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The English
Nationals

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**ISSUE
14**
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EDITORIAL

Firstly, can I apologise for the delay in producing this issue - it had to wait until the end of the Autumn season with its seemingly endless contests, the last three of which I was organising.

Secondly, can I thank all those who sent articles in - the response has been overwhelming. They cannot all be included in this issue and some have had to be shortened. Please keep writing and sending them in, also more photographs are needed (preferably black and white) for the next issue, particularly of the British.

I hope you will appreciate the improvement in both quality and quantity in this issue - please renew your subscriptions if they are due!

COMMITTEE NEWS

A new committee was voted in at the A.G.M. held at the English at Croyde. The first meeting will take place on Saturday 1st. December.

A full discussion of a possible new competition structure proposed by Dennis Ball (as outlined in this issue) will take place and any views sent to me about this system (or other possible alternatives) will be taken into consideration.

Any other proposals concerning the rules, running and development of our sport should be sent to me and will be included in Surf Committee meeting agendas.

Any changes to rules and organisation for next season will appear in February's issue of Beachbreak, available at the show.

Mike Keeble

WARMTH



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GERRY COLLINS..NICK MARTIN.. MICK NADAL...DROP IN?



PICKING YOUR SPOTS.

1. The North East.

Many times I have heard surfers talk about, even praise the North East, whether because of the surf or the cheap club beer I'm not sure, but to be safe, I'll cover both.

The beer can be found in any pub in the area and if the head doesn't spill over and down the outside of the glass, it ain't a real pint. To find the surf requires a more detailed description.

Contrary to popular belief, South Shields is not the only surf beach, nor does it necessarily produce the best waves, though it does catch any swell coming in. So for those who visit rarely and for the locals who never go beyond their own back yard, why not give another break a break?

Starting at the southern end of Sunderland, we have Hendon Beach complete with sewer pipe, once described as 'a post halocast vision' by a flattering travel writer - though arguably cleaner water than some well known South Wales surf spots.

Already written about in an earlier Beachbreak by Bill Hoten, the beach has had a recent facelift by the council and is now quite a pleasant spot to visit. (There will actually be a lifeguard based there!)

The main break by the pipe provides lefts or rights depending on the direction of the swell. Best surfed low-mid tide, as high tide surfing can be terminal in certain conditions. At its best, it can provide a clean 4 foot wave, and being close to town always provides a good indication of conditions elsewhere. Rarely surfed despite being very accessible. To the north end of the beach is South Boundary Groyne for those that like living dangerously. Here you can be sucked up in an equal mixture of sand and water and then pulped onto best quality boulders and concrete blocks.

About 2km. offshore is the Hendon Bell Rock. At low tide this

area is about 6 feet deep according to the chart and surrounded by considerably deeper water. A wave does break here - even at high tide, and although many have watched it, none have surfed it to my knowledge. (When it does break, its better to be surfing a pint at the local). However, if you fancy your chances as a wave pioneer.....

A quick trip across the bridge and the road takes you to Roker Harbour (if you get in the right lane), home of a variety of watersports clubs for both snobs and slob. More importantly, it is the home of some unusual surf breaks, all working at different times and under different conditions.

On the inside of the south arm of the harbour at low tide on a big swell (from the north), a slalom paddler can ride a wave from the harbour entrance to the south beach - a distance of 1/4 mile. Not a particularly good wave and definitely not for skis.

At the side of the old north pier, an interesting right appears after strong northerlies, usually steep and something makeable (see Beachbreak no. 11). It is made particularly interesting by the wreck whose girders jut out the sand by about 2 feet, waiting to take a bite at the unfortunate surfer who capsizes at this spot. The sight of the water boiling around the stakes as you fly past is guaranteed to keep the adrenalin flowing. High on the TOADS scale. Ironically it is an excellent spot to have a competition, as the carpark overlooks the break from a reasonable height giving a marvellous view.

If the swell is from the south-east, then try the inside of the north arm of the harbour. Having cancelled a competition due to lack of surf (flat Saturday, 1 foot sloop on Sunday), we went down to the harbour on Sunday late afternoon. A solid 6 foot swell was rolling down the wall though everywhere else was still sloop. The surfers that were left had an entertaining session. Incredible though it may seem, the funnelling effect of the harbour

wall can produce a 10 foot wave - easily measurable against the height of the harbour wall. The waves give steep drops and fast lefts. The rides are not particularly long, as the wave height drops off dramatically as you move away from the wall. This makes paddling out easy, but also necessitates a take off very close to the wall - 18 inches away is the optimum if you can handle claustrophobic take offs! At its best, 2 hours each side of high tide.

Moving to the north side of the harbour wall a similar break can be found - a little less hairy and needless to say, rights only. A favourable haunt of the local canoe club and, more recently, a growing band of ski paddlers; this break can be a little crowded at times, though the skill level is high, so not too many problems with sharing the break. The rides can be long, especially on a big swell and the break is quite predictable. It is definitely a good sign when the crest rolls over the harbour wall! To get the best from break, cutbacks are essential - I only mention this because an ill advised turn can lead to an abrupt end of the session - walls don't give! (Perhaps the skill level of the surfers has been through a process of elimination). Here again the break works 2 hours each side of high tide. Care should be taken as the wave breaks onto rocks. An excellent place for showing off as there are usually a number of spectators.

The next place of note is Whitburn Sands, about 1/2 mile north. The break is invariably one step down from the conditions prevailing at South Shields in terms of size but, the form is often better. A variety of breaks work here - try it when Shields is monstrous or blown out. Strangely enough, it is often overlooked as a surfing beach which is a pity, as it can be a very pleasant spot, throwing up good sets, even during small waves. It can be difficult to get out on big days - if this is the case, try paddling out over Whitburn Steel.

Whitburn Steel is the large rock/

reef mass at the north end of the beach. This provides a natural harbour for the local fishermen in most conditions, but at the edges of the reef, can be found some interesting waves. Surfed only rarely because of its accessibility, the area is long overdue for some exploratory surfing.

Going round the corner and up the coast, you come across a rocky area stretching for several miles. Not a lot is known about this area for surfing, other than it lies directly beneath the firing range. Further north is Souter Point which ought to give a good break according to the map, though I've never been there (even after living in the area for six years). Somewhere between Souter and Marsden, the fabulous 'Blades' is reputed to work on a good northerly swell, but trying to get information, is like trying to get a drink out of (fill in your favourite person!)

Marsden Bay is the next major surf spot, though its popularity is probably due to the 'Grotto' - the pub on the beach. Here it is possible to get a drink between sets, provided there is not too much of a queue at the bar. There are three breaks here - north stack south stack and a beach break. All work in differing degrees, dependant on swell and state of tide, usually onto rock, apart from small areas, though the main beach is sand. The bay itself is well sheltered, due to the high cliffs surrounding it. Unfortunately, this also means a long precipitous route down to the beach on the steps thoughtfully provided by the pub. Alternatively, you can try the lift if you can disguise your board/ski/paddles/wetsuit from the lift operator. Either way, Marsden makes a nice change and the beer is not bad either.

