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*July-August 1973 18p*

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## COVER PHOTO

*Once again the spectacular Colorado River. One of the kayakers takes the big water of Hance Raid. Photo: Canoeing Magazine.*



*Rock ledge campsite in Grand Canyon. Photo: Canoeing Magazine.*

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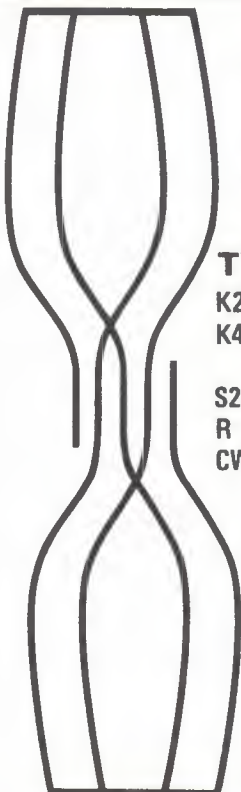
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# CANOE SPORT COMMENT

**Mike Clark**

## CRYSTAL PALACE EXHIBITION

### *Shock price increases*

**On my return from Grand Canyon, there was of course, a great pile of mail to go through. Amongst this was details of the National Canoe Exhibition '74, and I was shocked, to put it mildly, to find that the stand I had in February was now increased in price by over 125%! Other stands, such as The Canoe Centre was increased by over 100%, and that of Valley Canoe Products was increased by over 300%...!**

In a year when every manufacturer in this country is being asked to keep price increases down to a minimum and even then such increases must be accounted by increase production costs and ratified by the Prices and Incomes Board, I just cannot see how the B.C.U. Exhibitions Committee can justify such ridiculous and outlandish price increases. The increases are completely out of all proportion and totally unacceptable. If the Committee is trying to kill off the Exhibition, they are certainly going the right way about it.

### *Few manufacturers interested*

A telephone around a few of the major manufacturers soon confirmed my feelings. Not a single major British manufacturer was going to accept stand space at this price.

Last February, most of the manufacturers had the best show ever, going away with full order books and it may have been felt by the Exhibitions Committee that an increase was justified. Certainly 20% – but not 200%! Kayaks and canoes in Britain are among the lowest priced in the world, yet the quality is

superior to that of the Germans and Americans. If the B.C.U. think that British manufacturers are each making a fortune, then they have their heads in the sand. Competition craft change as the wind, and the manufacturer has to cater to the whims of the paddlers. Such design change costs a great deal of money. Many manufacturers would be better off financially by dismissing their staff and building just three or four boats to order per week. But this will never be. Most of the manufacturers are canoeing enthusiasts themselves and are responsible even more than the British Canoe Union for the growth in our sport.

### *Shop window for Trade and B.C.U.*

The National Canoe Exhibition is just about becoming a good exhibition and is without doubt the finest thing for promoting canoesport in Britain. It is the shop window both for the manufacturers and the British Canoe Union – but without the former the Exhibition will die. If the B.C.U. Exhibitions Committee do not review their pricing, and quick, I fear they will have killed the 'golden goose' – and the Exhibition. 10,000 persons do not come to watch a game of polo, they come to look at kayaks and canoes – the new ones and not club boats. Like it or not, the National Canoe Exhibition is a commercial exhibition, and without the trade it is nothing.

One can argue that if the show is commercial, one should expect commercial prices. But a look at the International Boat Show prices shows no comparison with these proposed increases. From my own personal view, I can get a stand at the International Boat Show for little more than half again of what I am asked to pay for Crystal Palace '74. The International Boat Show is over ten days and an expected attendance of 300,000 – the National Canoe Exhibition is over two days and an expected attendance of under 10,000. If the proposed increases are not drastically cut, I for one know which show offers the better value...

### *Scramble for Stands*

Also the system for the allocation of stands at Crystal Palace is both disgusting and degrading. Was there ever such a system as 'first come – first served' at the International Boat Show?

Letters were posted in London on a Friday to every manufacturer. But, our postal system being what it is, the northern manufacturers did not get their details until the Monday morning – by which time southern manufacturers, who received their letters on the Saturday, already had cheques in the post reserving stands. Even more, Jaycee Glassfibre Products



phoned through to B.C.U. Headquarters reserving a stand and putting a cheque in the post, being assured by the secretary that such was available. However, the Canoe Centre delivered their cheque by hand to take the particular stand! One would assume that if a line of manufacturers developed outside B.C.U. Headquarters all after a particular stand, it would go to the one who came with actual CASH in hand! And not just a deposit either, for reservation of a stand requires the whole amount to be paid – very nice for the B.C.U.! If the manufacturers had played along there would now be something like £4000 residing in their coffers – over six months before there was any form of commitment on it...

### ***B.C.M.A. gets backing from 19 firms***

In the past, tentative attempts at getting a canoe/kayak manufacturers association going have failed. But now, with these price increases and the B.C.U. treatment of the manufacturers, the newly formed British Canoe Manufacturers Association has the backing of 19 firms and allied trades in a stand against the British Canoe Union. Nothing has done more than this price increase to bring our manufacturers together, and at last the B.C.U. will have to face up to the fact that British manufacturers are THE SPORT in this country.

For heavens sake B.C.U., we're all in this sport together. None of us want to see the National Canoe Exhibition without the manufacturers (and I am sure it cannot run without them), so let's have some realistic rethink of these proposed increases...

---

### ***Exhibition Committee meetings***

**Just as the above galley was made up, there came** news of a meeting between the British Canoe Manufacturers Association, the Chairman of the B.C.U. Exhibitions Committee, and the B.C.U. Secretary. Publication of this issue has been held to report this and following meeting.

At the above meeting, held in London on 30th August, many points were put by representatives of the B.C.M.A. (representing 19 manufacturers) including the unsatisfactory method of stand allocation, timing of payments, and the very large increases proposed. From the discussion, it was suggested that the B.C.M.A. Secretary might look at the problem of stand space allocation, but the meeting was not authorized to make any firm decision on stand charges, these were to be discussed by the whole Exhibitions Committee at a meeting on 13th September.

### ***Revised prices still a 50-90% increase***

Even in view of the short notice, all potential exhibitors were circularized with a revised allocation system and a plan completed in time for the meeting held at B.C.U. Headquarters on 13th September. However, at this last meeting, the revised stand prices could not be brought down lower than a 50-90% increase over last years rates and as such are unacceptable to many manufacturers...

### ***Major manufacturers back out***

*It is likely that the following manufacturers will NOT be exhibiting at the Crystal Palace in February: Avoncraft; Canoe Centre (Twickenham) Ltd/Kirton Kayaks; Canoeing Magazine; Chris Hawkesworth Ltd; Euro Kayaks; Explorer Films; Fazaplas Ltd; Gaybo Ltd; Granta Boats Ltd; Jaycee Glassfibre Products; Lendal Products Ltd; Marsyl Engineering; Mike Bruton Kayaks; Moorcraft; Ottersports Ltd; P & H Fibreglass Products; Percy W. Blandford; P.R.R. Fabrications; Pyranha Mouldings; Severn Tours; Streamlyte Mouldings (Marine) Ltd; Topcraft Ltd; Tyne Canoes Ltd; Vacuum Reflex Ltd; Valley Canoe Products Ltd; Watling Trailers Ltd; and West Coast Kayaks.*

From this great list of firms, it can be seen that not a single major canoe/kayak manufacturer is intending to exhibit at the National Exhibition and is certainly very sad for our sport in Britain. I believe that the National Canoe Exhibition has to be built round the trade and without it it will fail. Unlike the sailing enthusiasts, our canoe clubs are not capable of putting on such a slick exhibition as the Dinghy Exhibition. Not only are there far more and bigger sailing clubs, but generally there are all a good deal richer than the average canoe club.

---

## **B.C.U. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

**A Special General Meeting of the British Canoe Union** has been called for the 27th October and will be held in Birmingham at the King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, Vicarage Road, Camp Hill. The meeting will start at 3.00p.m.

This Special General Meeting will discuss and vote on the proposal that Rule 12 should read: 'When an affiliated member (club) has ten individual full members in membership, it shall have the right to send two representatives to each of the specialist committees to speak and vote in its name.'

If you are a B.C.U. member, it is hoped you will attend this meeting.

## GRAND CANYON '73

*Bronzed paddlers return after superb and successful river run*



The end of July saw 14 very bronzed rough water enthusiasts return to England after the superb summer trip down the Colorado River and through Grand Canyon. Over two hundred miles of wilderness; canoeing some of the most spectacular rapids anywhere in the world that were far bigger than any of the group had ever seen before; living for 17 days in the depths of Grand Canyon, surely the greatest natural wonder in the world...

As organiser of the trip, I think I am justly proud of the way things went. All persons enjoyed themselves and most want to run the river again, while in the past weeks since returning, I have had more than a few letters of praise on my organisation and running of the trip from expedition members.

