

CoDe is the official organ of the BCU Coaching Scheme. Members are free to express their views within its pages. Articles and comments therefore reflect the thoughts of the author and do not necessarily state the policy of the National Coaching Committee. CoDe is programmed for publication with Focus. Contributions, including pictures, are welcome. Please send them to: BCU, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham. NG2 5AS

Editor: Director of Coaching

THE AIM OF THE BCU COACHING SCHEME IS:

To promote the sport and recreation of canoeing and to ensure that newcomers are introduced to canoeing in a safe and enjoyable way and that they and those already in the sport are assisted to progress to whatever level and in whichever discipline within canoeing suits them best.

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Due to the present pressures on staff, and the fact that the last two issues of CoDe were of 12-pp size, this edition is restricted to 4 pp. We plan to return to an 8pp issue in August.

Please remember that CoDe can only be as good as its contributors. Your thoughts, ideas, coaching hints and tips, are needed if we are to continue to provide a worthwhile publication.

LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE !

The whole world of outdoor activities is under considerable scrutiny at the present time. This is only right and to be expected in the light of the terrible tragedy at Lyme Bay.

Because of the process of law, it is not possible to publicly state the obvious. We are caught in a situation where frank comment is not an option, but where there is no restraint on the media. Consequently, everyone with any knowledge of the situation itself, or who is thought to be in a position to hold a reasonable opinion - whether that is the case, or not - is pestered and pressured to express a view, and asked direct questions which are out of order until all the facts are established through the due processes of law or official enquiry.

One of the prices we pay for the privilege of a 'free press' is that news gathering has become a highly competitive and lucrative business. The claim that something is 'in the public interest' is all the excuse that is needed for a journalist to 'investigate' a matter about which they possess little or no knowledge, do not have the time to develop an understanding, and whose main concern is with getting the story out ahead of their rivals. The importance of a story's 'impact', and with finding an 'angle', often takes precedence over the establishment and relevance of facts. The true significance of an event can therefore be missed, while unnecessary alarm may be raised in unconnected areas.

The sad occurrence at Lyme Bay has led to a considerable re-appraisal of procedures for governing the safety of all activities. Sensible, involved, and caring people throughout the country have automatically taken on board the implications, and sought to ensure that a similar accident should not recur. Without media hype and distortion the processes of enquiry would proceed more swiftly. Any lessons to be learned would be applied more speedily and sensibly. The continuing agony for the parents, created by the present delays, would be alleviated.

The law requires us to exercise due 'duty of care'. Once an accident has occurred, a precedent is established, and anyone repeating the actions which led to an established accident, is guilty of negligence. It is therefore vital that we take on board, and make known through publicity and in our training programmes, the factors involved.

For the present, suffice it to say: Beware offshore winds with novices on lake or sea. Let's be careful out there !

NOTICE BOARD

RCO/LCO ELECTIONS

The following posts are subject to election/re-election. Current Coaching Scheme members from the regional or local panel concerned are invited to submit alternative nominations, which must be proposed and seconded.

Nominations must be received by the Director of Coaching at the BCU office on or before Friday 2 July 1993.

In the event of no further nominations being received the appointees listed will be confirmed. Should alternative nominations be made, a ballot will be announced in the next edition of CoDe.

West Midlands

Herefordshire

Vacant

Eastern Region

RCO

Dave Coggins has retired.

Paul West, 33 Risedale, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9NW has been appointed subject to election.

LCOs

Bedfordshire

Previously vacant. Trevor Wadsworth, 16 Lodge Road, Rushton, Northampton NN10 9HA has been appointed subject to election.

South Cambridgeshire

Vacant

Nominations/alternative nominations, proposed and seconded by current members of the Coaching Panel concerned, may be made as outlined above.

Unless proposed and seconded by LCOs, nominations for candidates for RCO-ship must be signed by at least 5 current members of the Coaching Region.

There having been no further nominations the following are confirmed as having been elected/re-elected.

RCO East Midlands

Keith Sykes, 39 Daleside, Woodside Park, Cotgrave, Notts. NG12 3QN.

LCOs West Midlands

Birmingham

Nick Peter, 31 Snowhill Drive, Cheswick Green, Solihull, B90 4JT
Worcestershire

Peter Brough, 11 Pedmore Close, Woodrow South, Redditch B98 7XB.

Wolverhampton

Dave Hart, Sneyd Water Activities Centre, Vernon Way, Bloxwich, Walsall.

NO TIME REQUIREMENT

Would Examiners please note that for several years now there has been no requirement for a set period of time to elapse between training and assessment for awards. Provided the candidate can show the relevant 'class contact' time - 20 hours for Instructor, a further 30 hours for Senior Instructor - experience gained prior to the training course for Instructor and/or Senior Instructor, may count.