Just north of Marsden, the coastline gets rocky - nothing here for the surfer, though during the winter months, an extremely large and unsurfable (?) wave jacks up on the clusters of rocks. Unfortunately, there is no way out of this one and the shore line is a good 5

Nest stop is South Shields - the most popular surfing beach in the area. If there is any swell at all, Shields catches it (not westerly swells unfortunately). Home of the Lifeguards (read Boardie) and South Tyneside Canoe Club (read sometime Surf Skiers) and visited by Newcastle, Durham and Sunderland Canoe Clubs, the break can be crowded at times. The more serious surfing takes place in winter and as Shields is an exposed spot, the surf can be powerful and ugly - beware yellow waves!

At the southern most part of the beach is Trowrocks - once the

home of an excellent break, now working only rarely due to sand removal by the Council.

Moving up the beach, you may find three or four regular breaks, the most notable being the two between the clubhouse and the south carpark. Breaks tend to be best on the incoming tide, especially as the banks get covered. Only dangers are Frankies Chips and Traffic Wardens!

Before you all rush up to the area, remember the water is a little colder (the water freezes in winter) so, bring your winter woolies and willy warmers!

NICK MARTIN

IRISH CALENDAR '85'

Dec. 29th 1984.	Waterville Bayview Hotel Trophy.	Ski only.
Mar. 16/17/18 '85.	Easkey.	Interprovincial C'Sips.
Mar. 30/31.	Bundoran Div. 1.	Abhann Muir C.C.
Apr. 27/28.	Easkey. Div. 1.	...K.C.
May 18/19.	Inchadonny. Div. 2.	Rose/Cork K.C.
May 25/26/27.	Jersey	Home Internationals.
June 1/2.	Rossnowlagh. Div. 2.	Silverbridge K.C.
June 15/16.	Lahinch. Div. 1.	Galway K.C.
July 6/7.	Easkey. Div. 1.	Espoir C.C.
Jul. 20/21.	Lahinch. Div. 2.	Limerick C.C.
Aug. 30/Sep. 1.	Tullan. Div. 1.	Adventure Club,
Sep. 28/29.	Tramore. Div. 1.	South Coast Surf Club.
Oct. 26/27/28	Spanish Point. Div.1.	Irish Open.

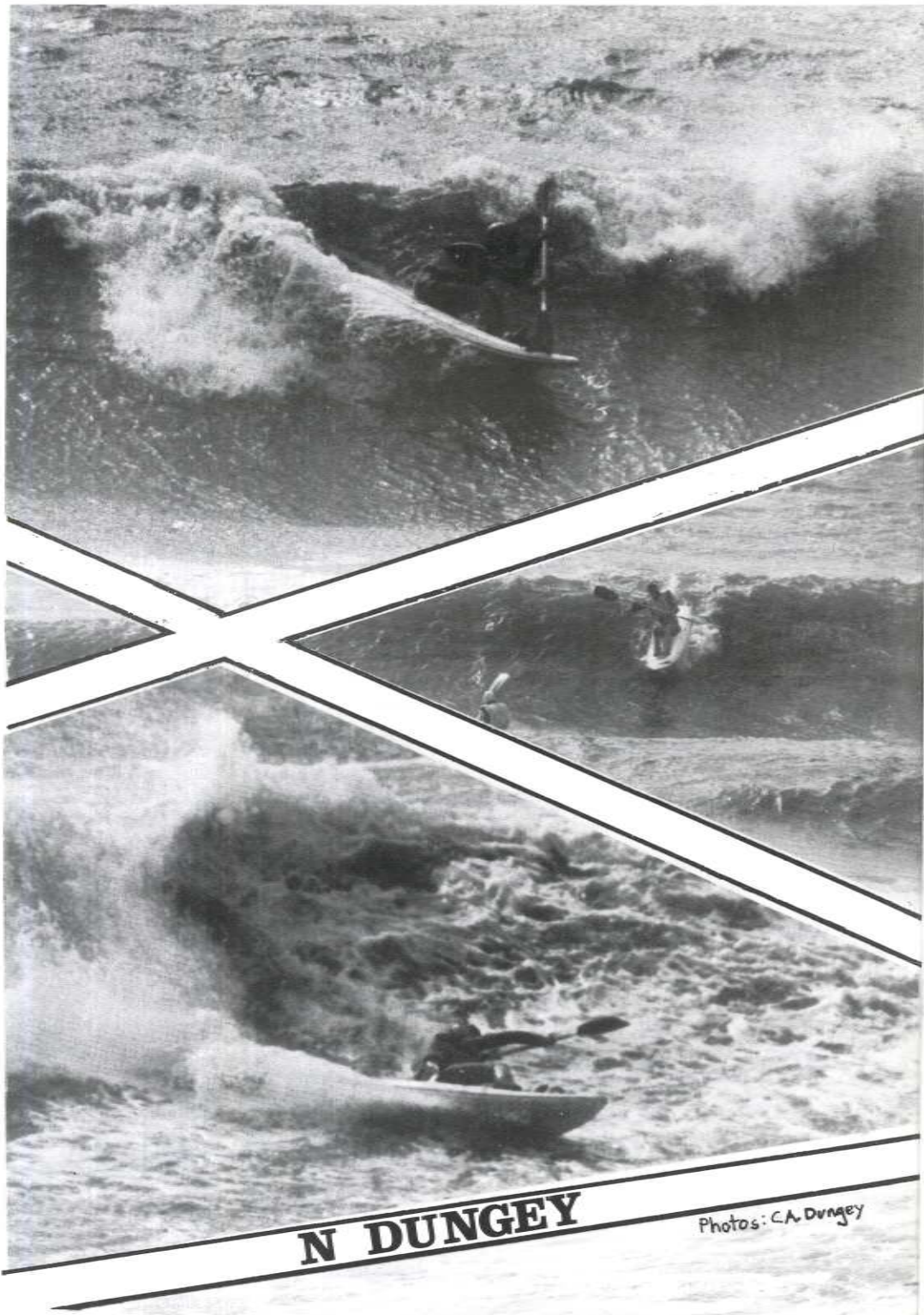
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Please write or telephone with your ideas and enquires to :-

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Caunton Tel 570
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Notts, NG23 6BD*



OF COURSE NOWADAYS I'M ABLE TO MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE TERRY!



N DUNGEY

Photos: C.A. Dungey

The Contest Structure

As we enter the second half of the 1984 paddle-surfing season, the discussion on judging systems and standards continues unabated, as further experiments are tried out in the search for a stable, fair and functional solution. Using the pages of Beschbreak, I'd like to superimpose another, larger area of concern on the present dialogue. My concern is that the present competition structure is already over-stretched and with rising numbers will soon be impossible to operate.

This is not really a new problem, many of us are already aware of it, but as yet, have not looked at it systematically. This I hope to do here. As I see it, there are several issues which contribute towards the problem:

1. Travelling (Time & Cost)
2. Explosion of ranking events.
3. Number of competitors overall.
4. Number of competitors per heat.
5. Unreliable conditions.
6. No incentives for 'losers'.

I expand on these points in turn.