### *Yet another U.S.A. trip planned*

For myself, I am totally in love with this fantastic area and river. Already I am planning for another trip next year, possibly during August/September. Anyone interested in running some of the biggest water they are every likely to see and having a trip they will remember all their lives into the bargain; should apply at soonest date to myself: *Mike Clark, 25 Featherbed Lane, Croydon, CRO 9AE, England.*

Running the Colorado River in kayaks or canoes requires a specialised back-up organisation with regard to support rafts and outfitting. Art Vitarelli and myself now have the experience and the equipment. We will take on groups of paddlers or individuals (no passengers yet please), providing they agree to a few basic rules and have experience on grade IV water. Details of a Grand Canyon trip or American Wild Water Tour should be available over the coming couple of months when we have finalised dates and itinerary.

Judging by the number of persons who applied and could not be found places on this last trip, there is every possibility that a summer Colorado trip will become a regular run each year. With moderately priced back-up, we will quote price to paddlers from any part of the world.

### *'Summer of '73'*

No doubt a few of the Grand Canyon '73 members will be writing reports for their club magazines or newsheets, but, starting with the next issue of 'Canoeing Magazine' is the first of a six part 'official' report on the Grand Canyon trip – plus of course, as many photographs as I can cram in! Don't miss it – even I enjoyed the story!

---

## ALL ABROAD



*P.G.L. paddlers on the Ardeche – Southern France*

**Rivers in Britain are the very life blood of our sport,** but, with our antiquated riparian laws left over from the feudal system of the Middle Ages, and the petty rows and squabbles with fishing organisations, fishing clubs, or individual fishermen, many paddlers are giving a 'Harvey Smith' to British rivers and heading abroad... If you were on a summer trip this year, we'd like to read of it...

# CHALFONT PARK 21<sup>st</sup>



To celebrate their 21st birthday, the Chalfont Park Canoe Club, based at Hambleden on the River Thames, organised a Veteran Slalom on 22nd July. Held under the original rules, the event was well attended, great reunions all round, and a good time was had by all — many thought it was just like old times!

The start list included the following (most of whom are pictured above with assorted offspring): Bill Crockett; Bill Goodman; Bill Horsman; George Bolt; Charlie Creaser; Pepy Mouque; Oliver Cock; Jim Barbour; Allan Sharples; Ron Crockett; John Hobson; John Critchley; Paul Mayhew; Mike Ramsey; Bryon Sawyer; John Freeman, Alan Harber, Geoff Dinsdale and Margaret Bellord — to name but a few... The mens event was won by George, while in the womens class, Margaret Bellord came first with Mary Horsman second. Organisation was by Messrs Albert, Dinsdale, and Hillyard, with the catering looked after by Kay Start. Bill Crockett made the very attractive trophies.

Photo: Janet Harber.

# British YOUTH SLALOM TEAM summer tour

reported by Mick Halaby

**With only one slalom event in Britain during the first three weeks of August, the British Youth Slalom Team headed to the Continent to find competition in Austria and West Germany. The Team – 11 of our top young paddlers – plus manager, three coaches and two drivers, competed with great success events at Lofer, Augsburg, and Landeck...**

The Youth Team, Trainers, manager, and drivers met at Epping Forest Youth Hostel on the evening of 30th July. This was the first time we had all been together since the Team was selected, as there had been no training weekends or meetings organised for the group.

We set off early next morning, three landrovers, a trailer, and thirty boats. The Team comprised nine youth kayakists, one girl kayakist, and one C1 canoeist.

Our route was first to Dover, across the Channel to Ostende, then on some 30-kilometres to Bruges where we spent the night in a Youth Hostel. Next day came the big jump down to Karlsruhe in the south of Germany, and on the Thursday we completed the journey to Lofer in Austria. It took us an hour to find the campsite, as the one used last year had since been excavated. However, the tents were set up in time for us to paddle the odd two miles downstream to the slalom site and get acquainted with the water.

## **LOFER**

When we reached the course, we found it very different from last year, the water then being some ten feet above normal. Thursday afternoon and all of the Friday was spent in practising over the slalom

course and down imaginary gates 'positioned' by our trainers. Most of the paddlers coped with the technical water very well but we lost our first boat when one of the group swam and, although others chased the loose kayak, we were unable to rescue it before it folded round a rock.

On the Saturday, the manager had to attend a team leaders meeting at 7.30 a.m. and the whole Team was up just as early with the practice runs beginning at 8.15. All the slalom events were crammed in to one day so that the teams were limited to just one run – an indication that slalom takes second place to wild water racing in Austria.

In the Mens Youth K1, Nick Wain had two good runs to put him in 3rd, and was closely followed by Colin Ralph in 4th and Mick Halaby taking 5th. The Kayak Youth 'A'



*Mick Halaby on the Inn River above Landeck.*

team of Wain, Halaby, and Dolan blended together very well on their first time together as a team and took 5th place in the senior team event – beating the team of coaches Swallow, Edge, and Hignell! Paul Broom, the only C1 Youth came 7th in the Mens C1 event. Sarah Wain took 10th in the Ladies K1.

The British contingent watched the prize giving in the market square, after which a band played walking through the town, with all the townspeople dancing and shouting behind it. We all retired quickly to the nearest sandwich bar!

## **AUGSBURG**

On the Monday, we moved on to Augsburg with all the fears of big water that the senior team had put into us. Immediately upon arrival,

and while Mick Colgan was finding where to camp, we all rushed to look at the water. The most striking feature is the compactness. The water was interesting and unpredictable, but once on it we found it great fun and were well able to cope – if we tackled it the right way!

We planned to get on the water at 4.30. This was just as well, for the minute we got our kayaks at the top and prepared for some practice, a group of German officials gave us a time plan of when we were allowed on the water – our time? 4.30! Just how did they know?

The nine International Teams competing, were divided into three pools. With the British boys were Austria and Luxembourg. Pool 2 consisted of Belgium, Holland, Poland, and Switzerland, while in Pool 3 was West Germany and

France. But, on looking through the start list, no French competitors were to be found – a well-planned pool system!

The gates were all swung out, but with no numbers on them. However, by watching the Germans we could guess the directions. We now had five days on the water before the start of the competition and each day consisted of two sessions with three or four runs over the course on each. This period was very valuable as it acclimatized us to the very different and usual water. We enjoyed all aspects of this activity, including intentional and unintentional swimming. Here the league swimming table took form with one clear leader – at least 12 swims to his credit, but most of the paddlers had one or two...

*continued  
overleaf*



*Jim Dolan on the Augsburg course.*



*Phil Lloyd taking the 'washing machine' at Augsburg.*



*Phil Lloyd below main fall at Augsburg.*

It was interesting to notice that the German team had several trainers, one to each class, who wrote down every detail of each paddlers run and advised and coached all the time – British canoesport please note!

On the Friday the international scene started hotting up. Flags arrived, ice-cream vans appeared, drinks in the club house went up in price, and music accompanied us on our runs. Looking at the timetable, we saw 'boat measuring'. Everyone was anxious as to whether their boat would pass, but apparently the measurer was on holiday!

In the next days team events, our Youth 'A' team was kept the same as at Lofer after the good results there, and did very well to come 6th, losing only to the German home teams and the Polish and Austrian senior 'A' teams. The coaches came 8th and provided us with a spectacular mix up in the 'washing machine', Alan Edge doing a loop to avoid Hignall who seemed to shoot under his looping kayak! The 'B' team of Young, Ralph, and P. Lloyd came 10th, while our 'C' team of Faley, Wood, and C. Lloyd failed to finish on both runs. In a scratch C1 team, Broom got us a medal paddling with two Yugoslavs.

On the Sunday and the individual K1s, Mick Halaby produced the best result of the day to take 18th place in the Senior Kayak Singles. Jim Dolan came 23rd, with Jon Young 25th.

All agreed that Augsburg was fun to paddle on, and the majority thought the slaloms there were worthwhile. But a few did not enjoy the restrictions of competitions on it.

After the Competition, we retired to an enormous team meal in the football club and a table tennis final in the clubroom (reduced prices once again!). The water

*Canoeing Magazine July 1973*

down the course was turned off and we walked up the concrete jungle. With poles hanging high above our heads, we leapt easily across the biggest stoppers on the course – now almost dry.

## LANDECK

Next morning Mick Hopkinson, one of our drivers, was eager to get back to Landeck as the water on the Inn is turned on around 12.30 to make a very full river. Unfortunately there was no canoeing this afternoon for us, we had difficulty in finding a campsite as some refuse canoeists.

However, we got onto the water next morning by doing the Sanna down river course. This was continuous grade II to III over the 6-kilometres. After a typical lunch of rolls and jam, we set off to the dam 8-kilometres upstream of Landeck to do a stretch of the Inn. This water was a lot bigger than anything we have in Britain, but there was still bigger water to come the next day when we tackled the Otztaller Ache, a glacier-fed tributary of the Inn. This was 10-kilometres of continuous grade IV, waves from two to seven feet all the way, with an impossible weir in the middle – not even Jones or Hopkinson would attempt this!

On the Thursday we found out where the slalom course was and had a couple of runs down it, then onto the wild water course to take us to the campsite. In the afternoon we ran again the section of the Inn, but this time it did not seem so big. We had our second 'write-off' here. Paul Broom, looped out the water, which was difficult to tackle with one blade, broke his canoe in the process.

