head Meadow Sluices.

In the 1980's the redevelopment of the Heybridge Swift's ground at Heybridge took place and their clubhouse ceased to exist. With no obvious alternative it was decided to change the race to a "there and back" event so that it started and finished at Chelmsford. For the first time different length courses were introduced for junior and lady paddlers. Indeed, for some years the junior paddlers course was transferred to the stretch of water above the sluices.

The original race was a great pioneering adventure and one which I look back at with great affection. We made the rules as we went along. There were some great characters taking part in the early days like Ron Rhodes of Royal CC and A. Waterhouse of Deal CC. During the early days of the L-D Racing Committee our own Eric Boesch and Barry Withers came close to winning the Hasler Trophy for doubles. More recently, Dave Spence, Tony Chapman, Paul Fleming, Bob Carter and, of course, Olympic canoeist, Grayson Bourne all represented the club at home and away events. Present club members should be proud of the fact that their club played such an important role in the founding of this type of canoe racing. ●

Below: Four of the original racing members having transported their canoes on a bread van. John Marriage is second from the right.



## Info 2002

The Chelmer Race is still a Hasler ranked event and Diane Edwards took over the organisation from John Marriage. There will be an extra event on Sunday, May 26th 2002 to commemorate 50 years of Marathon Canoe Racing. Contact her on 01245 467771.

This history of the event has been compiled by John Marriage, a founder member of the race and the Chelmsford Club. He continued organising the race until the mid 90's. Since retiring from that post he has become the club Commadore, and, with an eye to the future, has plenty of professional planning experience to assist with discussions for the new clubhouse.

## Waveney Valley Marathon Race

On May 19th this year the Waveney Valley Canoe Club will be hosting a Marathon Race in the Hasler series - the 50th anniversary of the very first race run by the Club in the series. This was traditionally run from the neighbouring town of Beccles to Bungay, but in recent years this has been run on an out and back circuit from the Staithe at Bungay. As a special event this year we are aiming to run the senior divisions on the old route from Beccles to Bungay. We are hoping that this event will attract racers from past eras as well as younger folk. The seven mile course is through lovely countryside on the Norfolk/Suffolk border and involves 3 portages. **For further details contact Mike Bliss on 01986 788285 Or visit WVCC website at [www.lineone.net/~sue-bacon](http://www.lineone.net/~sue-bacon)**

# Beating all ze

Dr Nichol Clarke is managing director of Helionix Technologies Ltd, based at Benson, Oxfordshire, specialising in complementary healthcare using light, sound and colour to treat all ailments.

The Wooden Spoon Society's gruelling Ford Great Lakeland Challenge – known as the UK's highest, steepest and longest challenge - traditionally takes place in the Lake District. However, in 2001 it had to be hastily rearranged in the wake of the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Instead of rowing canoeing the length of Lake Windermere, cycling 26 miles along England's steepest passes and running up Sca Fell Pike, 51 competitors found themselves travelling to France to grapple with an alternative but equally daunting course.

The event was based in the Haute Savoie region, south of Geneva, in the town of La Clusaz. It included paddling 10 miles across Lake Annecy, running a tough mountain section, and cycling a route that has featured in the Tour de France. A fleet of TNT trucks carried the canoes and bikes across the Channel and to the Alps, and back.

£103,000 was pledged by teams for the Wooden Spoon Society Cystic Fibrosis Unit at Broad Green Hospital in Liverpool, making all the time and effort of organising and competing in the alternative challenge a very worthwhile exercise.

Here, Dr Nichol Clarke gives his impression of how the changes forced upon the event had an impact on his team and the event itself.

It wasn't the first time we had entered the Ford Great Lakeland Challenge. My wife Karin and I had taken part in 2000 and loved it so much that within hours of days completing our first challenge, we decided to enter again in 2001!

We had previously called our team the Helionix Quartet and we decided that this time we would try to enter a quartet of

**Sacre bleu! More than £100,000 was raised for charity when 17 teams beat all the odds to complete one of Britain's most demanding tests of endurance... in the French Alps!**



teams. We slightly underestimated the difficulties involved in persuading 14 friends and colleagues of the virtues of spending their precious free-time running and cycling up steep hills in the depths of winter but eventually managed to cajole, press-gang and coerce our victims into taking part, in what for many was to be a life-changing experience! We kept fairly quiet about the fact that we also had to raise the rather daunting total of £14,000 between us (£3,500 per team)! We drew up plans for a whole host of fund-

raising activities and found any number of excuses not to go out training! However, our preparations were thrown into turmoil when the scale of the foot and mouth epidemic became apparent.

As more and more cases kept cropping up around the country, and particularly in Cumbria, which is the traditional home of the Great Lakeland Challenge, it caused a great deal of uncertainty for us all. We kept thinking 'what on earth is going to happen'? It looked increasingly unlikely that the event was going to be held either in May or indeed in the Lake District, and that had a major impact on training, motivation, morale and fundraising for all of us.

After a short period of uncertainty we decided we would just get on with it. Keep training and keep fundraising, in the hope and expectation that, one way or another, the

event would take place. We felt sure that donors would be very unlikely to want their money back if the actual challenge didn't take place. We set about compiling a special recipe book, organising an auction of promises, a golf-day, a concert (including the world premiere of a specially composed Wooden Spoon anthem!), a children's sponsored walk - at



# e odds

which Olympic gold medallist James Cracknell very kindly presented some prizes - and a host of smaller events. Great plans for a family raft race however had to be cancelled!

Training was quite a problem. Where could we go to train? As most of our team members were from Oxfordshire we were all in the same boat, so to speak. We couldn't run off-road because of the restrictions to access to the countryside. Frankly, it was a big downer.

Fortunately, the team at the challenge office were brilliant. They were endlessly helpful, provided constant information on what was going on, could be done and where, and were always extremely sensitive to the problems developing in Cumbria.

When it was first suggested that the event might be put back from May to later in the year, we thought sadly that we would probably have to withdraw our teams. It was then that one of our members, Paul Taylor, who had lived in Annecy for five years, first mentioned the area as a possible alternative location.

Members of the challenge office team went to Annecy to assess whether the event could be moved lock, stock and barrel, across the Channel. We were delighted when in April they returned and announced that the event would take place on the original date - but in the Alps!

We had one more problem to overcome however - how to keep our four drivers involved. Because of the travel restrictions they were not allowed to take our sponsored Ford vehicles into France, but we didn't want the drivers to feel left out after playing such a big role in the preparations. That's when the challenge gained four more very willing marshals.

As for the event itself, it was just amazingly fantastic. The canoeing section went far better than we could have dreamed. All the teams had been unable to take part in the usual Lake District training weekend for obvious reasons. The onus was on us to make sure we got enough training to ensure that we were competent in a canoe. We hastily arranged to have a morning's training at a water sports club at Pangbourne, Oxfordshire, and it really paid off.

Our four teams came first, second, third and our girls' were in fifth place right until close to the finish when unfortunately male pulling power came to the fore! It was very tough but our bit of practice seemed to make quite a difference. We knew a little of what to expect, we all stayed dry, just, we had some semblance of technique, knew a little of what to expect and most importantly we were well kitted out with foam padding for our knees.

The running section was extremely demanding. It was uphill virtually all the way, and although there were some stunning views en route for quite a distance, it seemed to be tougher than the Lake District's equivalent. A relief to be on two wheels, we found the course quite tricky to navigate and others found it surprisingly easy to get completely lost! It was a tough course but very beautiful, and perhaps more of a proper cycle route than the very steep passes of the Lake District.

All in all it was a unique experience and one that we



were all very proud proud to have been involved in. We were unfortunately pipped at the post for the overall Challenge Bowl, but at least came home with a trophy to show the kids, which was for the canoeing. More importantly we were thrilled to have raised over £34,000 for the Wooden Spoon Society, way beyond our wildest dreams and a tribute to the incredible generosity of many long suffering friends, family, colleagues and business associates.

My wife and I sadly won't be able to take part in this year's event. Karin, who was three months pregnant when she took part in the Alps adventure, gave birth to identical twin girls (Rosanna and Maritain) in late September. We now have five children and feel our limited resources should be focused elsewhere for a while!

However, we do wish all those that take part in 2002 all the very best and hope that, like us, they have the experience of a lifetime. If you can cope with a bit of self-discipline, would like to become significantly healthier and would relish doing something extremely worthwhile for disadvantaged children - go for it! ●

## Ford Great Lakeland Challenge 2002

For application forms or further information on the 2002 please contact: The Wooden Spoon Society Challenge Office on 01889 582889.

The Ford Great Lakeland Challenge will take place on May 17, 2002, in England's Lake District.

## The Wooden Spoon Society

The Wooden Spoon Society was formed in Dublin in 1983 when a group of English rugby supporters were presented with a wooden spoon by their Irish hosts to symbolise England coming last in the annual Five Nations championship. The charity of the four home nations' rugby unions, the Society raises an average of £25,000 per week and has around 6,500 members based in 28 national and



regional committees throughout the UK. Money is raised from active events for projects to support disabled and disadvantaged youngsters, helping the Society live up to its motto: "Wooden Spoon Stirs Smiles".

# What a showcase!

Peter Cornes of Desperate Measures describes the funky new kit being showcased at the International Canoe Exhibition for the first time

This year's International Canoe Exhibition showcased a whole load of funky new kit for the first time. Some of it was the final realisation of experiments which had been in the works for a long time, and some of it was totally unexpected. On Sunday morning, before the doors opened, I got to take a look around some of the stands and get some pictures of the new kit on show.

It's always difficult to know where to start when you're looking round the I.C.E., and even moreso when you've only got half an hour before the doors open and the whole show is engulfed by bargain hungry paddlers. First of all, I decided to check out the new boats

kayak, but I wasn't sure that it would wave spin as well as some of the other designs coming to market!

Back on the floor, Pyranha had some crazy new ideas on show. The new S-8 looked like it would be a wave shredding machine. They were only displaying the 225, the smaller model, but I recognised those S-7 style double rails to really hold that carve across the face. The fittings were impressive, with the new 'play' seat's super fine trim adjustment and the addition of padding both around your knees (not just



from Perception. We'd had some in stock for a few days, but I hadn't had the chance to actually get a decent look. The Full Tilt and the Spin looked like they'd be a superb option in the spud boat market, but what really caught my eye was the Lucid, with its crazy looking moulded in end grabs, the moulded in Perception logo on the hull and the moulded through pillar supports. As a big boys boat, this may well take some beating.

Around the corner were the Java, Perception's new small person's creeker, and the Sonic and Super Sonic, a pair of playful river runners, looking pretty hot for those new to flat hulled boats. On the way back down to the pavilion I noticed a boat with a difference – Peter Bray's Atlantic crossing

on the thigh braces) and on the seat. Their creek boats, the H2 zones and Micros, had redeveloped fittings for 2002, to include both a cavity for a Peli 1200 case in the back and a Safety Step in the front. Designed for vertical pinning situations when you want to get out of the boat as quickly as you can, you now have some purchase on the hull so you can just step out. It also adds hull rigidity, so there are no bow walls in the Micros or the H2s now.

Drawing the most attention was the S6 with prototype Custom Concepts fittings. This was restrained in a cage all weekend as it was deemed too fierce for the general boating public, but I managed to sneak back at the end when it was unleashed and get a closer look. Most obvious were the Power Pocket enhancers on the top deck – carbon fibre crescents which fit on top of the power pockets (steps on the top deck) to give you even more lift and kick for some massive air. Inside, there was some seriously crazy engineering going down. The Modular Airframe, normally formed from plastic, was totally moulded in carbon – both the seat and the rail along the bottom were stiffer, lighter and significantly more exciting after their composite makeover. Finally, there were the quad braces. Much like the system that Richard Chrimes has been using in his boats for a while, it involves a pair of straps coming from the seat, over your thighs and down to the seat rail between your legs, where they are attached to a quick release point. There are also ratchets on the straps for fine-tuning. Pyranha say that these are all designed as upgrades for freestyle boats, and are not going to be fitted as standard.

Strolling past the System X stand, Carl Leahy (System X's rising junior rodeo star) grabbed me and showed me the new Liquid Logic boats, the Pop and the Skip. The hulls looked like they'd be super bouncy and the volume distribution looked as if it might be quite comfortable for such a short boat. The Xeno, Eskimo's new river running playboat, looked as if it would have all the river running characteristics of the Quadro with a more predictable and playful hull design. On the other hand, the bright green colour I saw may not be to everyone's taste, but you'll have to judge that for yourself. There was also a sample selection of some of the Immersion Research kit which System X are importing soon, including a lightweight freestyle competition cag – expect to find out more in the

## Stars on show



One of the attractions at the canoe exhibition this year centred round the pool – with over 1000 youth given the opportunity to try Paddlesport over the weekend and the week prior. Special attraction though went to Helen Barnes the current World Record holder for rolling and Paul

Ratcliffe our Olympic slalom silver medallist who shared their experiences in a poolside interview and inspired the young paddlers waiting to have their own go at paddling in the pool. Paul presented a BCU Award of Merit to Dominic and Hugh Kent and then took some lucky youths for a paddle round the pool.

Rachel Hall (aged 3) of Wychavon Canoe Club showing Paul Ratcliffe the basics of forward paddling!

near future.

Opposite our own stand was Nookie's showcase, with loads of new ideas. The most popular (we took loads of advance orders!) were the final pre-production examples of their new Buoyancy Aids. The Pro V-70 and Rivermonster BAs have a slightly longer cut than a lot of the river running buoyancy aids available at the moment. The Rivermonster comes with a removable harness, and will retail at about £90, whereas the Pro V-70 is a very similar vest but without the harness, and will be about £60. Both feature loads of safety features, a high amount of flotation and, perhaps most importantly, oodles of retro-reflective detailing. There was also a new short-sleeved version of the Killer Alien shorty with a

elastomer/ratchet outfitting, the Tekno is expected to be setting the standard for new school wave moves (check out what it can do at <http://www.2imagine.net>). Also, Peak's third video, ID10t1c was premiering and, having been rigorously tested by our video testing team, it has passed the test with flying colours!

Lastly, I got a quick look at some flashy kit from the far north – the Scottish company Kogg are bringing more and more quality products further down into England. Desperate Measures are now Kogg stockists and the line is getting better and better



different cut and new styling.

In terms of new winter cags, the INSANE cag is, well, insane! It's designed to take an insane amount of wear - it has Kevlar reinforcements everywhere you may conceivably need them, from the collar to the elbows to the forearms.