1. TRAVELLING: I start with the contention that most paddlers have to attend most events! If they are to stand a real chance of qualifying for the 'British' or to be eligible for a National Team, competitors must gain three good results and high ranking points, this means for all but the elite few, dogged attendance at a large number of events. Even those who do well early on in the season are obliged to continue competing as they recognise the need to defend their ranking position by keeping others out of the top placings. In addition, the present proliferation of ranking events means that there are not only more chances of winning, but also more chances of getting eliminated.

The result of this 'hidden' pressure to attend events is the accompanying evils of costs and travelling time. As petrol nears £2.00 per gallon and the 500 mile drive at weeking the norm, a £40 to £50 outlay on fuel is the penalty, not to mention the 6 hours of tedium on the roads. This rather bitter pill is all the more difficult to swallow if a contest is postponed and the process has to be repeated at a later date - £80 - £100 for one contest? Its madness!!

2. NUMBER OF EVENTS: This year, there were 12 ranked events of which 4 were postponed or cancelled. The calendar of events is so packed that alternative dates are severely limited and two contests last season were cancelled or lost their ranking status because they could not be run in the calendar year. This resulted in considerable problems for sponsors, organisers and competitors alike, all of whom had some vested interest in a successful event.

Another detrimental factor arising from the current state of affairs is that during the season there are few, if any, opportunities for 'free' surfing weekends, unless one is willing to miss an event. Those that live away from the beach only get to surf in contests between the months of Sept. and Nov.! A penalty which is further compounded if their concern for the sport entails a lot of judging/organising at weekends. They could of course say "stuff judging", but where would that leave contests?

Quite simply, we have more ranking events than we really need or can properly cope with.

3. NUMBER OF COMPETITORS: This problem has been steadily growing over the years - partially eased when skis and shoes were combined. Some of us had expected a faster growth than we have so far seen in the contests.

The number of paddlers seen out at most surf beaches has sometimes equalled and even exceeded the number of boards and I am sure it is only a matter of time before a fair number of them start getting involved in competitions as their skills improve. The ski manufacturers would, I am sure provide some interesting figures of ski sales over the last few years if asked.

I don't think its a question of 'if' numbers grow in contests, its 'when!' It is our duty to ensure that we can cope with the inevitable growth that will come.

4. NUMBERS IN HEATS: Our accumulated experience has shown that virtually any judging system is bound for failure once more than four competitors are put on the water together. Currently, the entries are such that this has already proven impossible, and in most events the norm is six per heat. We are all aware of the resultant injustices and shortcomings.

For the reasons already stated above, I can only see the situation deteriorating as numbers rise. What hope then for fair and workable contests? Heats will be even more overcrowded and the day light hours will not be long enough! When I stop competing, I want it to be because I am too old and not because the competitions have ceased to be friendly and good fun!

5. UNRELIABLE CONDITIONS: Well, we all have had experience of this! That conditions are normally poor is not news to anyone. And yet, we plan our competition season as though the opposite was the case. At present we have to book out contest dates and venues many months ahead, (hopefully accounting for low/high tide suitability). If on the day, the surf is poor or the beach closed-out, the lack of suitable alternatives means either a cancellation or postponement to a hopelessly late date - with the resultant loss of daylight hours and even of ranking status.

How many events were run off last year in one weekend, or in reasonable surf conditions?... Quite!!

Because of the lack of satisfactory alternatives, organisers are pressured into holding events even when all good sense and poor surf prospects would dictate otherwise. Far too many contests lack the phone-in facility that most board surfing events provide and end up running in conditions that render fair judging virtually impossible and are an insult to competitors skill and ability.

6. NO INCENTIVES FOR LOSERS: In most contest the results are generally a foregone conclusion and the same small number of 'elite' paddlers share the final placings and honours between them. The problem here is not so much for these consistent winners, as for the consistent first and second round casualties. The competitive drive of most paddlers is spurred on by their prospects (as they see them) of a good result, of their chances of improving performance and success in contests.

What of the persistent 'also-ran' who regularly pays his dues, buys his petrol and travels his miles, yet never comes away with any positive feed back? A fifth place in round one at 9.30 on Saturday morning, followed by a spectators role, interspersed with several stints of spotting and scribing would not keep me coming to contests. Would it you? Eventually, the 'also-rans' get disenchanted with their anonymity and buying trophies for the same old winners and lose interest. We need these folks, for without them there would be no contests, no future generations and no depth of the sport. I suggest that the present contest structure is elitist and uses 'the rest' as little more than 'heat fodder'. The repercharge system was a partial recognition of the

needs of the first round loser, but it is used very rarely and does little to change the end result.

A SOLUTION.

I have been fairly critical of the current system that has evolved over the last few years. Deliberately so. The way competitive paddle-surfing has developed has been somewhat piece-meal. Successive committees have responded to problems and pressures as they have arisen, but not had time to sit back and take a dispassionate over-view of the structure as a whole.

What I now outline is a radical solution to our present and future problems as they seem to me. I propose:

1. A maximum of only 6 national ranking events...
2. ... for which entry is restricted...
3. ... to the top paddlers results in Regional events..
4. ... which are locally organised and administered...
5. ... and are only open to paddlers resident in the region...

These points I expand and explain in turn.

1. THE NATIONAL RANKING EVENTS.

These events would be the higher status events of the present calendar. I suggest these are:- The English, The Welsh, The Porthcawl Contest, The South West, The Cornish and (to even things up geographically), The North East. These six events should have sole use of all the weekends in May, June, September and October - each being allocated 3 alternative dates (and of course a phone-in system).

These major events would be run under existing B.C.U. rules which should be tightened up a bit with regard to closing dates and

judging and scribing rotas etc. If a contest is successfully run-off on the first of its three alternative dates, those remaining dates could become 'free' weekends or could even be used as further alternatives for the remaining contests - tides and access permitting.

This system would necessitate a change in the way venues and accomodation are booked, but should not present insurmountable problems. The important point is that the in-built flexibility would greatly increase the prospects of each contest for finding suitable surf conditions - surely the prime consideration.

2. ENTRY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED

A maximum number of heats (and thus competitors) should be fixed for each of the national ranked events, based on four competitor heats. The number of heats allocated to each discipline being linked to the numbers currently active in those disciplines. For instance, the present seasons numbers in each class might suggest the heat allocation and arrangements as shown in Fig.1.

Should the overall number of competitors (nationally) in any class rise or fall, then the number of heats allocated to the classes could be adjusted to reflect those changes.

The benefits are clear. The total number of heats for national ranking events would be fixed by the Surf Committee each season, thus ensuring manageable entries, judgeable heats and a more relaxed contest schedule with enough time for lunch breaks, heat changes, unexpected changes in plans etc.

The competitors eligible for national ranking events would be comprised of a fixed number of representatives from each of a number of regional areas. Each region putting forward the top surfers from its own ranking lists.

3. THE REGIONS.

The number of regions which would be created and the actual drawing up of boundaries will pose considerable problems and needs a lot of discussion. The criteria for regional formation should be jointly based on the surfing population of each area, (concentration in S. Wales the the S. West) and on the national geographical suitability of the regions where their nearest normal surf beaches are situated. Inevitably, there are going to be problems for paddlers who fall between two stools or who have conflicting individual preferences.

