



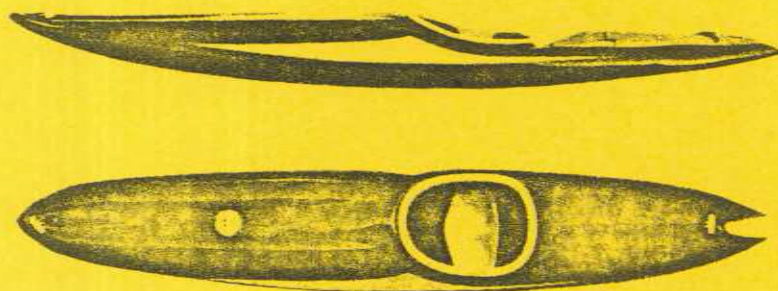
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13

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ISSUE 13.
JUNE 1984. 70p

Beachbreak CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	4
COMMITTEE NEWS.....	5
CONTEST UPDATE.....	6
LETTERS.....	7
HELMETS.....	8
THE ORIGINAL SURFER.....	9
THIRD TIME LUCKY.....	10
HOME INTERNATIONAL.....	12
RED RIVER.....	15
THE PALACE 84.....	16
GROUNDWELL.....	18
THE SOUTH WEST.....	20
THE BREAKSEA ROLLERS HIT THE GUINNESS.....	22

Beachbreak welcomes all letter and photographic material. No liability for unsolicited contributions is taken. The views expressed are those of the contributor and not of the Editor or Surf Committee.

COVER C. MITCHELL; a self portrait with a radio controlled camera. The first shot of its kind in the sport. e

editorial,

It seems a very long time ago that I attended my first Surf Committee meeting as Secretary and listened to Vyv talking about setting up a surf canoeing magazine Beachbreak. I am not sure whether he realised how much was involved when he set out, but twelve successful issues later he certainly did and he has earned his 'retirement'. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank him for the efforts he has made in providing us with such a means of communication and reading pleasure to our scattered fraternity. We wish him well in his new interest of Hobie Cat racing where his energy, enthusiasm and commitment have already been harnessed to the task of producing their Association Newsletter, (soon to become a magazine?).

Unfortunately, everyone now appreciates how much work is involved in producing a magazine and so it was not surprising that no one rushed forward to step in Vyv's shoes. The demise of Beachbreak seemed almost certain as the time for the distribution of the next issue at Crystal Palace. At the show however, Charles Willis outlined his offer to compile and arrange the distribution of a new size and format magazine. With the workload being shared, we thought it possible to go ahead and so Ian Smith agreed to be responsible for the distribution and accounts and Dennis Ball and myself to be co-editors.

Editing should consist of the selection of articles from the material sent in from contributors, but as Vyv found, it has meant

writing most of the articles as well. Neither Dennis or myself are prepared to do this and so the magazine will contain as little or as much as you are prepared to contribute.

In particular, we would like to see lots of letters, views and articles about surfing trips and locations, rather than endless contest reports which are of interest only to the committed few. If someone from each region can send in a brief account of what's been happening in his or her locality - what the surfs been like, who has been surfing etc., then the magazine can be made more relevant to the many non-competing readers.

The size and format has changed to reduce printing costs initially, but we hope that the quality will remain close to that achieved by previous Beachbreaks, and as finances allow, improvements will be made.

The success of the magazine rests on whether we receive interesting articles and photographs - its up to you.

Mike Keeble

.. COMMITTEE NEWS ..

In future, this space will give details about committee decisions, hopefully in advance of their effect or implementation. For this issue, the decisions have already taken effect and so I will take this opportunity to outline the reasons for some controversial decisions taken this year.

1. Separation of Slalom and Ski Classes in Junior and Ladies Events.

This was put forward because it was felt by some that the two craft cannot be judged fairly together and that ski paddlers felt intimidated by slalom boats. It was hoped in particular that it would encourage more Ladies competitors.

In the event, the Juniors have had sufficient numbers to justify the separation, but the Ladies numbers have dropped even lower causing the cancellation of the Ladies event in most contests this year. I do not think that the separation has caused the drop in numbers, but it has meant that the Ladies could not be combined to make enough numbers for one heat. Perhaps this is a decision that the committee are going to have to review for next season.

2. British Nationals.

Despite the success of last year's British held in Cornwall in August it was felt by some committee members that the date at the beginning of the Autumn Season meant that paddlers were not at their peak. It was therefore decided on a majority vote that it should be moved to the end of the Autumn Season.

It was also agreed that the competition should move to the North of England to be fair to paddlers who had to travel large distances to the South West for most of the competitions. Accordingly, the British are to be held at Scarborough on the weekend of October 27th/28th. The qualifying period will be from the previous British in August 1983 until the date of the British. To qualify in that period, competitors in the open and slalom must have reached one final in a ranking contest and in the Junior and Ladies, 1st., 2nd. or 3rd. in their events of a ranking competition.

