

**THE EXE  
DESCENT  
1971**

The Exe Descent.

Officials.

Starters & Timekeepers.

Messrs.

I. Doble  
P. Barratt.  
D. Barratt.

Briefing.  
Secretary.  
Commentator.  
Course Clearance.

C. Leach.  
Mrs. Schnepp.  
Mr. Worth.  
S. Pope.  
J. Mingham.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Exeter Canoe Club wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of the following :-

River Exe. Riparian Owners Association.  
M. Lampard. Knightsays Estate.  
Mr. G. Frankpitt, The Fisherman's Cot.  
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Idlesleigh, Pynes Estate.  
Mr. Reddaway, Cowley Barton.  
Sir G. Kennard, Bt. Warnercombe, Tiverton.  
The Proprietor, Ruffwell, Hotel.  
The Proprietor, Trout Inn, Bickleigh.  
Thorverton Roller Mills.  
East Devon Tech. College.  
Exeter Sub-Aqua Club & Dawlish Warren Life Saving Club.  
Venture Scouts & Ranger Guides.  
Exeter City Police.  
Westward & B.B.C. Television.  
The Canoe Centre, Crediton.  
Emmanual Scouts.  
Reading University.  
Parents & Friends.  
Reed & Smith, Paper Mills.

In August 1968 a party of canoeists from Exeter Canoe Club travelled to Ireland to compete in the International Liffey Descent. Impressed by the spectacular weirs and rapids, they realised that on their own doorstep was a course which was very similar, with more weirs, and if the right flood conditions could be guaranteed, was a race which could rival the Liffey Descent and definitely be the toughest in England.

The Liffey is fortunate in that it has a large dam eight miles from the start of the course, which discharges thousands of gallons of water to flood the river and create thundering weirs and rapids.

Here was a problem. No dam on the Exe. A calculation of the rain charts for the Exmoor area showed that November was a wet month, so the water could almost be guaranteed for a race in the middle of the month.

Based on the Liffey with Frog-men on all the weirs, a race was quickly organised and Canoe Clubs in England were informed that a new race to equal the Liffey was to be held on the 16th November 1968.

Seventy entries were received and panic broke out amongst the organisers. The expected rain didn't come until the Friday before the race day. Not enough time to bring the river up they thought. However, the rain kept coming and on race day the river, although low, showed rapids where rocks had been and the weirs were all shootable.

At 12 noon the first class was away, and two Exeter pairs took the lead, which they held until the first Kayak paddled by C. Leach and P. Schep broke in two at Thorverton. The first crunch on the Exe was happily preserved on film. And so the canoeists raced on to Cowley Steps, where spectators cheered those who shot successfully and commiserated with those who capsized.

A good report in the Canoeing and public press, also T.V. coverage ensured the annual running of the event. However Salmon Disease on the Exe during 1969 caused a temporary halt until 1970.

150 competitors entered in ten classes gathered at Salmon Ponds weir for the second Exe Descent and found the river in flood. Just what we wanted.

With so many competitors it was inevitable that many would capsize at the first weir, which they did. Fifty percent capsized before Thorverton but the hundreds of spectators saw great racing amongst the leading Canoeists.

In the K1 singles Barry Slee of Exeter and Mick Pawlow of the Royal Signals C.C. were neck and neck. At Thorverton Mick Pawlow was caught in the stopper, but despite having to roll his Kayak he successfully got away to chase after Barry, and after a quick portage at Cowley Steps- which was a boiling torrent of foam & water- caught him to take first place by only seconds.

Only the most experienced paddlers attempted Cowley. One of these Mick Brett, also of the Royal Signals C.C. capsized & lost three feet of his stern. Not to be beaten he found a polythene bag and taped it over the gapping hole, launched his Kayak and finished the course. Such is the determination of the long distance Canoeist.

Once again it is November. People sometimes ask whether the rain will ever stop. But the Canoeist remembers that the Exe is becoming a course to be reckoned with. As long as it stops raining long enough for the race, Canoeists are happy and spectators can be sure to see the trials and tribulations of competitors as they battle in the toughest race in Great Britain.