From a practical and organisational point of view, eight regions would seem to be most suitable. I therefore float the suggestion as shown in Fig. 2.

A beneficial off-shoot of the formation of regions is that an inter-regional event could be arranged each year.

4. ORGANISATION OF THE REGIONS:

Each region would form its own local organising committee which would be responsible for running a 'local series' of say, 4 to 6 events. From the results of all these events, local ranking tables would be compiled (and sent to Beachbreak!) and the top regionally ranked paddlers would have earned their places in the National Ranking events. The regional events would be held outside of the months allocated to the National Ranking Calendar (between Nov. & April) on beaches within the regions boundaries. (Unless it would be convenient for all concerned to do otherwise) These regional events would be run within the B.C.U. safety guide lines but the more general organisation would be the responsibility of the local paddlers organising committee who should enjoy a greater autonomy. Each region should have a representative on the National B.C.U. Surf Committee which may need to be reconstituted in the light of the changes proposed here.

5. REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY:

The general rule, I suggest should be that only those paddlers who are resident in a region be eligible for entry in the 'local series'. As these events are individually, rather than nationally based, 'Birthright' should not be a criterion of eligibility. The whole idea of regionally based contest series is that it does away with the need for competitors to travel long distances to events. Expatriates should not be penalised by exclusion from local events just because their new homes happen not to be where they were born.

This regional event structure appears to narrowly limit cross-fertilisation between areas, this is indeed the case, however, there is no reason at all why out of season, non-ranking 'friendlies' could not be arranged with other regions if so desired.

CONCLUSIONS. The beauties of this new structure are several. The more successful competitors would still have around a dozen events that they could attend - half of them entailing minimal travelling and expense. Less gifted competitors would be guaranteed at least six events - all of which would be staged in their home area and which would be more rewarding results wise than is the case in the current elitist system of contests. Novices could be better catered for in their own events. Lower entries should enable smaller heats and easier judging. At long last more could be done to offer positive encouragement to Juniors, Ladies and promising novices. This last point being of special benefit to school kids, the unemployed and any others who lack money or their own transport.

If surf conditions for regional events are not up to scratch, postponements would not be as problematic as at present. Last minute phone-ins would be feasible and the proximity of paddlers to contest venues could mean less time commitment, with the possibility of single day events in some cases.

Regional contests should do a lot to bring local paddle surfers together, especially in those areas which have been neglected by the present calendar of events. The benefits are clear; increased contact means increased communication and interchange of ideas, leading to rising standards and improved craft design.

This article only reflects one persons ideas, many of them expressed without adequate attention to details and consequences. I am convinced that sooner or later, and I think sooner, change is going to be forced upon us so we might as well be prepared for it. I hope my thoughts prove useful as we prepare to move the sport into the late 80's.



Fig. 1.

CLASS.	SATURDAY (20mins)	SUNDAY 20mins + 1/2 hr. final
Open Slalom	4 heats.	2 Semis -----Final.
Open Ski.	8 " ---4 qtrs---	2 Semis -----Final.
Ladies Slalom.	2 semis -----	-----Final.
" Ski.	2 semis -----	-----Final.
Junior Slalom.	2 semis -----	-----Final.
Junior Ski.	2 semis -----	-----Final.
TOTAL HEATS:	20 (7 Hours)	10 (5 Hours)

Fig. 2.

1. FAR SOUTH WEST ENGLAND (CORNWALL)
2. SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND.
3. S.E. WALES (VALLEYS)
4. S.W. WALES.
5. N. WALES & W. MIDLANDS.
6. S.E. ENGLAND.
7. E. MIDLANDS.
8. THE NORTH.

With competitor allocations per region as follows:-

Open Slalom.	3	} Assuming incomplete take-ups from all regions!
Open Ski.	6	
Ladies Slalom.	2	
Ladies Ski.	2	
Junior Slalom.	2	
Junior Ski.	2	

Dennis Ball.

MAX COLBOURNE,
AT CRYODE ▼



▲ DENNIS BALL.
MARK BONAS ON SHOULDER SAYING "I'LL GIVE YOU £120
▼ FOR YOUR SKI," IAN REPLIES "NO WAY! I'LL TAKE £100"



'J' PALMER, ▲
CONSATINE BAY

LOTS HAPPENING ACROSS THE WATER,

The past year has been a busy one in the paddle surfing circles in Ireland. In addition to consolidating the competition ranking system which is now firmly based on the best four results from our seven ranking competitions, a number of new initiatives got off the ground during the year.

Following the decision taken at the Surf Committee A.G.M. last October, the new drop-in or interference rule went into operation at the first of this year's competitions. Under the new rule, the competitor nearest the shoulder, rather than the first up and planing now has precedence on the wave. This is in line with the board surfing rule and has already provoked enormous controversy in competition circles. Whether or not the change proves successful will only become apparent as the year progresses.

With the rapid development of paddle surfing in Ireland, it was possible for the first time this year to hold an inter-provincial team competition along similar lines to the Home Internationals. This performed the dual function of providing an excellent training opportunity for the Irish Team members in their provincial teams, as well as promoting tremendous interest in the sport in the less developed provinces. The 12 member teams from the four provinces of Munster, Leinster, Ulster and Connaught battled it out in excellent surfing conditions at Basky over the St. Patrick's bank holiday weekend in March, with the Leinster team coming out on top. The huge success of the event guarantees it a permanent place on the Irish surf calendar.

In order to avoid the stagnancy which a single division competition system can lead to, a second division of competitions

trial basis for 1984. The first of these competitions which took place recently in West Cork attracted over 50 competitors, all but six of whom were taking part in competition for the first time. Most encouraging of all was the fact that sixteen lady competitors participated which is four times the number of ladies normally attending ranking competitions.

Those of you who intend coming to Ireland for any of the surf competitions on our calendar may find our judging system rather different from that used in Britain. Since 1983 our judging unit has consisted of a Chief Judge, three judges, a spotter and a scribe. The entire unit operates from the one location with the spotter identifying colours and allocating each run to one of the judges on a rotating basis. The task of the Chief Judge, who remains on duty for the full duration of the particular discipline, (i.e. Slalom or Open), is to maintain consistency among his judging team, who may change from heat to heat as provided for in the judging rota.

A special judging seminar was organised at Lahinch at Easter to streamline the judging system and to improve the overall standard of our judging. The Irish Surf Committee is very grateful to Dennis Ball who came over to give us the benefit of his vast experience over the weekend. It may just be another example of Dennis' diplomacy, but he appeared to be very impressed with our system, which he felt was more reliable than that in use across the water.

All things taken into account, I'm sure you will agree that we have had a particularly busy year. I would like to conclude by extending an open invitation to all Beachbreak readers to come over and take part in any of our ranking competitions. Further information on any of the competitions is available from myself at Dublin 308343 (home), or from Eric Clacksfield at Sligo 5271.

by Ronnie Sheehan.

GROUNDWELL

ORIGINAL TROPHIES.

