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CANOEING MAGAZINE

Vol. 16
Number 2

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CONTENTS

BCU NEWS	7
HENRY THELEN	8
CANOESPORT COMMENT	9
NOTES AND NEWS	10
LONG DISTANCE AND MARATHON	11
NOTTINGHAM KAYAK CLUB	13
NANTAHALA SHINDY	15
IRISH CALENDAR	19
EVENTS AND COURSES	19
HOLIDAY '76	21
TRADE PAGE	24
CLASSIFIED ADVERTS	29

COVER

Start of the Long Distance season and paddlers racing the Waterside Series on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

Photo: Mike Clark.



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B.C.U. British Canoe Union NEWS News from Headquarters

Concern over CinB loss

It is sad to see that the governing body for canoeing in this country has chosen to celebrate the 100th issue of 'The Magazine of the British Canoe Union' by ceasing to distribute it to the membership.

I write at the request of the Committee of the St. Albans and District Canoe Club to protest at the abrupt and unexplained reduction in service offered by the BCU to its members.

It is easy to understand why the decision has been taken, what seems unjustifiable is the manner in which it is announced and the speed with which the decision has been implemented. Surely members who have paid their subscriptions believing that this secured for them a year's supply of 'Canoeing in Britain', are entitled to an explanation and some recompense.

There are many who have to be members of the BCU if they wish to take part in recognised competitive events. They will miss information and news 'Canoeing in Britain' gives. Many thousands more canoe for pleasure. The free magazine is for them a major reason for being members. What has the BCU to offer them now?

My Committee, therefore, asks for an assurance that there will be news letters, not only to club secretaries, but also to the membership in general. BCU members should not be forced to buy a commercial magazine to find out what is going on.

The Club intends to take out a subscription to 'Canoeing in Britain' on the assumption that the club copy will not be arriving in future but sees no reason to encourage its members to do the same.

Yours faithfully,

R.H. Fox,

Secretary,

St. Albans and District

Canoe Club.

Copies to BCU Director, Canoeing in Britain, Canoeing Magazine.

BCU and Canoeing in Britain magazine

The above letter arrived at our editorial office just as this issue was being set up and serves as a good introduction to information that has recently been sent out from the British Canoe Union Headquarters.

As set out in the December issue of 'Canoeing Magazine', the British Canoe Union has decided to drop free supply of the 'Canoeing in Britain' magazine, although Ocean Publications will continue to publish the magazine and this is available to members or individuals at the appropriate subscription price (*sub-*

scription details available from: Ocean Publications, 34 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RE).

Regretably discussions between the British Canoe Union, Ocean Publications, and Canoeing Magazine to see if there was common ground for the publication of just one canoe sport publication came to nothing. Thus we are now left with TWO independent magazines, 'Canoeing in Britain' and 'Canoeing Magazine', and, allaying fears voiced in the above letter from St. Albans Canoe Club that members would now receive no information from the Union, the BCU is to launch an entirely new house magazine. From BCU Headquarters the following press statement has been released:

'It may have come as a considerable surprise to members of the British Canoe Union to learn that they would no longer receive the magazine 'Canoeing in Britain'. Unfortunately, many members have taken the insert contained in the February/March issue of 'Canoeing in Britain' to mean that the Union will no longer send a regular communication to its members.

This is certainly not the case. Although the British Canoe Union has broken its official links with Ocean Publications, the publishers of 'Canoeing in Britain', Ocean Publications still intend to publish 'Canoeing in Britain' on a quarterly basis but it will no longer be styled 'The Magazine of the British Canoe Union'.

As an interim measure, the Union will be producing a tabloid newsheet entitled 'Canoe Focus' under the banner 'Produced by the membership - for the membership'. The decision to change from an involvement with a commercially orientated magazine publisher to a truly 'house' magazine has been taken on the advice of the British Canoe Union Publications Working Party, comprised of persons working within the printing, publishing, and advertising industries assisted by the Director.

The initial investigation indicated that the Union was spending far too much of its membership subscription income on supplying 'Canoeing in Britain' to the members. The argument is one of basic economics, particularly if the following facts are considered:

1. Over the last two years, the membership of the British Canoe Union has declined, increasing unit cost of the magazine.
2. Both printing and postage cost have increased faster than the rate of inflation. Paper has doubled in price over the last two years and postage has increased by 140 per cent approximately since September 10th 1974.
3. Manufacturers are spending less on advertising, hence a lower demand means a lower advertising revenue.
4. The current production of 'Canoeing in Britain' with four colour printing whilst being attractive is expensive.

The working party are looking for the support of canoeists of all disciplines to support the new style of newsletter. If the British Canoe Union's membership is prepared to put pen to paper and produce its own copy, a vibrant journal can be produced on an economic basis.

The Union are seeking from within its membership, a professional editor. As an interim measure the Director, Gordon Richards, and his new Assistant, Bob Gray, will be co-ordinating these efforts direct from the British Canoe Union's Headquarters at Brompton Road, London.'

Canoe Focus newsheet

The new 'Canoe Focus' newsheet will be published three times this year (the first expected to be ready in late April) and then quarterly. Thus with BCU news reverting once again to publication just four times a year, the offer of two pages free space in Canoeing Magazine for 'Official BCU News' will be made with each issue and for the BCU to take up if they require or desire.



HENRY THELEN

On Thursday, January 29th, 1976, Henry Thelen, one of the best known figures in post-war British canoeing, died in hospital following an operation for a serious condition which he had borne for some time, silently, courageously, and with fortitude.

Henry, affectionately known in the canoeing world as 'Hein', arrived in Britain from Norway in 1940 aboard a British naval vessel with his wife Friedel and young son Hannes, after escaping from Bergen, Norway on the landing there of invading German forces. After a period in Canada and Scotland, he finally settled in London in 1943 as a journalist with Associated Press, and it was at this time that the writer first met him.