THE EXE DESCENT.

COMPETITORS OF INTEREST TO SPECTATORS.

Many of the Competitors entered to day have won events or have competed in other notable races and are worthy of note. However it is thought that spectator would be particularly interested in the exceptional paddlers and those entered from the Exeter area.

No. 8. Norman Mason, Bristol Univ/Notts.K.C. 2nd. in K1 and K2 event at the National championships this year. Also competed in the Irish National Championship and gained 2nd. place on the K2 event only seconds down from the winning U.S.A. crew.

No. 9. C.Tatum, Newham C.C. A regular British team member. Gained 3rd. place in 1968 Exe Descent and 2nd. place in this years Exe Estuary Race.

No. 21. G. Tilford, Caterham C.C. One of Great Britain's leading young sprinters

No. 23. A. Bennett, Pangbourne C.C. Another Junior team member. Gained 2nd. place in the National Championships this year and is usually seen dicing it with:

No. 24. Tim Cornish, Longridge who represented Great Britain in Spain and competed in last years Exe Descent but unfortunately broke his boat in half. However after a major repairs he is paddling the same boat today.

No. 42. Dave Green and Anthony Stonely, Credition K.C. Dave until recently was National long distance coach and together with Anthony is a force to be reckoned with on Descent courses.

No. 30. Mrs. Clair Allan, Penzance C.C. Due to distance Clair has to travel to races from Penzance therefore is not able to compete as much as other lady competitors. However this has not stopped her winning the Exe Estuary Race 3 times and both Exe Descent.

No. 38. Colin Leach and Allan Bauer. Colin is chairman of Exeter Canoe Club and organiser of the Descent. Allan was treasurer of the club until recently moving to London to take up a teaching post. Last year he was the only competitor to shoot Cowley Steps in a K1 successfully.

No. 58. Andrew Worth and Paul Morrish. Andrew who is 18 started Canoeing when only 13 years old. Paul is 16 and started in a second hand slalom 16 months ago. Together they have been winning a number of events this season.

No. 121. John Escott has only been paddling for 9 months and has rapidly progressed and its his first race. John is also a keen trials rider and skin diver.

No. 4. Phillip Schnepf a member of Exeter Canoe Club but now races under Reading University colours. He represented Great Britain in the International Sella Race 2 years ago. Is an expert canoe surfer and keen gymnast.

No. 240. John Doble partnered by Dave Barrett our chief marshall gained second place in the touring doubles class during this years Liffey Descent.

No. 6. Mike Fennessy from Credition is mainly a white water Paddler and is at present at teacher training college.

No. 7. Albert Labbett also from Credition was first in the Slalom Class in the 1968 Exe Descent. Albert is also an expert Canoe Surfer.

We hope that this will help you, the spectator, to pick paddlers out and do please give them all a cheer. They're earning it!!!

## COURSE AND VANTAGE POINTS. (SEE MAP)

Vantage Point No. 1. One of the most exciting points of the race will be Salmon Ponds weir, which is 500 yds. from the start. Here Canoeists are still bunched together fighting for a clear shoot over the weir.

Having negotiated the weir, the competitors pass through a section of tight bends on a steep downhill gradient with large hay-stacks (high standing waves caused by rocks or irregularity on the river bed) and through Tiverton to:-

Vantage Point No. 2. Tiverton Weir number one is very tricky and canoes can be badly damaged here due to large rocks and sharp concrete left by the flood prevention works. Through the bridge and round the corner comes Tiverton weir number two. Spectators should see competitors over both of these weirs as they are very close and should not be missed.