Sandy Green can 'create' unique trophies carved out of wood, stone or slate and artistic plaques for those contest organisers who want something

other than the standard pewter mug or plastic shield with the awful canoeist stuck on it! She has sent me examples and I can thoroughly recommend them. See her advert for details and her address.

GREEN RESIN PRODUCTS - NEW NAME, NEW SKIS

At the British surf competition this year a new type of ski was donated as first prize in the open event by Green Resin Products. For most people it was the first view of this particular design from a new manufacturer but as Dave Green is quick to point out it is far from his first venture in manufacturing surf equipment.

As far back as 1966 Dave was surfing a slalom kayak regularly on the East coast and occasionally on the South West coast. In 1975 Dave's job took him to Blyth on the superb Northumberland coast where he became a committed kayak surfer and sea canoeist. In 1978 he designed and built his first surf craft (a 9'6" surf kayak) from scratch. Boats from the mould were supplied to members of his Club (Blyth Valley Kayak Club) and a number were sold throughout the region.

After discussions a modified pattern of the surf kayak was supplied to Ian Williams of Dragon Glassfibre in 1979 for mould making and production. Meanwhile, Dave was working on a ski design as local interest in ski surfing was growing. The result was an 8' ski called "Time Out" which made its appearance through Dragon in South Wales. This was still being shown at the 1984 Canoe Exhibition so presumably is still in production.

Dave continued experimenting and soon a new 8' ski was being made and sold to local surfers.

In 1980 Dave, along with Gordon Henderson, Pete Booth and Bill Hoten, made a concerted effort to tackle the competition scene travelling all round the country in a quest for points but eventually the cost of both beer and petrol became prohibitive so he restricted himself to surfing on local waves.

In 1981 Dave moved to Amble where he could study his local break from his dining room window. The surf was superb and the breaks empty so Dave surfed continuously taking time off only for work and to organise local surf competitions.

Next on the drawing board were plans for a 7' ski following the interest in shorter skis. A prototype and pattern were made with the first ski being produced in 1982. Modifications followed but then due to a variety of circumstances Dave and his family moved back to Lincoln and started to look for a factory for full time manufacturing in GRP. At the outset it was decided the factory would be an approved industrial venture hence a modern factory unit on an established industrial estate was acquired. After extensive development and testing the 7' ski reached its final production version and was joined by a pre-production 6'8" model, both of which appeared at the British competition, generating a lot of interest and a number of sales. Two additional skis will complete the range which will be on show at Crystal Palace so whatever your size, shape and skill level visit the Stand because there will be a ski to suit you.

THE ENGLISH '84 LETTERS

Although the usual onshore gales were ordered for the English, (we like to sort out the men from the boys at this one), someone 'up there' (Michael Heseltine perhaps?) got the dates mixed up and we were left with very reasonable surf for the weekend. It could not be called 'glassy', but a fair sized swell pushed through consistently, producing the best surf at an English since Dave Rowat organised it at widemouth in 1980 - come back Dave, all is forgiven!

We had to abandon the normal selection procedure for the 1st Round Heats (automatic advancement to next round for any competitors still breathing after 20 minutes of being turned upside down continuously in the Croyde dump) and had to revert to the judging of waves ridden. This task was well within the capabilities of John Hermes, however, despite his arrival at the contest late and not knowing that he was to be Chief Judge!

Getting outside was not easy (is it ever at Croyde?) and few of the Open competitors had five wave scores. The stronger and better paddlers come through however and were joined by a number of 'new' names - Eric Carter from Kent in particular. Similarly for the Slalom, it was the usual paddlers who excelled, with Alun Page, Dennis Ball and Gary Adcock going 'over the top' - the things some people will do to make sure they get noticed on television!

In the afternoon, the 2nd round of the Open went ahead with a few surprises - such as John Streets, the British Champion going out and Hamish Sander, an 'up and coming' Junior gaining the highest points of the round.

On the Sunday, despite strong winds during the night, the surf remained very much the same. Jeff Miles set the target to beat in the first Open Quarter Final, but Mark Hodson and Robert Poutney were the only ones to come close. The Semi-finals of the Slalom were full of 'upsets' as some 'new' names, such as Mark Bowers, Daryn Williams and Mike Ford displaced

some top paddlers.

In the Ladies Open, Joy Kent was on top form and in the Junior Open, Neil Dungey dominated, while Mark Hodson trailed (perhaps saving himself for the Open Final?). Daryn Williams was outstanding in the Junior Slalom, although Jeremy Palmer came a good second.

The finals of the Open and Slalom were held in good surf with a rising tide. Spectators, T.V. Crew and Judges were treated to an hour of outstanding rides and two 'new' English Champions emerged - both English for a change! Congratulations to Tom Copperwaite and Mark Hodson.

Prizegiving was outside for the benefit of the T.V. Crew and prizes were donated by the following firms:-

Raider Skis; Ra wet Suits; Palm Canoes & Kayaks; Lendall; Alternative Surf; Trylon; Valley Canoe Products; Thatched Barn, Croyde; Townsend Sports; Tims Surf Shack.

Finally, thanks to John Hermes, Paul Medland, (Chief Judges). Robin Poutney, Sandy Irwin (Beach Marshalls). Roger Irwin (T.V. Crew liason and general dogs body) Chris Keeble (Results and control), and everyone else who helped.

OPEN.

1. M. Hodson	31
2. J. Miles.	31
3. M. Rowley.	30
4. J. Bouteloup.	30
5. N. Dungey.	28
6. M. Keeble.	22

SLALOM.

1. T. Copperwaite.	38
2. G. Adcock.	36
3. A. Page.	36
4. D. Williams.	33
5. L. Ford.	32
6. M. Bowers.	26

JUNIOR OPEN.

1. N. Dungey	34
2. M. Hodson	28
3. R. Talbot	27

JUNIOR SLALOM

1. D. Williams.	35.
2. J. Palmer.	29.
3. D. Sumnar.	21.

LADIES OPEN.

1. J. Kent.	30
2. S. Irwin	26
3. L. Dungey	25

Dear Ed,

Having been a subscriber of Beachbreak since the 'Beginning of Time', I now think its time you had an 'Advertisements Section' to get rid of all those unwanted bits and pieces, (rubbish) a 'Surf Enthusiast' collects from time to time!

So to start this section, how about this:-

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Sounds good eh! Now about your mag. When I go surfing (rarely) its into Anglesey or Abersoc area and its very unusual to find surf, does it exist?

Am I doing something wrong, have I left the most important thing out, am I mental? These are just a few of the questions I ask myself while standing on a windswept beach looking out to a microscopically smooth 'flat' sea!

What us North Westerners (you know the ones, dolites, strikers, rioters and general layabouts) need to know is where to go surfing in the North Wales area and when!

Yours,

worried of Liverpool (Mike Peppin)

P.S. Please excuse all the brackets, but I haven't got an English 'O' level, I always thought a semi-colon was a South African surf manoeuvre!

Editors note:

Should anyone have any personal items for sale, please send your adverts to me for insertion in the next Beachbreak, (no more than 15 words).

Dear Beachbreak,

Congratulations on the 'new' magazine, which I feel sure will prove a worthy successor to Viv's version.

