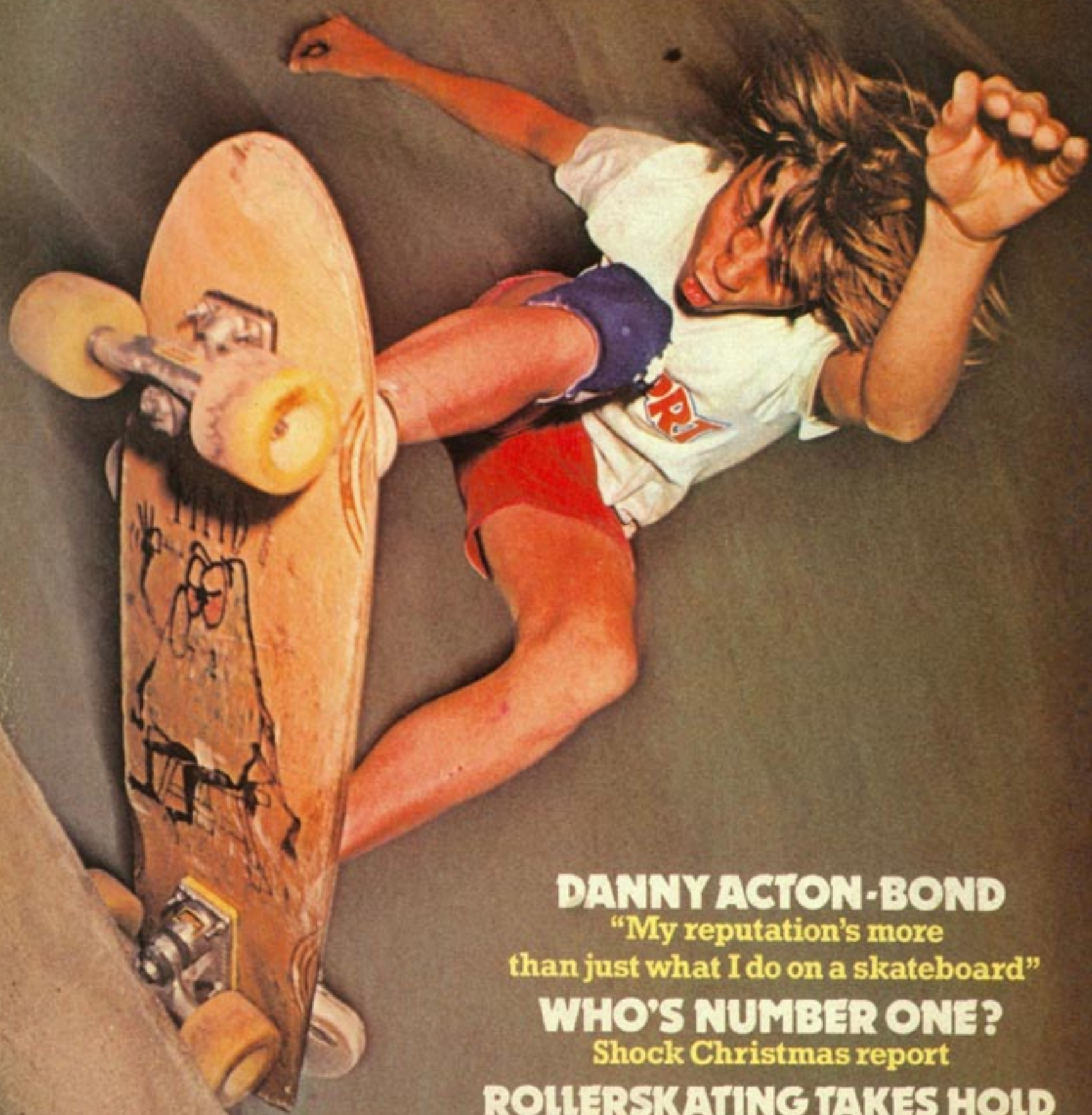


Skateboard!