Vantage No. 3. Tiverton Weir number two is usually shot close to the right hand bank. Spectators will notice the long white wave which rolls back on itself. We call this a stopper because it tends to stop the canoeist if large enough, causing a capsize which by now you will realise is not the thing to do. Safely through, the next three miles consist of rapids and fast water for the canoeist and gives the spectator time to make it to :-

Vantage No. 4. Where we hope you will make use of the car park. The picturesque Bickleigh Bridge & Weir causes more problems for the competitor in that the canoe must take the correct line through the bridge to successfully shoot the weir, this cannot be seen as they come through the bridge. On then to Island Rapids which is private land and then the first of the big weirs: THORVERTON which is :-

Vantage No. 5. Here double canoes shoot the weir sideways to avoid breaking in half due to the length of their craft, (this requires a high degree of skill) while singles use the traditional method. Through the whitewater at the bottom of the weir canoe and canoeist are almost lost from view. An exciting weir for canoeist and spectator alike.

The river now becomes wider but with tight bends sitting under trees which the paddler must avoid like the plague. The Canoeists now must use all his paddling fitness to over take other paddlers who are feeling the strain of the rough and tumble of long distance racing on the Exe.

On then to Four Pines Weir which can be reached by a hike across the fields. A steep weir with a large stopper wave which can suck a competitor back into it- requiring all his strength before a capsize occurs.

Last but by no means least comes the NOTORIOUS COWLEY STEPS.

Vantage No. 6. Here the tired competitor may carry his canoe round the weir, which wastes many seconds, but is very much safer. To competitors attempting a shoot, a correct line is essential to break through the rearing stopper wave at the bottom of the weir. Competitors capsizing here are glad to get out of the water as soon as possible, leaving their boats to float down by themselves.

From here to the finish the competitor at last breathes a sigh of relief that the worst is over, but he must still press tired muscles to keep opposition behind and make for the finishing line.

That is the course then :- 19 miles of hard and tricky paddling, with eight weirs and three major sets of rapids, and usually a river in flood. Any Canoeist who completes the course can be proud of his or her achievement, as the Exe Descent is truly a challenge against men and nature.

### TYPES OF CANOE.

To help the spectator identify the different classes, the following is a list of the various types of Kayak being used to day:-

K2:- Double Racing Kayak. Dimensions governed by International specification. Maximum length 21 Ft. 3.90". Minimum breadth 21.65"

K1:- Single Racing Kayak. Maximum length 17Ft. 0.72" Minimum breadth 20.08".

Class 4 racing version of touring Kayak.

Class 3 Racing version of touring Kayak.

Slalom Kayak. Kayak specifically designed for manoeuvrability but speed is slow compared with K1.

White Water Kayak. A compromise between a Slalom and a racing Kayak, is quite fast and quite manoeuvrable.

### RACE RULES

In the event of a capsize, the competitor may be assisted from the water and receive assistance removing and emptying the canoe.

Team supporters may only supply spare paddles or repair kits and may not assist in the repair work.

Male competitors may not receive any assistance in the course of a portage or re-entering the race after a capsize.

Lady competitors may receive assistance at portages.

All 'K' class kayaks must meet I.C.F. specification requirements.

All competitors must be able to swim and personal buoyancy must be worn throughout the race; canoes must carry sufficient buoyancy.

For infringement of these rules, disqualification will be automatic.

Well now you have watched real canoe sport and probably you would like to know more about the sport.

You are fortunate in that Exeter Canoe Club caters for all branches of canoe sport and for all ages from 14 years. Canoeists competing today range from 15 to 62 so you are never too old. Who knows? with a bit of training you could be taking part next year.

Perhaps you prefer not to get wet? Well we can always do with help in organising, and fund raising activities to provide better facilities and club training boats for young members. Canoe sport is an activity for the whole family and once you get involved you will enjoy the friendliness and social life of the club.