Palm's stand had a prototype mid-sized ID on display. Immediately obvious characteristics were the sharp rocker breaks on the hull – this baby is going to bounce like crazy and still have enough length on the carving edge to rocket down the wave face when you need.

As far as Palm's own kit went, there was loads – everything on the stand was new for this year. The Rivertec range has been remodelled and restyled – expect a less restrictive cut and a distinctive teal colour, in both short and long sleeves, cags or cagdecks. The Extreme range keeps the orange (or "flame") look, but recuts the cags and brings a range of top spec dry suits to market, designed for last year's Stikine canyon expedition. Also interesting were the remodelled Viper vests – a Palm harness BA at a value price.

Eventually I got over to the Peak stand, where the boys were showing the new toys that I know they've been testing so extensively on the Trent weirs. They had all three sizes of Booster lined up next to each other with some psychedelic metallic colours. What was really drawing the crowds, though, was the final production Tekno. Against expectations, Riot have added their Spin Disc to the hull. With quad fins, swallowtails on BOTH ends and super adjustable

over time. The G-6, their top white water cag, is now breathable and available as a cagdeck. They also had a new expedition spec sea kayaking cag, the Tundra, with updated features and a breathable fabric. Perhaps most interesting was their new safety and rescue buoyancy aid, incorporating a full climbing harness (not just a chest harness), throwline pocket, chemical glow stick holders and a thousand and one other features that you're only going to realise that you need in a rescue situation.

The only regret I have about the show was not getting the time to see any of the presentations or videos on show. ●



### Sweet guess

During ICE 2002 KOGG ran a competition to win a KOGG Nogg. (under helmet skull cap) The Nogg on the stand was being displayed on a glass head. You had to guess the number of sweets we had squeezed into the head.

Toni Rose from Suffolk was the winner of the KOGG nogg competition at ICE 2002. Toni had the closest guess with 1590, the actual number was 1541. Well done Toni. A brand new KOGG Nogg is in the post. Congratulations!



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## Wild is

Our journey in kayaks began at the float camp in Crescent Inlet. We hired the kayaks from Moresby Explorers; they are based in Sandspit. The price paid for hire of the kayaks includes the minibus journey from Sandspit to Moresby Camp through the logging roads. There is an option to begin kayaking from this point, although this is about two days paddling from Gwaai Haanas National Park. We opted to be dropped out to the float camp an hour and a half journey by RIB. Moresby Explorers include this in the kayak hire price.

Over the 14 days we paddled 307kms via both the inside and outside passages. We found the kayaking conditions to be varied. The inside passage was much smoother because it was protected by land, however, it was essential to kayak with the tide. The tide system ebbed from north to south. The tide and the wind were the only uncontrollable variables to hinder ones progress during paddling. This was especially evident during open crossings such as to Anthony Island (Nunstints). We were blessed with fair weather but were still physically challenged by the strong Pacific currents. After six days of kayaking we reached our final destination of Nunstints a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We had travelled 125km; each day seemed to get more exciting and more strenuous. During our paddle to Nunstints we had to pass Benjamin Point with great care! Beyond the point was a whirlpool so very careful consideration had to be given to the time of tides. After the Point we encountered Houston Stuart Channel with flows of up to five knots.

Over the next nine days we were to kayak a further 189kms via the Haida sites of Hotspring Island, Windy Bay and Tanu. The weather was very changeable. Sea mists could come and go within a short time and were unpredictable; winds can drop and pick up quickly. High clouds would often burn out throughout the day. Paddling in good conditions made those days seem effortless. We were lucky to have some glorious weather until the final day when the rain came.

During the 14-day venture we came across three other kayak groups, one of them a family of three. It certainly was a wilderness experience.

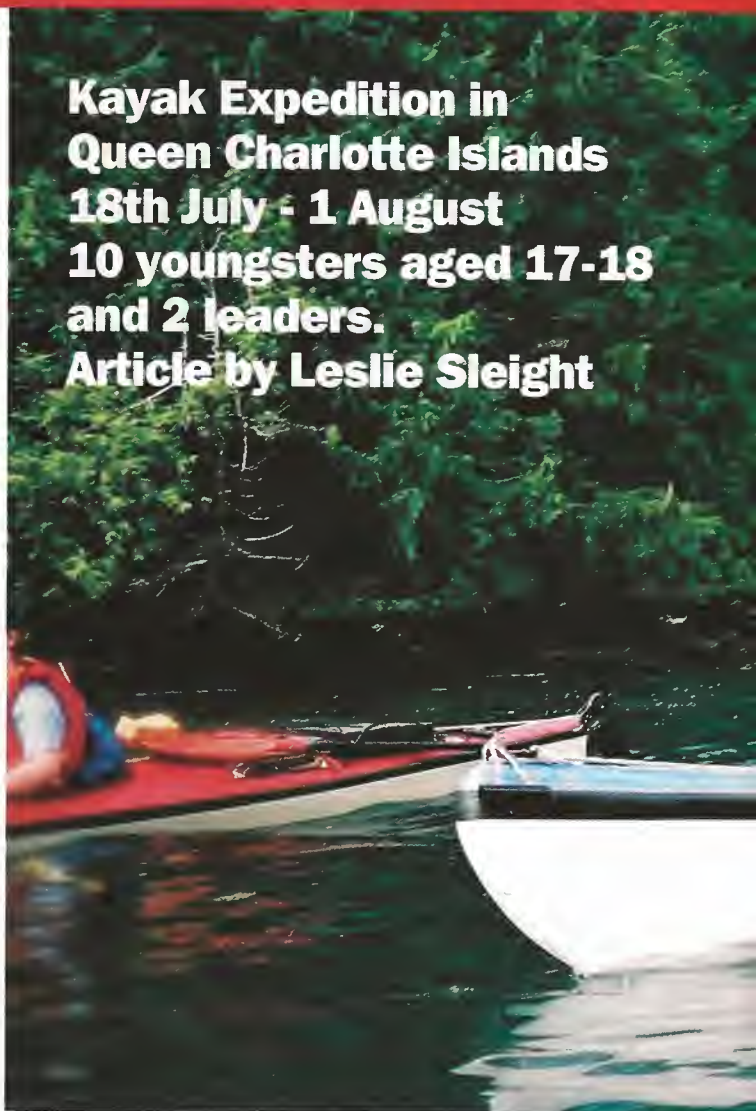
### Glowing sea

We were woken up at 1.00am, as the high tide had come to the edge of our tent and Andy's tent had started floating. The phosphorous glowing in the sea was amazing. I had a paddle in the kayak and after every paddle stroke the water lit up, it was like paddling through glitter.

There were some really big waves off the headland, each time we went down between them you could hardly see anyone else, it was great. I've never been in such a big swell. Surfing off the tops of these massive waves was great fun. It got a bit hairy when the waves started to break over us.

The crossing was so tough, you could feel your arms begging you to give up. We saw numerous black bears both in the bush and foraging for food, effortlessly turning over huge boulders on the beaches, which were now our campsites. Because previous visitors and ourselves followed 'no trace' camping there has never been a bear attack. Fortunately, there are no grizzly bears to really test us. Whilst we expected to be eaten by bears, we were in fact almost eaten alive by mosquitoes. Insect repellent is definitely recommended!

**Kayak Expedition in  
Queen Charlotte Islands  
18th July - 1 August  
10 youngsters aged 17-18  
and 2 leaders.  
Article by Leslie Sleight**



Going to the toilet in the bush, I turned around to see a bear, he could have reached out and wiped my bum! I lay awake for hours listening to a bear padding around the tents. We had caught nine fish that night and Mr. Bear was looking for leftovers.

The bears were undisturbed by our presence. This was the case with all the animals, deer, squirrels, eagles and ravens.

We also paddled alongside Minke whales, dolphins, seals and river otters. It was amazing that we soon became accustomed to the wildlife we had once considered unusual. The sighting of whales was a highlight, we had always known that there was a chance of seeing whales and this was the perfect place. The sun was beginning to set as we entered the Houston Stewart Channel and suddenly 150 yards from us a Minke whale surfaced and blew.

One of the whales surfaced in front of the kayak, in fact it was so close I started to get a little scared. This is the first time in my life when I have come so close to wild nature and it just gets better.



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There was so much sealife in Burnaby Narrows, jellyfish, red, blue and purple starfish, and various sea urchins. Two dolphins swam past the kayaks - dead cute.

### Eels for tea

The watchman had been collecting eels for tea, he kept them alive in a bull kelp tube. Now we know what to eat when our food runs out.

He also suggested we try sea urchin gonads.

Everyone was irritable through lack of food and physical exhaustion. I was always hungry and started to worry as there was hardly anything left to eat. We kept cutting down each days food to save for the last few days and if we didn't catch loads of fish, it would only be a mug of mash each. I felt like I had no energy at all. We collected wood and sat around the fire and had a sixth of a packet of crackers and 1.5 spoonfuls of peanut butter.

What was particularly nice about that night, was that everyone in the group sat still for at least half an hour, doing their own things; reading, writing,

eating. The sun went down and the only sounds were the breaking waves, drawing further up the beach to close us in. Two deer walked across the scene, a picture perfect moment.

Andy and the boys made a sauna using stones from the fire and the cooking shelter; an awesome experience! They hollowed out the ground and built seats around the cooking pot full of hot rocks. The added luxury of pine needles smelt divine, they really cleared my head"

The girls decided to take a wander up the river to find a suitable place to wash. With the boys in tow we found a beautiful waterfall with a plunge pool at the bottom. It was great showering under the waterfall. ●



## the islands



### Anthony Island (SGaang Gwaii)

In 1981 UNESCO granted the Island World Heritage Site status. The village of Nan sdiins represents the only example in the world of the remains of a traditional North- west Coast first nations village site, complete with standing poles and the remains of massive cedar longhouses.

"Anthony Island was fascinating the watchman told us about the various totem poles, mortuary poles and longhouses. The carvings were explained together with the Haida stories."

### Hotspring Island (Gandll K'in)

At all these watchmen sites it is necessary to radio ahead to make sure that there are no other groups already visiting. The maximum number allowed in a group or at any of the watchmen sites is limited to twelve ensuring a true wilderness experience and minimising impact. Camping at the watchman sites is limited to severe weather conditions or by invitation, by the watchmen themselves.

Hotspring Island is a must to visit. We would recommend camping on adjacent Ramsey Island

and taking time to relax and fully enjoy the healing waters of this ancient site. There are three pools varying in size and temperature. There is a small bath house in which to shower prior to entering the pools. As with all Haida sites it is necessary to ask for permission from the Watchmen before entering the site. The watchmen live at five village sites throughout the summer acting as guardians to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the sites. "Hotsprings was heavenly - divine. We tried all the pools on the cliff and beach."

### Windy Bay (Hik'yaah Lnagaay)

We were invited to stay in the Haida Longhouse at Windy Bay. The first of 14 nights not sleeping in a tent. The Longhouse was built in 1985 when the Haida were attempting to stop logging operations on Lyell Island. All Longhouses have names and this was called "Looking around and blinking house." The subsequent court battle following the blockade gave victory to the Haida resulting in the formation of the National Park. There was a painting of a bear on the end of the house (bear clan) and a small door in its mouth. It was believed that people passing through the door would leave their old spirit behind and enter a new spirit. It was used during naming and birth ceremonies etc.

"We followed some old Haida trails; saw the canoe runs, old fire pits and an enormous tree. The tree was so huge that it took 11 of the group to encircle it with outstretched hands. It felt like we had a mini world in between us. The tree represented so much of the Haida culture as they used it in so many ways, to make canoes, clothing, pots, mortuary poles etc."





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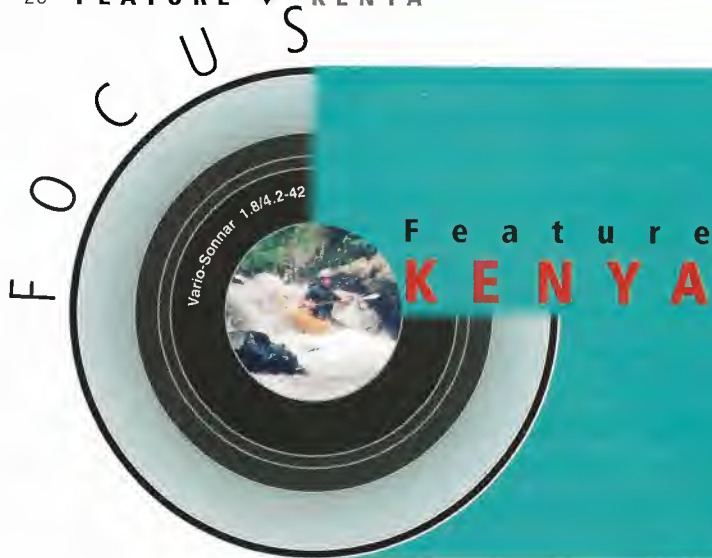
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# First descent in a hidden

**When you leave the town of Kisumu on the shores of Lake Victoria, and head towards Kericho, you soon realise that this is a part of Kenya like no other. For two and a half months we had been boating in the Mount Kenya foothills in steep gorges and through open savannah. We knew we were in for a treat when the terrain around us gradually changed from sub-tropical forests to mile after mile of tea plantation.**

Western Kenya is one of the countries more fertile parts, with rain almost every day. This makes it an ideal place for growing tea. Western tea manufacturers who have to run things in accordance with European work regulations manage the whole area. The result is a bastion of old colonialism with some of the best river running you will do.

We were staying with James's Uncle and his wife just outside the small town of Kericho, one of the staging posts on the road route to the Ugandan border. Fortunately for us James's Uncle David was a big wig in one of the tea companies, which meant that we had permission to be in the plantations during our adventure. It isn't possible to run most of the worthwhile rivers in this area as they run through the tea plantations private land, so the contacts are pretty essential. It also meant that we were subjected to the terrible effects of colonial hospitality, which translates to excellent food and as much free beer as you want.

Anyway, on to more pressing matters. We were on our way to Uganda to safety kayak on the White Nile for a month. As we were on a first descents expedition, we thought it pertinent to bag another river on our way. Along for the ride was Ian, a friend from university, and his girlfriend Theresa. They had been roped into coming after one of our members had been forced to return home early.

### **Zany bush pilots**

That first evening was spent chatting to one of those zany bush pilots you find in that part of the world. Upon asking for information, we were told that; "yep, there's some pretty big rivers in this area." Maps were produced and a plan was soon formed. The next morning after an absolutely amazing full cooked breakfast, we set of up the road to find our river.