3. Bouyancy Aids.

The rule on bouyancy aid was changed for ski paddlers to 'Each ski competitor must wear a crash helmet and either a bouyancy aid or a fixed leash or both'. For a number of years, the ski paddlers have been requesting for the dropping of the bouyancy aid requirement and a large majority voted for this at the A.G.M. two years ago. After that vote, the committee decided by a majority of one, to continue to make bouyancy aids compulsory.

This year's committee had another lengthy discussion on the issue and finally voted in favour of dropping the bouyancy aid requirement for ski paddlers, providing a leash was worn. The arguments in favour of this were:-
1) There is greater freedom of movement without a bouyancy aid and it is easier to get through large surf with less resistance and bouyancy.

ii) In the event of difficulties, the ski provides sufficient bouyancy.

cont;

ont;

ii) In a situation where a competitor is separated from his ski and is caught in a dumping wave, a buoyancy aid can be a hinderance.

7) It was recognised by the committee that most ski paddlers do not wear buoyancy aids when surfing for recreation and that the committee's continued insistence on buoyancy aids in competition had had no effect on this trend.

4. South African 'World Titles'.

The committee had correspondence with the paddlers who went to South Africa and made the following resolutions.

i) That individual persons from the U.K. could attend and compete in South Africa as private individuals only, not representing either their country or the B.C.U.

ii) That the committee would be pleased to be involved in the establishment of a World Body, but not one which included South Africa.

MK.

WHITESANDS,

Although the Competition was to be held at Whitesands (as the name implies), it had to be moved to Freshwater West as the surf that had been ordered in advance did not turn up!

The surf was not perfect, in fact barely good really, but we went ahead as it was a nice day. The heats of both the Slalom and Open were run and the 1st. Semi final of the Open went on the water in the late afternoon. However, after a great deal of effort by the Competitors to surf, it was decided to re-run this heat and the rest of the competition on Sunday at Freshwater West. A good day was had by all, especially the dogs and lots of red noses were in evidence.

Freshwater on the Sunday morning was not a pleasant place, with wind blowing and sloppy surf. After discussion, it was decided to try and run the rest of the competition on the same weekend at the Newgale Contest.

Simon Pinner

POSTPONED CONTESTS.

It has been a very poor season for surf this Spring - in fact with so many Easterlies and Northerlies, it would have been better to have our contests on the East Coast.

The following postponed contests and parts of contests are the result:-

SOUTH COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS.

These will be held at Kimmeridge Bay on the 20th/21st. October. All competitors who entered this Spring will be detailed.

WHITESANDS.

The remaining heats and finals will be held at the Newgale Contest on June 16th/17th.

WELSH COAST SURF CONTEST.

The remaining heats and finals will be held on Friday 5th Oct. (the day before the English Contest) at Croyde, Devon.

BEACHBREAK LETTERS BEACHBREAK LETTERS BE
Be letters,

Dear Beachbreak,

The overall trophy at the Home International was won by England for the second year running.

It could not have been won without the efforts of Alun Page, Norman Goddard, Robin Pountney and many others in the Welsh Team who organised the contest this year.

It could not have been won without the competitors from the Welsh, Irish, Scottish and Jersey teams who provided one days highly competitive and entertaining surfing.

It could not have been won without the efforts of Derek Rosenberg, Andy Knight and Roger Irwin, who prepared the team. Finally, it certainly could not have been won without the efforts of the team members on the day.

It will not be won next year in Jersey with only one training session!!

Mike Crispin,
England Team Manager.

Dear Beachbreak,

I would like, on behalf of the Welsh Team and our supporters, to thank all the teams and their supporters who attended this year's Home International at Freshwater:

- a) for their competitiveness on Saturday,
- b) for their patience on Sunday,
- c) for enthusiasm, ingenuity and athleticism on Monday - there are plenty of aching muscles, cuts and bruises to show for it.

We can now look forward to competing as teams in Jersey in 1985, but what about Australia in 1986? If the idea is to go in 1986, the organisation and saving has to start now - so what about it?

Robin Pountney,
Welsh Team Manager.

HELMETS

WITH THE DEBATE ON HELMETS CONTINUING, BRIAN SHEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPS OF CANOE LIFEGUARDS AND THE AUSTELL CANOE CLUB GIVES SOME ADVICE ON WHAT TO LOOK AT, AND WHY.....



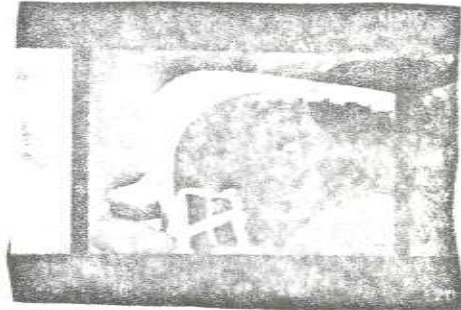
The trouble is that no one likes canoeing with the intention of getting their heads knocked in. A novice tends to get a crash helmet before he starts to bounce his head on the rocks. If he has little experience & less money so he gets a cheap one. All goes well until he meets the wave of the day, at best he loses his lid at worst he splits his head.