ACU IS NOT JS

The Joint Services Instructor Award is currently recognised as an equivalent to BCU Instructor. If a serviceman joins the BCU and produces a copy of his or her Joint Services Canoeing Instructor certificate, they are registered as a BCU Instructor.

This does NOT apply, however, to the Army Canoe Union Instructor award, which merely exempts the candidate from BCU 3-Star in order to attend an Instructor training course, or from BCU Proficiency in order to attend a Senior Instructor training course.

An ACU Instructor will normally have to become a BCU Instructor before proceeding to Senior Instructor training and assessment.

Adoption of BCU awards by the Services

Negotiations in progress at the present time should lead to the Services adopting BCU qualifications throughout. Once this is in place, it is planned that a serviceman who elects not to join the BCU at the time of undertaking the training or assessment, will not be recognised once they leave the Services, and will have to pursue the whole training and assessment procedure again.

Until there is a formal notice regarding this, however, the situation as stated in the first three paragraphs applies.

RE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Correspondence has indicated that misunderstanding still exists regarding the policy concerning the requirement for continuous membership for the holding of coaching qualifications.

Please note that the Rules for Reinstatement to the Coaching Scheme, following a lapse in membership, require that where the lapse is for less than five years, reinstatement is automatic upon payment of the current year, and the ONE previous year's membership. This is waived where there has been absence abroad which was notified in advance.

Examiner gradings are dropped by a factor of one after three years absence.

Where the lapse is for more than five years, the opinion of a grade II examiner may be sought to determine whether the person concerned should be offered reinstatement automatically, reinstated at a lower level of qualification, or required to re-train and/or re-assess.

Individual membership

When an individual renews late, whether they hold a coaching qualification or not, the membership is backdated to the start of their membership year. eg my membership expires on 31 October. If I do not renew until, say, the Exhibition in February, my expiry date will still be 31 October.

If I missed a whole year, and then renewed at the following Exhibition, which would be 16 months later, my membership expiry date would change to 28 February from then on. However, I would not have my coaching qualifications reinstated unless I also paid the fee applicable to the previous year.

It should be obvious that unless this was the case, there would be a rolling slippage, and annual income from membership fees could be halved.

1994 CONFERENCE OF COMPETITION COACHES

The first weekend in February remains the date for the Competition Coaches Conference. A worthwhile programme is planned around the theme of 'working together' as discussed at this year's very successful get-together.

Please reserve the date.

1993 COACHING CONFERENCE

London is the venue for this year's Conference to be held from 9-10 October. Apart from a presentation and open forum on the development of the tests and awards and NVQs, practical sessions will involve rolling clinics, marathon and polo.

Full details will be sent direct to all Coaching Organisers shortly. Other members are invited to send a sac to the BCU office for details.

Dear CoDe

Dear CoDe,

Although in general I agreed with the comments on Tim Midwinter's suggestions for the coaching scheme in CoDe 50, there was a good idea in it that seems a shame to lose. I would therefore like to field the following idea.

The Instructor and Senior Instructor awards would contain two modules:

- 1 Non-specific coaching skills, including:
 - a) Teaching and learning methods
 - b) The coaching system and infrastructure
 - c) First aid and non-specific safety
 - d) An overall knowledge of the range and variety of canoeing.
- 2 Discipline specific skills and knowledge, including:
 - a) Discipline specific teaching and learning methods
 - b) First aid and appropriate safety and rescue
 - c) Detailed knowledge and Experience
 - d) Related applications, eg competition, expeditioning etc.
 - e) Equipment

When being assessed for Instructor or SI the candidate would be required to pass the non-specific skills module and an appropriate discipline specific module (for Instructor the specific modules would only be kayak and canoe). If the Instructor or SI wishes to extend his qualification to other disciplines he would then only need to train and be assessed in the new discipline specific module.

This would make administration of the scheme easier and cheaper due to the common modules, and reduce the cost to members of extending qualifications by reducing the proportion to be re-assessed. If an SI re-validation scheme is adopted the risk of an SI losing his non-specific skills is greatly reduced, hence removing the main reason to require full assessment in a second discipline. Modularisation would also allow awards to be more easily reviewed and for the standard to be raised without having to overhaul the whole coaching award scheme.

DAVID MILLER, Bransgore, Hampshire.

Dear CoDe,

I'm sorry to join the debate on the Revision to the Tests and Awards Scheme so late (after 1 March) but my comments have been sparked off more by the (Feedback) report in CoDe 50 than by the Proposals detailed in CoDe 49.

The relevant section in CoDe 50 reads: 'Existing rights should be maintained. Why should an examiner have had to have worked on an SI course in past two years to maintain status, as well as attend an assessors course? *Answer:* If an examiner has not been working within the last two years at the right level is he or she still in touch with the standard?'