Our first glimpse of the Itare was a moment I shall never forget, it was huge! Ian and T must have wondered what they were in for as me and James were hopping about the place trying to put our kit on and take boats off at the same time. The rapid we saw turned out to be the largest of the three days spent exploring the river. We decided to drive another three kilometers up the road so we could warm up before hand. The next bridge had a simple class III warm up wave train, which surprised us as to how much faster, and larger volume this was compared to our previous four efforts. This was confirmed by one



# nts en paradise



nameless member (James) having an 'incident' within two minutes of getting on. This involved a rather sticky hole,

swear words, some impressive cartwheels, and much laughter on Ian's part and mine. The river mellowed and meandered along through some stunning terrain before we came around a bend to our rapid to be greeted by the most amazing sight.

## Crazy Muzungu (white man)

The locals from the neighbouring village had got word about the crazy Muzungu (white man) on the river and had turned out in force. Every available space around the river, and on both of the bridges was teeming with people! (We estimated around 300). A long debate over lines followed as the rapid had a lead in you had to get right or you'd get a spanking in a really sticky hole. This lead out into a sharp right hand bend with the flow creating a really magnetic looking cushion wave on the rock wall that formed the outside of the bend. After the time honoured first descent tradition of paper, scissors and stone, James set off, with the rest of us on combined photo/rescue cover. A perfect choice of line got him a massive cheer from the crowd, and the rapid was christened 'Its nice to be important.' My turn followed and made for a real movie star experience. The speed of the water was amazing and we agreed that we really had to push hard to make the take off ramp avoiding the hole. I ploughed through the hole standing on my tail and caught a glimpse of a few camera flashes, as I was back looped. James said later that the locals were all screaming with terror, and a few even said that I'd been drinking! This is understandable as I ran the rest of the rapid upside down to hide my red face (honest).

We decided to knock it on the head for the rest of that day as we were absolutely buzzing from the whole experience. We had covered around 4km of new river. We were all so keen to see more that we drove until dark, looking at around 60km of water we planned to run over the next two days. This was an experience in itself as it was all totally off road in a Nissan Sunny!

That evening we returned to our luxury colonial retreat for Sundowners and a lot of meat, the staple diet it seems around there. Our video footage was dissected and we went to bed looking forward to the next day.

The next day started with the portage of a rapid we named 'go for coma', a class six head banger that you'd have a 50/50 chance of coming through seriously injured or not, we'll give it a go next year as we didn't have enough people to cover the safety aspects. The river meanders along at the grade three level around numerous blind bends that get the heart pumping but never present a serious problem. The first rapid of the day; 'under the bridge', is a simple class III drop with a tree to miss. The crowds gathered as we inspected, then successfully ran the drop. Theresa was along with us on that second day, as she and Ian were taking it in turns to drive the vehicle in support. We were linked to the vehicle by radio (cheers Motorola)





## info

The Kenya Virginwaters expedition was spawned by Kris and James, who are both wrapping up a three-year degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education at Liverpool John Moores University. James lives in Kenya and his dad owns a rafting company. Kris does not (but will be in six months, yippee!). We managed to do five successful first descents, which can be read about on [playak.com](http://playak.com). Can we take this opportunity to thank the following sponsors. Playak.com, Oakley, Motorola, Taunton Leisure and Whitewater Adventures. Endless River, West Midlands Canoe Centre, Lazee Lizard and Five Ten. Special thanks must go to David and Karin Mousley for their excellent hospitality and collection of pets that kept us amused. Anyone who's off to Kenya and wants more info can check out [whitewaterkenya.com](http://whitewaterkenya.com). Anyone who wants to give us boats for next years most excellent adventure can contact [krispypancake@hotmail.com](mailto:krispypancake@hotmail.com)  
By Kris Collyer

and had a local guide along also.

Two kilometres of the same lead us to Savage Surprise (III+). I decided to run the drop blind first as I get a worrying 'red mist' appearing at times which makes me do silly things. It made

me laugh to see James have another 'incident' in the hole at the bottom, giving me a great title for the rapid. The river continued through idyllic terrain before speeding up and disappearing around a bend. Inspection showed a natural weir type drop with an old local pump house next to it. The drop proved to be straightforward and was christened 'Hakuna Matata', which for those who haven't watched the Lion King, means; 'no problem' in Swahili.

Another km of flat water and some amusing contacts with locals, who abandoned their toddlers by the river and ran off into the hills when they saw us, and we were at the next rapid. This was a really intimidating rapid with a fairly easy run in that was not dissimilar to 'Big Brother' on the Nile. A ramp led down into a big hole on river left, with all kinds of bother on river right. The usual crowds of locals appeared,



one of who made our day by thinking that James was a girl (a fact he vehemently denies). I won paper scissors stone so had the privilege of running the rapid first. We all nailed the line and christened the rapid; 'Shenzi Muzungu', which means 'mad white man' in Swahili.

The rest of the day proved to be a portage fest around 70ft waterfalls that I wanted to run but all went onto rocks. James stopped me from costing the insurance company a lot of money on one class VI by pointing out that the reason their wasn't much outflow at the bottom of the final 50ft drop was due to the undercut rock I hadn't seen. The take out for day two was by a gorgeous looking class V rapid that we couldn't do due to lack of adequate safety cover.

### Causing a major stir

The next day was more of the same. Pool drop grade V sections with some really awesome portages. The majority of which were waterfalls onto rocks, or really terminal looking weirs. The day ended back at 'its nice to be important' with one nameless group member (Ian) causing a major stir by letting go of his throw line and proceeding to run 500m of new river out of his boat. With our hearts in our mouths we sprinted after him hearing all sorts of nasty waterfall type sounds. At one point I almost ran full speed into a line of barbed wire at head height, another one to tell the grand kids! Thankfully mister Martin was found alive and well with boat and paddle. He was a deeper shade of grey and had a lot of skin missing off of his knee but a couple of samosa's and some blackcurrant Fanta soon sorted him out.

And so ended the first descent of the Itara river. Kris, James and Ian are back in the land of uni while Theresa has taken a career teaching at the local girls school she was abducted by whilst taking photos of us lot (not really she's back at work). Kris and James are running commercial first descents in East Africa from sometime next year after our hangovers from graduation wear off. Anyone interested in kayaking in Kenya or joining one of the future commercial trips should contact [krispypancake@hotmail.com](mailto:krispypancake@hotmail.com) look out for our next article on the Nile. ●



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## Disabled adventurer returns from successful Antarctic expedition

Disabled adventurer Glenn Shaw has returned from a successful kayaking expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. Glenn suffers from 'Brittle Bones' and is confined to a wheelchair (or 'Snowmobile', as Glenn calls his customised vehicle) when he is not kayaking.

Glenn succeeded in making several journeys by kayak from the support vessel 'Polar Pioneer', including a circumnavigation of Enterprise Island and a partial exploration of the ice-choked Lemaire Channel.

In addition to his kayaking exploits, Glenn also succeeded in making a landing on the Antarctic mainland. "Before the expedition, I was really looking forward to seeing whales, seals and penguins," said Glenn. "But in the end it was the physical environment of rock and ice that impressed me most. On one occasion we kayaked into the centre of a three-sided turquoise iceberg."

Glenn's support team included experienced Antarcticans Kieron Lawton, Rosy Whelan and Roger Kirkwood. Glenn's paddle partner was American Bob Powell, who has represented his country at three World Kayaking Championships.

Glenn arranged his passage on the Polar Pioneer through World Expeditions (tel: 020 8870 2600, [www.worldexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.worldexpeditions.co.uk)). The

company also organises voyages for sightseers, climbers and divers. Archived satellite reports of Glenn's voyage can be viewed at

[www.glennshaw.com](http://www.glennshaw.com)



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## Leukaemia Research Fund

When Simon Osborne's brother Mark died of Leukaemia, he determined to raise money for research into this terrible disease, and to help in whatever way possible to prevent others suffering as Mark had. In May 2002, Simon will be circumnavigating Great Britain in a sea kayak to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund. Involving a journey of a staggering 3,000 miles with sea crossings of up to 40 miles at a time, over a 4-month period - this is the ultimate in personal challenges. His target is to raise £10-20,000. Simon will not only need a great deal of determination and courage, but will also need, and rely upon, the support of YOU - his fellow canoeists.

### Please help Simon to help others. How?

- **Why not** plan your own sponsored canoeing event - however small. Let Simon know that he is not alone in his determination, and help him to achieve his ambitious goal.
- **Why not** accompany Simon on part of his journey - if your club is nearby.
- **Why not** publicise this fantastic event locally, and ensure that Simon gets the maximum support possible.
- **Why not** come up with some of your own ideas to raise funds and awareness for Simon's mammoth trek. Help Simon to help others. He needs **your** support.

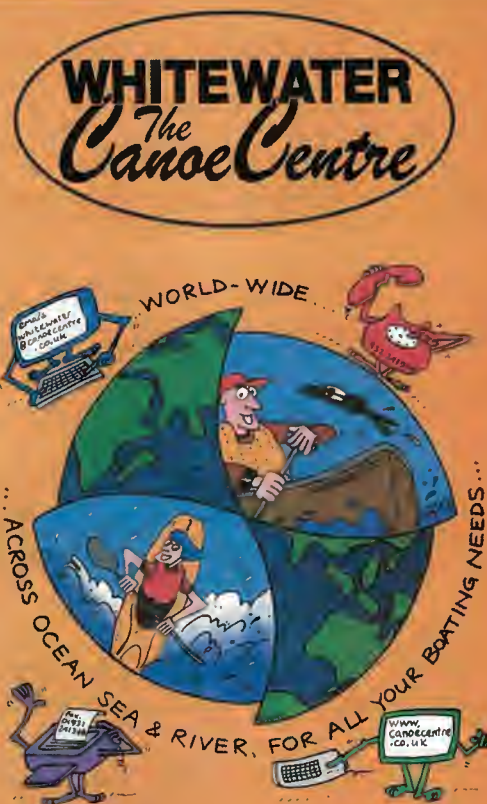
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## Phones Express February competition results:

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## North West Region Millennium Paddler Awards



Congratulations to the following paddlers who were awarded the 'Millennium Paddler Award' at a recent NW Region event. The award was presented in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the sport and recreation of canoeing in the UK. The award ceremony took place at the new Salford Watersports Centre in Salford Quays near Manchester and was carried out by Alan Laws, Chairman of the BCU.

The event was well attended by paddlers and their families from all over the North West Region, including the Isle of Man.

Paddlers presented with the award are: Leslie Allan, Alison Bell, Ian Bell, Michael Blance, Victor Buckley, Richard Burgess, Stephen Chorley, Chris Cleaver, Harry Critchley, Phil Dean, Ronald Ellis, Colin Fletcher, Jayne Grieves, Mike Hayward, Graham Johnson, Geoffrey Martin, Gerry McCusker, Hazel McCusker, David McGarry, Martin McKetrick, Vincent Milhench, Mike Moffit, Pat Moran, Dave Reynolds, Peter Schofield, Lesley Sleight, Jeff Smart, Stanley Smith, Frank Vaughan, David Wain and John Waters

# Mardyke Valley Challenge Day

## 7th July 2002

Claire Stevens aged 14 from Stanford Le Hope, Essex and Rachel Dennis aged 12 from Aveley, Essex have both been kayaking since the age of five at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre in South Ockendon Essex. Both live for the sport and go on many trips and holidays with the centre. They kayak all year round from January through December, spending all their free time at the lake. They have both gained BCU three star and are working towards four star.

When a team from Grangewaters entered the DW both were disappointed to find out that they were to young to enter. They came up with the idea of a challenge day for children between 8 to 14 years of age, hoping to introduce them to kayaking and other water sports. They wanted the challenge to be an all day event with every challenger receiving a medal and certificate for entering. They approached Grangewaters staff who were very interested in their ideas. Plans were put into action and the day was extended to include team and individual events, with activities being on and offsite. Funding has been provided by The Mardyke Valley Partnership, Thurrock Council and other fund raising events. The Mardyke Valley Challenge Day was evolving.

The whole day is based on children competing, having fun, learning to enjoy both water sports and land activities, incorporating water and land displays. There will be a presentation and disco in the evening, with a charity auction raising money for local children's charities.

Dave Abbot chief instructor at Grangewaters believes the event a great opportunity for young people. He said: "It's a chance to get out and experience



outdoor activities and develop skills in communication and team work and most importantly having great fun."

The Mardyke Valley Challenge will be held on the 7th July 2002 from 10am at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre, Buckles Lane, South Ockendon, Essex RM16 6R5. Telephone 01708 855228 for further information and an application pack, early entry recommended.

## Help for disabled

The Cambridge Canoe Club is looking into the feasibility (and costs) of adapting its current clubhouse for use by disabled paddlers. Please can anyone offer any advice on this subject and/or put us in touch with clubs that have already done this? Copies of building plans showing disabled facilities would be most helpful.

If anyone can help please contact **Dr Bill Block, Cambridge Canoe Club, 27 Gilbert Road, Cambridge CB4 3NX (tel: 01223 311715).**

# There is still time to help

## Action on Access 2002

So far, the BCU office has issued Lobbying Packs to members and affiliated clubs in 478 different constituencies. It is very evident many members have been visiting their MPs in support of "Action on Access", both from the reports made back to the office and the number of Parliamentary Questions tabled by MPs. Members who have received a Lobby Pack and have not seen their MP, please act quickly, as we need all the support that we can get.

The last edition of Focus invited all other members to see or write to their MP in support of the lobby document that was published in full in that edition.

If you want a fair and equitable and secure share of access for canoeing then there is still just time for you to support the campaign. So, if you have not yet taken any action, please write today direct to the **Secretary of**

**State, Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.**

Lobbying by the central access team has also been taking place through mail shots and personal visits to about a hundred bodies with water interests to seek their support for action following the publication of the report 'Water Based Sport and Recreation: the facts'.

The Welsh Canoeing Association members are also completing a successful lobby on the same basis as the English members and we will continue to work closely in the closing stages. We shall be making a joint approach to the Secretary of State before you read this report.

We will report on the government proposals as soon as they are known. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this campaign. It has been the largest in the history of canoeing.



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## Canoe Clubs Win Prestigious Awards

Two BCU Clubs in the LSE Region recently received the Sport England Highly Recommended VIP Award. The VIP Recognition Awards are presented each year to sports organisations that



Tandridge CC being presented with their VIP award from Sport England

are leading the way in the recruitment and management of volunteers. The Clubs - Otter Canoe Group and Tandridge Canoe Polo Club - were competing for this prestigious award (and the money!) against sports clubs from all over the South East. The Awards offer winners public recognition and financial support to reinvest in their volunteer management programme. Previous winners have used the Awards as a stepping stone

and motivating existing volunteers. However, the application process itself is an ideal opportunity to learn how to improve your volunteer management programme.