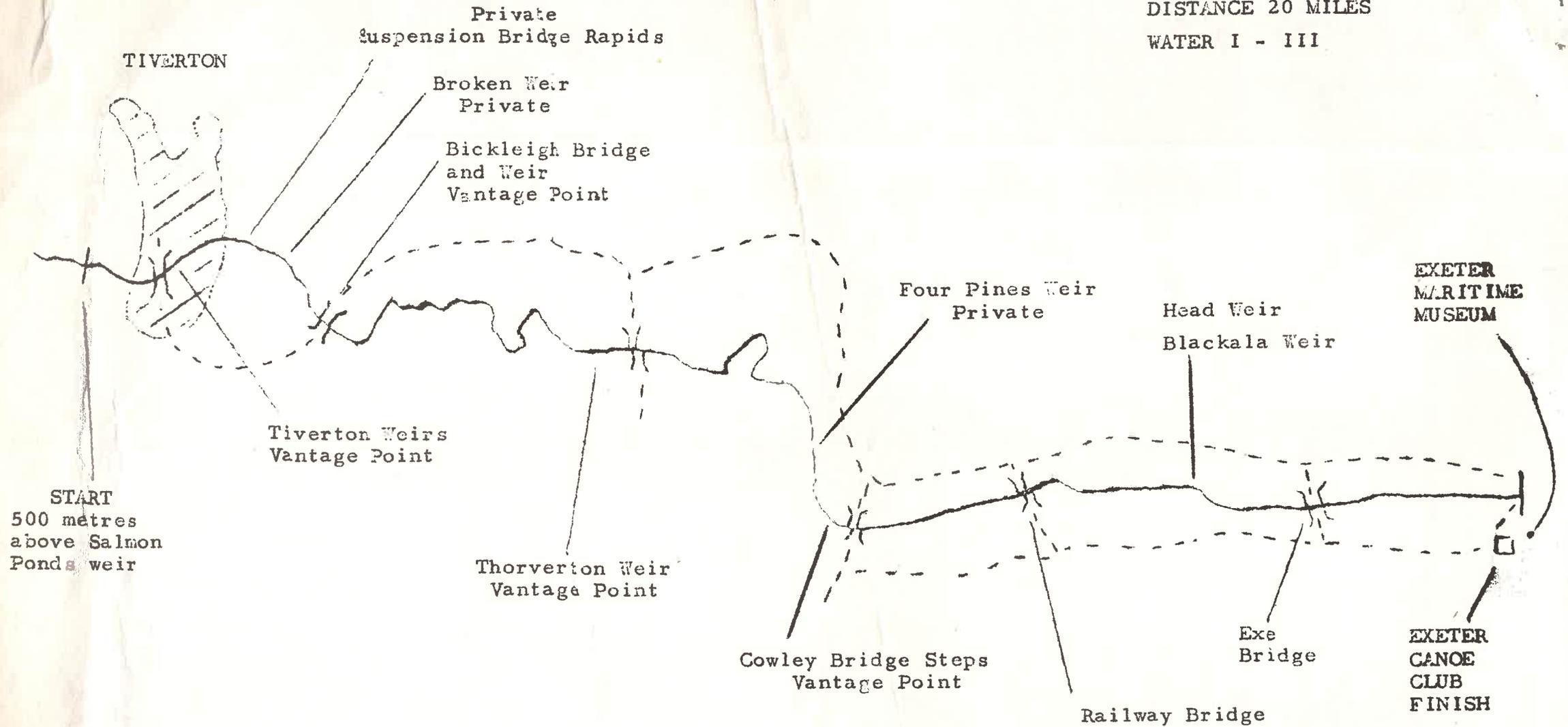
On Sunday 28th. November 1971 at 12 noon we are holding a 6 mile race on the Exeter Canal. While not as exciting as the Exe Descent it affords the younger canoeists and less experienced competitors the opportunity to have a race. If you have a canoe or would like to spectate this event you are assured of a warm welcome.

More information on this race or on the club and canoe sport in general can be obtained from our Secretary, Mrs. M.H. Schnepp 139, Monks Rd. Exeter.

MAP - NOT TO SCALE

DISTANCE 20 MILES

WATER I - III



E X E D E S C E N T

Note: Spectators and canoeists observe the Country Code and report offenders. The future of the race depends on Y O U. Use vantage points only.

3rd EXE DESCENT RACE 14th Nov 1971.