Friday was spent on the slalom course, but there were few signs that an International was to be held

*continued overleaf*



*Colin Ralph on main fall at Augsburg.*



*Paul Broom with slightly damaged boat!*



*Team coach Rob Hignall on Augsburg course.*

here the next day. On the Saturday the gates were out at 8 a.m. and practice runs at 9 a.m. Again, all the slalom events were crammed into the one day.

Alan Edge and Melvin Swallow (no longer youths!), came 5th and 6th respectively in the Senior K1, while Nick Wain and Jim Dolan took 2nd and 3rd in the Youth. Phil Lloyd put up a good performance to come 6th, while in the womens Youth K1 Sarah Wain came 3rd. In the Senior C1 Paul Broom took 5th. The Youth Team of Halaby, Dolan, and Wain came 1st, with Ralph, Young, and P. Lloyd 2nd. Another

1st was gained by Swallow, Edge, and Hignell in the Senior event. Quite a good day for the whole team, and a fine event with which to finish the tour.

We set out for home on the Sunday morning, very pleased with our tour and Mick Colgan praised the good results. It was certainly a well worthwhile tour, with most of the time spent on the water paddling and not in the landrovers travelling.

FOOTNOTE: It is worth noting that at the British Open Slalom Championships at Grandtully over the

August Bank Holiday, 3 youth paddlers finished in the top 8 and 14 in the top 35 positions. For this credit must go especially to Mick Colgan and everyone connected with the youth team.

With such results as above, there is obviously a tremendous potential among our youth. If we want British slalom canoesport to remain among the top of world class in future years, we must work for it NOW with very many more specialised youth training weekend meets and tours. The potential is there – it only needs encouragement.

**MANAGER:** M. Colgan

**COACHES:** M. Swallow, A. Edge, R. Hignell

**YOUTH A:** N. Wain, M. Halaby, J. Dolan

**YOUTH B:** C. Ralph, P. Lloyd, J. Young

**YOUTH C:** R. Foley, P. Wood, C. Lloyd

**YOUTH LADY:** Sarah Wain

**YOUTH C1:** P. Broom

**LOFER**

**K1 Mens Youth**

1. Trach	Germany	175.9
2. Fauster	Austria	180.5
3. N. Wain	G. Britain	186.5
4. C. Ralph	G. Britain	223.2
5. M. Halaby	G. Britain	226.7

(39 finishers)

**Ladies K1**

1. Fettig	Austria	255.7
2. Kamber	Switzerland	267.7
3. Kaser	Switzerland	281.7
10. S. Wain	G. Britain	840.5

(10 finishers)

**Mens C1**

1. Horn	Germany	217.6
2. Steindl	Austria	263.6
3. Moos	Germany	291.2
7. P. Broom	G. Britain	318.9

(12 finishers)

**Mens K1 Team**

1. Germany	267.7
2. Germany	279.7
3. Austria	280.7
5. G. Britain A	358.9
14. G. Britain B	489.4
17. G. Britain C	628.2

(24 finishers)

**Augsburg**

**Mens K1**

1. Baum	Germany	233.5
2. Peters	Germany	246.3
3. Stanuch	Poland	258.9
18. M. Halaby	G. Britain	319.5
23. J. Dolan	G. Britain	359.0

(42 finishers)

**Mens C1**

1. Horn	Germany	334.4
2. Moos	Germany	339.7
3. Peters	Germany	340.3
13. P. Broom	G. Britain	673.6

(13 finishers)

**Mens K1 Team**

1. Germany A	345.9
2. Germany B	369.4
3. Poland	399.6
6. G. Britain A	525.9

10. G. Britain B	678.3
14. G. Britain C	Cap.

(14 finishers)

**Landeck**

**Mens Youth K1**

1. Fauster	Austria	190.47
2. N. Wain	G. Britain	198.49
3. J. Dolan	G. Britain	203.07
6. P. Lloyd	G. Britain	208.90
10. M. Halaby	G. Britain	219.86

(36 finishers)

**Ladies Youth K1**

1. Mutschall	Austria	368.28
2. Haas	Austria	370.36
3. S. Wain	G. Britain	390.92

**Mens C1**

1. Liluda	Germany	244.29
2. Ramelou	Austria	271.33
3. Steindle	Austria	277.45
5. P. Broom	G. Britain	308.88

**Mens Youth K1 Team**

1. G. Britain A	251.54
2. G. Britain B	260.18
3. Germany	301.74
6. G. Britain C	351.73



Team coaches Alan Edge and Melvin Swallow on Inn River and at Augsburg



# NOTES NEWS

## B.S.C.A. AWARDS

The British Schools' Canoeing Association has awarded its first two 'Certificates of Commendation'. These have been presented to St. John Wall School, Birmingham, in recognition of the impressive development of their canoeing activities since 1964, and to the Edinburgh Schools' Canoeing Association for their expedition work in 1971 and 1972.

The achievements of St. John Wall School have been considerable in kayak design and construction, and in most aspects of competitive and recreational canoeing. Thanks to the dedicated and able leadership of two members of the staff, Mr M.J. Baines and Mr R. B. Leadley, and the willing support of the Headmaster and the school, the club has led the way in schools' canoeing in the West Midlands.

The two Alpine Kayak Expeditions organised by the Edinburgh Schools' Canoeing Association have shown enterprise in planning and thoroughness in training. The success and worthwhile nature of the two ventures has been well reflected in the comprehensive accounts of the journeys which have been published.

## EXPEDITION AWARDS

The Council of the B.S.C.A. is anxious to encourage travelling and exploration by kayak in schools and youth groups, and is considering the introduction of 'Expedition Awards'. Those with ideas on the subject are invited to send them to the convenor of the special committee which is to investigate possibilities:— Mrs P. Landamore, The Grange, Salhouse, Norfolk NOR 53Z.

## RICHMOND MARATHON

The Richmond Canoe Club K2 Marathon Race on the Thames attracted 31 pairs with the Royal Canoe Club crew of Greenaway/Tilford winning the Senior 'A' class in a time of 2hrs 39mins 15sec. Second place went to another Royal crew, that of Boshier/Lawrence, and first Richmond crews were down in 9th and 10th places. Ash/Brett of Wey Kayak Club took the win in Senior K2, while the Newham pair of Stanley/Cormack took the win in Junior K2.

In the Womens K2, Richmond gained their only win

of the day with Wetherall/Haynes (formerly Brereton/Battie), racing way out in front of Perrett/Lovell to take the class by over 23mins with a time of 3hrs 13mins 20sec.

The Open K1 class gave Fowler of Wey Kayak Club a win in 2hrs 52min 16sec.

## CAMBRIDGE LONG DISTANCE

The National Ranking Cambridge long distance race will take place on 28th October — Seniors 12m4P, Juniors 8m4P. Entries should be sent to: R. C. Buckley, Trinity College, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ. (Address in B.C.U. Calendar incorrect.)

## ASSESSMENT COURSE

A Senior Instructor (Inland) Training and Assessment Course will be held at Northampton over the weekend 5th/7th October. Full residential at £3.00. Details: J. M. Adams, 29 Birchfield Road, Northampton.

## CANOE POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Canoe Polo Championships will again form an important part of the National Canoe Exhibition to be held at Crystal Palace in February.

Eliminating rounds will take place as last year in regions, and entries should be sent to: K. D. Clark, Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffs. Closing date 1st October. (All competitors must be members of the British Canoe Union.)

## CANOE ROLLING

The winter sessions of canoe rolling start once again. In London classes start at the Fulham Baths, North End Road, Fulham, on Tuesday 9th October, and every following Tuesday from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Enquiries should be sent to: S. F. Holtorp, 54 Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood, Esther, Surrey.



# INTERNATIONAL CANOEING

## SOUTH AFRICA

**The Berg River Marathon in South Africa,** held over 4th/7th July, seems to have been a very popular event, not only with paddlers but also correspondents as the magazine has received two separate reports on the race! One report came from A.T.Kotze of Cape Town, the other from N. Truran of Johannesburg. The following is a combination of both reports...

**South Africa's premier kayak race, the annual 168-mile marathon on the Berg River near Cape Town,** lived up to its reputation this year as being one of the toughest races in the world. It also proved to be one of the most unpredictable!

Since the introduction of this marathon in

1962 when unusually high floods saw the paddlers off into the unknown, things have never been the same.

This 12th annual event nearly had to be postponed for lack of water. The 'river' was so low and overgrown with weeds that the organisers feared none of the 82 entrants would manage to finish the first day. However, the paddlers had different ideas and were determined to compete, even if it meant carrying their kayaks over the first day's stretch of 40-miles. One kayakist took things so seriously that he carried his craft for 17-miles during a race a week prior to the marathon! (The fact that he was placed 7th out of a field of 35, proved he was not so silly after all.)

However, as it turned out, Mother Nature must have felt sorry for the paddlers and she opened up the taps to let the water come down for two days before the race. Some 222mm of rain deluged the Paarl (wine-growing) area, and what a sight to behold! All the water in creation seemed to be channelled down the Berg River. The river was up two metres at the start and the rough, debris-strewn narrow waters claimed 11

boats on the first day. But seeing all this water took memories back to the 1962 race.