So why did they deserve the award – could your club gain one next year? We asked Tandridge's Christine Norris to tell us about their club and how they have built it up to what it is now. If you would like to try for the award this year get in touch with your PDO or for details of how to become a member of the VIP scheme and award information visit the Sport England VIP web site on [www.sportengland.org/VIP](http://www.sportengland.org/VIP)

### First of all – what does Tandridge do – and what is it about as a Club?

Fun and paddling for (almost) everyone - this is what Tandridge Canoe Polo is all about. Complete beginners are welcome – some have never sat in a kayak before. Everyone over 12 is invited, but they are encouraged to come along in teams of 4 to 5 juniors with an adult team helper. The price is kept low to ensure that no-one is excluded on cost grounds. The main emphasis is on having FUN, and this usually also means progressing and achieving. The age is set at over 12 because there are fewer activities for teenagers in Tandridge than for under-12's – so it's good to offer something especially for them. There is no upper age limit.

Sessions take place in a warm and heated indoor pool. The pool has a rectangular section where league games take place; at the same time instruction in skills and rolling takes

place in the lagoon area. We run two leagues – Development and Premier, which meet fortnightly on alternate Sunday evenings from September to Easter. Winners of the Development

League are promoted to the Premier. Teams in both leagues are encouraged to compete in regional and national leagues and competitions.

All club members and team leaders are expected to help out with the running of the Club. This starts off with simple tasks like getting out the kit and storing it again after each session. In addition to playing in a team, keen members undertake training in canoe safety, lifesaving, coaching and refereeing. Over 14's often use these activities to qualify for the Physical Recreation, Service and Skills Section of the Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Club tries to subsidise training costs, particularly for adults who help regularly.

Club members can take part in skills training (BCU Star awards) from Easter to October, with opportunities for river trips, slalom, weekends away and introduction to white water, whilst the Coaches and those with more experience enjoy surfing and trips to Thames weirs, Wales, Dartmoor, whitewater centres, the Alps and the Pyrenees.

### So what makes Tandridge different to other clubs and what are the clues to success?

A Turning Point - in the Club's history was in 1998 when the BCU's Paddlesport Development Officer at the time, visited the Club and encouraged the officers to make preparations to apply for a National Lottery grant for equipment. To meet the application requirements, the officers put a lot of thought into drawing up a 3 year Development Plan, they formulated a Child Protection Policy, a volunteer screening process, and they focussed on broadening the Club's horizons to compete at regional level and introduce members to other aspects of paddlesport. The work paid off and help from the Lottery enabled us to purchase our very first set of equipment for the Club. This also helped us to develop into the structure we have now for coaching and involvement in events.

Broadening Horizons - The bidding process had focussed our attention on problem areas, such as weekly transportation and storage of boats and lack of qualified coaches, so these were dealt with. It also meant that we set targets, for example running a regional youth canoe polo competition, introducing youngsters to slalom, whitewater, linking with other canoe clubs, and introducing a programme to train coaches, referees, first aiders and to cover safety aspects. Success in these areas meant that the BCU awarded us Top Community Club Status in May 2001.

Volunteer Management - A requirement for still more money to meet training costs led our Paddlesport Development Officer to suggest that we apply to the Sport England Volunteer Investment Programme (VIP) Awards. The VIP support material gives excellent guidance as to how to recruit, involve, retain, recognise and reward volunteers. It encouraged us to formulate a Volunteer Management Plan and this has been a further stepping stone to ensuring the future of the Club. An effective leadership team is essential for any club, as the workload is shared and the club does not become too dependent upon one person.

### The future

Our Club is very much about getting out and about and "doing". However, we shall continue to review and adapt all our plans and policies to meet changing needs and to ensure that the Club continues to be relevant, popular and above all, FUN. With 71 junior members and 15 adults helpers registered this season, it seems to have worked so far! For details contact Christine Norris on 01883 715902 or [christine.norris1@virgin.net](mailto:christine.norris1@virgin.net).

Tandridge CC in action on a typical coaching night



# The National Bellboat Championships and YouthFest

Saturday 25th May

New date – same venue – lots of paddling and lots of fun! There are bellboat races throughout the day in age groups and lots of other Paddlesport activities to try your hand at. So what does it include?

## National Bellboat Championships

This event is run in age groups (which allows time to join in the other YouthFest activities) – U12, U15, U18 – preferably mixed teams (4 boys and 4 girls). There is also a VIP race for adults and helpers. All groups are welcome to attend and there will be a prize in each age category for the fastest scout/guide team. Entry fee is £24 per team ( £3 per individual) which includes entry to all YouthFest activities. **Entries** - are restricted so get your entry in early!



## YouthFest - other activities

Bellboating is only half the story - during the day there are other events and activities scheduled to fit around the racing.

**Diamond Slalom Challenge** – try for one of the blue, bronze, silver or gold certificates - plus coaching from GB paddlers

**Sprint Regatta** - Lightning and K1 Regatta – 200 metre races

**Ergo Paddling Machine Challenge** – 30 second timed runs – go for bust and beat your mates!

**Come and Try** – different boats to experience

Drawing competition before the event why not have a go at drawing your own picture representing your paddlesport experiences - prizes for the best entries

## NCH & Canoe Foundation

This year we are supporting NCH, The UK's leading children's charity and the Canoe Foundation, the BCU's charity which supports and encourage ventures by young and disabled people. If your team would like to raise sponsorship for these great charities then let us know and we will send you a sponsors form. There will be prizes for the team that raises the most money and the most original method of raising funds

To get an Information and entry pack contact Mandy at BCU on 0115 982 6265 or email [youth@bcu.org.uk](mailto:youth@bcu.org.uk). Full details and entry form are also on the youth pages of the BCU web site. [www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk) Don't be late... Closing date for all entries 17th May

## Paddlequest Northwest

Sunday 14th July 2002

**Salford Water Sports Centre, Manchester**

The countdown for the Commonwealth 2002 games to be hosted in Manchester is steadily ticking away so it is to for

Paddlequest Northwest. This will be a great opportunity for young people to participate in a number of paddlesport events from bellboats, canoe polo, diamond slalom, K1 lightning races. Fun, excitement and challenge will be the main ingredients. Young people will be able to experience new aspects of paddlesport for the first time, including team and individual events.

Entries are welcomed from clubs, scouts and guides, schools, youth groups and other organisations working with young people. There will be three age categories under 12 - 15 -18. Paddlequest is open to all young people regardless of background or ability. Other attractions will include displays award and prize giving ceremonies. It is anticipated that demand from groups will be high so please ensure you register and request entry pack early. Closing date 1st July 2002

## Paddlequest logo competition

The Paddlequest working team has decided to offer young people an opportunity to design a logo for Paddlequest Northwest. All you have to do is design a simple Logo that captures the spirit of paddlesport. Some examples of good logos are the BCU and Olympic Games Logos simple in design. Entries from the following age categories under 12 - 15 - 18 closing date for competition 17th May 2002. Completed entries sent to address below.

Entry & Information pack contact: **Len Hartley, Paddlesport Development Officer, BCU Northwest, 73 Melrose, Stavordale Road, Moreton, Wirral CH46-9PG. Tel: 0151-605-1834 Mobile 07855639594 Email [seapaddlerone@aol.co](mailto:seapaddlerone@aol.co)**

## More at slalom !



104 Young Paddlers from 17 clubs and Centres in London and the South East recently took part in the BCU Regional Youth Slalom event in the 50 metre pool at Crystal Palace. There were 20 more competitors than in last year's event and it was good to see Meridian, Welsh Harp and Sedgell school returning to the competition. With all age groups keenly contested some top skills were on display including World Class Start Paddlers Sarah Green and the Mugford twins James and Harry. One of the key aims of the event is to introduce young people to slalom and with a Diamond Slalom Challenge running alongside in the diving pool this gave an ideal opportunity to coach paddlers and for them to gain an award. All the paddlers gave great performances with stunning results from the winners listed below:

### U18 Boys

1st Chris McCabe Islington Boat Club  
2nd Alex Powell Waveriders  
= Tom Bull Lea Valley

### U15 Boys

1st James Mugford Addlestone  
2nd Harry Mugford Addlestone  
3rd Luke Banks Waveriders

### U12 Boys

1st Zachary Franklin Windsor  
2nd Danny Ward Islington Boat Club  
3rd Oliver Thompson Meridian

### Overall Club/Centre

1st Addlestone 2nd Islington Boat Club 3rd Meridian

### U18 Girls

1st Elizabeth Clamp Waveriders  
2nd Michelle Coyle Welsh Harp  
3rd Annette Green Purley

### U15 Girls

1st Sarah Green Purley  
2nd Ruken Beckwith Laburnum Lions  
= Stacey Law Lea Valley

### U12 Girls

1st Mallory Franklin Windsor  
2nd Sarah Ellsworth Meridian  
= Corrine Jones Surrey Docks

Many thanks to all the helpers too numerous to mention but a special thank you to Richard Hodge from Shepperton CC for taking the entries and timing the event, Paul Hawkins and the TYM team and Whitewater the Canoe Centre for prizes.



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email [wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk](mailto:wmcc@arrowmcc.demon.co.uk)

## Yearbook updates 2002

As the BCU Yearbook goes to press it is impossible for us to update late changes. Changes and corrections to the various pages are listed below.

**Pages 63 & 66 BCU River Information Service**  
Rivers Dart, Taw and The Torridge Telephone Numbers Please only use the Hotline Number (01237 475823) for the River Dart and Torridge the telephone numbers for the Taw and Torridge should not be used, as these are private numbers. These numbers were included in error, apologies to Fiona and Icarus Edmonds.

**Page 44** - Please NOTE that Peter Tranter is NOT the Touring Event Organiser. Only call or e-mail Peter if you have an event to submit to Canoe Focus

**Page 3 - Officers of the BCU**  
Rachael Buckland is longer Slalom Administrator, please contact Jim Croft, 12 Holmscroft Road, Luton, Beds LU3 2TJ Tel: 01582 651615 e-mail: [slalom\\_admin@bcu.org.uk](mailto:slalom_admin@bcu.org.uk) for all Slalom enquiries including the Slalom Yearbook 2002.

**Page 20 - Norwich Eagle Canoe Club**  
E-mail address should be [cwright15@cwctv.net](mailto:cwright15@cwctv.net)

**Page 23 East Midlands**  
Ibstock Canoe Club - New Address - Ranmoor House, 157, The Moor, Coleorton, Leics LE67 8GD

**Page 23 East Midlands**  
Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club. The Telephone No. should be 0115 9772296

**Page 25 - London & South East**  
Paul Newman Vice Chairman / Paddlesport Development Officer. His telephone should be 01634 376420. Paul is also Coaching Development Officer and can be contacted via Tel/Fax/Answer-phone 01634 232874 or e-mail [paulnewman@coachingpaddlesport.co.uk](mailto:paulnewman@coachingpaddlesport.co.uk)

**Page 26 Bromley Canoe Club**  
Secretary Philip Mackey - Tel number should be 07968 493 520

**Page 26 Chalfont Park Canoe Club**  
The should be in the Southern Region

**Page 27 Shepperton Slalom Canoe Club**  
New Secretary - Richard Hodge, same address, Tel: 01252 541374 e-mail: [richard.hodge@emsjv.com](mailto:richard.hodge@emsjv.com)

**Page 29 Northern/Cumbria**  
West Cumbria Canoe Club, C/O Gene Robinson, Croft

Farm, Plumbland, Aspatria, Wigton, CA72 2EZ. Website: [www.freespace.virgin.net/svc.ac](http://www.freespace.virgin.net/svc.ac) A B H J K M N P S T V X Y Z

**Page 29 BCU Affiliated Clubs - Addition**  
Loveswater Canoe Club Mrs Vivien Grieve Clouds Hill Lorton Cockermonth Cumbria CA13 9TX TEL: 01900 85259 [michael@lorton.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:michael@lorton.freeserve.co.uk) I J N XYZ

**Page 30 BCU Affiliated Clubs - Addition**  
Blackpool Outdoor Adventure Group, C/O Mr Peter Roscoe, 10 Delaware Road, Layton, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 7JX Tel: 01253 890 694 BHJK N STVWXYZ

**Page 34 LCO Cornwall East**  
Grace Jones - New Tel No. 01579 384650

**Page 34 - LCO Cornwall West**  
Paul W N Parkinson. Please do not use the telephone number; you can contact Paul via e-mail [parky2dogs@aol.com](mailto:parky2dogs@aol.com)

**Page 35 South West**  
Bideford Canoe Club - New Secretary - Pam Page, Hope Say, East Woodlands, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple EX31 3PP Tel: 01271 858725 e-mail: [pamhenry@madasafish.com](mailto:pamhenry@madasafish.com) HJKMN STVXYZ

**Page 36 South West**  
Hayle Canoe Club - New Address - 2 Treilissick Fields, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 6HZ

**Page 38 West Midlands**  
Birmingham Canoe Club - New Secretary - Ian Dallaway, 61 Knaves Castle Avenue, Brownhills, Walsal, West Midlands WS8 7PN Tel: 01543 378811

**Page 41 Leeds Canoe Club**  
Michael Hull is no longer secretary as of 11 February 2002 Contact the BCU Club Secretary on 0115 9821100 e-mail: [clubs@bcu.org.uk](mailto:clubs@bcu.org.uk) for info on the club.

**Page 44 Programme of Touring & Recreation - Addition**  
Maidstone Canoe Club - BCU "Silly Hat" Medway Tour - Contact Norman Brooks Tel: 01634 241350 e-mail: [norman.brooks@dds.delpiauto.com](mailto:norman.brooks@dds.delpiauto.com) for more info. Also see the What's on page on the BCU webs site [www.bcu.org.uk/events](http://www.bcu.org.uk/events)

**Page 44 Programme of Touring & Recreation**  
Please do not call the contact number in the yearbook for the River Race April tba & Doggy Paddle May tba, the wrong details where submitted

**Pages 64, 65 & 67 BCU River Information Service**  
Rivers Hindburn, Roeburn and Wenning, Mike Hayward is no longer the Access Officer for these Rivers. Please contact the Regional Access Officer for the North West for these rivers.