START SHEET.

Class 1a. Senior K1.

1.	M. Perrin	Caterham C.C.	
2.	H. Hoskins	Wiltshire Ass. of Canoeists.	Hunter
3.	F. Hamond	Cambridge Univ C.C.	Hunter
4.	P. Schnepf	Reading Univ C.C.	
5.	G. Hardy	R.A.F. Wyton C.C.	Glass Hunter
6.	M. Fennessy	Crediton K.C.	Scimitar
7.	A. Labbett	" "	"
8.	N. Mason	Bristol Univ/Motts K.C.	G. Hunter
9.	C. Tatum	Newham C.C.	
10.	J. Postlethwaite	Exeter C.C.	
11.	T. Fieldus	Caterham C.C./A.C.U.	Lancer
12.	P. Lee	Longridge C.C.	
13.	R. Davis	Itchen Valley C.C.	
14.	P. Marshall	R.N.K.A.	Hunter

Class 1b. Junior K1.

21.	G. Tilford	Caterham C.C.	
22.	M. Blacker	Newham C.C.	Scimitar
23.	A. Bennett	Pangbourne C.C.	Lancer
24.	T. Cornish	Longridge C.C.	hunter
25.	I. White	" "	Pointer
26.	P. Lavars	Itchen Valley C.C.	
27.	D. Greenop	Army App. College C.C.	
28.	A. Blackwell	" " " "	
29.	J. Fowler	20th Bromley Scouts.	Espada.

Class 2a. Senior K2.

35.	G. Hunter/I Bourn	Maidstone C.C.	Glider
36.	M. Bull/R. Story	Royal Signals C.C.	Glider
37.	P. Jones/G. Hill	Bourne Youth Wing	Glider
38.	C. Leach/A. Bauer	Exeter C.C.	Mirage
39.	G. Tipler/J Ashcroft	R.A.F. Wyton C.C.	Mirage
40.	R. Lawton /P. Golby	" " "	G. Glider
41.	A. Hill/M. Foulger	Harlow C.C.	
42.	D. Green/ A. Stoneley	Crediton K.C.	Mirage
43.	J. Whitehead/ N. Briggs.	Bristol Univ C.C.	G. Glider
44.	D. Courtman/A. Dains	Newham C.C.	
45.	T. Tandy/M. Purchase	Bradford on Avon C.C.	
46.	P. Brett/M. Brett	Caterham C.C./A.C.U	
47.	B. Jones/D. Robinson	Univ. of London C.C.	Olympus
48.	Angill /Stanley-Clarke	Millfield School	Avoncraft
49.	M. Brown/T. Gould.	Newbury C.C.	Moonraker

Class 2b. Junior K2.

53.	E. Farrell/ T. Hunter	Royal C.C.	
54.	J. Walters/A. Lawrence	" "	
55.	Daniels/ Bulley	Pangbourne/Bourne Y.W.	
56.	J. Jerome/C. Phelps	Newham C.C.	Mirage
57.	D. Rafferty/W. Clarke	Pangbourne C.C.	moonraker
58.	P. Morrish/A. Worth	Exeter C.C.	Moonraker
59.	L. Rogers/S. Webster	Longridge C.C.	Glider
60.	O. Harding/A. Rogers	" "	"
61.	I. Why/P. Raynesford	" "	Merlin
62.	P. Harrison/T. Harrison	Leighton Park School	Mirage.
63.	J. Nichols/B. Jarvis		
64.	S. Wilkins/T. Ling		
65.	C. Johnson/D. Waters.		

Class 3a. Senior Touring Singles & White Water Boats.