As a young man Hein had done a considerable amount of canoeing in various parts of Europe and was very familiar with the coastal waters of Western Norway. As soon as hostilities ceased he returned to the sport and became one of the first members of the 'Canoe Fellowship', a new club by the Thames at Weybridge, and began to take an active part in canoeing affairs.

Intent on breaking the feeling of isolation imposed on this country by the years of war, he encouraged our touring canoeists to join with their fellow sportsmen on the Continent, particularly in Scandinavia, and take part in international cruises. He himself led one such party on a Danish Cruise in 1950. In that same year he accepted responsibility for editing the BCU News Bulletin, a duplicated news-sheet, and the following year launched 'Canoeing in Britain' as a printed quarterly, a magazine which he continued to produce, single-handed, for the next 12 years.

From the very beginning, Hein had a powerful concern to foster the development of canoe racing in Britain, and particularly to involve the young canoeists. From 1950 he served on the Paddling Racing Committee (later to be re-named Sprint Committee) and undertook the special responsibility of organising the 10-years series of International Regattas on the Serpentine in London, being very successful in attracting the interest and support of overseas teams. In 1959 he became the Chairman of the Committee, and when he retired in 1964 after the Tokyo Olympic Games, he was presented with the BCU Award of Honour for his services to the sport.

Henry Thelen's first link with the International Canoe

Federation came in 1954 when the Congress at Macon decided on the publication of an official ICF News Sheet and invited him to edit it. He took on this work and later became the Chairman of the ICF Committee for Propaganda and Information, holding both offices until 1972. When he left office he was presented with the ICF Gold Award of Merit for his services to Canoeing and the ICF.

As an international technical official he became a familiar figure at many European and World Championships, including at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Mexico and Munich, and it was whilst he was in Tokyo that he collaborated with the representatives from other Commonwealth countries in forming the British Commonwealth Canoeing Federation, being elected its Vice-President.

Henry Thelen was by nature sensitive and serious and, demanding high standards from himself, he sometimes lacked patience with lower standards in others. His great objective was so to improve the sport of canoeing, nationally and internationally, that it could take a worthy place alongside other major sports. He was endowed with a gift for languages which served him well in his work for the ICF, and he was at ease in any company, whether that of youngsters at the foot of the ladder or eminent figures in the world of international sport. His worldwide travels in connection with his professional duties in the field of tourism enabled him to serve the ICF as a 'Roving Ambassador' meeting leaders of canoeing in every country he visited, discussing their problems and forging links of friendship at both personal and official levels.

I was privileged to enjoy the friendship of Henry Thelen for over thirty years and I knew him as an upright man, generous and, in the words of Bunyan, 'valiant for Truth'. Canoeists everywhere, but particularly in Britain, have much to thank him for. He will not be forgotten, for a trophy will be named after him, and the BCU has set up a 'Henry Thelen Memorial Fund' for the training of young canoeists, a cause near to his heart. He leaves a widow, Friedel, who was a constant support to him in his work for our sport, and a son Hannes who lives in Norway with his wife and three children.

*John Dudderidge,
President British Canoe Union.*



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CanoeSport Comment

mike clark

Crystal Palace Exhibition

The National Canoe Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace in South London over the weekend February 21st/22nd proved to be a great success. Attendance was just over the 5000 mark - an excellent response following the lack of trade stands over the last two years. Reports from the trade suggest that despite the massive 25% VAT on manufactured canoes and kayaks, most went away from the show with full order books and all seemed highly pleased.

Certainly just looking round the Exhibition showed that the British manufacturers are far and away the best in the World, not only in craftsmanship, but in quality of glassfibre, design and value for money.

The Exhibition as a whole was extremely impressive, not only from the trade aspect, but over the whole spectrum of British canoe sport. The Club Stands proved of high interest and, as over previous years, showed of improving quality. Among these to be noted was that of the Nordkapp Expedition, showing one of the Nordkapp kayaks used plus all the equipment that was stowed under decks - quite an amazing array. Of the films, a new Colorado film was shown, this being Art Vitarelli's film of the British trip last summer. Once again there were spectacular shots of kayakists running massive water, and with the Colorado one only has to point the camera in generally the right direction to get good results!

Cream of Sprint for Nottingham

The Holme Pierrepont International Sprint Regatta, to be held at the National Watersports Centre over the weekend 19th/20th June, looks like being the biggest and best ever with tremendous support coming from overseas countries. This is mainly due to the fact that our International is the last major regatta before the Olympic Games in Montreal and it is almost certain to be a full dress rehearsal for the Olympic Regatta. Already the cream of the world's leading sprint canoeing countries have indicated that they will be sending a team. Tops among these and providing the most devastating competition our paddlers are ever likely to see on British water are a 24-man Russian Team, a full East German Team, plus Hungarians, Czechs, Bulgarians, Poles, French, Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Italians, and Spanish.

For sure if you want to see the best sprint canoeists in the World in action, then make a date to be at the Holme Pierrepont International Regatta in June. (As a personal comment, it seems a great pity that, with such world class paddlers on show at the International, the British Schools Canoeing Association Sprint Championships should have been moved to combine with the Richmond Regatta at the beginning of May. Surely there could have been no greater inspiration for these youngsters than to race the same weekend as World Class Internationals.)

NOTES NEWS

Canoe record?