It would seem that fractured skulls are rare, but cuts requiring stitching less so. The campaign for a better helmet was not advanced when so few sent details to the Director of Coaching some months ago. In my club there are several Grim Fairy tales about sudden impacts & cuts of blood. One problem is that the cheek and eye areas are also vulnerable.

Suppose the best advice when looking for a good helmet is to go for the high priced ones. They tend to cover more of the head and are better made. They are also lined with a foam padding.

So check that all the metal fittings are made from stainless steel and

that the straps are made from a good quality webbing. If your existing helmet is not lined it can be upgraded by wearing a neoprene surfcap under it.



There is a fair bit of research going on at the moment in various areas, the trouble with getting a British standard helmet is that the kitemark would add about £5 to the price of the most expensive helmet. A relevant letter appeared in FOCUS Winter83, together with a comment from the Director of Coaching.

However I guess it will be some time before radical improvements will be made so the best advice is buy the best, go hard, and take care. Watch the canoeing press for news.

Let's have your comments & Grim Stories in the next BEACHBREAK.

MICHAEL HESELTINE the original surf canoeist?

I was stunned to read the following in January 17th's copy of the Guardian, when Michael Heseltine revealed the dark secret of his past in an interview with Terry Coleman.

Could the young Heseltine have been the original Welsh Surf Canoeist?

Is it a sport fit for the working class only?

Why has he kept secret about it for twenty years?



Is surf canoeing a spent force as far as the Tory Party are concerned?

Answers to Beachbreak (Political Section).

Mr. Heseltine then sat down at Churchill's desk, in front of a portrait of Lloyd George.

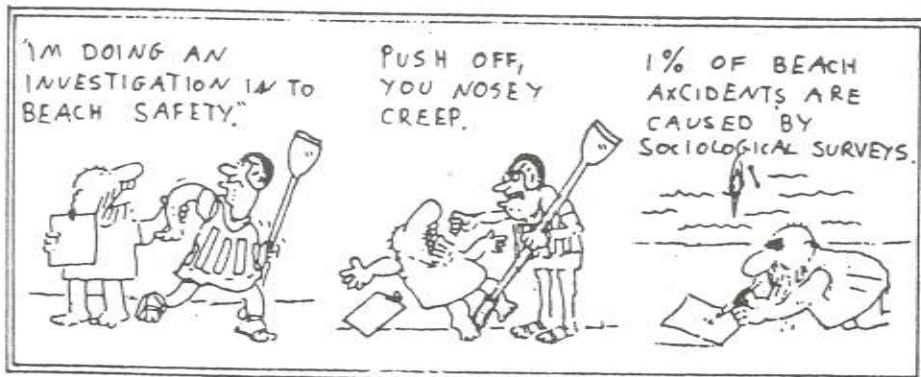
Did he identify with Lloyd George? This is not a fair thing to ask, and any answer a man gives to such a question should not be held against him. Well... It so happens I come from South Wales, and he obviously was a politician with a considerable sort of a way with him. Yes.

Welsh though he was, the young Heseltine went to school in England, at Shrewsbury, where, as history has it, he built a huge, 14ft canoe; perhaps one might think this an early manifestation of his naval, Churchillian side.

He had not, he said, talked about that canoe for 20 years. To be precise, he and his father had built the canoe at Swansea, during the holidays from Shrewsbury. He used it for surfing in the bay, surfing by canoe.

Did it still exist? "It was so well built, it must."

MICHAEL HESELTINE



THIRD TIME LUCKY: Dennis Ball.

A Report of the First (and Last!) South East B.C.U. Surf Contest.

Being full of grandiose ideas and good intentions for the surfing scene in the South East and the Home Counties I felt it was about time that a full B.C.U. ranking event was held somewhere in the Kent - Sussex area....so I offered to run one.

The pre-planning was much the same as any other event, except that I had to get permission to use seven different beaches in seven different local boroughs!...Well, it keeps yer options open! Although it was only a minor event I was determined to get the expected 'flood' of newcomers as involved as possible and to make it a successful event. To this end I printed out a pile of personal programmes and had a surf slide-show arranged as well. Unfortunately I forgot to arrange the surf!

Now, I refuse to take all the blame for the conditions, after-all... Ground-swells are almost unknown in Sussex and Kent and wind swells are rare, the 'norm' is either dead flat or a messy, short wind chop. Makes your mouth water doesn't it!

For several weeks prior to the event it blew a non-stop "hooley" then two days before the contest it went dead calm and so did the Channel! The competition phone-in service provided by John and Mitch proved invaluable and saved a lot of people a lot of money and a lot of wasted time. (not Simon and Sian though, who spent the week-end doing what most people do in Brighton!). Saturday was flat and on Monday it blew a gale!

