

B R I S T O L C A N O E C L U B

Q U A R T E R L Y N E W S

DECEMBER, 1962

Issue 1. Number 1

To keep members up to date with all the latest information regarding the club, we have decided to publish, at three-monthly intervals, a club magazine. We, therefore, require from you - the members - articles on anything connected with canoeing, whether it is an account of a trip, slalom, race or just one of your pet theories on some aspect of canoeing such as boat design. Letters and even complaints welcomed, also any ideas for the improvement of the club or anything you would like organized. So, anyone in the club who knows how to operate a pen - start writing.

Incidentally, we have received a letter from Roger Holman, who has gone to Jamaica for a year to teach for the Voluntary Service Overseas Organization. Last year, he was one of our most successful slalomists, and, so far as we know, succeeded in getting promotion from the fourth to the third division.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

To some of you, of course, this is an unpleasant word, but, if we are to pay our expenses, such as rent on the building at Keynsham, and indeed to even continue as a club at all, we need money - so if you haven't paid your subscription, would you please do so as soon as possible.

ROLLING:

Mayor's Paddock Baths have been booked for four consecutive Saturday afternoons from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m., commencing on Saturday, 1st December. Canoes and equipment will be supplied, all you need to bring are your swimming trunks and towel. Probable cost - 4s. per session depending on the number of people attending. In addition to rolling, canoe technique will also be taught from the basic to the advanced strokes. So, if you want to try out different types of canoes, or even if you have never been in a canoe, here is your chance to try. Remember the baths are clean and warm to fall in to.

ASSOCIATION OF BRISTOL AVON CANOE CLUBS:

This association, consisting of about ten clubs in the area and supported by the C.O.P.R., has been formed with the idea of distributing information of each club's activities throughout the association, to avoid the clashing of dates and to help and support each others activities where possible.

SOCIAL EVENING WITH FILMS:

A social evening and meeting will be held in January, at which canoeing films will be shown. Mr. Oliver Cook, the National Coach, will be there to give a talk, and answer any questions on canoeing. More details of where and exactly when it will be held will be given later. The date will most probably be 19th January.

EVENTS TO DATE:

Three successful club trips have been held during the past two months. The first, a day cruise on the Avon attended by about fifteen members, consisted of a paddle up to Saltford and back during which a number of people shot, or rather slid down the Jolly Sailor Weir.

A week-end cruise on the River Teme followed, which was attended by about a dozen members, and then a week-end cruise on the River Usk on the 4th November, in conjunction with several other clubs. Accounts of both trips are given below, written by one of the members.

FUTURE TRIPS:

During January, there will be a trip on the River Dart, when the water conditions are suitable, i.e. in flood. This will be suitable only for people with manoevrable single seaters and some white water experience. Rough water grading unknown, since, to the best of our knowledge, it has not been previously canoed, but probably R.W. III-IV.

The starting place for the trip will, we hope, be Dartmeet.

If any member is disappointed in that all these trips seem to be on rapid rivers, this is due to the fact that this is the only time of the year that this type of river has enough water, and the fishermen only allow canoeists on these rivers in the closed season, which is October-March. Also, only really crazy canoeists canoe now, it is too cold for anyone except the fanatics.

During spring and summer, we will be organizing a number of mild water, sea canoeing, and surfing week-ends in which everyone should find something to their liking.

The following are accounts of two recent trips, written by one of the participants:

RIVER TEME - R.W. GRADE II:

B.C.C. spent a pleasant, if unexciting week-end, on the Teme canoeing from Little Hereford Bridge to Ham Bridge over two days. There were no falls of note, although one member managed to capsize three times on Saturday!! For Harry West and his boys, this was an interesting and, we hope, instructive week-end for their first rough water experience. They must have learned a few doubtful songs from John Smith, if nothing else. A select few entertained the locals at a pub in Tenbury on Saturday night with a few of these delightful Bristolian folk songs.

S. Chandler

RIVER USK - R.W. GRADE III-IV:

Five members of B.C.C. set out from Llangynidr on the 5th November to canoe the Usk. We arrived at Senny Bridge, after nearly being shunted by a Breconian in a tatty van, who found it a huge joke, and encountered our first fall. Here, three of us capsized and Tony Cox impressed us with his expert roll. The river was in flood and all falls were shootable. Tony Cox continued with the good work by shooting a 5 foot fall with a large jagged rock jutting out just beneath, from which he managed to hang himself, complete with boat, upside down. John Smith concluded the day's entertainment by shooting the same fall in a different place and turning submarine for a few moments in an upright position.

The evening, of course, was spent at the 'local', and on Sunday two or three enthusiasts braved the cold and went canoeing while the rest went walking. The canoeists went down river from the campsite as far as Crickhowell, shooting Gliffaes with ease, so the tale goes at any rate. When I met them some way below, they all looked fairly dry. In all, this was a very good week-end, made so much better by the fact that the river was in spate making all the rapids that little bit more interesting.

S. Chandler

CLUB EMBLEM:

We would welcome designs for a Bristol Canoe Club Badge, would anyone who feels he can draw, please submit his ideas to the Secretary. Remember, nothing too complicated or the cost of reproducing your design would be prohibitive.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Anyone who wishes to dispose of canoes or canoeing equipment can advertise in this magazine free. Send advertisements to the Secretary.

CALENDAR:

December

Saturday (2-4 p.m.)

1st)
8th)
15th)
22nd)

Rolling, Mayor's Paddock Baths

January

19th

Social Evening and Films
River Dart Trip

March

Practice Slalom, Limpley Stoks

BOAT SHOW:

A trip to the Boat Show and the Camping Exhibition will be arranged, if enough people are interested. Would anyone who wants to go please contact the Secretary. Probable cost will be about 15s. each, date: Saturday, the 8th January, 1963.

PLEASE NOTE:

Subscriptions payable to:

Secretary,
761 Filton Avenue,
Filton,
Bristol,

due to the Treasurer being in the throes of moving house.