After the greatest number of Eskimo Rolls, with and without a paddle, and other such earth shattering records as the 'cross-Channel canoe poling' record (completed only with the use of an eight foot pole folks!), 'the longest kayak portage' (bare-foot across hot coals of course!), and 'the highest seal launch' (off the top of Beachy Head but regrettably awarded posthumously – the tide was out!), members of the Leeds/Carnegie College and the Borough Road College of Isleworth have set up yet another fantastic record – a 24-hour wiggle-test marathon (cheers from the front row, snores from the middle row, and giggles from the back!).

This event was staged in the pool at Carnegie School of Physical Education some time during February (press release undated), and comprised two teams of six paddlers. Among these was Alan Edge, Jim Dolan, Paul Brom, and John Handyside. The latter scored the greatest number of clean wiggle tests, and victory went to the Leeds/Carnegie team with 1,178 against 886 for Borough Road.

Anas Acuta

Psst – want to buy a cheap Anas Acuta? A report just in is that an Anas Acuta – dark translucent amber with black cockpit and serial number inside of 928 built by Valley Canoe Products – has been stolen from the owner Dennis King. The craft was stolen after a trip in Scotland when Dennis left the boat hidden beside the road in a desolate area to go and collect his car. Anyone being offered the kayak or knows of its whereabouts, should contact: *Dennis King, Old School House, Melvaig, Gairloch, Ross-shire, Scotland.*

Building improvement

The £15,000 rebuilding programme of the Royal Canoe Club is now nearing completion. The improvements to the clubhouse at the head of Trowlock Island retains the original character yet now offers competition and touring facilities to both sexes that is equal to any in Britain and even many of the European clubs.

The official opening ceremony will take place on April 10th (just three weeks before the opening of the new Nottingham clubhouse as reported elsewhere in this issue) and to celebrate this event, mem-

bers of the International Canoe Federation, representing 39 countries from all Continents, will meet in Britain for the first time in 25-years at the Royal Canoe Club, Teddington.

The Federation Chairman, Charles de Coqueaumont, will perform the opening ceremony, commemorated by a mass 'paddle past' of Club members and friends.

The ICF members will be entertained during the evening at the Royal Canoe Club and those present will be representing Australia and the South Pacific, Canada and North America, the German Democratic Republic, Italy, Japan, Mexico and South America, Russia, and Africa.

The Royal Canoe Club has, since 1866, built a bridge of friendship between Britain and other countries. Their members have blazed many dangerous trails from Greenland to the Red Sea. It is fitting therefore that people from so many countries should meet together in friendship to honour the Royal Canoe Club, from which the very sport of canoeing originated over a century ago.

First slalom event

The 1976 British Slalom season opened with the 2nd Division event at Shepperton Weir over the weekend of March 6th/7th. The competition proved to be the best attended at Shepperton for a number of years with over 80 paddlers competing the Mens K1 – but this is about all that was good with the slalom!

The water conditions were very poor with little more than a trickle of water coming over the weir, while weather conditions did nothing to aid enthusiasm, being bitterly cold and flurries of snow.

Eric Jamieson of Guildford won the Mens K1 from Martin Wood of Birmingham, while in the Womens K1 Yvonne Brook of Manchester led from two of the Shepperton girls. Purdy/Philips predictably took the C2 event, but were quite hard pushed by the Viking pair of Brown/Curle. Peter Nardelli of Chalfont Park took first in the C1, with Richard Fox of St. Albans taking the Judges event. The Team event went to the trio from Stafford and Stone Canoe Club – Clough/McConkey/Booth.



New frontage of the Royal Canoe Club.