66.	K. Wallace	East Cornwall K.C	Shark I.
67.	R. Turner	Maidstone C.C.	Blizzard
68.	C. Avery	Guildford C.C.	W.W.Racer
69.	B. Mitchell	Axbridge Y.C.	Moonraker
70.	R. Ivey	18 AMPH.SQN.R.E.M.E	Spider
71.	B. Yeates	Independant	Sea Otter
72.	C. Tompsett		Suffyak
73.	D. Kiddy		"
74.	P. Cottle	Reading Univ.C.C.	W.W.Racer
75.	P. Spior	" "	"
76.	S. Quick	Leamington Spa.C.C.	
77.	M. Boulton		
78.	S. Miller	Hatfield Polytechnic	Blizzard
79.	M. Russell	Newham C.C.	W.W.Racer
80.	B. Smith	Thames/RAFCA	Moonraker
81.	C. Caines	" "	W.W.Racer
82.	J. Griffiths	Longridge C.C.	Phantom
83.	P. Partridge	" "	Blizzard
84.	F. Farrow	" "	Pointer
85.	A. Burgess		
86.	D. Dalrymple	Itchen Valley C.C.	W.W.
87.	M. Smith	Univ.of London C.C.	Fighter
88.	T. Cox.	R.N.K.A.	Spider
89.	D. Simpson		

Class 3b. Junior Touring Singles & White Water Boats.

94.	B. Jordon	Worcester C.C.	W.W.Racer
95.	R. Shapton	Toddington School C.C.	Rapide
96.	R. Feloy	Dartington	K.L.Mk4.
97.	M. Trevallion	"	Angmasalik
98.	J. Gilbert	Worcester C.C.	K.W.Racer
99.	R. Merritt	Itchen Valley C.C.	W.W.

Class 3c. Open Singles (K1, Touring Singles & White Water Boats)

104.	P. Langford	Longridge C.C.	Espada
105.	S. Burnett	Richmond C.C.	

Class 4a. Senior Touring Doubles

110.	P. Burden/P. Davis	Axbridge Y.C.	Moonraker
112.	A. Snell/A.N. Other	Crediton K.C.	Barracuda
113.	G. Cherry/N. Harper	Hatfield Polytechnic	Avoncraft U.K4
114.	J. Gratton/R. Stone	Tiverton Youth Centre	Tourer
115.	B. Perrett/M. Croft	Leighton Park School	U.K.4.

Class 5a. Mens Slalom

120.	E. Addey	Independant	Klopper S.L.8.
121.	J. Escott	Exeter C.C.	
122.	E. Fletcher		K.W.4
123.	M. Hancock		K.W.4
124.	M. Wise		K.W.4
125.	M. Sutton-Pratt		K.W.4
126.	T. Horne		K.W.7
127.	P. Dearling		K.W.4
128.	S. Robertson	Leaside C.C.	S.L.7
129.	P. Munday	" "	Olympia
130.	B. Sheen	1st. St. Austell Scouts	K.W.3
131.	I. Faulkner	Independant	S.L.7
132.	A. Allen	Penzance C.C.	S.L.7
133.	M. Evans	Independant	Merano
134.	R. Vessey	Mid Herts C.C.	
135.	D. Rice	Blundells School C.S.	
136.	J. Hooker	Mid Herts C.C.	Olympia
137.	J. Rosith	Reading Univ. C.C.	Wildcat
138.	A. Aylen	" " "	
139.	R. Spence	Teddington School C.C.	Scorpion
140.	R. Burnie	" " "	S.L.7
141.	B. Payne	" " "	Isere
142.	R. Stoddart-Stones	Britannis C.C.	Funa

Class 5a Continued.