At any rate, the eventual field of 72 starters included some familiar names like Springboks Andre Collins, Sunley Uys, Stefan Hugo, Enslin van Riet, and Roelof van Riet. Collins, last year's winner, started off as favourite, with Uys as his hottest rival (last December the pair in K2 set up the first under 10-hours for the Vaal Marathon). Other favourites this year were Hugo, R. van Riet, and J. Basson.

Uys wasted no time to take the lead and soon pulled away from his rivals. Collins ran into trouble right from the start when his rudder became entangled in river flotsam. Near the end of the first day, he capsized in some dense bush and lost about 20-minutes retrieving his kayak, injuring his arm in the process. This virtually put him out of the running and he wisely withdrew from the race on the third day after a courageous attempt to catch up with the leaders.

For the first day, Uys clocked in just over two minutes ahead of second place man, Basson, but took out 36-minutes from the record! Springboks R. van Riet and Hugo respectively placed third and fourth, well down on the leaders.

Uys increased his lead on the second day, 11-minutes up on Basson still in second place. However, Basson's wrist was badly swollen and he had a hard time holding off Hugo and R.van Riet. Again Uys was well within the record, this time by 38-minutes.

The third day brought much the same from Uys; he finished within an hour of the



*Left: Springbok Roelof van Riet, second man home in the marathon with a time of 17 hrs 16 min 2 sec – just one second better than Stefan Hugo.*

*Right: Springbok Andre Collins in trouble among tree tops that was to put him out of the race.*

previous record. Hugo and R.van Riet, however, began gaining on the leaders, overtaking Basson and finishing just over two minutes behind Uys, Hugo just leading van Riet.

On the fourth and final day, Uys really put on the pressure to increase his third leg lead of 2min.12sec. to an impressive 21min.14sec. Leading the rest of the field were Hugo and R.van Riet, the latter narrowly crossing the finish half a boat length ahead of Hugo. Basson held on to fourth, just another six minutes down.

This was the first time Sunley Uys competed the marathon, and his winning overall time was 16hrs.44min.40sec. smashing the 1966 record of Springbok Paul Chalupsky by a fantastic 2hrs.14min...!

Just 46 of the starters completed the marathon, with the first 14 inside the old record.

**RESULTS:** 1st Sunley Uys (W.P. Springbok) 16.44.40: 2nd Roelof van Riet (W.P. Springbok) 17.16.02: 3rd Stefan Hugo (W.P. Springbok) 17.16.04: 4th J. Basson (W.P.) 17.22.25.

**The Vaal Kayak Marathon (K1 120km)** on 7th/8th December, is the next major event in South Africa and any British paddlers are welcome to compete. The weather is magnificent in December and South African paddlers can offer both accommodation and food — your only expense is getting out there...



*Top: The man behind the hands that tamed the Berg River Marathon — Springbok Sunley Uys. A winning time 2 hrs 14 min off previous record. Centre: Third man home Stefan Hugo. Bottom: The mighty Berg River just three days before the race! Look, no water!*

## INTERNATIONAL CANOEING

# NEW ZEALAND

### *Inter-Dominion Slalom success*

**Undoubtedly the Inter-Dominion slalom** held earlier this year, was a fantastic success. We had more entries and a higher standard than ever before, and lots of enthusiasm among all paddlers, especially the younger ones, on whom the future of the sport will depend. Once again we had to thank Max Grant for the well-oiled machinery that stood up well under considerable strain.

The Waikere-Teheke river in the North Island is a popular venue with interesting stretches of rough water liberally sprinkled with rocks and eddies. It is ideal for erecting courses as this is a controlled river, and over the long holiday weekend, it meant we could have two separate slaloms; one on a course designed by New Zealand, and the other on an Australian course. The visiting Australians included two members of their team that represented them at the World Championships. During the weekend the pair were grilled by the young New Zealanders, and were very co-operative in passing on information about their training programmes.

The wild water race on the Friday was an exciting event to start the weekend. The field of 36 must have been one of the most experienced group of paddlers ever to have competed in New Zealand. The fitness of the paddlers and the keenness of the competition was shown by the fact that the first twelve best times were within two minutes of the fastest time recorded by Bernard Fletcher, this being 23min. 50sec. Alan Julian of Australia was second, while his countryman John Egger, showing off a new Lettmann, was only 23sec down on the winner.

Held in miserable rain, the first event of the Saturday was the Team runs. Results after the first run were close; Australia led New Zealand by only 10sec. in the penalties, but a better course time gave them a total of 606 against 645. The Australians went on to improve their time on the second run to gain a best of 580pts. Excitement was high for the

second New Zealand run, and they put on a very good performance until the last gate. Here, to everyone's disappointment, one of them canned and at that stage they had only amassed 80 penalties and could have been certain of a win. However, it was not to be, and they had to be content with second. Third place was taken by a South Island team.

The K1 Open was won very convincingly by John Egger. Either of his runs would have won the event, but in his second he really showed the crowd what slalom was all about. Best among the New Zealanders was Bernard Fletcher who showed some of his old skill to come second with 258pts, and beating Kevin O'Donnell into third place with 277pts – which was 71pts behind Egger. Alan Julian, the Australian C1 paddler, showed he also knows how to paddle kayak by gaining fourth with a best 289pts.

However, on the Sunday there was a major reversal. On a new course designed

by the Australians, the time difference between the first placing and the 18th was only 109pts, which was an improvement on Saturday's effort and in the not so distant past, would have covered only the first three or four paddlers! The Australian course was a much tighter affair and the results vastly different from the Saturday. Kevin O'Donnell won with a best 221pts, Bernard Fletcher taking second with 233pts, and Alan Julian third with 242pts. Peter MacDonald surprised many to gain fourth, but there was an even bigger surprise to find John Egger down in seventh place. He had a disastrous first run which included a roll and did not take a second – but he was suffering from the effects of a cold.

The slalom ended with a presentation of certificates and the announcement of the 21 strong training squad of paddlers for the Commonwealth Games Invitation Slalom to be held next February.



*Kevin O'Donnell, New Zealand slalom champion, competing at the Waikere Slalom.*



*John Egger, Australian slalom champion, competing at the Waikere Slalom.*

*Gordon King of the Dorrigo Canoe Club paddles strongly in the Macleay Valley Canoe Club's maiden venture in the Northern Rivers Region of New South Wales.*

## AUSTRALIA

*report from  
Frank Whitebrook*

### *New season starts*

The new season is getting under way with the return of the Australian slalom team from Europe and river races occurring frequently in Victoria and New South Wales. The team came home with a great deal of experience and a performance record certainly to be proud of. No one expected them to perform miracles and they were sent specifically to obtain experience and to pass it on. The first objective has been gained, now the second of passing the information on is looked forward to eagerly. The team came home with wins from New Zealand and a Silver and Bronze from different Internationals in Europe. Congratulations to the team for their effort and our thanks to their many sponsors.

In Victoria, the Warranoyne Slalom was held in July, the Barkly River Race, in August and the Trinity Teams Slalom also in August. The Victoria Amateur Canoe Association has gone into print with a monthly magazine called *The Paddlers* and you

*continued overleaf*

*Canoeing Magazine July 1973*





*Australian K4s after the last Championships. Dennis Green in striped singlet paddled stroke for what was the fastest English speaking crew of the 1972 season.*

can obtain this for \$2 for the year. In addition, the industrious Vickies have produced a new edition of *Canoeing Guide to Victorian Rivers* for only \$1. Write to: *Victorian Canoe Centre, 8 Ruda Street, Doncaster, Vict.*, if you are interested.

The New South Welshmen are not standing still either. The newly formed Macleay Valley Canoe Club ran as its maiden venture, the Macleay Valley Down River Race from Temagog to Sherwood. With the Kempsey High School contingent led by commerce teacher Alan Gill, the MVCC did a mighty fine job for a 31 starters event over 16-miles. The ubiquitous and ever generous Jim Fuller with Kathy Dyne of the Karen Lyn Club gained the fastest time in a racing C2.

The following week, the first in August, 157 boats started in the Dungog to Clarendon 26-miler. The Hunter Valley CC did the hack-work of organisation and a very good job too; Dave Harrison, glamour junior of the HVCC took our fastest time. Young Stevie Britt from Nepean CC recorded 5hrs. 45mins. just 21 mins more than Dave.

September brings the State Down River Titles event on the Barrington River. It gives all the indications of being a fantastic event. Interest has never been at such a high level. The State Slalom in October during the long weekend at Wyangala Dam, ought to be a powerful event with everybody out to see what our Internationals can do and how they can help out new ones coming up. The Australian Champs are for Hobart in January (19-26). The Tasmanians are really putting everything they can into the organisation.

Peter Fox, Queensland Secretary, will be closely involved with the planning of the

Australian Flatwater Racing Champs to be held on Storm King Dam near Stanthorpe in March-April 1974. The Indooroopilly CC with 110 members and a surplus of income over expenditure of \$1186 for the year, is certainly showing how to administer a club well.

