

**INTERNATIONAL  
WHITEWATER HALL OF FAME  
Nomination Form**

OFFICE USE
Date Received:

**Deadline: Saturday, April 18, 2009 (11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time, +5 UT)**

**I. NOMINEE\*:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Oliver J. Cock\_MBE\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_ United Kingdom \_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. NOMINATING ORGANIZATION:**

Name: ---British Canoe Union---

Street Address: ---18 Market Place, Bingham---

City: ---Nottingham---- State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: ----England---- Zip Code: ---NG13 8AP--

Telephone: 0845 370 9520 E-mail: info@bcu.org.uk



\* For team nominees, an additional sheet may be added with the names and addresses for of all team members.

**III. PREPARED BY:**

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ KENT FORD \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_April 13, 2009\_

**IV. CATEGORY:**

		(Date)	(Date)	
___ PIONEER	Sport: _____	Active From: _____	To: _____	Living: __ Yes __ No
___ EXPLORER	Sport: _____	Active From: _____	To: _____	Living: __ Yes __ No
___ CHAMPION	Sport: _____	Active From: _____	To: _____	Living: __ Yes __ No
<u>X</u> ADVOCATE	Sport: _____	Active From: __1936_	To: __1996_	Living: __ Yes <u>x</u> No

**Individuals or teams may be nominated in any one of the four categories. Please Note that Pioneer and Advocate Categories Have Been Revised. See Nomination and Selection Procedures (Rev. 03.10.09) for a complete description of the nominating criteria. The following is a brief summary of the criteria:**

**PIONEER**

- Has Made/Was the first or among the earliest expert in one or more specific areas of whitewater accomplishment.

**EXPLORER**

- Has been engaged in extensive exploration and investigation of unknown regions and areas of whitewater activity.
- Has exemplified superior feats in previously unchallenged whitewater: e.g. an adventurer, scientist or expedition leader.

**CHAMPION**

- Has been/was engaged in any competitive whitewater discipline for at least five (5) years.
- Has a distinguished record of achievement at the highest levels of competitive whitewater sport.

**ADVOCATE**

- Has promoted whitewater pursuits vigorously through grassroots advocacy, environmental stewardship or by producing significant products or services.
- Has served the whitewater community in a leadership role for a period of twenty (20) years or more.

Note: All nominees: 1) may be living or deceased, and 2) may be an individual or a team.

**Nominee:** Oliver J. Cock\_MBE

**V. BASIS FOR NOMINATION:** Provide a brief summary statement.

Oliver J. Cock was a tremendous promoter of canoeing in the United Kingdom. His first contributions were by capturing expeditions and training lessons on film, which inspired many British paddlers. He led efforts in developing lifejacket/ buoyancy aids for canoeists, and developed the proficiency tests that became the foundation for British Canoe Union Certification and training programs. Became coach for the BCU slalom team in 1953, and within 6 years they began to win medals. In 1959 he coached Paul Farrant to a World Championship title in Slalom, the first medal won by a Brit in this event. He also became the BCU national coach, going around the country teaching schoolteachers how to teach canoeing safely. He retired from this post in 1982 at the age of 70. He remained active in other aspects of Paddlesports.

His film archive is likely the best archive of 1940's paddling available anywhere worldwide.

NOTE: In the UK, the words canoe and kayak are more interchangeable. Most of Oliver Cock's contributions were for double bladed kayakers.

**VI. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Please list accomplishments pertinent to the nominee's category. Examples: competitions, first descents, expeditions. Coaches and organizers/leaders: years involved, notable events in which he/she was involved, notable associates (e.g. athletes he/she coached) along with relevant information regarding awards received, team placement, etc.

Year	Event	Location	Placement/Award

River descents and adventures chronicled in his book and on films. See youtube sample below.

Sample Oliver Cock films: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDhahHSvDhU>

Many more films, and film clips available. Photos available from his book.



**Nominee:** Oliver J. Cock\_MBE

**VII. CONTRIBUTIONS:** Please list any contributions pertinent to the nominee's category.  
 Examples: contributory causes, designs and inventions, skills/technique contributions, and industry participation/ leadership.

Year	Nature of Contribution	Role

Additional information here.

**VIII. WHITEWATER ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP:**

Year	Organization	Role/Position

First BCU National Coach in 1953

**Nominee:** Oliver J. Cock\_MBE

**IX. ARTICLES/BOOKS WRITTEN:**

Year	Title	Published? (Y/N)

Autobiography: "I Paddled my own Canoe" 2001 Oliver J Cock, MBE Only a few chapters dwell on the Whitewater portion of his life. The book details many of his contributions, and includes photos that would be useful in the event of eventual selection to the Hall of Fame.