SPONSORED MARATHON

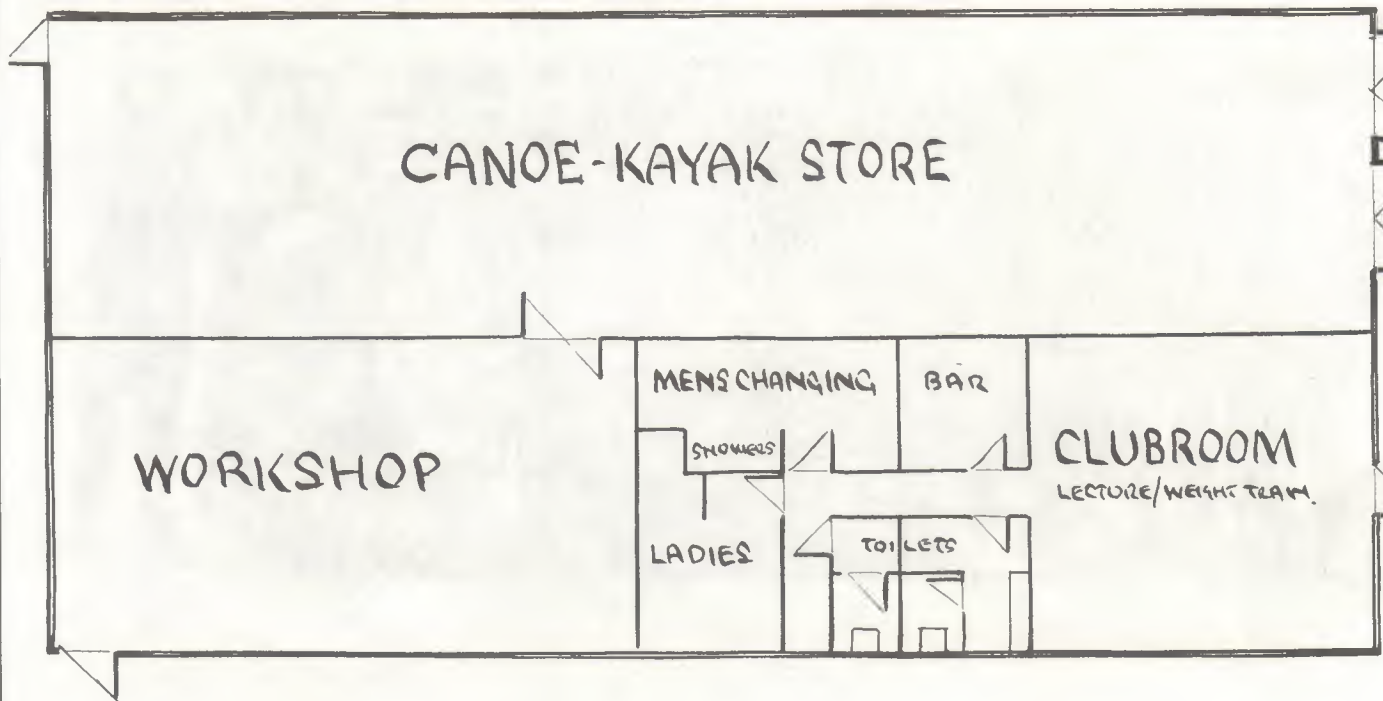


On Saturday March 13th hundreds of crews and paddlers were out at six venues throughout the country on the first 'national sponsored canoe marathon', raising money towards the British Olympic Appeal Fund.

Despite an extremely cold day, paddlers duly completed their required distances, raising a spectacular £4600. Among the paddlers, Kath Nadal of Nottingham and Jonathan West of Wey each raised over £200. By venues, the Wey Race managed £2100, Nottingham £700, Harlow £650, Worcester £500, Lichfield £350, and Bradford-on-Avon £310. The fastest time (although there seemed some doubt as to whether the events should be treated as a race of just a paddle-over!) was recorded by Story/Kidstone with 2hrs 39min 00sec over the Bradford-on-Avon course.



The British Olympic Training Squad.



nottingham kayak club

On April 30th the Rt. Hon. Dennis Howell M.P., Minister for Sport and Recreation, will travel to Nottingham to officially open the brand new premises of the Nottingham Kayak Club. No doubt in these cost conscious times the Ministers' eagle eye will almost certainly be at work to ascertain whether the public money that has been invested into this scheme has been wisely spent. In this respect he will not be disappointed by what the club has crammed into a site of only 110ft by 50ft. And the design shows considerable imagination (see plan below).

The fact that Nottingham Kayak Club have been able to produce these facilities is a tribute to the enthusiasm and organisation within the club itself, especially as the whole project has been completed within a budget of £14,000.

The building consists of steel framing with concrete cladding and asbestos roof, internally divided with breeze-block walls. The whole of the left hand side is used for kayak storage and will accommodate somewhere in the region of 250 kayaks or canoes. There are also separate racks for club owned lifejackets and paddles. All of the kayak racks have been designed and built by club members, and there is certainly hardly a square centimetre of storage space wasted. The right side of the building is divided into three main sections. The first of these is a clubroom complete with canteen/bar area and will double as a weight training room or lecture room. The second area contains toilets and changing rooms. The mens changing room is rather small but both the mens and womens rooms are equipped with hot showers. The remaining section consists of a workshop which is well equipped for glassfibre building and repair of craft.

There are many other clubs that will look enviously towards Nottingham's new facilities, and may well be laying plans for their own development. Canoeing Magazine asked Colin Gray, Nottingham Kayak Club Chairman, to tell us how this project was successfully completed in such a time of economic stringency.

"The most important thing to realise is that the provision of a building would not have been possible without a far-sighted club policy that has prevailed during the last six years. Since 75% of the cost of the building has been provided from Central Government and Local Authority sources, the club's policy has been directed (a) towards community provision and (b) towards publicize the important aspects of the club's work. It has also been necessary to build up club membership over a number of years so that there were sufficient members to help raise our

own share of the cost and also to do much of the actual work entailed in the building.

It is perhaps interesting to note some of the activities that we have organised in order to promote membership and to be able to claim with a clear conscience that we are providing facilities for the community.

1. Instructional sessions are held almost daily throughout the summer months and on Saturday afternoons in winter.
2. A 'canoe hire' scheme exists to help those who are not fortunate enough to own their own craft.
3. Courses at all levels; Beginner, Proficiency, Racing, Slalom, and Senior Instructor, are a regular feature of the club programme.
4. Special facilities and arrangements to allow Schools, Scouts, and Youth Clubs to enjoy the benefits of the use of good equipment and specialised coaching.
5. The club workshop is able to provide kayaks for club members at around half the cost of those commercially available.

The most formidable aspects of the scheme were those involved in obtaining grants, planning permission, and a suitable lease. In all, these problems took almost two years to iron out. We were especially hampered by having insufficient funds to employ an architect. We did approach several, but they all scared us stiff by talking in terms of a £30,000 project...! Whilst we were able to find electricians, plumbers, joiners and the like from among club membership who were prepared to give their services for nothing, we lacked a charitable architect! Thus we had to solve the problem for ourselves. However in this respect we were fortunate in making early contact with Banbury Buildings Ltd. Their representative was extremely helpful and between us we were able to produce basic plans in order to apply for planning permission. The advantage of using a prefabricated building was that the basic design and specifications were already produced and the addition of internal fixtures is relatively easy.

A great deal of the interior work has been carried out by club members. It has taken only eight months to produce the building, and the paddling standard of members has suffered only marginally, if at all. This is despite the fact that the racing paddlers fraternity (often criticised for their selfishness) have done more than their share of the work. There has certainly been a very good morale and enthusiasm of club members towards the work and if anything it has helped to bring all factions closer together in working towards a common cause."

*Right: Young 13 year old Henry Brian Wallace
takes on the Nantahala Falls in style.
Below: The start of the run.*

Henry Wallace reports on the
enthusiastic weekend boaters of North Carolina

NANTAHALA SHINDY





It's the greatest unrehearsed show on earth. It's also free. But if you want a ringside seat – or any seat or standing room – you have to get there early during the high season, which is weekends and holidays during the warm months, May through to October.