With the World Championships for Racing and the Juniors World Championships both in Madrid in 1975, 1974 could be a tremendously interesting year for the sport here. Having heard on the grapevine that South Australia now has an Association, it may mean that we now have the whole country involved in the sport. With Commonwealth Minister for Sport, Frank Stewart, M.L.A., inviting inquiries regarding National Teams from the not-so-well-off sports, it may mean some sort of assistance if the racing paddlers get the bit between their teeth.

## I.C.F. NEWS

*edited from  
I.C.F. Bulletin*

### **No Slalom for Montreal**

**Canoe slalom, after its first appearance in 1972 at Augsburg, will be one of the eliminated forms of sport at the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976.** The Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee decided on the elimination or reduction of the competitions, at its meeting in Lausanne, June 23/24th. The Committee is not, however, following the

far-reaching recommendations of the Programme Reduction Committee, chaired by Hungarian Arpad Czanadi.

I.C.F. President Charles de Coquereaumont and General Secretary Sergio Orsi represented the interests of canoe sport, and in particular canoe slalom as a true amateur sport, but the decision went against canoeing. The proposals still must be ratified by the full assembly of the I.O.C. in Varna, Bulgaria, but as the sheer numbers of participants and officials had reached the limits of manageability at the last Olympic Games, they probably will be ratified easily.

The I.O.C. President Lord Killanin has won his first battle 'against the giantism of the modern Olympic Games' in canoe slalom. Even the 30,000 entranced spectators in Augsburg in 1972, and the millions of sportsmen in the rest of the world who watched it on T.V. have not been able to influence this decision.

Although the Executive Committee of the I.C.F. plans to lobby for alteration of the proposal, it has slim chances.

### **World Slalom**

**Severe weather conditions prevailed at the World Championships in wild water racing and canoe slalom in Muotatal, Switzerland. Held over the 21-24 June, the organisation was carried out by the canoe clubs of Lucerne and Schwyz. It rained nonstop for more than 60-hours, and the sharp fall in air and water temperatures was accompanied by a sharp rise in the level of the Muota. This hit the slalom competitors in their first runs.**

The organisers had gone to great trouble to prepare a faultless event, within the relatively narrow limitations of their finances. The opening ceremony proceedings were disrupted by a cloud-

burst, but the Swiss made good use of remaining possibilities with improvisations.

These World Championships were smaller than those of two years ago, with 18-nations participating instead of 21, but New Zealand represented a new nation to come to Europe for the event. Hungary and the U.S.S.R. sent no teams this year, after appearing for the first time in 1971.

The wild water races were run before the slalom, for the first time. Also for the first time, as announced in July, 1971, the paddlers and teams were seeded into three classes according to their known performance. This system demonstrated, in spite of the bad weather, that many disturbances and hold-ups could thus be avoided. However, a general feeling circulated that the performance classification should not appear in the programme, as it suggests discrimination.

It was particularly satisfactory at this year's World Championships to note a wide spread of medals among the competing nations. The U.S.A., which in 1971 took only one bronze medal, came to the fore with two gold and three silver medals. The Swiss, as host country, should be very satisfied with the events on the Muota, for in 1971 they had no medals but this year carried off one silver and three bronze medals, thus joining the leading countries. Likewise the Netherlands which only took

up canoe slalom a few years ago, succeeded in gaining a bronze medal in the C2 mixed.

The sportsmen of the German Democratic Republic were not represented in the wild water races. A World Championship for C2 mixed slalom team was not held as only two teams had entered. Partial medal List for 1973 World Championships: German Federal Republic: 8 gold, 4 silver, 5 bronze; German Democratic Republic: 3 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze; Czechoslovakia: 2 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze; U.S.A.: 2 gold, 3 silver; France: 1 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze; Switzerland: 1 silver, 3 bronze.

### **Europa Cup for slalom**

**Rather than having World Championships** in canoe slalom and wild water racing every year, the I.C.F. Board has approved a proposal from the Slalom Committee that a parallel competitions be held. To be tried in 1974, competition for a Europa Cup will be based on three European competitions in canoe slalom and wild water. These will provide a high point of the years between the World Championships, and will be carried out in the even years. Rules for the Europa Cup will be drawn up by the Slalom Committee in October, 1973 and be tried out in 1974.

### **World Sprint 1974**

**The 1974 World Championships in canoe racing** will be held on the Olympic course in Xochimilco, Mexico, from 18/22 October.

### **1974 Calendar**

**The ICF Board has agreed that the 1974 calendar** shall be in two parts. The first part will list international competitions open to all member federations, while the second will list those not open to all members, such as invitation regattas, two or more sided national matches, and other special functions.

### **I.C.F. 50th Anniversary**

**The German Canoe Association will be** arranging several functions of behalf of the I.C.F. in celebration of the Jubilee in 1974. Celebrating 50 years of the I.C.F., they will close with a great evening party on Sunday July 14th. The I.C.F. supports the proposal from the Germans that the weekend 12/14 July be kept free of all international functions.

## **EVENTS & COURSES**

### **BEDFORD MARATHON**

**The one-year-old Bedford** — Kings Lynn Race will be held November 11th, the first 15 miles of which are over the Bedford — St. Neots long distance course. Hoping that it will not conflict with any other major races on that date, the organisers have set the start at Bedford Town Bridge, 2 a.m.

Organisers claim that shooting the weirs in darkness is exciting, but on that date the moon should be full and with a high tide on the Estuary. Given favourable wind, they hope to improve on last year's winning time of 12hrs.23mins., set by Perrett/Freeman from Reading.

Of the 72-miles, 36 are tidal down the Hundred Foot Cut from Erith, with 13-portages in the first half of the course. The finish is at The Ferry steps, Kings Lynn.

Last year when the race was started by the Viking Kayak Club it attracted four entries. It is restricted to seniors in any type double canoe. Details: *The Organisers, Bedford — Kings Lynn Canoe Race, Spartan Folly, Pavenham, Beds.*

### **COMPETITION COACH**

**October 22nd will be the start of** a one week training course leading to the appointment as Assistant Competition Coach of the British Canoe Union for either Sprint Racing and Long Distance or Slalom and Down River Racing.

The course will aim to give an insight into the following:

**TECHNIQUE:** Knowledge of technique/Analysis of technique by direct observation and recordings. Mechanical principles.

**PRINCIPLE and APPLICATION OF TRAINING:** Anatomy and physiology/Analysis of factors affecting performance/Tests and measurements/Training methods/Training programmes.

**PRINCIPLES OF SKILL LEARNING and PERFORMANCE:** Relevant teaching methods and principles of learning/Coach-paddler relationships/The role of the coach/Stress and motivation.

**KNOWLEDGE OF RULES and ORGANISATION:** B.C.U. Rules/I.C.F. Rules.

Honorary Coaches of the B.C.U. will provide the main body of the staff for the course, but other speakers from a variety of athletic and scientific backgrounds will talk of specialist subjects.

Applicants for the course must be members of the British Canoe Union, over 18 years of age, and hold B.C.U. Senior Instructors Award, although this latter requirement may be omitted in exceptional circumstances. Full details of the course can be obtained from: *John Fazey, 71 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks.*

# ACCESS CONSIDERATION BREEDS CO-OPERATION

## River Tamar

The article about the River Tamar in your June issue of Canoeing Magazine is interesting even if it only shows what an enjoyable river this can be especially in spate.

However, I think that it is worth pointing out, especially as our organisation regularly canoes this river, that it is only available in the Closed fishing season and even then permission MUST be gained for all non-tidal stretches.

No doubt the BCU River Adviser can give further details or Mr J. G. Walton of Teversal Manor, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts. who is the riparian owner.

The fishing season normally extends from 1st March until 30th September each year.

*Yours sincerely,*  
M.D.F. Warr,  
Lieutenant Royal Navy,  
Sec. Plymouth RNKA.

*Lt. Warr is quite right in pointing out that permission must be obtained before canoeing the River Tamar, but it is also true that almost every river – other than on tidal sections – requires permission from some source.*

*Most wild water rivers are closed to canoeists and may only be canoed after obtaining permission from riparian owners. Even to canoe the River Thames above*

*Teddington Lock you require a Conservancy Licence. Most canals also require a licence.*

*A list of River Advisers can be obtained from The General Secretary, B.C.U. 26 Park Crescent, London W1N 4DT. Licence details for British Waterways Canals can be obtained from British Waterways Board, Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, Herts., and details for the River Thames can be obtained from Thames Conservancy, 15 Buckingham Street, London, WC2.*

## Welsh Dee

**Early in June I was on a duly authorised trip on the (Welsh) Dee and was roundly abused and threatened with a gun, by a normally friendly water bailiff. It turned out, after some hard chatting on my part, that 3-weeks previously, this man had attempted to talk to a group of unauthorised canoeists and received only rude gestures and abuse in return. It was this which had upset the co-operative person.**

The Midland Fly Fishers, on whose water we were canoeing, are comparatively generous with granting permission and although it infuriates me to have to ask permission at all, I certainly don't want

to lose the small amount of river which is sometimes available, simply because some people are too rude to stop and talk.