One item that I read in your pages fills me with horror at the incredible lack of imagination shown by the Surf Committee (not the abolition of buoyancy aids for ski paddlers in competition!). They announce with pride the new classes for the season, but do not seem to be aware of the extent to which this is an infringement of the Discrimination Rules (Laws?). Let me explain.

Juniors have their own ski and slalom classes and can also enter Open Ski and Slalom Classes (why not?). Ladies have their own ski and slalom classes and can also enter open events. But what about the MALE surfer, who, for his sins has survived to an age greater than 19. It may be kind to his pocket at £2.50 an event, but he can ONLY enter open events - perhaps the Committee felt that they did not want too many casualties among the geriatrics if they had also the opportunity to enter four events (anyone entering open slalom knows just how many Juniors there are - even Gary is getting on!

In the South West this year we saw for the first time for a while a Junior winning both the Junior and Open Slalom Class, and thoroughly deserving it (even though he was paddling a Mirage!) But it surely cannot be FAIR on us old-timers? There are still some of us slalom paddlers who are too lazy to get into skis (so that we do not even get two events

Come on Surf Committee - remove your collective fingers and ensure that everyone who is prepared to compete has the same number of events open to him or her. This means that we have to have two more classes - Mens Slalom and Mens Ski. Or, as an alternative, stop Juniors and Ladies from entering Open events (they are too good anyway!!)

letters cont.....

As one who brings a van load of Juniors to surf competitions, I feel most strongly that there will be accidents among Juniors in particular if they have one or two rounds of open events on a Saturday and then ALL the Junior competition, plus any Senior events in which they are still in on the Sunday. It is too much for younger paddlers. The only answer is that they should know better than to enter too much. Failing that, they will not be so interested next time.

We have been to several competitions where there have been few Juniors and even fewer Ladies, surely it would make life easier for organisers, and more interesting for Juniors, if instead of having to stand and freeze all Saturday, they were automatically entered into the open event and Junior and Ladies trophies presented on

the basis of performance in the Open events, if, let us say there were fewer than 12 entries in Junior or Ladies classes.

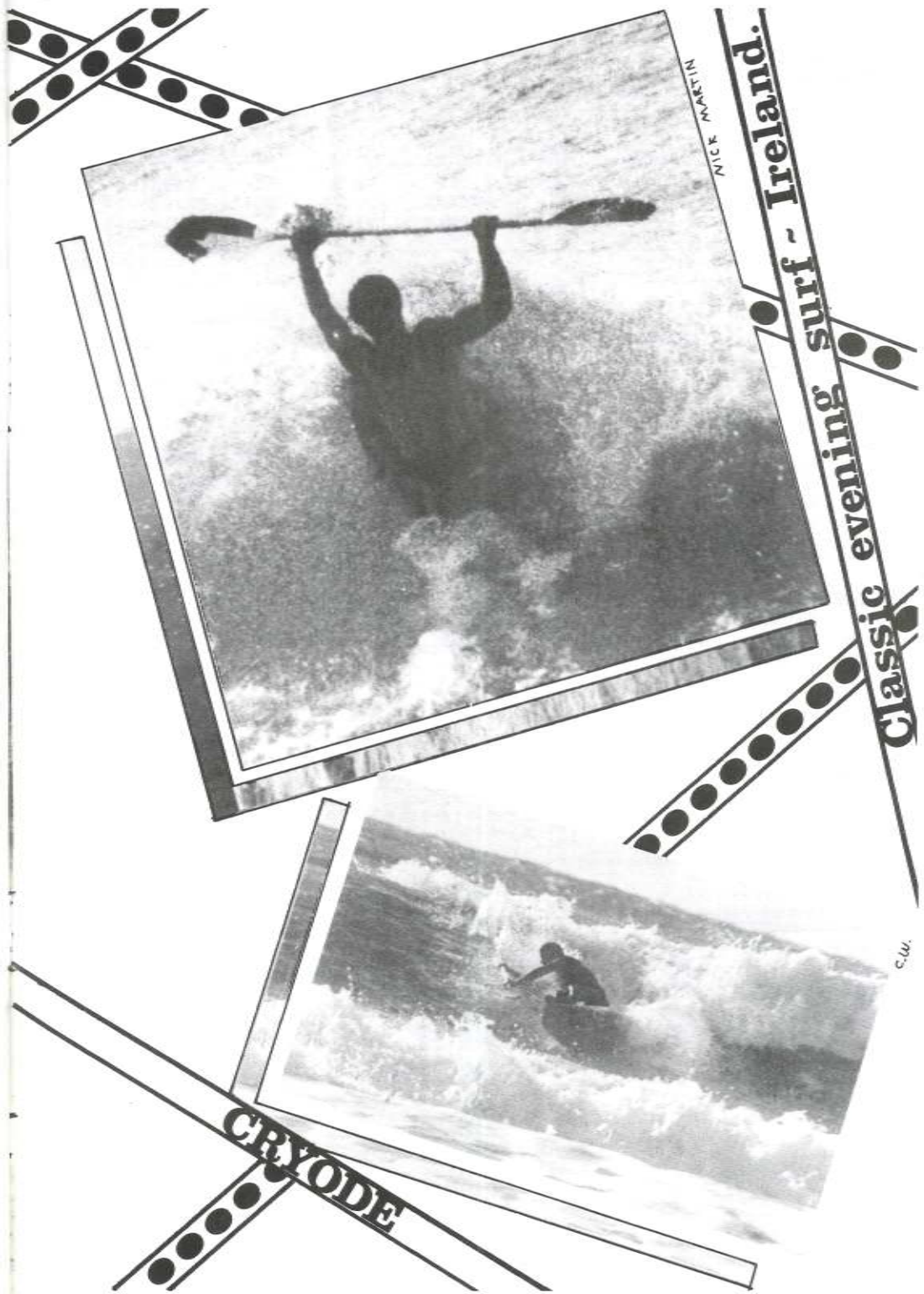
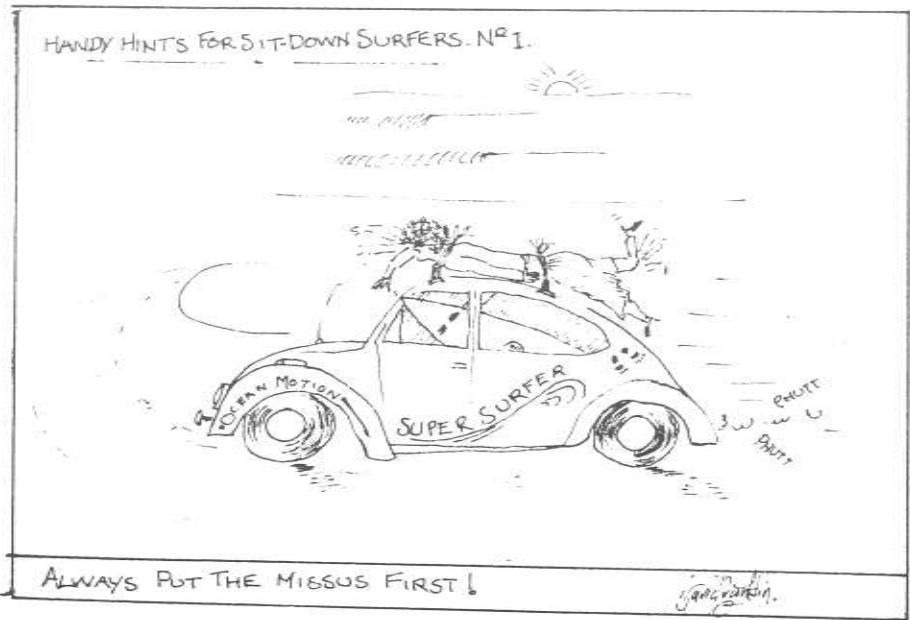
At the Newgale contest, the Ladies, by the time they reached their fourth event were too exhausted to do themselves justice! (Maybe that was the travelling...)