Right up till the December re-run date it howled up the Channel, force 8-10, W-SW. Then the day before -- it died again. Another "don't bother" phone in - (by now John was accusing me of being a male witch!!) Again Saturday and Sunday were flat as the same witches tit! This time it was Alun who made the trip down to London he went for a "jog" instead.

By the time the "re-run of the re-run" (in January!) some folks were getting a bit disenchanted. So was I! The contest had lost ranking status, my credibility was sunk, I'd gone through all the programme and contest arrangements for the third time and hadn't had a wave for ages.

The Friday duely arrived just as the last low showing on the North Atlantic chart dissappeared Eastwards at a high rate of knots.

10

It had, though - been a very strong blow and I reckoned the swell would last through Saturday and I could run the contest on one tide if most people didn't come!!

Fortunately for me - most didn't, only about 20 showed up. H.W. was at about 1.30 p.m. At 9.00 a.m. it was dead flat, and at 10.00, and 11.00!- at which point I requested the first heat to get changed! Looking at me as though I was daft - they began stripping off. By the time the first heat was ready a small swell was showing and it was sure to improve as the tide submerged the off-shore sand bars.

Within 10 minutes we had up to 5' sets pumping through and everyone was having a whale of a time. We rehashed the events and everyone had a go at everything. We saw some excellent surfing from the 'novices' and some out of character skiing from Gary Adcock and Mark Bowers - both getting through to the final. We also had a wipe-out event, so as to dispose of a few surplus prizes. Gary got a bit "cheeky" and one competitor had to be genuinely rescued from the rip!

Having had to judge all the events; as soon as the prize-giving was over, I dived into my wet suit, grabbed my ski and got to the waters edge just as the waves disappeared!!!

Footnote: If ever an outsider finds him or herself stuck in this area geared-up and looking for a wave; Littlehampton works for approximately 2½-3 hrs each side of high-water; Brighton works best for about 2 hrs each side of low water. You'll get most 'peace' about ½ ml West of the Marina. Park by the canoe-club...it's free and the hospitality is warm. In the event of a North through to Easterly Gale (or more!) I won't be giving away any secrets these days (or loosing too many friends) by suggesting that you head towards Margate and Joss Bay. This unlikely venue sports two or three excellent reefbreaks when there is a reasonable swell about. The problem is being there at the right time. I've got it right just twice in six years and some mates who don't believe me at all. Low to mid-tide is best.

There are other places to go surfing, East of the Isle of Wight - such as E.Wittering, Hayling Island (rare), Bognor Regis (L.W) Camber Sands (best at H,W). There are plenty of secret spots; I'll leave you to go looking for those as my life is already in danger.

Water temperatures tend to be a lot colder than the W.Coast in the winter and a lot warmer in the Summer. The water is usually a uniform grey/yellow when it's rough, and as already mentioned, a good swell is a rare occurance. IF YOU FIND ONE... GO FOR IT!

11

FOSTER'S DRAUGHT CANOE SURFING INTERNATIONAL



The 4th Home International was held at Freshwater West, Pembroke, Wales and on Saturday 5th May, teams assembled from all parts of the British Isles for what was hoped would be five days of surfing and competition.

The event was sponsored by Foster's Sports Foundation and many who had seen the Foster's Pro Surfing Contest at Newquay last year hoped that their involvement would conjure up a similar swell. The early signs on Saturday morning were good with both sun and surf greeting the enthusiastic competitors.

The slalom event was held first with a clean 4ft. swell giving good scores of between 80 and 90 out of a maximum 150. Alun Page (Wales) had the highest score of 104 with some outstanding rides, followed by Simon Pinner (Wales) 95 and Gary Adcock (England) with 93. With a wet suit going to the highest individual scorer, Alun Page was a bit upset when Neil Dungey (England) scored 109 points later in the Junior event.

The Ladies event shone when Claire Major (England) scored 81, making her the highest scoring lady, although there were no individual prizes to be won.

As the tide retreated, the break moved, the shape changed and the ski paddlers loved it. Each team scored well, but it was the Welsh and Jersey competitors who took the first places. John Bouteloup (Jersey) scored 91 followed by Paul Reading (Jersey) and Steve Waller (Wales) scoring 84 each.

Alas the day ended with a very small wave, but sunburnt judges and competitors left for the caravans of Kiln Park in Tenby. Here food, free lager from Fosters and sleep (for some) ended a superb first day.

On the Sunday, all signs of the swell had died and the contest was postponed. Similarly, on Monday, but this time the Welsh organising committee were ready. Another 'super sports' competition was organised and the beach soon resembled a cross between the original Greek Olympics and a 1st. World war battlefield. For this we must thank Ian Smith and his 'girls'.

Teams from the five countries battled it out with displays of Civil Engineers (sand castle building), aeronotics (Kite flying), five-a-side football, wellie wanging, long jump, cream cracker eating and wheel barrow racing. Unfortunately, the organisers had forgotten the bean bags, sacks and skipping ropes! In the sand castle event, the Jersey team had an excellent sculpture, but were marked down for its uncanny resemblance to a ski paddler!