*Yours sincerely,*  
Anne Seel,  
Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig.

## Thoughts on Wharfe

Since the judgement of Lord Denning, much as been said regarding the access problem and future action by canoeists to improve their situation. One point however seems to have been overlooked; some of the evidence given to the court may not have been factual.

Although the canoeing press did not give a full account of the evidence put to the court of appeal, it seems that the judgement was made on the opinion of an 'expert' who stated that kayaks disrupt fishing (one cannot help feeling somewhat uneasy at the thought of one of our Appeal Court Judges basing judgement on opinion rather than on proven Facts!). Recently in conversations with anglers I have become aware that their opinion on this subject is completely divided. As far as I know, no scientific investigation has ever been made into the aspect of fish behaviour.

There are many questions that need to be answered – I give some, but not by far a complete list:

1. Does a kayak passing down river affect the fish? If so, which fish, how does it affect them, and in what type of environment does this apply?
2. What is the effect of several kayaks passing?
3. What is the effect of a kayak passing back and forth?
4. If kayaks have an effect, is the same true of floating tree branches, swans, people standing on the bank etc.?



5. If a predator species stops feeding due to a passing kayaker, one would expect its prey to increase its activity – is this so?

6. It is to be expected that the greatest disruption to the fish population would be one of their number fighting for its life at the end of a line, pouring with blood, and finally being dragged exhausted from the river – but is this in fact the case?

7. Is it reasonable to assume that fish stop feeding for many hours after a kayaker has passed – how long can various species survive without feeding? If fish have not fed for some time, would it be reasonable to expect that when they started again, feeding would

be at an increased rate – kayakers may be helping anglers!

Surely before the B.C.U. Access Committee can go much further, a comprehensive investigation needs to be carried out. We cannot put our case without facts. Perhaps the biology department of one of the Universities could help us? We would be unwise to accept as facts, opinions expressed by those who are opposed to us.

*John Eastgate. Reprinted from Birmingham Club Newsletter.*

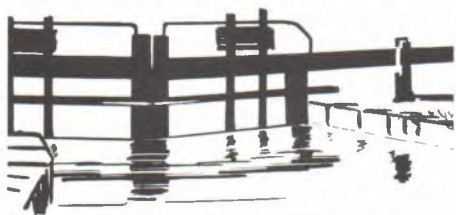
## River Teme, Shropshire

**There is no change in arrangements for canoeing above**

Ludlow – the river is, and has been for some time, canoeable only by parties who first obtain permission from the riparian owners. Permission can normally be obtained outside the game fishing season; in any case the level of water during the summer is insufficient to provide excitement.

Below Ludlow, the River Teme is subject to only one serious objection in the middle section (Stanford Bridge area) but as the river is heavily fished by coarse and game anglers, the usual courtesies should be observed.

– river adviser, John S. Brown.



## CANAL SCENE

### *Pocklington Canal*

Work will soon start on the restoration of the Pocklington Canal in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The East Riding County Council are contributing £12,000 towards the first stage of the restoration.

The Pocklington Canal was opened in 1818 to serve the farmers of the Vale of York, carrying their produce to the industrial towns of the West Riding and bringing in their requirements of coal and fertiliser and industrial produce. However, the canal has been unnavigable for many years.

Local residents realised the potential value of the canal for leisure and recreation in the pleasant countryside through which it passes, and the Pocklington Canal Amenity

Society has been active in stimulating interest and raising money for restoration. In July 1971, the Cottingwith Lock was restored, enabling boats to enter the canal from the River Derwent. Now a start is to be made with dredging the channel, improving the banks, and repairing some of the locks.

### *Grand Union Canal*

**The British Waterways Board are to commence extensive work on a 21-mile length of the Grand Union Canal lying in the Tring-Marsworth area between Northchurch and Soulbury locks. The project will take about 2-years to complete and cost approximately £200,000.**

The works will include piling, rebuilding collapsed walling, brickwork repairs at locks and bridges, the provision of new lock gates, laying and cutting hedges, and the removal of tree growth overhanging the canal. Any necessary channel dredging will also form part of the scheme. A short length of the Wendover Arm, and the first mile of the Aylesbury Arm from Marsworth will also be included.

# COMING EVENTS

## LONG DISTANCE

### OCTOBER

7th/  
**PANGBOURNE**, J12m2P/S12m2P. Details: Dolphin House, Whitchurch Road, Pangbourne.

**ROYAL K1 MARATHON** (non-ranking). Details: L.D. Organiser, Royal C.C., Trowlock Island, Teddington, Middlesex.

14th/  
**LONGRIDGE**. Details: Assistant Warden, Longridge, Quarry Wood Road, Marlow, Bucks.

21st/  
**KENNET RIVER RACE**, J16m13P/S16m13P. Details: M. P. Brown, 1 The Pentlands, Kintbury, Newbury, Berks.

28th/  
**CAMBRIDGE**, J8m2P/S12m2P. Details: D. C. Wilson, St. Johns College, Cambridge.

### NOVEMBER

4th/  
**TAY**, J11m0P/S11m0P (non-ranking). Details: A. Merton, 23 Oakbank Crescent, Perth, PH1 LDF, Scotland. (Grade 4.)

18th/  
**EXE DESCENT**, Wiers & Rapids (non-ranking). Details: C. Leach, 41 Old Tiverton Road, Exeter, Devon.

### 'AVONCRAFT' YOUTH LONG DISTANCE SERIES

4th November.  
**HARLOW (FINAL)**. Details: R. S. Russell, Warden, Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Burnt Mill Lane, Harlow, Essex.

## SLALOM

### OCTOBER

7th/  
**POTARCH**, 3,4,N,OT. Details: A. W. Manwell, Butchart Recreation Centre, University Road, Old Aberdeen, AB9 2UW.

**LLANGOLLEN TOWN**, 1,T. Details: V. A. Cox, Victoria House, Corwen Road, Treuddyn, Flintshire.

**CASTLEFIELDS**, 3,T. Details: M. Marshall, 30 Lynton Drive, Heston, Bradford, Yorks.

**LEVEN WILD WATER TEST.**

14th/  
**SHEPPERTON**, 4,T,J. Details: N. Unwin, 5 Pine Walk, Surbiton, Surrey.

**BULITH**, 2,T,J. Details: Worcester Canoe Club, Bylton Road, Worcester.

**YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

21st/  
**LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL**  
**LLANDUSSUL**, 3(Res),T. Details: A. E. Cox, Windrush, 8 Stanshalls Lane, Felton, Bristol, BS18 74G.

28th/  
**LEVEN WILD WATER TEST.**

### NOVEMBER

4th/  
**LUDLOW**, 3(Res),T. Details: J. Dickens, 117 Titford Road, Oldbury, Warley, Worcs.

## DOWN RIVER

### NOVEMBER

4th/  
**NORTHUMBRIAN** (35pts). Details: E. G. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Jesmand, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

**DEE** (50pts). Qualifier for British Open. Details: F. Bennett, 22 Chaucer Avenue, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire.

**LEVEN WILD WATER TEST.**

18th/  
**EDEN** (45pts). Qualifier for British Open. Details: A. E. Emmarson, 16 Vicarage Close, Burton, Carnforth, Lancs.

25th/  
**UPPER WHARFE** (35pts). Details: M. J. Markham, 32 Wrenbury Crescent, Leeds.

### DECEMBER

9th/ Qualifier for British Open.  
**USK** (50pts). Details: M. W. Grove, 27 Lindhurst Way, London, SW15.

16th/  
**TEES** (45pts). Details: G. Smith, 107 St. Davids Road, Otley, Yorks.

30th/  
**NORTHUMBRIAN** (35pts). Details: E. G. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Jesmand, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.

### JANUARY 1974

6th/  
**TEES** (45pts). Details: J. White, 6 Ash Lea, Stanley, Wakefield, Yorks.

13th/  
**DEE, BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** (50pts). Details: F. Bennett, 22 Chaucer Avenue, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire.

20th/  
**USK** (50pts). M. W. Grove, 27 Lindhurst Way, London, SW15.

**LEVEN WILD WATER TEST.**

### Competitive Conference

A conference for those involved or interested in the coaching of competitive canoeists will be held January 13/14th, 1974, at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. Speakers from outside the world of canoeing have been invited to the conference which will draw together the top coaches and competitors from both the fields of racing and slalom. Details: *John Frazer, 71 Kennedy Drive, Pangbourne, Reading RG8 7LD.*

Always mention

# CANOEING MAGAZINE

when answering  
Advertisements

### STRUCTURAL FOAM PADDLES



**New paddles and oars are now being manufactured** in high impact structural foam by A.C.Products (Chester) Ltd., who recently introduced a new canoeing crash helmet made of high impact nylon.