A short history of canoeing in Britain  
by [Oliver Jestie Cock](#)  
Published in 1974, British Canoe Union (London)

Sample Oliver Cock films: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDhahHSvDhU>

**X. HONORS/AWARDS RECEIVED:**

Year	Honor/Award	Granting Organization

**Article Date:** 08/11/2007 Oliver Jestie Cock MBE almost 96 passed away peacefully in the East Surrey Hospital on 16th October. Much loved uncle, great and great-great uncle.

**MBE:** The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is a British order of chivalry established on 4 June 1917 by King George V.

The first mention of canoe polo in Britain can be surely attributed to the activity of Oliver J Cock, MBE, who invented this version of the game in the late 1940's, just after the end of the Second World War. The game was first mentioned in his book "You and your Canoe" published in the U.K. in the middle of the 1950's.

<b>Nominee:</b> Oliver J. Cock_MBE
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**XI. FURTHER SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:** Please use this space to provide any further information on the above, evidence of integrity, sportsmanship, and character and all additional information to support consideration of the Nominee. **Please submit additional materials, photos, published manuscripts or articles, videos, DVDs, and/or website URLs or links. This information will be considered by our screening committee and should the nominee be elected to the IWHOof, will also be used in the production of the annual DVD honoring the new Class of Honorees.**

- **FILM Archive collected as the BCU Archive collection:**
- Clarence I, II, III 1947-52 Early BCU teaching films by Oliver Cock
- Competition 1963 Documentary
- Douro Journey 1949 documentary of journey in Portugal.
- Glen Albyn 1946, Spey 1954, Tay 1955 Trip documentarys on Scottish rivers
- 1956 Gorge de Verdon, France Documentary
- Basic Skills 1963 BCU Training Film
- Alpine Passes 1952 BCU Training film
- Loch Erich 1945, Tamar 1943, Trummel 1945 River trips

Sample Oliver Cock films:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDhahHSvDhU>

The BCU Coaching Scheme <http://www.mainacademyglobal.org/youngpeople/placidwater.shtml>

The BCU Coaching Scheme was started in the 1950's by John Dudderidge. The original proficiency tests were designed around the use of the open cockpit straight line kayak. The third period which had a massive impact on both the expansion and the change in direction of British canoeing culture started around the early 1960's.

The BCU appointed its first Director of Coaching, Oliver Cock, in 1962, giving added drive to what was to become a very powerful teaching scheme. For various reasons, the Coaching Scheme became more and more interested in rough water canoeing. At the same time, glass reinforced plastic became available. Moulds were produced for the home builder and the designs reflected the interest in rough water. Thousands of kayaks were produced with rockered hulls and small cockpits.

By 1980, the Coaching Scheme had 3,000 members almost all teaching in the close fitting cockpit kayak. So powerful had that culture become that, if the word 'canoeing' be mentioned to almost anyone in Britain, their immediate image would be that of a young man or woman strapped into a kayak, wearing a crash helmet and wetsuit, performing turns and rolls on rapidly moving rivers. This was a great image for the adventurous teenager but daunting for many others who might wish to paddle.

Death of founding BDA President (Updated <http://www.dragonboat.org.uk>)

It is with great regret that we have to announce the sad loss of Oliver Jesty Cock, the founding President of our Association. Oliver passed away on the 16th October. His funeral and a celebration of his life took place on 31st October at St Pauls church, Woldingham.

Mike Haslam, BDA Chairman, who enjoyed a long association with Oliver during his canoeing exploits and his presidency remembers him fondly:

'Oliver Jesty Cock was our first President and was a great supporter of Dragon Boating from the early 1980s. He donated the Nations Cup to the IDBF for the 1st World Championships in 1995 and travelled to Yue Yang, China, when he was 83, to present it personally.

Most recently he donated the Golden Dragon Trophy for the Best Premier Crew overall at the BDA National Championships. It is only in the last few years that he was unable to join us at the National Championships and present the prizes but he made a special journey last year, at 94 years young, to present the Golden Dragon Trophy for the first time to Batchworth Dragons. He will be missed but never forgotten as his trophies will live on at both National and International level as a token of his life and his support of Dragon Boating world wide.'

<http://canoeist.co.uk/wps/apr09/hq/page25.pdf>

As I scanned the pages of the last issue I was reminded of a riddle

**Oliver Cock** wrote down and gave me decades ago in phoney French:

'Pas d'elle yeux Rhône que nous.'

I disappointed OJC because, instead of trying to pronounce it, I tried to translate it. You know that feeling when you've just cracked a great joke and nobody gets it? A sort of vacancy in the belly laugh department.