**Page 67 - River Wreake Contact Details**

The contact details for Adam Brewster should be: 13 Badgers Corner, East Goscote, Leicester LE7 3WS Tel: 0116 260 2539

**Page 80 - Sprint Racing**  
Contact for Sprint Racing is NOW Bill Lawrenson, 9 Malvern Street, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire DE15 9DY - Please DO NOT use the contact Peter Davey

**Page 93 - Contracted Course Providers - Region Other**  
Paul Marshall - Should be - Inspire Consulting and Coaching, St Mary's Cottage, Weston Under Penyard, Ross on Wye HR9 7NY Tel/Fax: 01989 762099 e-mail: [info@inspirecc.co.uk](mailto:info@inspirecc.co.uk)

**Calendar of Courses - Southampton**  
Org No 039 D S Gunter. April 19 Kayak 4 Star Assessment - should be April 27 Sea 4 Star Assessment. September 11 Kayak 4 Star Assessment - this course was entered in error. There is also an Expedition to the Costa Brava October 15-22, contact the organiser.

**Qualification Courses - Southampton**  
**Org No. 068 Phil Quill.** April 16-17 Level 3 Kayak Training - should be Sea. October 08-09 Level 3 Kayak Assessment - should be Sea

**Org No. 028 Nigel Dennis.** All Level 3 Training and Level 3 Assessment courses should be SEA and not kayak inland.

**Page 103 Calendar of Courses**  
Column 3 Sea 4 Star Training - Should be 4 Star Assessment

**Page 109**  
Org No 048 Geoff Hine, is also running a Canoe Safety Test (Kayak) on 5 may 2002

**Page 113**  
Org No 086 Michael Bruce Tel: No. Should be 0033 476 802 004. Two dates for Kayak Introduction to white water 12-17 & 19-24 March - should be May

**Approved Centres**  
**North East** - City of Newcastle O E Service Tel: number should be 0191 2651311 Also Page 28 Disability Rep Northern Jason Caroll CNOES Tel: number should be as above.

**Overseas** - PGL Hameau Les Ages - Should not be Campus

**Addition** - PGL Segriers, Domaine de Segriers, Vagnas, 07150 Vallon, Pont D'Arc France Tel: 01989 764211 UK Number  
Please note that the email [development@bcu.org.uk](mailto:development@bcu.org.uk) is now [facilities@bcu.org.uk](mailto:facilities@bcu.org.uk).

**Eddie Bingley, BCU Yearbook Compiler**

# LETTERS

Your chance to put forward your point of view

## Full support

I wanted to drop you a quick line to demonstrate my full support for the letter titled 'Slow down!' by Graham J. Lowe in issue 135. Canoeing and kayaking for us 50 year olds cannot in the main always be slalom, racing, surfing and white watering. For me personally, my kayaking consists of lazy, long days on beautiful canals, calm rivers and the lakes of The Lake District and occasionally, when the sea is flat calm, a paddle near Flamborough Head, North Yorks. I have below outlined details of one of my regular routes and if others do the same and Canoe Focus publishes these details, we can build up a catalogue of paddles suitable for those wanting a good hobby to keep fit but in quieter waters than is normally reported.

### Chesterfield Canal

Access the canal opposite the Swan Public House, Drakeholes, Nr. Gringley on The Hill. (Just off the A631) Good roadside car parking and we can use pub car park if prior permission is sought.

Paddle away from the mouth of Drakeholes Tunnel, through some superb, quiet countryside teeming with wildlife. The journey can be as long as you wish. There are no locks for 9 miles. A full day can be had by paddling to the Boat Inn at Hayton Nr. Retford where there are good moorings. A meal and a pint or two can be taken here prior to returning to Drakeholes. Total distance for the return journey is approx 12 miles on totally flat canal water. The trip is suitable for the rawest of beginners.

Jane Slater

## Very disillusioned

I would like to echo Graham Lowe's point in the Feb issue. I have recently bought a tandem sit-on kayak for my wife and I to paddle about lakes, reservoirs, canals and slow moving rivers. I joined the BCU and wrote to the two British Waterway addresses you sent with the joining pack. They haven't even acknowledged the letters.

I expected to get full access maps with the BCU pack.

The nearest club to us is 20 miles away, we don't really want to join as we can't devote sufficient time to it. Trying to find water to paddle on is proving difficult. I bought the 100 paddles book which is some help, although it could do with a re-write. I sent 2 E-mails to Midland group reps for advice, but they were returned - the addresses were no longer active.

I contacted the BCU and got a response confirming access is difficult, but with no information on maps/access points. I have got info on the Lake District lakes from the tourist info centre. We went to the ICE show at the NEC, and spent some time at the Inland Waterway desk, they stated we were allowed on any water we could get to from public access, meaning the water banks and bed may be private, but the water was not. I felt they were recruiting for a mass trespass, similar to Kinder Scout! Are they correct? I have written again to British Waterways at Leeds \ Watford.

At the moment we are very disillusioned, and unless something changes, we certainly won't be renewing our membership.

John Connell 110477/F

## The Bear Necessities

I was very interested to read the article "The Bear Necessities", issue 134, which I found informative and nicely illustrated. There is just one matter which I feel may need a little clarification and that concerns the historical reference to Gino Watkins.

Mention is made to Gino Watkins paddling in a traditional kayak at the turn of the century whereas it should be noted that he was not even a twinkle in his dad's eye in 1900.

According to records it was on August 20th 1932 that he disappeared/died at the tender age of 25. His kayak was found drifting empty and his clothes found on an ice-floe.

I believe that he was one, if not the first European, to master the various ways of rolling a kayak and taught other members of his expeditions on the River Cam at Cambridge where, if I recall correctly, one of his kayaks is preserved.

John E Pearton

## Thoughts on the Devizes to Westminster Race

By the time this hits the news stands I suppose Easter will be upon us but, as I sit here drying out after another soggy day watching and listening to canoeists in training, several things occur to me and I think they might interest you too!

Today was the first of the Waterside Series of races, that wonderful series of races along the Kennet & Avon Canal that serves to wake all marathon paddlers from their Christmas stupor and spurs them into training for the new season. I love Waterside 'A' as it is known for not only do the hardened marathon paddlers turn out in force but its length, 13? miles, lends itself to a gruelling assessment race for aspiring internationals. The start, at Great Bedwyn, teems with canoeists of all shapes and sizes. This year I was heartened to see strong contingents of young paddlers from both clubs and schools. When youngsters of 12 - 14 years of age can be introduced to marathon paddling where they can mix with the best in the world (Yes, Ivan Lawler - it was good to see you) then marathon canoeing can look forward to a strong and healthy future. At the other end of the age scale, the Watersides always attract veteran paddlers out in force and they can often give the younger paddlers a good run for their money; they have learnt not to waste any effort and the race results are a tribute to their fitness.

And so to the finish, hot showers, food and rest, and the opportunity to catch up on all the news and gossip from the canoeing world. With my ears close to the ground and eyes on the lookout I was busy looking for clues as to this year's Devizes to Westminster contenders. As always the serious Senior K2 paddlers are playing their cards very close to their chests but a number of regulars were happy to chat.

Two veteran paddlers will be well worth watching over Easter. Ian White and Ollie Harding spent a few moments arguing over whether 2002 would be the 29th or 30th anniversary of their debut as Juniors but they were upbeat about this year's event. Both have entered numerous times; Ian, a boatbuilder, counts 13 finishes whilst Ollie, who runs a digital imaging business, has been runner up three times. I asked them what were their best moments over the years - Ian replied, half jokingly, that he couldn't think of any! - but they keep coming back for more. On reflection they both agreed that it was a life style commitment - setting themselves a challenge and not giving up on the dream. I moved on - Michael Wibrew is paddling with a lady partner in the Mixed Class - a new challenge for a man with so many DW finishes to his credit and a brave lady to join a legend in his quest. The junior contingent looked strong today with several schools turning out in force - Bryanston School can certainly be proud of their winning crew with some hot competition coming from Wellington College.

To those of you who have yet to savour the thrills and spills of marathon canoeing I invite you to look in on the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race this Easter. More information can be found on the DW website at [www.dwrace.org.uk](http://www.dwrace.org.uk) - we look forward to an exciting event.

Sally Peake

## Please send your letters to

Canoe Focus,  
British Canoe Union  
John Dudderidge  
House, Adbolton Lane,  
West Bridgford,  
Notts NG2 5AS  
or email them to  
[peter@canoeofocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoeofocus.co.uk)

## What's your address?

Number 135 of Canoe Focus is the best since I have been a member, really good, and you printed my letter and advert for a bonus!

Is it possible to have the email address (if he has one) or phone number of Graham J Lowe who has written the letter printed after mine? He has said everything that I would have liked as a similar 'ancient'. Kind regards and thanks for a super magazine.

Guthrie Young

## Poetic justice?

During a minor epic last summer my throwline, carefully labelled with name and phone number, disappeared off down the Guisane.

More recently I received a phone call from someone who had recovered 'my' boat from the Neath in South Wales, a river that I have never paddled. It turns out that they had identified the boat from the throwline inside.

I now have this boat (and my throwline). I would be quite happy to return it to the owner if they can a) provide suitable identification, and b) explain why they hadn't got round to returning my throwline. It's nice when you think you're ahead of the game for once.

Richard Link



# Easy pa



This is a there-and-back tour with splendid scenery and an amazing amount to see within the space of a few miles. It's ideal for the less experienced, those with a short span of attention and those with only a morning, afternoon or evening to spare.

The section described is the Northernmost end of a canal which used to join with the Erewash canal and then with the River Trent at Trent Lock. When the Cromford and High Peak Railway was built, it enabled transfer of goods from the canal to the railway which connected with the Peak Forest Canal at Marple on the other side of the Peak District.

A transfer shed and crane base can still be seen between High Peak Junction and the aqueduct. The railway fell victim to the Dr Beeching cuts in the late '60s and in turn the canal is isolated from the main canal network, mainly due to subsidence and collapse of the tunnel at Butterley.

The former main line to Manchester and beyond is now no more than a single track branch ending at Matlock. The canoeable section only goes from Cromford as far as the aqueduct to the south of High Peak Junction, but beyond this there's a good tow path well worth exploring on foot. Canal enthusiasts will want to visit the short tunnel about a mile south of the aqueduct.

## Access

Permission to launch should first be sought from the Derbyshire County Council Ranger (Middleton Top, tel: 01629 823204 and High Peak Junction, tel: 01629 822831). There is a limit of 30 boats at a time and a small fee to pay, which can usually be paid at High Peak Junction.

The Council lays down a number of requirements, the main ones being that boats are only launched at Cromford (no access from road at High Peak Junction) and that buoyancy aids are worn. Paddling is sometimes restricted in the nesting season. The dabchicks in



## Paul Smith explores the Cromford Canal

particular build their nests on floating masses of reed and these are easily damaged.

## On the water

The canal itself is shallow and can be weedy, but there is a good range of Wildlife, including coots and little grebes (dabchicks), and pike, which can often be seen basking in the sun in the evening. The best spot for seeing the pike is the wharf at Cromford, where it would not be unusual to see two or three lying in ambush for smaller fish emerging from the weedy bottom.

Before launching at Cromford, spend a few moments exploring the old warehouse before paddling South towards High Peak Junction, where there is an interesting swing bridge over the canal as well as a

# ddler



small visitors centre which serves hot drinks, sweets and postcards etc.

A video featuring memories of this most unusual railway can also be viewed. The old railway workshops can be visited on payment of a small fee and there are two guard's vans, with displays about the Cromford and High Peak Railway.

The railway is of special interest because it included some very steep inclines where trains were either hauled or assisted by stationary engines, and the bottom of the first incline (Sheep Pasture) can be seen immediately beyond the guard's vans. Just West of the A6 bridge, the catch pits used to restrain any runaway wagons can still be seen.

Returning to the canal, the railway/canal transit shed can be seen on the right, and shortly afterwards, on the left, the pumping station (often in steam during the summer months) and the aqueduct which carries the canal over the

River Derwent are both highlights. The beam engine is massive and works by lifting a weighted plunger, which draws water in from the river. Gravity then takes care of the downstroke, with non-return valves making sure the water goes into the canal.

When the pump is working, the "gulp" of water entering the canal near the pumphouse can be clearly seen. As the operating times were strictly limited by the mill owners who used the river for motive power, the topping up of the canal had to take place against the clock, hence an exceptionally powerful pump (for that time) was needed.

Two miles of flat water does not sound very promising as a canoe trip, but in fact this is a treasure. As a nature reserve, it is peaceful and secluded, and as a piece of industrial archaeology, there can be few places which offer so much within such a short distance. ●



Please forward all adverts either by email to [peter@canoeofocus.co.uk](mailto:peter@canoeofocus.co.uk) or by post to: CF Members Classified, 49 Greenfields, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5HB. Adverts cannot be taken over the phone.