Looking around at competitions, I do not think that this solution would pose safety/rescue problems as so many Juniors as mentioned above more than hold their own in Senior (sorry, OPEN) events as it is.

Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Davies.



RESULTS.....

WELSH NATIONALS.

Open.		Slalom.		Ladies Open.	
1. J. Miles.	195	1. D. Ball.	92	1. M. Turner.	26
2. R. Poutney.	190	2. G. Adcock.	88	2. J. Kent.	25
3. M. Keeble.	168	3. T. Copperwaite.	88	3. J. Melvin.	22
4. M. Jeffries.	163	4. J. Hermes.	86	4. S. Jones.	18
				5. S. Cunningham	17
				6. K. Dighton.	16
Junior Open.		Ladies Slalom.		Junior Slalom.	
1. R. Talbot.	153	1. C. Major.	82	1. S. Jones.	66
2. N. Dungey.	153	2. K. Dighton.	74	2. D. William	62
3. A. Elias.	135	3. S. Jones.	65	3. A. Watkins.	44
4. H. Davies.	133	4. H. Carr.	60		
5. D. Morris.	126	5. J. Melvin.	44		
6. M. Hodson.					

CORNISH.		Slalom.		Ladies Open.	
1. R. Poutney.	33	1. D. Rosenberg.	32	1. L. Dungey.	
2. N. Dungey.	30	2. G. Adcock.	30	2. J. Kent.	
3. M. Keeble.	24	3. M. Crispin.	27	3. K. Dighton.	
4. E. Sutherland.	21	4. K. Trudgeon.	27		
5. E. Carter.	19	5. D. Ball.	25		
6. D. Rosenberg.	5	6. S. Pinner.	23		

Junior Open.		Ladies Slalom.	
1. M. Hodson.	32	1. C. Major.	
2. N. Dungey.	32	2. K. Dighton.	
3. M. Alderton.	26		
4. M. Cartwright.	22		
5. H. Sander.	12		

KERNOW CONTEST.

Slalom.		Junior Slalom.	
1. G. Adcock.	34	1. M. Alderton.	32
2. M. Alderton.	27	2. M. Cartwright.	29
3. K. Trudgeon.	26	3. J. Palmer.	24
4. M. Ford.	25		
5. M. Crispin.			
6. A. Leonard.			

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Open.		Slalom.		Ladies Open.	
1. J. Miles.	32	1. D. Rosenberg.		1. M. Turner.	
2. M. Rowley.	32	2. P. Dighton.		2. J. Kent.	
3. N. Martin.	27	3. D. Ball.		3. A. Dighton.	
4. J. Streets.	26	4. A. Williams.			
		5. T. Copperwaite.			

WELSH COAST.

Open.		Ladies.	
1. R. Poutney.	75	1. S. Irwin.	43
2. M. Hodson.	74	2. H. Bouteloup.	31
3. N. Jones.	71	Junior Final.	
4. C. Nicholls.	63	1. M. Hodson.	63
5. M. Rowley.	54	2. H. Sander.	52
6. M. Jeffreys.	53	3. R. Talbot.	51
		4. C. Dolbel.	34

RESULTS.....

JERSEY CONTEST.

Open.		Open Junior.		Ladies Open.	
1. J. Searson.	90	1. S. Jones.	92	1. H. Bouteloup.	85
2. P. Bouteloup.	79	2. A. Kemp.	91	2. G. Mitchell,	71
3. P. Reading.	76	3. C. Dolbel.	71		
4. J. Bouteloup.	74				

SOUTH WEST.

Open.		Slalom.		Junior Ski/Kayak.	
1. J. Miles.	34	1. D. Williams.	31	1. M. Hodson.	30
2. D. Bailey.	30	2. M. Jenkins.	29	2. H. Davies.	24
3. A. Knight.	28	3. K. Trudgeon.	26	3. H. Sander.	24
4. R. Poutney.	26	4. S. Pinner.	27	4. R. Talbot.	22
5. M. Hodson.	26	5. P. Styles.	23	5. J. Palmer.	11
6. E. Sutherland.	24	6. M. Desmond.	22	6. C. Youngman	10

Junior Slalom.		Ladies.	
1. D. Williams.	30	1. K. Dighton.	10
2. M. Douglas.	12	2. S. Jones.	9
3. C. Youngman.	10		
4. J. Palmer.	8		

NEWGALE.

Open.		Slalom.		Junior Open.	
1. R. Poutney.	31	1. A. Page.	34	1. M. Hodson.	30
2. M. Rowley.	28	2. T. Copperwaite.	33	2. M. Jones.	17
3. M. Hodson.	27	3. S. Pinner.	29	3. C. Youngman.	16
4. R. Knight.	24	4. D. Williams.	27	4. N. Waldrow.	15
5. I. Smith.	22	5. M. Crispin.	27	5. R. Solomon.	7
6. S. Waller.	21			6. D. Sumner.	

Ladies Slalom.		Ladies Open.		Junior Slalom.	
1. K. Dighton.	20	1. K. Dighton.	20	1. D. Williams.	27
2. S. Jones.	15	2. S. Jones.	17	2. C. Youngman.	18
3. J. Simms.	12	3. J. Melvin.	17	3. M. Colborne.	8

WHITESANDS.

Open.		Slalom.		Ladies Slalom.	
1. J. Miles.	32	1. A. Page.	29	1. K. Dighton.	23
2. N. Jones.	28	2. T. Copperwaite.	25	2. S. Jones.	20
3. E. Sutherland.	28	3. J. Hermes.	23	3. J. Simms	6
4. N. Martin.	27	4. A. Leonard.	23		
5. S. Waller.	25	5. C. Cunningham.	22		
6. A. Page.	23	6. R. Borman.	21		

Ladies Open.		Junior Open.	
1. S. Jones.	16	1. M. Jones.	10.

RED RIVER CONTEST.