143	E. Law	Britannia C.C.	Isere
144	C. Squibb	" "	S.L.8
145	C. Jones	Crediton K.C	T.S. Mk 5
146	M. Richards	Penzance C.C.	SVS Mk 3
147	C. Hirst	Hatfield Polytechnic	G.P
148	W. Gatis	" "	K.W.7
149	S. Baxter	" "	G.P
150	C. Hammond	" "	G.P
151	P. MacDonald	" "	G.P.
152	G. Kirby	Pangbourne C.C.	
153	D. Looker	" "	
154	M. Crossman		K.W.4
155	J. Radford	Independant	Kirton Mk4
156	I.G. Sowden	Tiverton Y.C.	
157	J. Burrows	" "	
158	M. Dey.	" "	
159	M. Scally	Leaside C.C.	
160	W. North	" "	
161	G. Argent	" "	
162	S. Oliver	" "	
163	B. Bassett	" "	
164	C. Appleby	" "	
165	A. Cartwright	" "	
166	B. Stanwyck	" "	
167	S. Pask	" "	
168	K. Duke	" "	
169	D. Mills	" "	
170	D. Henry	" "	
171	F. Youngman		
172	R. Hudson	Leighton Park School.	Soar Valley
173	M. Leach	" "	
174	S. Keech	Bristol Univ C.C.	
175	S. Holtorp	Independant	K.W.4.
176	B. Greenham	Royal C.C.	Kirton Comet
177	D. Bellamy	Weir Wolves	
178	F. Lee	" "	
179	G. Gascoigne	" "	
180	P. Gamble	" "	
181	C. Lago	" "	
182	D. Capps	Windsor C.C.	
183	J. Lloyd	" "	
184	G. Ainsworth	Univ. of London C.C.	Olympia
185	N. Hill	" "	Isere
186	G. Yates	" "	500S
187	Preston	Millfield School	Ardoche
188	J. Butt		
189	R. Hulley	Windsor.C.C.	W.W. Racer.
190	G. North	Independant	

Class 5b Junior Slalom.

191	A. Brant	Penzance C.C.	S.L.8
192	P. Lowe	W.S.A & Yeovil C.C.	Mini Slalom
193	G. Lowe	" "	K.W.7
194	R. Lowe	" "	Mendesta 401
195	P. Harvey	Blundells School C.S	
196	P. Banks	" "	
197	M. Udale	Teddington School C.C.	Gnat Mk2.
198	R. Day	" "	" "
199	G. Purchase	" "	S.L.7
200	M. Griffiths	Penzance C.C.	K.W.7
201	P. Fisher	Sherborne School C.C.	Pavel-Bone
202	M. Sutcliffe	" "	Tyrlon-ox
203	B. Keymer	" "	Jaycee-Merano
204	R. Atkins	" "	" "
205	I. Fitzgerald	" "	Kleppers S.L8
206	G. Parker	" "	" S.L.5
207	J. Parker	" "	" "
208	C. Jackson	" "	Soar Valley
209	E. Hobbs	" "	Tyroln-Ox.
210	J. Foot	" "	Soar Valley.

Class 5b Continued.

211. R. Vetta	Pangbourne C.C.	
212. J. Stephenson	Fosters School Sherborne	
213. A. Burch	" "	"
214. I. Paul	" "	"
215. L. Williams	Tiverton Y.C.	
216. M. Thackray	Leighton Park School.	
217. C. Willett	" "	"
218. S. Sprague	" "	"
219. I. Zimmerman	" "	"
220. M. Griffiths	" "	"
221. R. Barbour	" "	"
222. A. Dallimore	Yeovil C.C.	Soar Valley
223. N. Dallimore	" "	" "
224. Baillic	Millfield School	" "
225. Clark	" "	" "
226. Montevs	" "	" "
227. Ashford-Brown	" "	" "
228. Riddel	" "	K.W.4
229. S. Anderson	Reading K.C.	

Class 5c. Ladies Slalom

230. C. Allen	Penzance C.C.	
231. H. Clifton	Univ. of London C.C.	500s.

Class 6. C2s.

235. S. Brooks/M. Harvey	R.A.F.C.A.	Hartung C2
236. B. Roberts/B. Harman	"	"

Competors are reminded that only limited floor space was offered in the instruction sheet and due to the 60 who have indicated their acceptance of this offer, if everyone takes up 6ft by 4ft, there should be no problems. However competitors who wish may camp at the Cat & Fiddle Holiday Park  
Sidmouth Rd, (A3052)  
Clyst St. Mary.  
Nr. Exeter

We thank you all for your entries and trust you will have a pleasant journey and an enjoyable weekend in the Exe Descent Country.