I'm speaking, of course, of the unique boating spectacle at Nantahala Falls on the Nantahala River that runs clear, clean and cold through a wooded canyon in the Western North Carolina mountains near the Great Smokies National Park, U.S.A.

The falls is a boisterous, tricky but forgiving Class IV rapid with a long, curving approach and two staggered drops. It is just under a quarter mile above the Nantahala Outdoor Centre, crossroads of kayaking and canoeing, hiking and climbing in the Southern Appalachian Mountains an hour's drive from the legendary Chattooga River, where *'Deliverance'* was filmed.

The first of its two drops can stop a canoe or raft and hold it for quite a few agonizing moments, while the second can stop or flip almost anything that doesn't hit it straight on, although it spits out boat and boater in seconds.

Take a typical Saturday or Sunday. The power plant eight miles up-river turns on the water at around 10.30 a.m. Then the river, a sparkling gem as it races through its precipitous sylvan gorge, comes to life. From a modest flow over a rocky bed just strong enough to keep trout and trout fishermen active it swells to a cascading torrent with almost continuous Class II water that is introduced by a bouncy Class III and ends, for boating purposes, at the bottom of the falls only a few steps from the Appalachian Trail, which backpackers can follow along mountain spines and through verdant valleys from Georgia to Maine.

After the dam keeper opens the valves, you can watch the water rise. You can even get in your boat and ride the crest, not to paddle too fast and run out of water. A couple of splashy, exciting hours puts you at the falls.

Long before the rising tide of rushing water reaches the first drop a festive holiday crowd begins to assemble. Perched like chipmunks on the rocks that line the banks, onlookers wait expectantly for the first craft to come in view as it rounds a bend in the river just upstream. Behind them along the highway that parallels the river scores of other early birds gather as parking space becomes premium and the spectator who can't find a prime viewing spot stands in envy of those who did.

First to come bouncing through the lively Class II approach, which can put a lot of water in an open boat, will be, most likely, a kayak, C1 or C2, as these usually out-distance the open canoes and rafts. The crowd waits, all eyes on the paddler or paddlers. If the craft wobbles, tips precariously or heads unsteadily for the more hazardous part of the falls the spectators, many of them boaters or knowledgeable about boats, put the kayaker or canoeist down for a novice or a dud and wait with capricious anticipation for the penalty to be paid by a swamp or a flip at the falls.

But if he (or she or they) rounds the bend with assurance, deft strokes carrying the boat past rocks and holes, clever manoeuvring lining it up in optimum position to negotiate the final drops, then the ringside experts give their stamp of approval and await with satisfaction the final splash at the conclusion of a successful, clean run.

All day long, from the first surge of released water until gathering darkness rings down the curtain on this unparalleled performance, the boaters come through and the crowd stays on. No sooner is one good viewing spot vacated than another viewer fills the gap. Cameras click, hands clap, exclamations ring out and viewer jostles viewer to get a better look at that canoe just rounding the bend, or that raft flipped in the first hydraulic, or that kayak being chased by its unhorsed paddle through the rock-strewn run-out.

Experts in Kayak and C1s usually make the falls look easy. They go through backwards and sideways and fight their way

upstream to play the bottom drop where their spectacular pops and surfing delight the crowd.

For the intermediate the falls is a challenge. He knows pretty well how he should run it but often things don't go that way and he 'messes up'. But for the novice, just getting through is a survival course. He feels he has arrived if he clears the last drop in good form and the right way up! Nantahala Falls is behind him and he's ready, he thinks, to go on to bigger things.

For the beginner it's another story and also a frequent story, for many beginners run the Nantahala for their baptism of white water and quite a few go over the falls, one way or another, although the more prudent take out just above the final approach. If they try it and make it, though, their rejoicing is great and often shared by family and friends who line the banks to watch and cheer them on. If they don't make it . . . Well, they really weren't supposed to anyway.

At the other end of the experience spectrum there are those who have run Class V rapids such as Bull Sluice at the end of the Chattooga's Section III, and Class V sections of rivers such as the Chattooga's Section IV or the New River Gorge in West Virginia, but yet are astonished to find themselves flipped by the comparatively easy Nantahala drop. The falls are tricky. They sometimes grab the unsuspecting expert.

In a day's performance the spectator will see many strange sights, as well as much good paddling and rafting. On any given holiday open canoes, decked C1s, C2s, and kayaks will make the run by the score. Also, in a seemingly never-ending procession rafts of all sizes, from the Outdoor Centre's six-man Avons to the first-timer's department store dinghy, pass in review.

Tubers, too, make the run, sometimes falling out of their tubes in the first drop only to pop back in at the second. And now and then a swimmer, separated from his craft in the bouncy run-in, body surfs his solitary way the entire rapid, disappearing in the holes but bobbing to the surface up to 10 yards downstream.

Rafts, like hard boats, come through in four ways: Straight ahead, sideways, backwards, and upside-down! Some lose all their passengers in the first drop, making the second empty except for water. Some hardly make it at all, as they run up on rocks on the right side and have to be lifted off and shoved back into the current, often spilling passengers in the process.

On the faces of the rafters, and sometimes on those of other boaters, one can see exultation, anxiety, fear, even panic. They yell at the thrills, yell at their companions, and just plain yell. Small children often come through laughing, but few are crying and many a worried parent, having got into more than he or she or both bargained for, sighs with relief as the last drop is cleared.

Decked boaters who flip but roll up get a hand from the crowd. Once an open canoeist rolled his foam-filled Blue Hole* in the run-out after flipping in the last drop. The applause matched the thunder of the falls. A man who turned over in the approach, climbed on his overturned canoe and rode it cowboy style through both drops, and received an ovation for his ingenuity.