Open.		Open Junior.		Ladies Open.	
1. J. Miles.	36	1. M. Hodson.	33	1. L. Dungey.	60
2. M. Rowley.	36	2. M. Alderton.	33	2. S. Jones.	45
3. M. Alderton.	34	3. M. Cartwright.	24	3. J. Melvin.	31
4. M. Hodson.	33	4. H. Sander.	22		



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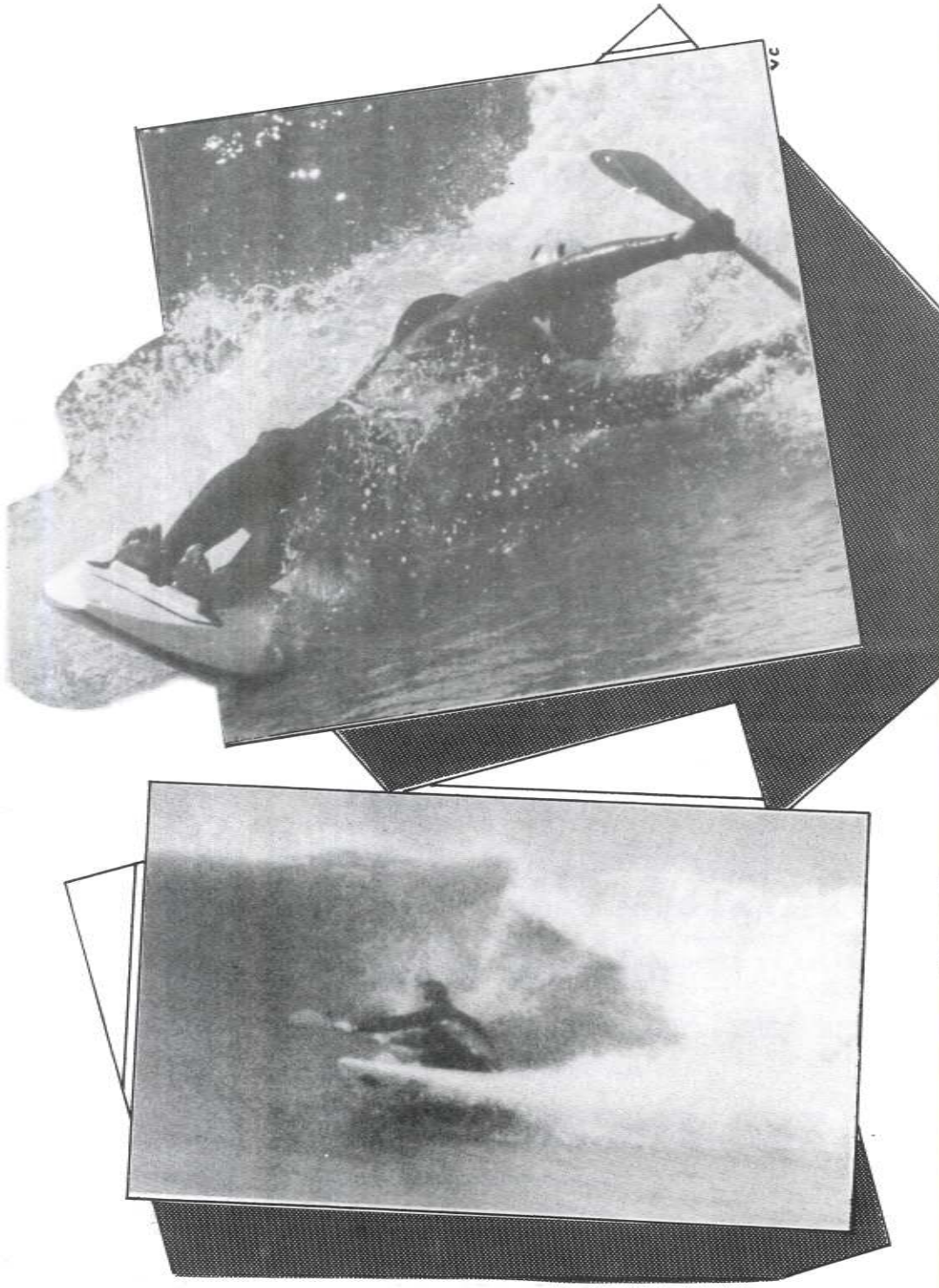
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Judging at The Red River Contest.

At the Red River Competition this May, 'Minnow' Green adopted a new system for judging.

The judging group was composed of the chief judge, three judges, a spotter, time keeper/flag changer and the scribe. The competition was run with only four contestants on the water at one time, and this appears to be the maximum that can be efficiently judged, especially when there is an easy paddle out, or small surf. This was the case in this competition, where some competitors were catching over 12 waves in 20 minutes.

The aim of any judging team is to see every wave that is taken and accurately and consistently judge those waves in the context of the heat. For example, if the surf drops off over the heats, the latter heats should still be marked over the full range, so that a maximum mark can be given in large surf and in small surf providing the scoring is consistent in each heat.

The spotter must be alert to keep an eye on competitors taking off, where there are alongshore currents as in the Red River competition, the four paddlers can be spread over a couple of hundred yards and it is at the discretion of the spotter/chief judge to assess whether a competitor is in or out of the surfing area (as I found out to my cost, losing a £1 over the protest!)

As a competitor lines up to take a wave, the spotter allocates that competitor to the first judge, the second competitor lining up to the second judge and the third competitor to the third judge. The fourth competitor is then allocated to the first judge, and so on in strict rotation.

The scribe at this stage puts a dot in the wave score box for each competitor on a wave surfing. At the end of the ride, he can then look back to see which competitors took waves. (Important when three competitors take off at the same time). The

has now been introduced on a judge gives a score which, if the Chief Judge agrees with (and possibly the other judges), the score is then entered by the scribe

The Scribes job is, I believe, the most important. Not only is he (or her) there to write scores down, but to make sure the marks are consistent during the heat, drawing to the attention of the judges waves that were better or worse than a previous score of the same value. When a score is written down, the score and bib colour is repeated back to the judge as a double check. Also the scribe must ask a judge for a score, particularly if three competitors take off on waves and only two scores are received. (The value of the dots in the boxes).

The Chief Judge must retain overall control and needs to rule with a rod of iron, (very well done by Dennis Ball). This is very important for the first three or four waves of a heat to make sure the scoring uses the full range of marks and not just the bottom half.

Here lies my one criticism of the contest, I feel that the marks should have been out of 20 and not 10. Quite often a wave is, for example, better than a 7 given but not quite as good as an eight. A 15 could have been given if 20 points were used. A 20 point system would reduce the number of tied scores in heats, as there were in this competition.

At the end of the heat the marks are totalled and a result obtained. Here I believe the judges should be involved in the result, particularly if there is a tie between contestants. A final decision can be arrived at by looking back at the scores and re-marking a wave up or down in retrospect, to give what the judges feel is a representative result.

This system of judging worked well at Red River and helped to prevent waves being missed and produced consistent wave scores through the heats.

by Peter Seabrook

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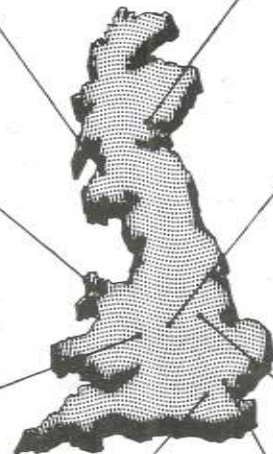
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