These blades, which are injection moulded, are curved to give greater velocity through the water and, being made of structural foam, will not sink. The blades are designed to slot into light PVC coated alloy tube and may be used as kayak paddles or small dinghy oars. They are extremely durable and require

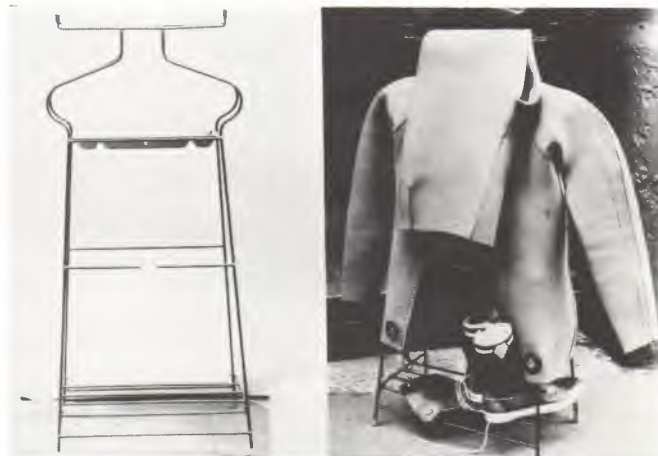
no varnishing or maintenance. Thus they are ideal for schools, youth groups etc., where hard wear and constant use are to be expected.

The blades are supplied either individually or assembled in a PVC coated tube and come in three colours; orange, blue, and natural 'wood'. The price is £3.80 + VAT for assembled set, or £1.50 + VAT per end. Full details from: A.C. Products (Chester) Ltd., 5 Walnut Close, Upton by Chester, Cheshire. Tel: 0244-25277.

**With the autumn not too many weeks away, the start** of the wild water racing season, and the donning of wetsuits for protection from the cold, The Burgee Line Company of London has brought a relevant article onto the market: a device to help with the drying of wetsuits.

The stand keeps the jacket in its correct shape and allows air to circulate more freely over the suit as a whole, thus should reduce drying time. It can, of course, be used to hold all types of clothing, and folds flat for convenient storage when not in use. The stand will be sold through chandlers and other marine shops, and is already stocked by *The Burgee Line Chandlery, 54 Carter Lane, London, EC4.*

*Canoeing Magazine July 1973*





## OLD TOWN WAHOO CANOE

**Try sailing a canoe this summer Wahoo! Crowd 75-** square feet of dacron sail on a sleek 16-foot glassfibre Canadian canoe. Fill it up with a stiff breeze and hold on. You'll find out why Old Town calls it *Wahoo*.

*Wahoo* isn't just an ordinary canoe with a sail. It's a rugged handcrafted sports machine designed and fitted to sail. *Wahoo* utilizes Old Town's unique high strength balsa reinforced glassfibre canoe hull with flotation foam moulded under the gunwales — enough to support three times hull weight, the safest glassfibre canoe hull afloat.

White hull weights only 86-pounds, light enough to car top with ease with sail rolled up. Rigging takes less than 5-minutes and is simple enough for a child to do with a few instructions.

But *Wahoo* isn't only for sailing. It's equally as much fun with rowing seat and oars, or out for a quite paddle like an ordinary canoe. With motor bracket and 3hp. outboard, *Wahoo* will zip along as fast as many other small boats with larger motors, and is easier to handle. *Wahoo* is a very versatile canoe with a cost far less than a sailboat of comparable size.

An occasional wash and waxing is all that is required to keep the hull gleaming white whether stored indoors or out. You couldn't ask for a better canoe for all-round family use.

Further details: *Old Town Canoe Company, 335 Beaver St., Old Town, Maine 04468. U.S.A.*

*The Old Town Wahoo as touring canoe and under sail.*





## NEW ROUGH WATER KAYAKS

Jaycee Glassfibre Products announce the introduction of a new slalom kayak to Britain — *The Lippe Contra*. The first production model of this kayak — of West German design — has already been tried by a number of the rough water paddlers over the August Bank Holiday weekend at the Open National Slalom Championships at Grandtully in Scotland. First impressions is that the boat is a real winner on British waters and should prove popular with all competition slalomists.

With the start of the wild water season again, Jaycee are to bring out an up-dated version of the famous all-winning Mendesta Match K1. The new version — *the Match '74* — has the widest point of the kayak slightly moved back to improve speed even more, while the foredeck is just a little lower. With the name of Match on the kayak and the design skill of Mendesta, there is little doubt that the kayak will be among the very top during the coming races.

Full details of both kayaks from: *Jaycee Glassfibre Products, 69 Knights Hill, West Norwood, London SE27. Tel: 01-670 1234.*

## MENJA — KAYAK FOR YOUTH

Introduced this season in the United States, the Menja K1 is a youth kayak designed for those under 14-years of age.

*The Menja K1* is a beautifully scaled down K1 being 13-foot 6-inches long, with a beam of 19-inches. Its introduction is of course, for the same purpose as the introduction of the Espada Youth K1 in Britain — the promotion of youth racing. However, it seems a pity that the Americans saw fit to introduce a scaled down K1. There is no reason why youth should not be capable of handling a full sized international racing K1. The Menja may well suit the American purpose of bringing new blood into their sport, but once attaining their 14th birthday, the Menja is of no further

use, unlike the British Espada that conforms to international rules and can be raced in Novice, Junior or Senior, as well as the K1 classes of Long Distance racing.

For American readers, details of the Menja K1 can be obtained from: *Kayak Specialists Inc. R.R.I, Box 83, Buchanan, Mich. 49107, U.S.A.*

## OVERCOMING SALT LOSS

**When the heat is on — salt loss can be a problem.** Not every summer in Britain is like the one we have just had and thus few canoeists experience a degree of salt loss that is dangerous. However, if you were one of the kayak boys on the summer expedition to Grand Canyon, then you had problems! Paddling, or even just existing in such a wilderness, with the temperature around the 130° mark and even at night never falling below the 80°s, there was a severe problem of salt loss.

As co-organiser on the 1971 trip, I managed to get a supply of DW4 that proved highly effective and there was no trace of stress or cramp from paddlers. For this last summer trip, the above medication was not available but, just two weeks before we were due to leave, a new product came on the market. This was a saline tablet produced by Southon-Horton Laboratories Ltd.

The tablets, put in water, provide a sparkling fresh-lime flavoured effervescent drink, which is a pleasant thirst-quencher with the ability to restore the correct bodily saline level without any unpleasant 'salty' taste. The fact that expedition members got through almost two drums of 400 tablets each during the 17 days in the Grand Canyon, and that we had no real problems with the heat, speaks well for this new medication.

Full details are available from: *Southon-Horton Laboratories Ltd., Herbert House, Slade Green, Erith, Kent.*

# TRADE PAGE

REVIEW OF NEW KAYAKS,  
CANOES, AND EQUIPMENT.

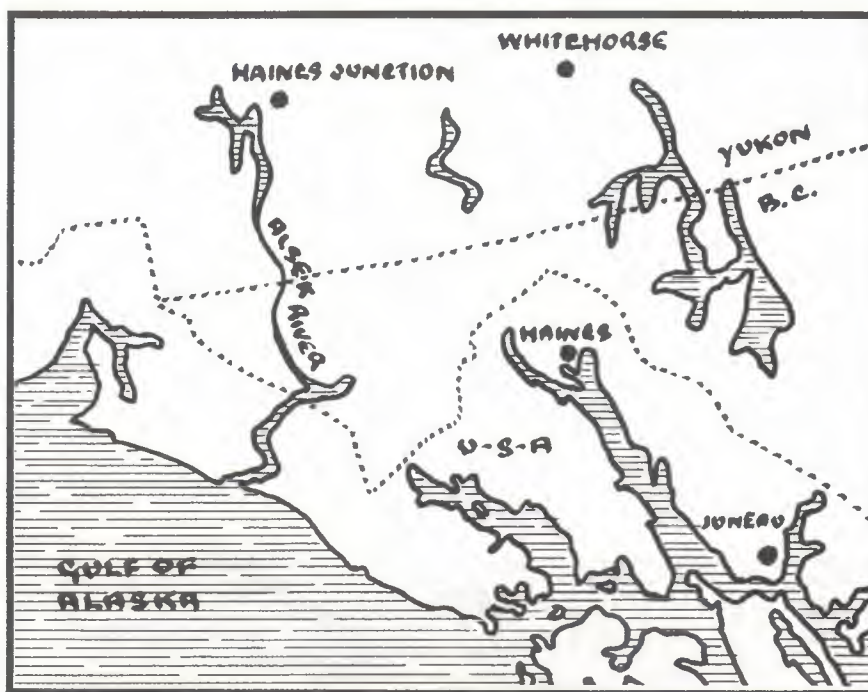
Wearing his kayak rather than sitting in it, an American physician from Salmon, Idaho decided to paddle the Alsek River in Alaska alone, to "prove things" to himself. No man had ever run the river in a boat, where icebergs break away from glaciers along the bank. Water in Turn Back Canyon flows nearly 5 times faster than the Colorado, the ultimate in U.S. whitewater rivers. It is the only huge river known where the water's speed stops fish.