## Sale

**6 Kayaks** (Conquest) for sale some blue, some green all fitted full plate footrest and airbags. Good conditions but surplus to my requirements at present. We are looking for £100.00 each or offers. Roy Sheppard on 01207 502680 or 01207 501852 or use this email address [RBSoutdoors@aol.com](mailto:RBSoutdoors@aol.com)

**Alien Extreme Dry Cag.** Red & black. Medium size. As new. Latex seals. Double waist band, excellent quality. Neoprene protection on latex. Paid 129.99. Will sell for 100 o.v.n.o. Can be delivered to Holme Pierrepont, Treweyn or Llandysul. Call Suzie on 0870 0158456 or 07881 697332

**Canoe Trailer.** Will take 12 canoes. Mesh Equipment Locker to take paddles, Bouyancy Aids etc. Good Condition Spare Wheel. Ready to use. £250.00 Tel: 01923 771 582 or 01923 776035

**Canadian Canoe McNulty Huron 16.** GRP hull. Mahogany trim. Ottersports paddles. VGC £375 Tel: 01483 531589 (Guildford)

**Canoesport Wings.** 1 set of brand new condition wings, hardly used. Length 220cm, 2 piece with graduated feral for adjustable feather. £100.00. Contact Dave on Colchester 01206 515103

**Classic Grumman 17 ft Double Ender** Lightweight Aluminium (app 65lbs) open canoe. Extras include o/b mounting bracket, paddles, car roof carrying combo, anchor, two seat cushions all by Grumman. Little used, stored under cover, vgc, lying Salcombe. £545. Tel: 01474 703482 e-mail [Pamanugh@aol.com](mailto:Pamanugh@aol.com)

**Cruiser K2** for sale. Bristol to Windsor Class Boat. V.G.C. 250.00. Tel. Leyshon at Anker Valley on 01676 542705

**Barcelona Reflex,** full carbon. Excellent condition. Telford #350 ono. Tel. 01952 591 575

**Dagger Outlaw,** river running playboat. New version with quick adjust seat. black/red. only used 6 times. too small for my size 13 feet. can deliver to notts, n wales or teeside £450 ono call 0114 2751399

**Dagger Outlaw Playboat.** Excellent condition. £550. tel 0208 399 9467 Email [peterwilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwilkinson@btinternet.com)

**Dagger Vengeance.** Blue and white. In top condition. Stored indoors. Mainly used At HPP. 400. Call Charlie 01509 562247 or E Mail [charlesconcept@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesconcept@hotmail.com)

**Dagger Redline,** fully outfitted WW spec including airbags, backrest, and hip pads. A very playful boat that surfs excellently and has good river running capabilities. Will suit medium to large paddler. Tricolour: Black-Purple-White, VGC. £300 ono. Contact: [chris.wallis@hurel.co.uk](mailto:chris.wallis@hurel.co.uk) or call 07814 107267 anytime. (Manchester Area)

**Dagger RPM** - excellent condition - blue/black colour scheme - £300; Slalom C2 - well used but sound - offset cockpits front left - carbon/kevlar construction - £100; Slalom C1 "Fanatic" - well used but sound - £50. Contact Andie Taylor or Mike Smith 01425 278632 (Christchurch, Dorset)

**Dagger Vertigo playboat.** Blue, red and white art, stored indoors, paddles included, 210 pounds o.n.o. Tel. Paul 01625 265481, [Pgwarb@aol.com](mailto:Pgwarb@aol.com) (Cheshire).

**Double Dutch Judge** - large. Full Carbon Sprint construction. Excellent condition. £650 Telephone no: 0115 933 4768

**Eskimo Kendo Evolution,** green, full plate foot rest and airbags front and rear. excellent condition, surfs a dream and a fantastic river runner ideal for first boat from beginner to advanced paddler 350 quid or near offers. Contact Richie 01885 400397 email: [Canoearchie@aol.com](mailto:Canoearchie@aol.com)

**Eskimo Kendo Evolution** - green, vgc.ww spec.£350. Contact Andy 01556 611201(south-west Scotland).

**Eskimo Diablo** - red.vgc.ww spec.adjustable thigh braces, Brilliant alpine beginner boat £225 Contact Andy 01556 611201(south west Scotland).

**Eskimo Diablo,** red, well used £225.00, Northants area. Ph 01252 662125 evenings and ask for Tim

**Estanguet C1** slalom boat for sale. Full volume, white with red stripes, no folds or tears, £120 ONO. Located in the south east, but could transport to HPP, etc. Also paddle, LH Lendal manias, have not seen much use. Contact Gwyn Ashcroft on 0208 979 9621 (Eve), or [gwyn.ashcroft@npl.co.uk](mailto:gwyn.ashcroft@npl.co.uk)

**Fibreglass Sea Kayak** [Avoncraft] good condition 60, Mustang WWR1 [Kevlar/Carbon] 70 good condition, Slalom Kayak [Kevlar] Dominator 60 good condition, Touring Canadian [glass over cold Moulded veneer] 16ft long \* 30 inch beam 190. North London 077 64684861

**Fleet of boats suitable for club offers.** Tel. 07718102576. E-mail [jonjob@talk21.com](mailto:jonjob@talk21.com) Freefall LT, multi-coloured, Excellent condition 250 Tel. 07718102576. E-mail [jonjob@talk21.com](mailto:jonjob@talk21.com)

**FREE 15 yr old Kendal Mint Cake** to purchaser of 1986 Perception Mirage used one season only. Paddle, wetsuit and usual bits. Make me a fair offer! Buyer must collect from Guildford area. Contact Jim on 01483 202538 or [jimmared@carmanah.demon.co.uk](mailto:jimmared@carmanah.demon.co.uk)

**Freefall LT full ww boat,** 3 years old, only used on lakes for instruction work and just a few easy river trips. hardly a scratch on it a real good example. £300 0121 360 2136

**Gabo white water racer** used inc paddle and spray deck cost a lot make an offer call 07968 324604

**Granta 15' plywood kayak,** suitable for inland lakes and estuaries. Ideal for touring or as first boat. Buyer collects. £75 ono. Phone 017683 72249 or e-mail [peterj@pgoddard.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:peterj@pgoddard.freeserve.co.uk) (Cumbria)

**Kirton Talon Sprint/Marathon K1.** Sprint weight, u/s rudder, white hull with Union Jack on deck, hardly used, career forces sale! £400 ono. Tel 07903 941049

**K1 Kirton 'Effendi',** GRP, fast touring / marathon single. Excellent condition, red deck, white hull. £350.00. Also galvanised V-rack. 020 8891 3868.

**Kogg Glacier Dry Top.** X-large, hardly used. £60.00 ono. Also Wildwater helmet £15. Tel Rob 01298 79421 (Buxton)

**Mr Clean Rodeo Kayak.** Well used but sound great boat to learn to cartwheel in £230 Tel: 07887 920949 Cheshire

**Mr Clean,** excellent condition 300.Tel. 07718102576. E-mail [jonjob@talk21.com](mailto:jonjob@talk21.com)

**Necky Gliss.** Excellent beginner's river running playboat. Good condition, injury focus sale. 200ono. Tel: Will 07968664736. Leeds.

**Necky Gliss.** Excellent condition, 1 year old, special blue & purple colour, great for playboating, river running and surfing. Based Chester in North West. Can meet. 375 tel: Home 0151 645 5235 Mob 07702 817152.

**Nookie Xtreme dry cag.** Red and black. Size XL. VGC well looked after. Genuine reason for sale - wrong size purchased! £80 ono. Can be delivered in SW England or could meet @ River Dart. Call Ian on 0777 310 2484. (Plymouth area)

**Nordkapp Sea Kayak** with 3 hatches and deck pump, £250, Nordkapp style Sea Kayak excellent condition 2 hatches and foot pump, £375. Overflow good condition light blue, £275, Creek 280 full WW spec red multi-art, £275. Tel 01895 635510 (West London) or email: [Mike@kayax.com](mailto:Mike@kayax.com)

**Old Town Open Canoe** and Reynard Summersong single Open Canoe in reasonable condition £100 each. Phone 01926 850776 (Midlands)

**Open Canadian.** 16ft Dagger Reflection. RoyaleX Hull with 3 Cane Seats. Air Bags and Spraydeck. Little Used. £700. 0161 427 7324 or [Roy.Bradshaw@care4free.net](mailto:Roy.Bradshaw@care4free.net)

**P&H Capella,** roto moulded blue sea kayak used for about a week, complete with P&H splits and Knoydart tow system, bullseye + camcleat. Excellent condition. £450. Tel: 07887 985583 N. Wales

**Perception 3D** with foam seat and thigh pads, red and purple, very good condition, £320. TEL 07890 776063 or email [incy@richardson32.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:incy@richardson32.freeserve.co.uk)

**Perception Arc.** Red £300 (O.N.O) 2 Years old Tel 0208 399 9467 Email [peterwilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwilkinson@btinternet.com)

**Perception Corsica S.** Very good condition, magenta, one careful owner £175 ono.Tel: Jo on 07887720981 or e mail [shop@northamptonssaints.co.uk](mailto:shop@northamptonssaints.co.uk)

**Perception Freedom.** Surf spec. Purple/Blue. Paddle and buoyancy aid (large) under 1 year old. Very little use. Ill health forces sale. £250. No offers. Tel 07710 708081 mobile 01455 635590 eves and w/e. Leics area

**Perception Kayaks:-** Ultra Clean, Red/Orange, £380. AMP, Orange/Yellow, £350. PHAT, Blue/Orange, £350. Tel: Duncan 01248 353221, or 07759 770104

**Perception Phat.** Great river runner etc. In excellent condition £325. Would use as a part ex against an older fitted out solo open canoe, Dagger Prophet, Occoee or similar. Tel 01285 6342410 (Glos)

**Perception Whiplash,** excellent condition, blue tie-dye, Bomber gear backrest, and buoyancy bags £250. Perception Fox Slalom, excellent condition, lime green, Bomber gear backrest £200. Galasport Clue Midi, used twice, excellent condition, blue/white deck £500.

DoubleDutch Kinetic carbon slalom paddles £50. Tel 020 8505 1208 (Essex).

**Plastic Kayak Contest,** with back rest and full plate foot rest £80 Tel: 07887 920949 Cheshire

**Prijon Fly.** Blue. Fair condition. £150 ono. Contact Darren John 020 8205 6968 London

**ProZone 230.** Good condition, 1 year old. Purple/Blue. Injury forces sale. 400 ono. Tel: Will 07968664736. Leeds.

**Pro Zone 230,** VGC, injury forces sale, 340 ono, Hull Will 07968664736.

**Pyranha H2** good condition, £340 ONO, inc airbags, Robson Green paddles, hardly used, £90. Ring Jane 01452 423124 [janewillet1@activemail.co.uk](mailto:janewillet1@activemail.co.uk)

**Pyranha InaZone 230,** orange, decent condition. 375 ono, 5 Wales.

**Pyranha InaZone 230,** good condition £380. Tel: 07887 920949 Cheshire

**Pyranha Roto bat,** plastic fun kayak. £80. Tel: 07887 920949 Cheshire

**Pyranha InaZone 220,** red/black in good condition. Stored inside. Good boat to learn freestyle. £250 ONO. Teeside area, Contact Ben on 07811 298877 or [Sb.g.turner@tees.ac.uk](mailto:Sb.g.turner@tees.ac.uk) or [geoffwild@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffwild@hotmail.com) or geoff on 07968 058957

**Pyranha InaZone 240** jaffa/black 9 months old, stored inside £300. Tel: Steve 01228 670126 Mobile 07740906393

**Pyranha Prozone 235** blue, one year old, only used at Nene valley white water centre. £400.00 ONO. Tel Alan 01604 580828.

**Pyranha Razor.** Black. Used once. Garage stored. Perfect condition with Nookie Spraydeck £300ono Pyranha Stunt Bat. Yellow. Very Good Condition. With Playboater spraydeck. £250 ono Rough Stuff Paddle. Hardly used £50 Nookie Dry Top and Trousers. Large. Hardly worn. £50 Tel 01603 439980 (Norwich)

**Quality kayaks stealth** river running playboat.N.Z import.simillar to Redline but more radical.210 Ltrs.flat hull.see one at [www.qualitykayaks.co.nz/stealth.html](http://www.qualitykayaks.co.nz/stealth.html). £300 07989 180288. Devon.

**Riot 007** - Sunburst yellow classic playboat. 24 months old. Well used but in sound condition, nothing more than superficial scratches. Excellent for getting into playboating. Including limited edition Riot Helmet in identical plastic to

the boat so you look the part!. Can deliver to Holme Pierrepont. Contact Steve on 0775 3834177 (Nottingham)

**Riot Disco** for sale, Excellent Condition, Dark Red, £450 (Stourbridge, West Midlands) Tel: Dave on 01384 378805 (home) 07752 200264 (mobile) or Email: [playboater69@msn.com](mailto:playboater69@msn.com)

**Riot Dominatrix 47.** Purple/red, 6 months old, very good condition With all fittings. Can deliver to HPP £475 Mark Raeburn - 01509 554177 / 07949 039850 markraeburn@hotmail.com

**Riot glide** Price:400 ono Details: Great condition, cracking surf and playboater, south wales. Name: Owen Contact: 07773581386 or e-mail: [k\\_yakmad@hotmail.com](mailto:k_yakmad@hotmail.com)

**Riot Glide** - Yellow, very good condition with peak neoprene deck. 400 ono. Cumbria area. Tel 01768 486717/ mob. 07779693651

**Riot Prankster** Yellow, 1 year old - vgc, with original fins and foam. £425 ono. In North West, can travel within reason. Contact Matt - Tel: 01704 822708 or Email: [matt@winder.demon.co.uk](mailto:matt@winder.demon.co.uk)

**Rivertec Freestyle cag** fully breathable XP fabric Red/Black £400ono. PeakUK Freestyle deck (used 2 times) fits Dagger, Wavesport, Prijon, etc £55. PeakUK Freestyle Cag (Mango) ex.

condition £400ono. Silver Protec side cut Helmet (M) used but sound £250ono. Shred Ready cut helmet (vixen) unused white £45. PeakUK Polartec Cag Deck (purple) fits necky/riot/slalom boats. £100. Palm Himilayan Short sleeve cag. Fully breathable XP fabric, part of extreme range £30. All kit Large unless otherwise stated.

Contact Phil at [carprt@hotmail.com](mailto:carprt@hotmail.com)

**Stable K1 Eclipse Cirrus** (two) £250 each. Gaybo Jaques K1 £300. Nomad Slalom £100. C2 Slalom £100 vgc o.n.o. plus many extras Tel 01472 313894

**Two super sports for sale,** full WW spec, full plate foot rest, vgc both kayaks, stored in garage, colours: 1 blue and 1 purple. 150 each Tel: Trevor on 01784 439222(day) or 01784 457645(evening).

**Van Dusen K1.** Glass Sandwich Vac-bag. £600. Telephone No 0115 933 4768

**Wavesport EZ.** Orange and yellow. Good condition. FAT outfitting. £450. 01204 882500 (Bury) [jatherden@jatherden.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jatherden@jatherden.fsnet.co.uk)

**Wavesport X,** excellent condition occasional flat water use only, green and black £450 O.N.O. Herefordshire or east Lancs call Howard- 07968 070533 anytime. reasonable offers considered

**Wavesport XXX.** Red & black, 8 months old but hardly used. Excellent condition. 2001 spec including new F.A.T. system. Only 490 o.v.n.o.

Can be delivered to Holme Pierrepont. Call Suzie on 0870 0158456 or 07881 697332

**We.no.nah C2** ICF21 in Kevlar. Very fast, very light. Good condition £1000. Contact Patrick 01453 546160 (Gloucestershire)

**XXX,** black, excellent condition 400. Tel. 07718102576. E-mail [jonjob@talk21.com](mailto:jonjob@talk21.com)

**Wanted**  
**Dagger Rival** or similar OC1 any reasonable condition. Can collect southern Britain. Mail [morven@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:morven@ukonline.co.uk) or call 07966 491026

**Lost**  
**Lost one set of Gorrilla paddles** on 23rd Feb on River Lyon Scotland. If found please contact me at [H.J.Bull@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:H.J.Bull@sms.ed.ac.uk)

**Whilst paddling the Greta,** Cumbria. On the 1st Feb 2002 during flood conditions I was unfortunate to get tree pinned and I had to abandon my boat which still has not shown up. The boat was a bright orange MicroBat 200 full WW spek and only four weeks old. Any news please Tel: 01229 582502.