By the end of a good day several hundred paddlers will have taken the test. More than half will have met the challenge successfully with expertise or luck, while the rest will have gone for a swim in the river's cold water which hovers around the 43 degree mark all summer. As for the onlookers high and dry on the rocks and banks . . . Well, those who can will be back tomorrow or next week for another session of white water's most entertaining drama.



*Blue Hole - Open Canadian Canoe from the Blue Hole Canoe Company, U.S.A.



Photos from Henry Wallace showing the different styles used on the Nantahala Falls in North Carolina.



EVENTS & COURSES

IRISH EVENTS

Not only for the benefit of our Irish readers, but also for the interest of British competitive paddlers, we publish the list of forthcoming Irish events. U.K. paddlers are welcome at any of the Irish events and full details of any particular competition can be obtained from the Irish Canoe Secretary: Mairin Curran, Rath Cairn, Athboy, Co. Meath, Ireland.

Long Distance paddlers should note that the spectacular and popular International Liffey Descent Race has moved from its usual date to within the holiday season – now scheduled for August 21st – and a week before the British National Long Distance Championships.

April

25th – L-D Ballymore to Kilcullen (KCC)

May

2nd – L-D Upper Boyne (OMCC)

8th – L-D Lagan – Lisburn/Belfast (BCC)

8th – Sprint Leixlip Lake (SLCC)

15th – Sprint Leixlip Lake Juniors (ICU)

16th – L-D Nore (Ranking) (GTCC)

22nd – L-D Blackwater – Caledon/Moy (BWCC)

30th – Slalom Grand Canal – Div III (HCC)

June

12th – Sprint Leixlip Lake (ICU)

13th – L-D Liffey – Clane/Leixlip (SLCC)

27th – L-D Shannon – at Limerick (LCC)

July

4th – Strawberry Fair – Enniscorthy (180 CC)

10th – L-D Shannon – Carrick (CCC)

11th – Sprint 10,000 venue n/a

18th – L-D Graiguenamanagh (CUM)

24th – L-D Bann – at Coleraine (CYC)

August

8th – Sprint venue n/a

15th – L-D Boyne – Slane (SBKC)

21st – International Liffey Descent (ICU)

September

12th – L-D Barrow – Carlow (WWKC)

18th – Surf Ulster Coast (CANI)

18th – Slalom Sluice Div II/III (GTCC)

26th – L-D Barrow – St. Mullins (ECC)

October

3rd – L-D Fermoy (CKC)

16th – Slalom Tullynish – Upper Bann (BWCC)

30th – Slalom Venue n/a (ECC)

November

27th – Slalom Palmerston – Div II/III (WWKC)

DE GEUZEN L-D

The Long Distance Canoe Race planned by the Dutch club De Geuzen and scheduled for August 28th/29th (clashing with the British National Championships) is now moved to the weekend of August 14th/15th. It is hoped British paddlers will compete at this event. Full details can be obtained from: *A. Reitmaier, Bleekerstraat 1, Zaandam, Holland, Nederland.*

LERIDA RALLY

Regretably missed off our international calendar of events and calendars in other publications is details of the popular Spanish Lerida Rally. Canoeing Magazine is now in contact with the organisers and it is hoped details of their future events will be available for publication with the majority of dates. Dates of the rally for this coming summer are July 18th to 25th. Details of the competitions:

July 18th – Opening ceremony of the XIIIth International Lerida Rally.

19th – Tour descent, Escalo-Llavorsi, 9km.

20th – III International Descent in groups.

21st – XI International Descent Pyrennes of Lerida From Llavorsi to Sort, 13,000metres.

22nd – IX International Esquimeutage in Sort.

23rd – XII International Slalom.

24th – Tour descent, Gerri de la Sal-Pobla de Segur, 15km.

25th – Prize giving and close of Rally.

The Rally and competitions are open to all paddlers. Fee of entry is 100-pesetas, and the closing date is July 15th. Entries and enquires to: *Federacion Leridana de Piraguismo, Principe de Viana, 83, 2, Lerida, Spain.*

The Rally and competitions take place on the Rio Noguera Pallaresa. There are numerous rapids of Grade II and III, plus sections of Grade IV and V, although the latter are not included in the tour descents. For the International Slalom, Descent, Descent in Groups, and Esquimeutage, there are a whole host of prizes.

The main campsite is at the town of Sort and the events and tours are supplemented with feasts, wine drinking, and dances. Sounds like a real good week of festivities and of a similar nature to that of the French Les Quinzaine International des Torrents Alpestres.



Kayak Surfer

Dealing exclusively with the newest of canoesport - kayak surfing - and featuring technique article by Frank Goodman for both the surf kayak and the slalom kayak in surf. Plus a return to Easky by Danny Broadhurst, Ernie Phillips, and Don Charlesworth, the complete rules for kayak surfing competitions, and some first class photos scrounged from various sources.

**Price 75p in UK
80p overseas.**



Through Palmerston Weir on the Liffey



French crew on the Lerida Slalom course.

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HOLIDAY '76

CANOE HIRE, INSTRUCTIONAL,
AND ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

FRANCE – sun and water

Already it is getting to be near the holiday season – clear skies, warm days, twinkling waters and super get-away canoeing. If you're undecided as yet where to pick up the annual suntan, maybe the following will be of guidance.