*part 1*

# CAUGHT UP IN A HELL OF WHITE WATER

*by Walt Blackadar, M.D.*

*Rising in the Yukon  
wilderness, The Alsek  
had been a river  
of no return.*



## ***Thoughts of the Alsek***

AUG. 13 My birthday—49! Looked in the mirror and realized I wasn't getting any younger. Decided to paddle the Alsek alone, though it is against sanity and all safety codes. I've tried for six months to get others to join me. I'm not suicidal but get depressed watching so many patients with incurable diseases. Take-off date next Thursday.

AUG. 19 Busy week. A close friend, who is a former national kayak champion, phoned from Boston this morning and gave me hell, as has everyone else who knows of my plans. But I'm going anyway. Took out a two-week accident policy for \$50,000, which would pay off all my debts and leave a reserve.

## ***To Seattle and on to Juneau***

AUG. 20 After an all-night drive to Seattle, flew to Juneau and sent my kayak airfreight on the same flight. The boat is a Mithril Vector, made of fibre glass, a little over 13 feet long and 23 inches wide. The seat, footrests and knee bar over my thighs are all moulded to my body so that I wear the boat rather than sit in it. A watertight spray deck closes the cockpit around my waist so that no water can enter the boat, even when I'm upside down.

When I reached Juneau, the bow of the kayak was caved in, dented like a Ping-Pong ball. I took two three-pound coffee cans, rammed them forward with a paddle and popped the dent out. There is no visible damage!

I've weighed, in every sense of that word, what I'm taking on this trip—the boat (26 pounds); food (17¼); sleeping bag (3½); tent and air mattress (8); life jacket, clothes, wet suit and boat repair equipment (14½); my paddle and take-apart spare (5); float bags (3); toilet kit, fishing rod and two-way radio (7)—a total of 84¼ pounds. I'm another 175 pounds.

## ***Canyon overflight***

There was a terrible storm in Juneau during the afternoon, but at 5:20 p.m. I was able to take off in a chartered plane piloted by Layton Bennett to overfly the Alsek and examine Turn Back Canyon. We ran the river between storms, a three-hour round trip. Started flying up the gorge at 500 feet. Then after two trips at 200 feet with, it seemed to me, wing tips nearly touching the canyon walls, I called a halt to the low flying. A kayak would be safer!

The severest part of the canyon looks to me shorter than the 12 miles previously reported. I would guess

just five miles long. But it's as tough as I imagined. There are two or three good stops for a kayaker, but there is no way to walk the riverbank and scout the worst rapids. There are too many cliffs that are too severe to climb. From the air I saw a way to portage around the toughest spot in the gorge. Also saw several very impressive boiling pots with water spouting 10 to 20 feet high. I think I can avoid these. There is one eight-foot roller wave all the way across the river that will be a sure flip, but I don't believe it will trap a kayak sideways. A roller like this is caused by a ledge that acts as a dam. The water streams down the nearly vertical spillway and, as it meets turbulent water the bottom, a huge wave forms and curls backward like a surfing wave. If a kayak turns sideways and doesn't crash through the crest, it will tumble over and over and be held fast in the wave. There are several sure flips but no holding holes and no danger, unless I swim.

Except in the gorge, there are sand-bars all along the river, so I feel I can make a landing field for a rescue plane every five miles if I am stranded. Layton Bennett has told me how to do it. I am not sure of the size of the waves; they look big. I was told there is a waterfall in the canyon. I saw a couple but feel they are runnable. There is nothing in the Grand Canyon, however, with as much violence or power...

I'm glad I'm going solo. I wouldn't want the responsibility had I talked somebody else into making the trip. I know any sensible person will say I shouldn't run this river, but it is in my blood. I must prove things to myself.

Now for my plans: the pilot will pick me up at the mouth of the Alsek 10 days after I set out. I think I can paddle the 230 miles downriver (the first 22 miles of the trip will be on the Dezadeash, not the Alsek) in seven days, but I have allowed myself extra time. If I am late, the pilot is authorized to spend \$1,000 overflying the river before calling my wife. Should he find something suspicious like a tent, boat on shore, etc., and no sign of me, he will land if possible or send a helicopter. I have left a letter at home with instructions to spend up to \$5,000 to prove me alive or dead, but if my boat is found swamped and there is no sign of me for 14 days, I am dead.

If stranded I will stay with the river—there are enough flat and open places so there's little chance of grizzlies attacking me in camp. If I am found dead, the pilot has been told to bury me there and not bring me home but to take positive identification to my wife.

I feel the gorge is tough but paddleable. The left bank rises 6,000 or 7,000 feet; there is no exit

*continued overleaf*

because the terrain slopes up into snow country. The right side is vertical rock, not ice, and about 500 feet high. One can climb out in a couple of places without rope, if necessary.

### ***On to Haines Junction***

AUG. 21 A friend took me up the inside passage to Haines, 80 miles north-west of Juneau, in his 50-foot launch. Lovely relaxed trip. I go inland tomorrow to Haines Junction, 150 miles away.

AUG. 22 Got a ride with a schoolteacher in his truck. Checked with the Mounties. They plan to fly a helicopter down the Alsek to the British Columbia junction on the 24th to count game and will check on me.

I am carrying one week of full rations and another week of half fare. The food is all dehydrated but common supermarket stuff—breakfast of dry cereal, powdered milk and instant coffee. Lunch—dry fruit, nuts and candy. Supper—Lipton's one-pot meals like ham cheddarton and chicken supreme cooked over an open fire in a coffee can.

Wish I had company to the canyon; after that I'll be glad I have only myself to take care of. Water is clear up here and not too cold. Weather is bad.

Well, I'm off!

AUG. 22, LATER, Left the road at 7 p.m. after sending the above notes to my wife. River flowing 2 mph. Camped at 8:30 with a headwind of 40 mph and waves two feet high. Tent up and flapping. All secure. Boat tied to a tree along with my life jacket. Four big beaver dams. Have seen two of the animals, plus four ducks. In bed by nine.

### ***The Alsek at last***

AUG. 23 Camping in a driving rain. Started fire with four matches and two birthday candles. Cooked beef stroganoff and am sitting in tent eating it now while I dry off. My watch stopped last night so I reset it by the sun. I'll have to guess the time from now on. Today I paddled down the Dezadeash to the Alsek. The current is flowing faster—6 mph. Fished twice with my eight-foot rod. I was hoping for salmon but no strikes—water muddy. One golden eagle, six ducks, a porcupine and a beaver.

Rain quit during the night. Slept well.

AUG. 24 Good camp, sheltered by an overhanging bank, but since wind and tent are facing upstream, a grizzly coming from the rear will surprise us both.

Big water today. No stops needed to scout rapids. Stayed in the centre but constant manoeuvring necessary to avoid rocks and holes. No flips, but my heart pounded once or twice as I passed cliffs with boils and huge hydraulics—violent currents that twist and turn and grab from all directions at once. The water is now icy, and I can't force myself to practice rolling up and thus psychologically prepare myself for the canyon ahead. I feel a flip is a 30% chance of a swim. The water is brown, something like halfway through the Grand Canyon. I can still read the water confidently since the crests of the waves are white, but the glacier silt adds power to the rapids.

Lowell Glacier, off to the right, is tremendous. It is a mile of bright blue ice wall over 100 feet high and extending out into the Alsek, which undercuts the cliff. As I passed, huge blocks of ice two-thirds the size of a football field would crack free from the wall and drop 20 feet to the river bottom, then tip outward and slap the water with a frightening sonic boom. These were followed by tidal waves that tossed earlier ice blocks (calves) and my fragile kayak skyhigh. Fortunately, I never was within 200 yards of an ice fall and tried to stay in the open so I could manoeuvre the waves. An active glacier is an amazing spectacle. And I've got three more ahead!

Became lost in the floating calves but continued on to the end of the iceberg lake, where the river turned abruptly. Must have paddled over 50 miles today so quit early but could have gone all the way to Turn Back Canyon, where the worst rapids begin. Plan to sleep late in the morning and proceed gradually, but if I get to the canyon before 2 p.m. I'll tackle it then; otherwise, will rest until noon the next day. I have been paddling in my full wet suit, including boots and gloves, but no wet suit head stall; only my regular protective helmet. I want to remove the gloves in the gorge, if the icy water is not unbearable, so that I can grip the paddle more firmly. I'm three days ahead of schedule and going strong—very relaxed. My 25 ounces of vodka will see me home with spare. Am less tense being alone. In a kayak I never rely on others to get me out of trouble, so I wear a 33-pound flotation life jacket. Water that can separate me from my boat would be so big no other kayaker could help. He'd be too busy staying up himself.

I have matches and emergency supplies sewn into my life jacket. No sign of the helicopter, perhaps because I have traveled so fast. Saw two golden eagles and a friendly shore bird fatter than a tern—small beak, gray-brown with a banded tail.

*concluded next month —  
Into Turn Back Canyon...*



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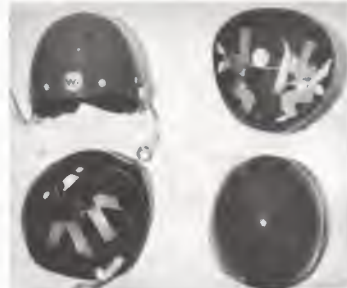
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