In the five-a-side football, Derek 'Rosey' Rosenberg (England) master of the two footed tackle, ran around up-ending people. He was fair in that he didn't pick just on the people with the ball - even spectators had to steer clear! He certainly left his 'mark', but that was not enough to overcome the footballing skills of the other nations.

Englands' flying skills proved to be reminiscent of gardening while the air was filled with screams of excitement from the Irish team as their drunken kite belted across the sky singing. My condolences to those who received injuries during the competition, especially M. Jenkins (Wales), whose eye met the sand at speed in the wheelbarrow race. All claims for compensation

FOSTER'S DRAUGHT CANOE SURFING INTERNATIONAL



should be directed to S. Jones, K. Dighton and J. Melvin.

Alas this day ended, indeed the competition ended with the organisers deciding that Saturdays result would be final.

Sandy Buttle, the Chairman of the Welsh Canoeing Assoc. presented the trophies in the Kiln Park Social Club which ended what was a warm and friendly occasion.

Incidentally, anyone wishing for the secret of cream cracker eating should send £1 and a S.A.E. to me...

Paul Dighton.

RESULTS.

Slalom.

1st.	England	520
2nd.	Wales.	491
3rd.	Ireland.	447
4th.	Scotland.	307

Ski.

1st.	Wales.	470
2nd.	Jersey.	459
3rd.	England.	428
4th.	Ireland.	380
5th.	Scotland.	252

Ladies.

1st.	Jersey	146
2nd.	England	136
3rd.	Ireland	132
4th.	Wales.	118

Juniors.

1st.	England	203
2nd.	Jersey	150
3rd.	Wales.	135
4th.	Ireland.	111
5th.	Scotland.	52

Overall Results.

1st.	England	1287
2nd.	Wales.	1214
3rd.	Ireland.	1070
4th.	Jersey.	755
5th.	Scotland.	611

	Wales	England	Ireland	Scotland	Jersey
Sandcastle building	4	8	10	6	2
Wellie Wanging	6	10	8	2	4
5 Legged Race	6	4	10	4	10
Long Jump	2	4	8	10	8
Dry Cream Crackers	10	2	8	4	8
Wheel Barrow	8	8	2	8	10
5 - A - Side	8	2	8	4	10
Kite Building	8	6	10	4	0
Overall Totals For Competition	52 2nd	44 4th	64 1st	42 5th	52 2nd

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RED RIVER 84'

Many people remember Kevin Andriessen's Red River Contest of two years ago as one of the best contests ever, when the sun and surf combined to produce ideal conditions. Thursday and Friday nights' charts dispelled any ideas of a repeat performance, as yet another low to the east of Britain pulled in strong Northerly winds.

These did produce a wind swell on the Saturday, which looked small from the carpark, but surprised many when they tried to get out through the evil dump that Red River produces at low tide. In the first round heats usually only one person was able to get outside consistently which was fortunate as only one person was to go through directly to the quarter finals. Everyone else went into a repechage from which two paddlers went through.

This unusual system meant that everyone had two chances, but it met with a mixed reception from competitors. It did mean that Minnow was able to run four man heats all the way through. Most of the first round winners were predictable with Mark Hodson and Rob Poutney standing out particularly. In the subsequent repechage heats, Bob Twitty gauged conditions well to gain the highest points on his longer 'cruiser' ski.

In between the first round and the repechage, the Ladies went out and had the first of their two heats. Lisa Dungey surfed very well to win on both days.

On the Sunday, with only nine heats to run Minnow waited until the worst of the low tide dump was finished before starting. The swell was still a moderate size and peaking well, although tending to close out rather quickly.

Mark Hodson (again!), Minnow and Mark Rowley were the 'stand-outs' in the quarter finals. With a rising tide, the wave deteriorated for the semi-finals but was still very surfable, especially for Mark Rowley who achieved another '10'.

The Juniors went on between the semi-finals and the final to give the open paddlers a break in theory. In practise, two of the four open finalists, Mark Hodson and Mark Alderton were Juniors and they scored equal points, with Mark Hodson winning on wave count back.

As often happens, the final was held in relatively poor surf. The best ride was Mark Hodson's very long right with constant cut backs and lip turns, but he was not able to get enough longer rides to win, which is not surprising as he had surfed in both previous heats. Jeff Miles and Mark Rowley fought it out for first place with Jeff taking it on wave count back.

A well run and enjoyable contest, thanks to Minnow, finished on the Sunday night with the prize giving (some excellent copper engravings), exciting and varied surf films and Disco at the Bluff Hotel, Hayle.
Mike Keeble.

LADIES.

1.	LISA DUNGEY	60
2.	SIAN JONES.	45
3.	JANE MELVIN.	31

JUNIORS.

1.	MARK HODSON.	33
2.	MARK ALDERTON.	33
3.	MIKE CARTWRIGHT.	24
4.	HAMISH SANDER	22

OPEN.