Among individuals and canoe clubs, Southern France (east of the Rhone for wild water and west of the Rhone for less severe rapids but nevertheless fun canoeing) is one of the most popular places to visit. For individuals and canoe club or school groups up to 45 persons may well be interested in the new Canoe Hire Service now being offered by the firm of P.G.L. Adventure Ltd. In the past P.G.L. have hired out their two-man Canadian canoes in the Ardeche area only – the centre of P.G.L. French operations – but have now extended the service to cover many of the more popular rivers of Southern France and apart from the two-man Canadian canoes, Brijes and KMF single kayaks

IRELAND – lakes and rivers

For holidays nearer home, Ireland may offer canoeing waters of your ideal. What better way to see Ireland's beautiful scenery than by travelling down river in kayak or canoe. Rivers like the Munster Blackwater, the Barrow, Nore, Suir, Boyne or Liffey provide water for extended canoeing trips of a week or more, while shorter trips can be enjoyed on the Slaney, Lee, Laune, Moy, and numerous others. The mighty Shannon offers a variety of canoeing with river lake and estuary. Like France, the best about Irish rivers is that they are totally unrestricted with regard to access and camping. Further details on a number of selected Irish rivers can be obtained from: *Irish Canoe Union Touring Officer, Sarah Nix, 5 The Orchard, Ferrybank, Waterford, Ireland.*

SCOTLAND – white water

Scotland offers some of the best of British white water. Rivers like the Awe, Tay, and Tweed give a paddler to the white water. Details of rivers and access can be obtained from: *The Scottish Canoe Union, 11 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, E.*

Adventures

Adventure holidays/canoe hire, equipment and instruction. The following addresses may be of interest.

Castles and mediaeval villages such as Carennac and Sarlat. Man has lived here since prehistoric times and a wealth of drawings, engraving, paintings and sculptures have survived in the caves across thousands of years. The most famous prehistoric art can be found in the caves around Les Eyzies. Full details of these adventure holidays and canoe hire service can be obtained from: *Aqua Viva Adventure Club, Carsac, 24200 – Sarlat, France.*

P.G.L. Adventure holidays Ltd., Station Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

YHA Adventure Holidays, Trevelyan House, St. Albans, Herts.

Bowles Outdoor Centre, Eridge, Nr. Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Loch Eil Centre, Achdaluie, Fort William, Inverness-shire, Scotland.

The Sports Council, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1DT.

The Scottish Sports Council, 1 St. Colme Street, Edinburgh EH3 6AA.







STOP PRESS:- Indian Olympic Hope disqualified for not wearing personal buoyancy.

NEW BOOKS GUIDES AND PUBLICATIONS

The outstanding new book by Jay Evans and Robert Anderson – **'Kayaking, The New Whitewater Sport for Everybody'** – reviewed and pushed in recent issues of Canoeing Magazine and imported from America for resale, received a very enthusiastic reception from visitors at the National Canoe Exhibition. So much so that our total supply of the publication sold out before the Exhibition closed! A large number of readers have since ordered the book through our Stock List Sales and we apologise for any delay in forwarding copies. A new order has already been sent from America, but as this comes by 2nd Class Surface, there may be a delay of some weeks before we have the new supply.

'Camping through France 76' by Nancy and Frederick Tingey: Published by Charles Letts and Company Ltd. Priced at 90 pence.

An excellent modern guide to campsites in France, campsites situated along 14 routes across France from the Channel ports to 22 popular holiday resorts. Information is given on the campsites, grading and capacity, plus listing of historical sites, shopping centres and good value restaurants. Ideal for the independent tourist who wants low cost/high value overnight sites.

'Report of the British Kayak Expedition to Nordkapp'. A comprehensive 60-page report of the highly successful 1975 six-man kayak expedition to the top of Europe – the Nordkapp. The report includes a detailed break-down of the 500 mile journey, complete with maps. In addition and certainly of great interest to all sea canoeists, is a review of all the equipment used. This included many items of new equipment that were tested by the expedition members. Copies of the report are available priced at 75p including postage and packing, from: *Colin Morlock, Old Fisherbeck, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9BB.*

'Canal Architecture in Britain' published by the British Waterways Board. Priced at £1.50. This new full colour book was published at the end of February and tells the story of canalside buildings, locks and aqueducts which are a unique asset to the nation. The Board had won a number of awards for European Architecture Heritage Year projects in 1975, and has

gained a special award for continuing contributions to conservation. The book is in paperback of 10" x 12" format and contains some 60 full colour illustrations. Available by post (£1.80) from: *British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JX.*

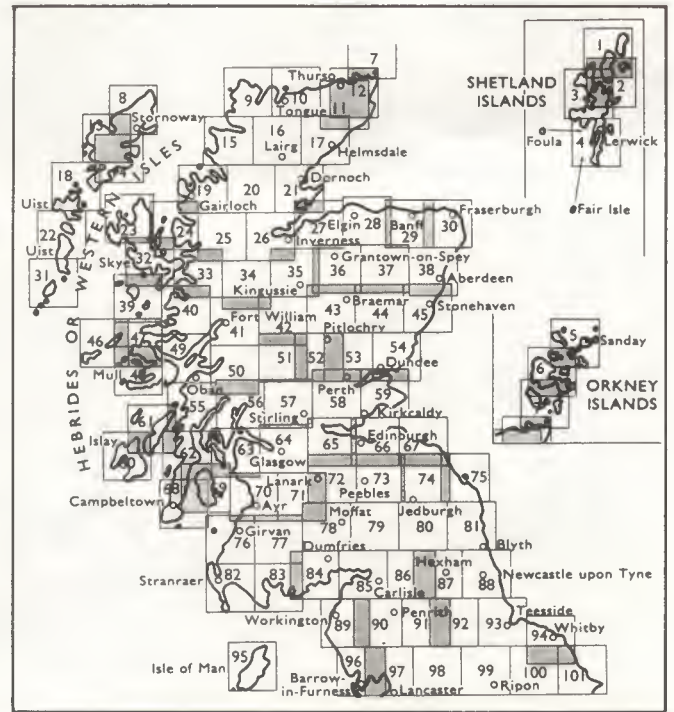
'A Guide to the Northumberland Rivers' published by the North Tyneside White Water Club. Priced at 75 pence.