If it is clear - and the point is arguable - that two years abstinence from SI training/assessment results in a loss of touch with the required standard, surely the proviso should be written in to the granting of Assessor 2(SI) status - ie if any period of two years passes during which the Assessor fails to train or assess any SI candidates then the status itself is automatically relinquished. There seems to be no good reason for clearing what appears to be regarded as dead wood only now and again - eg at such infrequent occasions as when major revision of the Tests and Award Scheme takes place. If Assessors do lose touch in this way and a single clear out is made now, a new collection of dead wood may be expected to build up from the day the revised system is inaugurated.

Rather than simply taking away an existing right, would it not be preferable to make the renewal of status after a lapse of activity conditional on assisting at an SI training/assessment conducted by another Assessor? In fact, if a two-year lapse from conducting either an SI training course or an SI Assessment OR assisting at either an SI Training course or an SI assessment resulted in the dreaded loss of status, the increase in Assessor cross-fertilisation (which I would expect to see following such a ruling) might go a long way towards creating the consistency of standards that is so desirable in the Coaching Scheme. It might even prove a more effective lever towards common standards than the current E2 Seminars.

S B BRUNNING, Bexley, Kent.

Dear CoDe,

Just a few lines to correct Tim Midwinter's misconceptions about the Placid Water Progression, (reference his article on the Redefinition of the Coaching Scheme Awards in April CoDe 50).

He seems to be under the impression that the scheme is designed purely to develop sprint racing and associated paddling.

The principle of the placid water philosophy is about going places in the most suitable, easy to paddle craft, with the least effort for the distance paddles, and open cockpit kayaks are ideal for this purpose unless the type of water paddled requires a closed cockpit boat.

The provision is there for those who want to, to move on to sprint or marathon racing, but it is by no means the sole purpose of the Placid Water Progression with its open cockpit boats.

JACKIE WYNNE-FREER, Gwynedd

Dear CoDe

Willy Maqueen of the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Turangi, New Zealand, tel. 0-7-386-5511, fax 0-7-386-0204, together with his wife would like to exchange with a couple from this country. They live in accommodation at the centre which is located on North Island close to Lake Tampo, and the volcanoes of Tongario, Ngauruho and Ruapehu (9175').

Anyone interested should contact Will direct as predictably I know little else. There is a possibility of organising the exchange through the League for Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers which pays for the flight and gives a grant of about £500. (Nothing to do with Hoover offers!).

I have been sent this information by a friend who is having a sickeningly good time out there with his family, teaching in a school which had a residential at the centre.

PHIL AIREY, Nelson OE Centre

DOCTOR REQUIRED FOR THE YUKON

An expedition to the Yukon planned for the autumn is in need of a Doctor to join the party. If you are medically qualified, or know of someone who may be interested, please contact the Regional Chairman for the South West, Terry Cripps, 9 Grindal Drive, Grange Park, Swindon, Wilts.

STAFF REQUIRED

Sea/Sun School Tours

The above company requires instructors for canoeing, sailing and windsurfing, for resorts in France and Spain, for the summer period. £180 per month plus board and lodging. Please apply to Sea/Sun House, 4 East Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 2XW.

Operation Raleigh

Operation Raleigh operates in Zimbabwe, Guyana, Alaska, and Russia. The system has to be self funding, and staff have also to make the £1,000 contribution to costs. Qualified canoeists are required. Please apply to Raleigh International, Raleigh House, 27 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 4HS.

INCIDENTS FILE

Apart from a reminder regarding the importance of buoyancy in the boat, the last time that notes needed to be issued recommending an amendment to established practice, or reinforcing what should have been standard practice, because of lessons learned following a canoeing accident was more than ten years ago. Fingle's Law (Murphy's Law to some) dictates that we should be issuing two warnings following events occurring within a matter of days after the Lyme Bay tragedy!

OPEN CANOE FUN - A WARNING

A serious incident has occurred involving the swamping of a canoe. The exercise was the commonly used fun event of piling a group of children into one canoe, in the expectation that it will 'swamp'.

We are all aware of the enjoyment that this engenders, and the countless times that it has occurred.

In this instance, the children were young - 9-10 year olds. The canoe 'flipped' instead of swamping. The instructor relied on a head count, and pulled the children out of the cold water rather than turning the canoe upright immediately.

Unbeknown to the instructor, an additional child had jumped in whilst he was getting into his own boat. When the canoe was righted, a small girl was found trapped underneath. Fortunately she was discovered in time, and the instructors concerned were highly competent in resuscitation techniques.

This is a very salutary happening to occur in what most of us would regard as a safe, fun activity. However, the obvious solution to ensure that the accident cannot recur, is to always take a final head-count, and to always turn the canoe upright immediately should it capsize rather than swamp.