**Lost on river Greta Keswick Cumbria** Sat 2nd Feb, Kayak Dagger Red Line, light blue with end caps. Serial Number is DAQ 01691 K0995L. Please contact Dave on 01229 472326 or mobile 07887623376

**Found**  
**K1** on the Dovey on Sunday 2nd Feb. Ring 01691 622755 with description of make colour etc.



**Arnfield Care Ltd****Instructors/Care Workers Wanted**

Arnfield Care requires Instructors and Care Workers for dynamic outdoors based child care teams. We are based in the Peak District, but work UK Wide with young people who present challenging behaviour. Outdoor, craft or art qualified or experienced staff are preferred, but not essential.

What we do require from you is enthusiasm, high degree of personal motivation and an interest in young people's well-being.

**Please contact Paul Booker 01457 860200**

**Cornwall Outdoors  
Delaware Outdoor Education Centre  
CHIEF INSTRUCTOR  
£15,741 to £17,265**

The Delaware Centre is a residential centre located at Gunnislake in the Tamar Valley near Dartmoor. It is operated by Cornwall Outdoors, Cornwall County Council and has a strong client base amongst primary & secondary schools in Cornwall. Activities offered include open canoeing, kayaking, climbing & abseiling, moorland exploration, orienteering and archery.

This is a permanent post. We are seeking an experienced instructor with a high level of NGB awards, sound organisational and leadership skills. You must be over 25 and hold a driving licence.

**SEASONAL INSTRUCTORS ALSO REQUIRED**

An application and further details can be obtained from Cornwall Outdoors, Unit 6, Threemilestone Industrial Estate, Truro TR4 9LD, tel:01872 324302, email: delaware.outdoors@cornwall.gov.uk

*Closing Date: 15 April 2002*

**Instructor required for small but busy centre on the Isle of Skye**

Must have Kayak Level 2 Coach & driving licence. Summer MLTB, windsurf and open canoe an advantage.

Also house staff needed - any couples out there..

**Whitewave: Skye's Outdoor Centre, Linicro,  
Kilmuir, Isle of Skye IV51 9YN**

**01470 542 414**

**info@white-wave.co.uk**

"Get Yourself into a Good Position" with...

**Team Leader** (£12-14k pa)

Will have substantial experience & BCU 3K/3C & 2 other NGB quals



**Adventure Plus®**

**Also great opportunities** for instructors with some experience, loads of enthusiasm & firm commitment to sharing your Christian faith through our work with young people:- (up to £9k p.a. plus substantial training)  
Subsidised housing available for all positions

For more details send your CV *today* to:

**A+, Hill Grove Farm, Dry Lane, Witney OX29 0NA**

Or email [jon@adventureplus.org.uk](mailto:jon@adventureplus.org.uk) [www.adventureplus.org.uk](http://www.adventureplus.org.uk)



**CO. WICKLOW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Require a Senior Instructor and Instructors for the 2002 season at our Outdoor Education Centre in Baltinglass Co. Wicklow.

Vacancies from March-October

Applicants should ideally be twenty one years old and hold the following N.G.B. qualifications B.C.U. L2/L3 coach (Kayak), S.P.A award, MLTB, BOF instructor and GNAS leader.

Competitive salary plus accommodation provided. (No deductions)

Please send C.V. with photo to:

**Centre Manager, Outdoor Education Centre, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow  
Tel. 00 353 508 81002/81747 Fax. 00 353 508 82128**

**Email [info@baltinglassoec.com](mailto:info@baltinglassoec.com) web [www.baltinglassoec.com](http://www.baltinglassoec.com)**

**GRAFHAM**

*water centre  
and Great Adventures Campsites*

**Lead Instructor in Derbyshire and Senior instructors, Instructors and Trainees**

We run activities at two locations, one in Cambridgeshire and the other in the Derbyshire Peak District. For 2002 and beyond we require enthusiastic staff who are able to deliver programmes of exciting and educationally valid activities for schools, youth groups and individuals.

Activities include Sailing, Windsurfing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, Climbing and Abseiling, Archery, High and Low Ropes Courses, Mountain Biking and Team Building. NGB qualifications needed but training is given.

Salaries for Instructors are £184.00 per week plus accommodation and meals.

Catering staff are also required at both locations.

For further information and an application form, please ring Christina Butler at Grafham Water Centre, Pery, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 0BX on (01480) 810521



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[www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk](http://www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk)

**blood, sweat and tears**

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**WATERSPORT INSTRUCTORS** Nine to Five? Forget it.

You want to have fun, be active, enjoy life for all it's worth. Our business is all about creating memorable times for young people aged 7-18, ensuring every day is a new adventure.

Canoeing and sailing are just two of the activities we offer and you will ideally have a BCU level 2 coach (kayak or canoe) or hold a RYA Dinghy instructor qualification with keel boat/coastal endorsement.

You'll also be good at inspiring and organising young people.



Phone us now on 01305 836226 and get set to escape the nine to five.

**education  
+adventure**



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# MANOR Adventure

## HEAD OF CANOEING

Manor Adventure, one of the UK's leading independent activity centres offers opportunities for lively, enthusiastic, committed individuals who enjoy working with groups of children or adults in the great outdoors both in the UK and their brand new centre in Northern France.

### Minimum Qualifications required Level 3 Coach Assessed

- Training towards other NGB awards
- Full board and accommodation
- Uniform
- Salary Circa 16K based on experience

For more information, call The Manor on

# 01584 861333

E-mail: manoradventure@lineone.net



## Senior Instructor (BCU Level 2 Coach min)

We require a committed qualified individual with leadership skills for this permanent, salaried position. Accommodation available. Other NGB qualifications an advantage.

Pioneer Centre is a Christian run Activity & Conference Centre situated on the edge of the beautiful Wyre Forest in Shropshire.

Also **Trainee Instructors -**  
Scholarship Scheme starts September.

Contact: **Kris Kirby, Chief Instructor, Pioneer Centre, Cleobury, Mortimer, Kidderminster DY14 8JG**  
email: pioneer@actioncentres.co.uk Tel: 01299 271217



## THE GUIDE ASSOCIATION

*Incorporated by Royal Charter*

### ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS REQUIRED FOR 2002

We are a youth organisation with 3 centres in the UK looking for enthusiastic instructors able to work with groups of all ages. Ideally you should hold at least one of the following: BCU Level 2 training, SPA Training or GNAS Leader Award. Training may be available to NGB qualifications.

**Activities include - kayaking - open canoeing - climbing, abseiling - archery - rope courses - mountain biking and team building activities.**

Contracts available for full or part season.

Good rates of pay.

Modern indoor accommodation available.

For an application pack, please call Jasmin in Personnel on 020 7592 1836 (answerphone) or email personnel@guides.org.uk

Charity no. 306016



## Opportunities in Ireland

**Instructors and Senior instructors** required for Ireland's leading adventure organisation.

- Kayaking, Sailing, Surfing, Rockclimbing & Multi-Activity
- Work in a fun yet professional environment
- Multinational team of staff
- Centre is set amidst the spectacular scenery of Connemara
- Positions include full board, skills training & wages
- Corporate / Adults / Childrens programmes on offer
- Season runs from Feb - Dec

Visit our websites at: [www.delphiadventureholidays.ie](http://www.delphiadventureholidays.ie)

Please Tel / fax / email / or write to us at:

**Personnel** Tel: 00 353 95 42336/42208  
**Delphi Adventure Holidays** Fax: 00353 95 42303  
**Leenane** Email: hrdelphi@iol.ie  
**Co. Galway,**  
**Ireland**

## AVON TYRRELL ACTIVITY CENTRE

### The activity and residential centre in the New Forest

Avon Tyrrell is a non-profit seeking, independent centre on the edge of the New Forest, providing residential and day visit programmes for over 15,000 guests a year. Our varied client base provides all staff with the opportunity to further their experience working with children and adults of all ages and abilities.

For 2002, we require motivated, enthusiastic instructors qualified to BCU level 2 coach. Qualifications or an interest in Ropes course, Archery, Climbing, Lifeguarding and Environmental Education is an advantage.

Pay scales between £178.40 and £196.80 per week depending on qualifications and experience. Variable duration contracts available.

For details please write to:

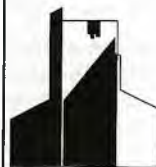
**Mike Paine**

**Avon Tyrrell Activity and Residential Centre,  
Bransgore, Hampshire, BH23 8EE**  
**TEL: 01425 672347 FAX: 01425 673883**  
**Visit: [www.avontyrrell.org.uk](http://www.avontyrrell.org.uk)**  
**E-Mail: [activities@avontyrrell.org.uk](mailto:activities@avontyrrell.org.uk)**



## MARRICK PRIORY

### Outdoor Education and Residential Centre



### Permanent Contract Instructor

We require an experienced, enthusiastic and easy going multi activity instructor with some NGB's (out of SPA, ML (summer), BCU Level 2 Coach, Local Cave Leader or GNAS to live and work in a small Christian centre in beautiful Swaledale, North Yorkshire. Excellent training and (individual) accommodation. Very competitive salary.

**For details please phone/fax 01748 884434**  
office@marrickpriory.co.uk



## Paddlers wanted for the UK, France & Spain

Whatever your level we have something for you

**Experienced but unqualified?** Obtain coaching qualifications while working as a canoeing or multi-activity instructor

**BCU level 2 coach?** Gain valuable log book time whilst working as a canoeing or multi-activity instructor and progress towards level 3

**BCU level 3 coach?** Work as a river leader and assist with staff training

**Experienced Rafter?** Qualify up to WCA/BCU Level 1 and 2 and guide Alpine rafting trips on the Durance



Have the time of your life while providing children with the experience of a lifetime. In return receive excellent training and development opportunities, accommodation, meals and a generous living allowance:

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email: [personnel@pgl.co.uk](mailto:personnel@pgl.co.uk)

phone: 01989 767833

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£10,887 - £12,312 p.a.

The Southend Marine Activities Centre is hoping to appoint a well-qualified and experienced watersports instructor to take up this challenging post in April 2002. Our ideal candidate would be a BCU Kayak level 3 coach and a level 2 RYA Windsurfing instructor.

However, applications from other watersports instructors, preferably with an emphasis on paddlesport, will be welcomed. Prior experience in a multi-activity centre would be an advantage.

### SEASONAL WATERSPORTS INSTRUCTORS

The Centre is also seeking to recruit specialist seasonal and part time instructors for the following activities: Dinghy Sailing, Windsurfing, Paddlesport, Powerboat Driving and PWC.

**Application forms and further details are available from Southend Marine Activities Centre, Eastern Esplanade, Southend on Sea, SS1 2YH. Telephone: (01702) 612770**

Or email [chrisbsmac@aol.com](mailto:chrisbsmac@aol.com)



## Instructor / Careworker

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**Please contact Simon Rouse  
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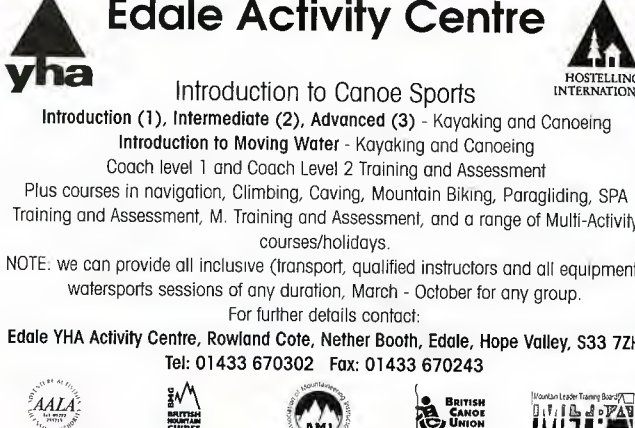


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## Rasdex releases



Rasdex's have just released a new CE approved PFD. The PFD is made out of soft foam for a close snug fit, the outer shell is available in either a hard wearing 4oz fabric or a lighter 2oz ripstop fabric with neoprene shoulder and side panels.

Tensioning comes from 2 fully adjustable straps on each side and 2 shoulder straps there is also a draw cord around the waist which helps make this PFD extra comfortable when in use.

The front panel has been cut away at the sides to give the best possible movement when paddling.

The B/a is aimed predominantly at freestyle and slalom paddlers and the paddler who wants a no fuss B/A with out pockets or harness so it is ideal for Retail £49.95

### Multi- Active suit

Voted the most innovative new product at this years canoe show The Multi-Active suit is aimed at the general water sport market especially watersports centres.

Made out of a heavily duty 6oz Pu coated fabric. Reinforced on knee and seat area in hard wearing Astro 450. A heavy duty water proof zip across the shoulders and fully seam taped. makes this suit easy to put on and very durable

The latex seals which are always susceptible to damage have been replaced with neoprene seals which are pre shaped, this makes it very comfortable to wear and easy to slip on and off.

The benefits are: quicker drying than wetsuits; warmer than a wetsuit; more comfortable for rental use; can be worn over a thick base later. Retail price £139

[www.rasdex.xo.uk](http://www.rasdex.xo.uk)



## Extreme: river guide pants and shorts

I have never before come across a pair of trousers of such technical design aimed directly at paddle sport enthusiasts, and have been well impressed by the design, performance and comfort of the Extreme Outdoor Clothing "River Guide Trousers", a new addition to their excellent and well proven technical outdoor clothing range.

Made from tough 115gm Tactel textured



nylon, the River Guide Pants are windproof, very quick drying, easy to wash, hard wearing and comfortable, whether worn over thermals in cool weather, on their own in warmer weather, or slipped on over shorts on "changeable" summer days.

The technical features of the pants make them ideal for river wear, although these trousers are equally at home on dry land. The features include a brushed polyester fleece lining to the elasticated waistband, a "captive" webbing belt, a full zip fly, two deep front pockets with angled zip closures and mesh drainage panels, D-rings next to the top of the pocket zips to secure knives, keys etc on lanyards, two large seat pockets (forming a double seat panel) with drainage eyelets and generous Velcro closures plus webbing pull tabs, a double thickness diamond crotch gusset for durability and freedom of movement, double thickness shaped knee panels for comfort and durability, side zips which open at the top for venting as well as from the bottom to allow you to put the pants on over shoes, and fully adjustable shock corded hems.