1.	JEFF MILES.	36
2.	MARK ROWLEY.	36
3.	MARK ALDERTON	34
4.	MARK HODSON.	33



The Foster's Draught International Canoe Exhibition

Crystal Palace 1984

DENNIS BALL

Business as usual. Friday evening and the usual fight with the stand until it slouches in some semblance of order. The usual scrounge round other stands for bits and bobs to stick it together, tie it up, fill the blank spaces and generally camouflage the lash-up that it is! Go round the manufacturers begging for skis to display, stick up the old photographs and photo-posters (must do better next year...but it will cost us!) Then its the usual hectic collating and stapling job which has been left till the last moment. (Ta to Mike and Chris')

Saturday morning 10.00am and the crowds and the usual clammy, oppressive heat hit us. Our enquiries this year were much the same as usual.... "How much for the posters?" - "Not for sale!"....."How much are your skis?" - "This is the B.O.U Surf Stand, we're not traders!" etc, etc. Fortunately not all enquiries were of this order for we had a lot of queeries from isolated and novice surfers who were looking for info', company, someone to chat to, surf with, etc. Now that's what we are there for! "We" incidentally, were primarily young Mike and Chris Keeble and Ian Smith, who put in some stirring work from Friday, right through to the 'death' on Sunday night. I too hung around.

My main memory of Saturday was our despondancy about the demise of Beachbreak, ever more poignant because Vyv and Gill had travelled all the way down from Hould-sorry Hold just to deliver the 'last' and as usual, excellent issue.... A sort of literary 'swan-song'. Then on Sunday 'Bingo!' Charlie Willis strolled up out of the blue and offered to take on the professional end of Beachbreak production! (collation, printing, stapling, etc.). Ian agreed to continue to disseminate the mag' (no small task in itself), and Mike and I volunteered the rest of the committee in their absence to form an editorial board. (no easy task either!)

The result is we are back in business. "Beachbreak is dead..... long live Beachbreak!" No doubt about it, we owe our thanks to Charlie for taking on the task for us. I mean he is not even a surfer...Well not yet anyhow! The success of the 'new' Beachbreak will depend almost entirely on one factor....the contributions that are recieved from those that read it. There are no 'mystical' contributors somewhere 'out there'. Well intentioned, but ultimately hollow promises simply wont do. Beachbreak needs letters, opinions, articals, stories, jokes, libelous statements, anything! If you the surfer want your own mag', You must write for it.



Right! Bernon over, back to the Palace. I'm ashamed to say that I didn't take much of a look at what was on offer this year.

There was a lot of cheering coming from the pool, plenty of people walking around laden down with paddles and stuff, queues for the films were as long as usual and lots of folk stopped-off at the stand to rest their feet and have a chat. Personally I find that the social side apart, I dont enjoy the experience. It's always too hot, chats with old friends are interrupted by other old friends - meaning that I end up being rude to someone !! - Of course it's always brilliantly sunny outside! This year Winnow rubbed salt into the wound by telling me that he had left his home beach pumping 6' with off-shore winds!

The usual tedium of late Sunday afternoon was broken at just on closing time when some nut rang in a bomb-scare and the whole building had to be evacuated. Stand personnel were slow to respond, -being far more interested in packing up and clearing off home - much to the annoyance of the Commisarist. As fast as they slung people out, they kept nipping back in for more gear off their stands. After an hour or so out in the cold the all clear was sounded, so we dashed back in grabbed the last few bits and went for a well earned pint.

Groundswell

This part of the magazine will be devoted to new developments in the sport, but I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the changes that have taken place in our sport over the years.

Since I first watched the blown-out Bude Championships over a decade ago, the design of craft and the style of surfing have changed completely. The introduction of the ski and its virtual take over of the Open Class has transformed the techniques and manoeuvres carried out.

Outside of the competition scene, the ski has also taken over. When I surf at my local breaks, I am amazed by the number of ski paddlers who are new to the sport but who quickly become proficient. The faces have also changed, and I now have to look hard to find anyone who surfed slalom and the 'revolutionary' surf canoes back in the early days. Numbers have increased, but there is still only a hard core of travelling competitors.

In the early days, we considered the sport to have originated in America and that we were almost alone in pioneering new styles, but we were soon to find we were a mere backwater in comparison to ski paddling in South Africa and Australia. It was contact with these paddlers at the 'World Contest' in America and later designs and ideas brought back by individuals going to Australia, that have had such an influence in recent years.

Hopes are growing of more international competitions and greater media coverage for the sport. With these developments, I hope that we do not lose the 'character' and 'atmosphere' that at present we have maintained. Real friendship and sportsmanship have

survived the competition scene so far and most of us are still enjoying competitions because of that.

Palm

Palm have three new skis in the Crusader range; a 2.2m weighing 10 kilos, a 2.35 at 11 kilos and a 2.5 at 12 kilos. These are new style skis which enable more performance from foam filled moulds, featuring a pin tail with 2 wings. The rails enable a turbulence free wake. The foot system is custom made to leg length. All Palm mouldings feature thruster fin systems, leash plug, adjustable seat belt and are constructed with reinforced plastic.