A SURFING SAGA

Some 11 year olds were being introduced to surfing on wave skis. The diagonally off-shore wind was blowing force 5 (the Handbook states that force 2-3 is the maximum for novices). The onshore waves were very small.

A number of straight forward sessions of a similar nature had been conducted by the Centre in the current season, including one in the morning of the day in question.

A 'buddy' system was operating, as recommended. The beach was a simple, shallow surf beach with no particular hazards. Two instructors were running the group, with a member of the school staff present also.

Within moments of going afloat for the afternoon session, it became obvious that the youngsters were going to drift out, and they were called back in. Three made it, but three began to drift out. There was no immediate danger but the instructors were not equipped with tow lines. Rather than risk a delayed rescue, therefore, the rescue services were immediately called out, and the three children were taken to hospital. Mild hypothermia was diagnosed, and they were kept in overnight, particularly because the accommodation was tented.

It is vital to always have tow lines to hand, and ideally a kayak, in order to be equipped to redeem a situation such as this.

The mis-reading of the potential danger of the off-shore wind, which does have similarities with the Lyme Bay tragedy, is worrying.

Attention is drawn to our standard warning to Instructors when operating close inshore on 'holiday beaches on nice days': **the greatest of caution must always be exercised when even the lightest of offshore breezes is blowing**.

COACHING COMMODITIES

WATERPROOF PAPER (A4) is again in stock. Please note the new price:

£2.50 for 11 sheets; £9.00 for 46 sheets

(both inclusive of postage and packing)

CANOE POLES are still in stock.

Bamboo poles are 15' long, ideal for teaching the basics of canoe poling. Available for collection from Nottingham. Can be sent by carrier, or possibly transported to mutually convenient venue. £4.50 each. Transport extra if sent by carrier.

Aluminium poles - 4m long - available as above. £19.50 each.

PLASTICISED STAR TEST MARKING SHEETS

The new plasticised marking sheets for Star Tests were introduced at the International Canoe Exhibition, and proved immediately popular. The sets of 5 cards on a ring binder, on A5 encapsulated in plastic, provide the syllabus and marking sheets for the 1-3 Star Tests, and the Inland Proficiency.

Stipulate whether for KAYAK or CANOE, and send cheque for £5, please, to the BCU office.

SCOTTISH AND NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The present situation

No governing body of sport has yet received full accreditation for its awards scheme, although some are fairly well along the line.

Considerable misunderstanding still exists as to how the NVQs will work for sport. There is a certain amount of 'jumping the gun' and 'leaping onto bandwagons' occurring in the field. We have direct channels of communication to the very top through the staff appointed by Sports Council to assist governing bodies. A number of issues have been raised, and reassurance gained, following expressions of concern from members because of statements that have been made - sometimes by officials - locally.

There is a belief, for instance, that once a person is an Assessor or Verifier for NVQs in any industry, they can automatically assess in any other. So far as sport is concerned, however, the power to appoint assessors and internal verifiers for the qualifications within that sport will remain the prerogative of the governing body concerned. Whilst we cannot require a person to repeat assessor or verifier training (which is generic) therefore, whether or not an individual can practice as an assessor or verifier for canoeing qualifications remains subject to appointment as at present.

The BCU is one of the first governing bodies to be assisted towards achieving full S/NCVQ recognition.

Currently working parties are revising the basic skills definitions, and progressions. The tests are not part of NVQs, but are obviously pertinent to them. It would be foolish to revise the awards against the requirements of S/NCVQ, without first ensuring that the building blocks and progressions of the basic skills were sound.

It is planned to serialise the revised notes for the basic skills and tests progressions in CoDe, to obtain maximum feedback.

The main S/NVQ working party will re-convene (planned for late June) to build up the detail of the awards structure against the principles outlined in previous editions of CoDe, and against the parameters and ingredients stated as necessary for coaching qualifications by the industry lead body of the S/NCVQ.

When we are much further along the line the first assessor and verifier training courses will be staged.

Watch this space!

STARTING IN SLALOM

A number of the very useful 'Slalom Starter Packs' were sent for, following the notice concerning their availability in the last edition of CoDe.

Please note that whilst any boat may be used by under 13s in divisions 3, 4 and 5, for others the boat must be at least 3.5m long.

For the 'high volume' class in divisions 3, 4 and 5 the minimum measurement is 3.35m long.

Please note also that on the list of helmets approved for slalom, the entry 'Perception' should read 'Pro Tec'.

If you have not yet received your 'starter pack' please send to the Slalom Administrator: Sue Wharton, 117 Preston Road, Chorley PR6 7AX (0257 262051 - fax: 0257 231180).