For compact storage the River Guide Pants can pack away into their own back pocket and are machine washable for easy care. While Tactel is not the quietest of fabrics to wear, it is comfortable when wet, dries very quickly and is very durable.

The River Guide Pants are probably the best trousers I have tried out for canoeing.



There is also a shorts version available, which naturally lacks the lower leg details but, in the men's version if not the ladies, incorporates an integral mesh brief.

Available in sizes XS-XL or made to measure at no extra cost(!), these British designed and made garments are available in black, olive or navy. The River Guide Pants cost (discount) £56.50, the shorts £38.00, and both should prove popular with committed paddlers.

For more details contact Extreme Outdoor Clothing, PO Box 2983, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7TT, Tel 0121 329 3788.

**John Fenna**

[www.extremeoutdoorclothing.com](http://www.extremeoutdoorclothing.com)



## Prijon Capri II - double the fun

Prijon have taken the touring concept one step further by developing a double version of the very successful Capri I. The Capri II is a very stable yet responsive boat that lends itself to beginner and intermediate paddlers wanting to go on day trips. This compact craft is easier to load on a car than an open canoe and at just over 15', garage storage is simple. The Expedition version comes complete with gas pedal rudder control, pillar free movement, bow deck pack net, bow lanyard, adjustable backbraces, ergonomic seats with water bottle holders and a rear hatch with sealed bulkhead storage. As with all Prijon Expedition Tourers the Capri II also includes a free reserve paddle and a 50L dry back-pack. Made out of superior Prijon HTP blowmolded plastic, the Capri II is extremely rigid and abrasion resistant. Two models are available, Capri II Standard at £599 and Capri II Expedition at £699. Specification: length 467cm, volume 485L, width 69cm, weight 29kg.

For more information contact Avoncraft on 01707 330000 or e-mail sales@avoncraft.co.uk.

[www.avoncraft.co.uk](http://www.avoncraft.co.uk)



## Prijon Kaituna goes to school

By popular demand Prijon have added the Kaituna to the School Series which includes the Tornado, Cyclone, Fly and Hurricane. The Kaituna School is ideally suited for difficult and playful water encounters. It also offers great stability for the novice whitewater paddler. The bevelled, semi planning hull is ready to surf-it-up, squirt if desired and has great paddling characteristics. It's do-it-all playboat and predictable river running capabilities make the 8' Kaituna the boat for both worlds. The Kaituna School is also a superb pool training kayak. Two Kaituna School versions are available; the standard version includes the standard HTP blowmolded shell, pillar free movement, thigh grip, drain plug, and saw-tooth footrest. The Deluxe version includes Keeper footrests and a backrest. The Kaituna Standard retails for £339.99 and Deluxe for £379.99. Specification: length 248cm, width 62cm, volume 210L, weight 15kg.

For more information contact Avoncraft on 01707 330000 or e-mail sales@avoncraft.co.uk.

## Scooter riding the water

This month sees the first of Perception's new Coral Sea sit on kayaks, the Scooter, hit the water. This will be followed in May by a tandem version called the Gemini. These two kayaks join the Squirt, Freedom, Freedom 2, Torrent and Five-O to add more depth to Perception's comprehensive Coral Sea range.

Andre Goldsmith, Perception Sales Manager says; "We're delighted with the Scooter. We set out to design a kayak that can be used by all abilities of

with its clever mould-in handling features is no problem to carry to and from the water, is easy to car-top and requires minimal storage space. The icing on the cake is the Scooter's modern, sleek and stylish looks." Specifications: length 295cm, width 75cm, weight 20kg, maximum load 150kg.

### The Gemini

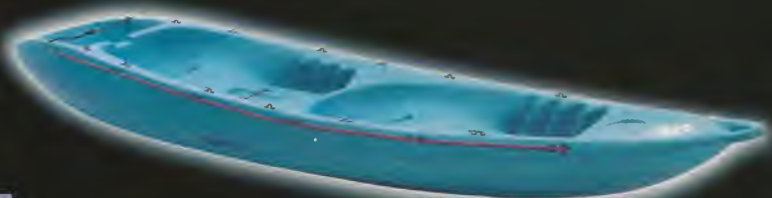
Perception's new Coral Sea tandem sit on kayak, the Gemini, will be hitting the water in May. Andre Goldsmith, Perception Sales Manager says; "The Gemini is a tandem sit on kayak that can be used by all abilities of paddler for a mixture of touring and all round fun. The versatile, stable hull design with flared bow, tracking keel and smooth flowing lines gives a predictable ride even when you're playing on the sea or exploring in choppy conditions. As well as being a performer on the water, the Gemini is very manageable off it. This stylish, compact kayak with its clever mould-in handling features is no problem to carry to and from the water, is easy to car-top and requires minimal storage space."

Specifications: Length 376cm, Width 80cm, Weight 28kg, Maximum Load 200kg, Price from £350.00

Call Perception on 01825 765891 or email [info@perception.co.uk](mailto:info@perception.co.uk) for a copy of the latest fleet sheet and details of your local test centre.

paddler for a mixture of touring, surfing and all round fun; and we've done exactly that. The versatile, stable hull design with flared bow, tracking keel and smooth flowing lines gives a predictable ride even when you're playing in surf or exploring in choppy conditions. It's a very comfortable boat with a host of mould-in features including the contour moulded seat with backrest; which can be further enhanced by extras such as our padded seat or moulded foam backrest to give you the 'armchair effect'. As well as being a performer on the water we wanted it to be manageable off the water; this compact kayak

[www.perception.co.uk](http://www.perception.co.uk)



## id10t1c - Go Boating

PEAKUK TOVA burdock H.M.H.B



the third id10t installment  
49 minutes of the id10t1c  
behaviour we all know and love

id10t1c  
go boating

WARNING: features excessive fun, irresponsible behaviour and vulgarity

The third instalment of action in the lives of the PeakUK kayaking people. Go Boating takes us to far off places like Nepal, Canada, Uganda and Norway for whitewater paddling experiences. There's also the top action from the Sort Freestyle Worlds, Peak Challenge Series and big action from Scotland. Revealing interviews come from Corran Addison, EJ, Wick and Shaun Baker and some er, sophistication from Burdock with live footage. Believe it or not, there's also some id10t1c [idiotic] behaviour thrown in there

too from the usual suspects! A romping soundtrack from Burdock and Half Man Half Biscuit. Be warned, this film does include irresponsibility and bad language and should be viewed under parental guidance! RRP £20.00 Hopefully available on limited DVD soon with extra out takes and web vid promo.

[www.peakuk.co.uk](http://www.peakuk.co.uk)



## X3 deluxe topdeck

PeakUK now have a large range of topdecks and the X3 deluxe topdeck is the dog's diddlys for a cold weather option. It's constructed from PeakUK's own breathable 'DBS' three layer fabric, and features twin seals on the wrists and the neck. As a way of minimising seams the twin neck is all joined into the jacket by one seam with a neat mesh drain in the back of the outer neoprene. The wrists are the now established quick drain mesh and neoprene over latex, all put together lovingly in the Derbyshire Dales. The X3 deluxe topdeck uses a PeakUK freestyle deck for bombproof seal to your boat and comes with a neat reflective stripe down each arm for an extra dash of style! For just £159 all in you can be toasty in the cold weather and have cash left for coffee!

## Swiss Net UK: You can survive

The intriguing "You can survive" from Swiss Net UK Plc is described as a "sealed waterproof can that becomes a cooking pot and/or drinking cup" and is designed to be a survival aid for anyone stranded in the wilderness. It also fulfils the requirement for BCU coach awards "equipment for making a hot drink" in the most minimalistic way possible!

Inside the sealed, watertight, reusable steel can are: a "folding wing" stove, four fuel blocks, one box of "damp-proof" matches, one sealable poly bag (dry storage/water bag), one piece aluminium foil (windshield/heliograph/food storage), two tea bags (Orange Pekoe and Pekoe Cut black tea!), two broth sachets, two teabags, one energy drink (can be eaten dry), four boiled sweets and a product use sheet that, along with the can label, can be used as notepaper. The lid itself can be made into tools and the can is re-sealable with a plastic lid.

Weighing only 6oz, measuring just under 2.5" x 3.5" and costing approx £12.99, the "You can survive" is small and light enough to go almost unnoticed in your kit, but can provide the essentials to keep you going when the excrement impacts on the air conditioning!

For more information contact Swiss Net UK Plc, Nottingham, NG5 1FD, Tel 01159 692500.

John Fenna



## New binoculars make a splash!



Jessops, one of the UK's leading specialist photographic retailers, is offering a new range of binoculars that are sure to make a splash. The new Jessops 'Aqua' binoculars are fully waterproof. Models

come in a rubber armoured, blue and grey shock proof casing that will also withstand the occasional bump or bash. In addition, all are nitrogen filled to prevent the optics from misting up - even if they do get wet.

As such they're ideal for all weather use, as well as a wide range of activities on or around water including canoeing, boating, watersports, skiing or even just holidays on the beach. As with all Jessops-brand products, the new 'Aqua' binoculars are manufactured to an extremely high standard and offer excellent value for money.

Three different models are available - the porro prism 7 x 50 specification (£79.90), and roof prism 10 x 26 (£59.90), and 8 x 32 (£79.90) models. All products in the range are backed by a ten-year warranty, and come complete with a protective case, cleaning cloth, and strap.

Craig Harrison, Own Brand Product Manager for Jessops, said: "Until now, the majority of waterproof binoculars have been large units, fashioned from bright yellow materials, and intended mainly for marine use. Our new 'Aqua' range changes all that - setting new standards in good looks and portability thanks to their compact and lightweight design, and stylish blue and grey materials."

The new range of Jessops 'Aqua' binoculars are available from any of over 200 Jessops stores across the UK, by calling the freephone mail order hotline on 0800 652 6400, or by visiting the secure on-line shop at

[www.jessops.com](http://www.jessops.com)

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Wave Sport; Wild-Water; Werner**

# WAVE SPORT

PADDLER: ERICA MITCHELL

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:  
2001 WOMEN'S WORLD  
FREESTYLE CHAMPION

KAYAK UTILIZED:  
THE EVO WITH F.A.T. OUTFITTING



2002 KAYAK OF CHOICE:  
THE SIREN  
EQUIPPED WITH F.A.T. 2.0 OUTFITTING



*Because We Listen...*

WAVE SPORT  
DOMINANCE BY DESIGN

"Prepare to remove your prior limitations and be ready to play anywhere on the river. Watch out boys! With the Siren on our team, the ladies are only going to get better and better."

— Brooke Winger



*Siren*

... we used input from the world's most dominant female paddlers and designed the Siren around the ergonomic needs of women. This boat is narrower and weighs less allowing for easier rolls, greater control and more power. Outfitted with our improved Fit Adjustment Technology for 2002 (F.A.T. 2.0), we give you a custom, no hassle fit before you even leave the showroom floor.

LADIES. THE PLAYING FIELD IS NOW EQUAL!

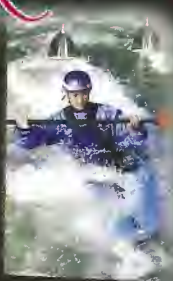
BROOKE WINGER: 1st Place, 2001 Natchez/Knox, 1st Place, 2001 New River Races, 1st Place, 2001 Coosa River Races. Photos by Dan Gavere and Sam Drew.

*Because We Listen...*

WAVE SPORT  
DOMINANCE BY DESIGN

"I love to go paddling with my girlfriends and have a good time. Because the Siren makes learning so much easier, I will soon have more girlfriends to paddle with."

— Jamie Cooper



JAMIE COOPER: 1st Place, 2001 National Sleep Creek Championships, 3rd Place, 2001 Atlanta River Days, 3rd Place, 2001 Potomac/Coral Falls Race. Photos by Scott Engle and Sam Drew.

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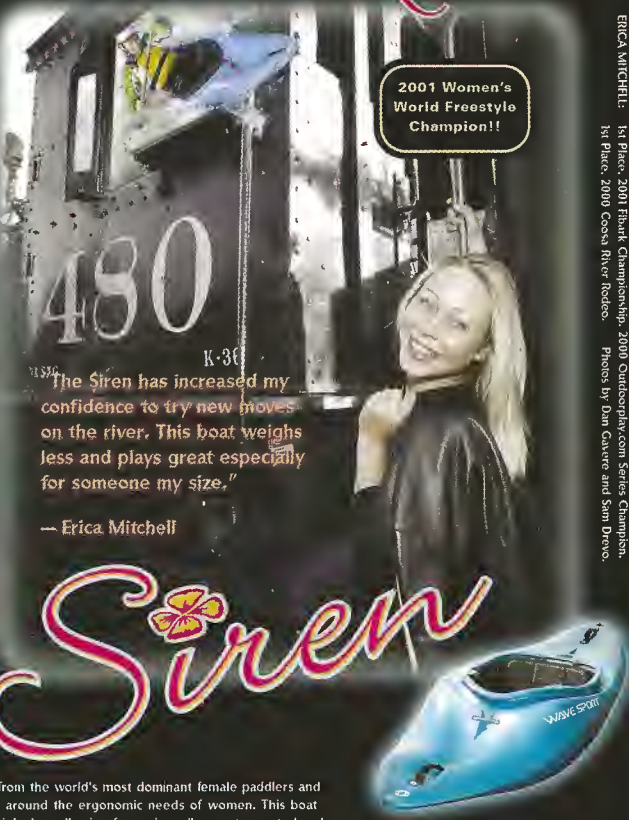
*Because We Listen...*

WAVE SPORT  
DOMINANCE BY DESIGN

2001 Women's  
World Freestyle  
Champion!!

"The Siren has increased my confidence to try new moves on the river. This boat weighs less and plays great especially for someone my size."

— Erica Mitchell



*Siren*

... we used input from the world's most dominant female paddlers and designed the Siren around the ergonomic needs of women. This boat is narrower and weighs less allowing for easier rolls, greater control and more power. Outfitted with our improved Fit Adjustment Technology for 2002 (F.A.T. 2.0), we give you a custom, no hassle fit before you even leave the showroom floor.

LADIES. THE PLAYING FIELD IS NOW EQUAL!

ERICA MITCHELL: 1st Place, 2001 Flatk Championship, 2000 Outdoors.com Series Champion, 1st Place, 2000 Coosa River Races. Photos by Dan Gavere and Sam Drew.

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