Palm stock a wide range of canoeing equipment and have a new range of wood paddles suited to surfing.

Dragon

Dragon Glass fibre launched three new craft at the Exhibition this year, the first a production version of the commanche retailing at £148 with full reinforcement and deck wings as standard. A new ski to the range is the Microchip, a 7' low volume craft that is lighter than some custom skis.

Also on the drawing board is a design based on the Microplus. demos will be available from mid July.

Dragon have moved to larger premises but retain their old address and phone number

Surefin

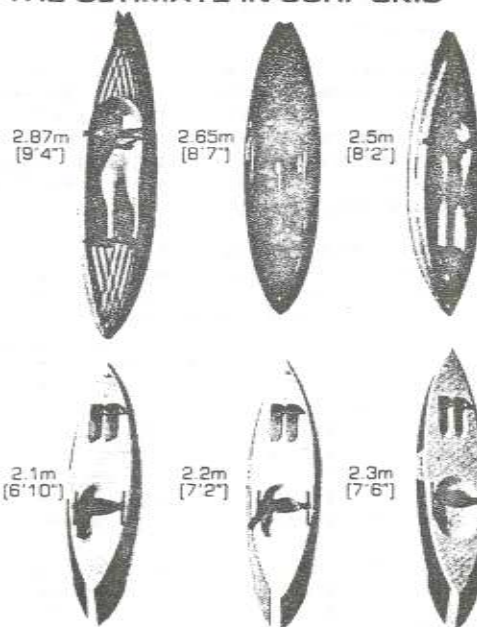
New from surefin international is the Hyperdrive fin. An advanced shape allows boards and skis to be used in large waves with the elimination of side slip due to flex characteristics ensuring aeration up and away from the lower fin.

When set parallel water resistance is reduced by both fins flexing equally so producing drive out of turns and speed when pumping.

Hyperdrive fins can be purchased from surf shops or direct from: Surefin International, Bosorne, St Just, Cornwall for £7.50 plus £1pp.

Raider

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WHICH SKI IS RIGHT FOR ME?

The following chart is meant as a guide to help you choose the right ski. Combining this information with the product information as above should provide the necessary criteria to help you make the right choice.

RIDER EXPERIENCE LEVEL	WEDGE RANGE			CRUISER RANGE		
	2.1m (6'10")	2.2m (7'2")	2.3m (7'6")	2.5m (8'2")	2.65m (8'7")	2.87m (9'4")
RAW BEGINNER	57kg (10st)	66kg (10½st)	73kg (11¼st)	76kg (12¼st)	89kg (14st)	95kg (15st)
AVERAGE EXPERIENCE	63kg (10st)	70kg (11st)	76kg (12¼st)	86kg (13¼st)	96kg (15¼st)	106kg (17st)
EXPERT	73kg (11st)	83kg (13st)	92kg (14¼st)	92kg (14¼st)	105kg (16¼st)	115kg (18st)

Raider

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SPECIAL FEATURES

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- * Increased width—greater stability
- * High padding speed—good for recreational padding



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SPECIAL FEATURES

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- * Good comfort and stability for a high performance ski
- * About \$200 cheaper than a custom foam ski
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- * Optional adjustable footrest attachment (ladies & children)

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NEWARK
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GUL WETSUITS
WALKER LINES
BODMIN
CORNWALL

THE SOUTH WEST

With a flat sea at Constantine Ray Borman and his social committee hurriedly arranged an impromptu treasure hunt! With a cry of 'To the South Coast', the locals were off and the chase began. Those that survived the swirling mists of Bodmin Moor and the one way system of Bodmin itself, arrived at Pentewan just in time to see the leading locals pulling out of the carpark, clutching the next clue.

Reversing quickly, we tagged onto the last V.W. as it chugged up the hill - a local left stranded by his team mates. Unfortunately, it was Minnow, whose local knowledge and sense of direction is only surpassed by his ability to eat dry cream crackers! Many Cornish villages, 'U' turns, headlands and coves later, we arrived to find the locals smiling smugly in their caravan. They were pleased, not only with winning the treasure hunt, but also with the knowledge that we would never be able to find their local 'hot spot' again.

Through the howling wind and driving rain, we could just make out the sea and what appeared to be breaking waves. If this cove was supposed to be sheltered, I'm glad we didn't stop at Pentewan. The first heat of the Open went out and found that once outside, the wind and current combined to

drive them round the headland to the next bay - the only trouble was that there was not a next bay, only more rocky headland.

The Black Flag went up and everyone rushed to the rescue. No one was in difficulties fortunately and the next heat went out a little better informed about local conditions a few hours later when the tide had risen.

The waves were a fair size, but were forming and breaking on an outside bar and then backed off to reform and break close to the shore. Competitors had to choose between the two breaks and early on, the best rides seemed on the outside, but as the tide rose, this break disappeared, leaving a very hollow inside wave which was ridden particularly well by Richard Talbot and Mark Hodson in the Quarter Finals of the Open.