A useful duplicated guide to a number of Northumberland Rivers including the Breamish Coquet, North Tyne and South Tyne. Some interesting information but a pity line maps could not have been included. Copies available from: *E. Palmer, 108 Holly Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2.*

February saw the publication of the Northern Block of the new 1:50,000 Second Series of the Ordnance Survey Maps, 101 sheets covering the North of England, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. The new maps replace the familiar one-inch series and complete the 204 sheets which now cover the whole of Great Britain.

The maps – at about 1¼-inch to the mile – have modern colouring and new design features to make the map easier to read. The larger scale enables more information in addition to the topographical features, some 600 in all, shown on the First Series Southern Block sheets that were published in 1974.

The maps are on sale in most booksellers and stationers, plus other outlets, and priced at £1.15 a copy.



'Go Canoe' car sticker

'GO CANOE A KAYAK' a catch phrase thought up by your editor is now available as an attractive car sticker to go on inside of car window – thus cannot be used on craft – and printed on self-adhesive vinyl in blue on white background to a diameter of 4¼". Already some 500 cars throughout the country advertise our sport wherever they go...

The car stickers are available at 30p each including VAT and postage from: *Canoeing Magazine, The Chapel, 19 Main Street, Hemington, Derby DE7 2RB.*



SurfYak kayak

Following the cessation of kayak manufacture by the Wild Water Centre, the firm's surf kayak – the SurfYak – is now to be produced by *Topcraft Ltd., 324a Birmingham Road, Walsall WS5 3NE.*





Canoes and kayak from the Old Town range.



Old Town Canoe Company

The Old Town Canoe Company, U.S.A., is entering its ninth decade of manufacturing this year. A broad selection of canoes, kayaks, and rowing craft are designed for pleasure, competition, and work, while construction ranges from wood/canvas, fibreglass and ABS thermo-plastics. Full details of the 1976 Old Town range are available from: *Old Town Canoe Company, Beaver Street, Old Town, Maine 04468, U.S.A.*

Gaybo to market Kober Paddles

Following negotiations with Kober Sportgerate of Germany, Gaybo Ltd. have managed to secure a regular supply of Kober Paddles for the English market. These paddles are among the most widely used in the World for slalom and rough water, and famous for their quality and durability. After some little absence from the British canoeing scene, these paddles make a welcome return.

Also now available from Gaybo is the newest slalom kayak in Europe – the Lettmann Meister. Although not quite as radical as the Perfekt, this kayak retains an extremely low profile with similar hull form at bow and stern, but the deck plan is conventional – no spikes! Since its introduction at the February Crystal Palace Canoe Exhibition, the Meister has already been acclaimed as another real winner. . . . Full details of the Kober Paddles and the Lettmann Meister are available from: *Gaybo Ltd., 4 Rose Hill, Brighton BN2 3FA.*

New surf models

Extrasport UK Ltd. announce that they are now able to offer the most comprehensive range of surf kayaks available in Europe – if not in the World. They are able to supply a surf kayak to suit a paddler of any weight for any purpose.

The new range of models comprise the Ripper, a buoyant kayak for anyone up to sixteen stones in weight and suited to most wave conditions; the Stripper, a hard railed, fish-tailed kayak suited to even the steepest of waves and is fast becoming the choice of the discriminating paddler; and the range of 'Flow' designs.

The Flow designs, the prototypes of which were on display at the National Canoe Exhibition at Crystal Palace, comprise the Skimmer, a round railed, venturi tailed summer-wave boat which

has undergone stringent testing and approval by the Army Canoe Union; and the Stinger, probably the most radical design introduced in this country, being of extra hard sting-rail and swallow tailed. The former has extreme manoeuvrability and is an ideal craft for anyone up to thirteen stones and the British wave conditions. The latter promises to be one of the fastest surf machines in Britain, while still retaining a high degree of manoeuvrability.

Extrasport also offer a range of surf kayak accessories including Paddle Leashes, retractable fin systems, adjustable fins and fin-boxes, Extra-fit neoprene spraydecks, and a complete range of wetsuits. Full details available from: *Extrasport UK Ltd., 77 Plymouth Avenue, Brighton BN2 4JA.*

(News just in is that the British Stripper surf kayak took first place at the New Jersey International Surf Championships.)

Flaretec Skyblazer

As noted in our last issue, **Valley Canoe Products** are now stocking the Flaretec Skyblazer, a unique self-contained launcher and flare which weighs only 1oz, floats and is completely waterproof, reaches altitudes of 300 to 400ft, and is visible over a number of miles. The below photograph of the Skyblazer illustrates the compact nature of this emergency aid. Details available from: *Valley Canoe Products, Private Road 4, Colwick, Nottingham.*



Flaretec Skyblazer.



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TOPCRAFT LTD., 324a Birmingham Road, Walsall, Staffs. Tel: 0922-28329

TRYLON LTD., Thrift Street, Wollaston, Wellingborough, Northants. Tel: 093-363 275

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FOR SALE - MOONRAKER single seater racing kayak. GRP hull, ply deck, weight 30lb. Plus paddles and spraydeck. In excellent condition having never been used - £50.00 o.n.o. for quick sale. Tel: Seaton 21140 (Devon).

FOR SALE - BRAND NEW BAT V, 1/h J.H. wooden-shaft blades, Harishok jacket, Crash Helmet, and Anorak. £40.00 the lot. Tel: 051-546 5705 (after 5pm).

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