On the Sunday the rain stopped, but the wind continued to blow. It was decided to hold the contest at Pentewan where the surf looked reasonable. Getting outside proved difficult for some Open paddlers, but good rides were taken on the short sections before the waves closed out.

Thanks must go to Ray Borman for taking over the contest at such a late stage and doing such a good job.

OPEN

1. J. Miles	34
2. D. Bailey	30
3. A. Knight	28
4. R. Poutney	26
5. M. Hodson	26
6. E. Sutherland	24

SLALOM

D. Williams	31
M. Jenkins	29
K. Trudgeon	28
S. Pinner	27
P. Styles	23
M. Deamond	22

JUNIOR OPEN

1. M. Hodson	30
2. H. Davies	24
3. M. Sander	24
4. R. Talbot	22
5. J. Palmer	11
6. C. Youngman	10

JUNIOR SLALOM

D. Williams	30
M. Douglas	12
C. Youngman	10
J. Palmer	8

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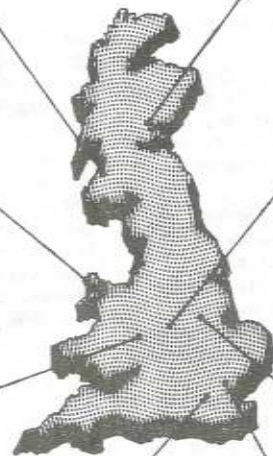
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The Breaksea Rollers

Hit the Guinness



The Breaksea Team* (Phil Carpenter, Paul Medland, Lesley and Lyndon Alexander and myself) set off on the 12th. April to try the Irish surf.

Naturally, such a trip required a great deal of organization and Phil, Paul and myself were very fortunate during the preparatory stages in being sponsored by Lesley and Lyndon (they loaned us the money for the ferry). Most of the party went into training - Paul started weight-training, Lesley and Lyndon went to Saudi Arabia to prepare for the anticipated hot sunny weather in Ireland, Phil took a job in Garmarthen (keeping his house in Pontypridd) to get used to travelling long distances and I started drinking Guinness.

Not wanting to face the rigours of the heralded Irish surf without some final preparation, we spent some time on the ferry trip (from Pembroke to Cork) in the bar. We managed to keep everybody awake until 04.00 a.m. and then retired; to rise at 06.00 a.m. and set off in search of the surf.

We spent the holiday travelling from Cork, along the south-west coast, down and up some of the many peninsulas, and then up through Kenmare, Killarney, Inch, Dingle, Tralee and across the Shannon to Kilrush and Kilkee.

Though the weather was too windy for us to go surfing on the first few days, the scenery was breath-taking, and the Guinness just out of this world! The first place we tried the surf was at Inch Strand (a very long sandy beach where at least two people got their vehicles stuck in the sand - so be careful). The surf was quite good, especially bearing in mind there was no surf in Britain, and we stayed for several days - camping just beyond the top of the beach, a hotel with draught Guinness and 4-5 ft. clean surf, we couldnt really go wrong.

Soon we decided to move on and spent Easter weekend with 'Mick (The Breaksea 'Guru') O'Sullivan's parents on their farm near Tralee. The hospitality we received was out of this world and we all remember our time here with great affection, especially Lyndon, who was always up early to help on the farm. Near Tralee there's a superb beach for surf. It's called Banna Beech and has a gentle curve along its considerable length, but at one point it juts right out into the sea.

This causes very short waves to form quite a long way out which then shoulder to either side of the point. The waves were very unpredictable and would rise from a calm sea within seconds to form 6 ft. really steep waves. Within seconds of catching a wave you had to turn to avoid looping. With the waves being so localised it was always easy to paddle back out behind the break on the rest of the bay.

One further beach we visited was Doughmore, which was said to be good but was 'blown-out' when we arrived and so we played hide-and seek in the dunes!

Night-life, as Paul will tell you, is as good as, if not better than, you'll find here. If you want to know anything more about this aspect of the holiday, just ask Paul about "ham sandwiches". In the Tralee area you have to watch out for some of the girls - nearly all of them are related to Mick; again refer to Paul.

On the way back from Kilrush we went through Limerick and then via Blarney Castle to Cork. Phil managed to kiss the mortar of the Blarney Stone, but couldnt reach the stone itself!

Weather? Well, we had one day of rain in 10 days, though this was apparently rather unique!

Booze? You only drink Guinness, and other than Church restrictions (Good Friday's dry) you can drink at almost anytime of day - naturally arranged to suit surfers.

Telephones? Useless. After Phil had been waiting for a connection for 15 minutes the operator asked, "Have you finished yet?" About 15 minutes later he was connected!

In conclusion, if you like surfing, then go to Ireland because its got the best scenery, surf and Guinness and its folk are some of the most hospitable you could ever meet.

Ian Smith.

(Extract from an article by I.G. Smith, 1981.

*"Breaksea Rollers" derives from our favourite pub in Porthcawl).

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