No.16

EUROPE'S HOTTEST SKATEBOARD MAGAZINE



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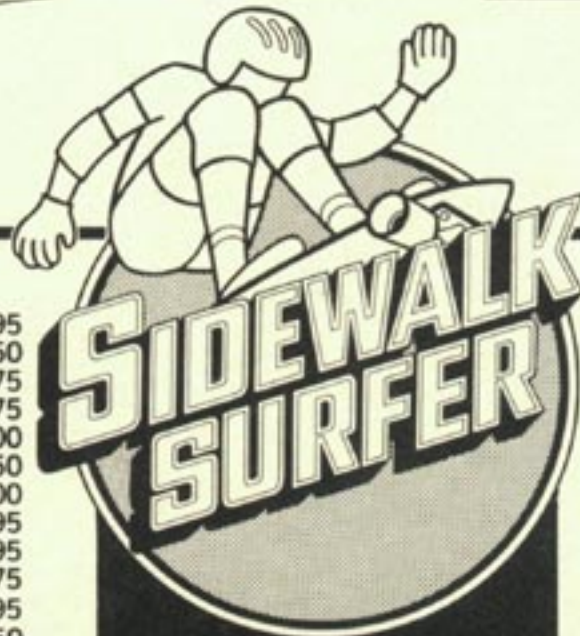
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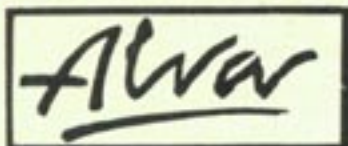
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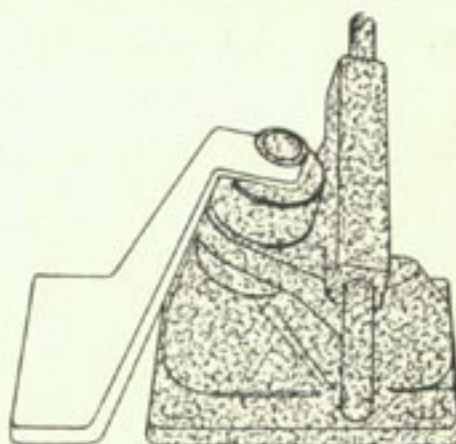
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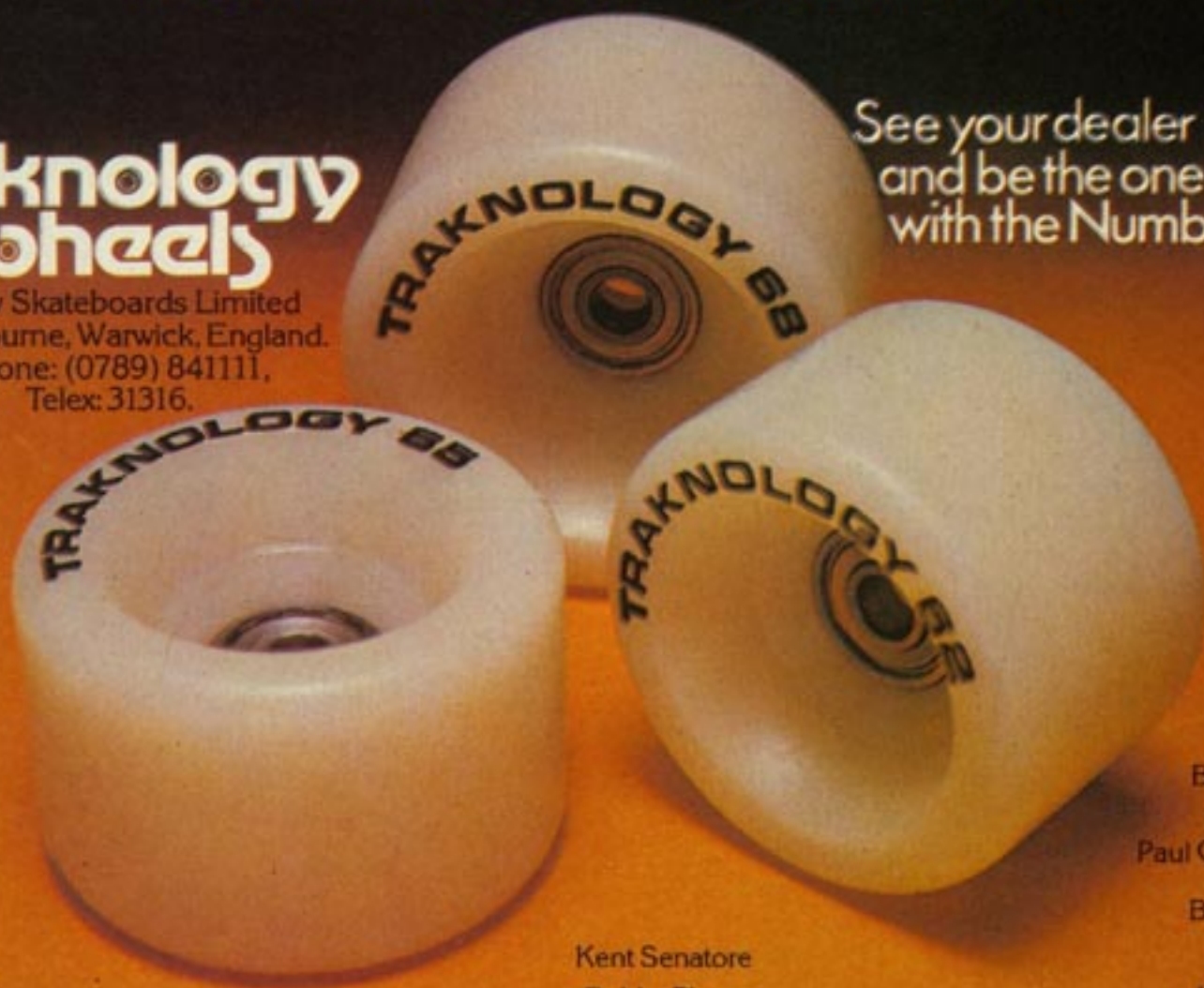
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Shane Cutts, high-styling the Locomotion Skatepark

COMMENT

It doesn't take the keenest of eyes to spot a major difference between this Christmas and the last. Look around the shops... in comparison there's hardly a rip-off clunker in sight. Maybe it's good news that the 'lower than bottom end' of the skateboard market has been laid to rest - the bad news, however, is that in many parts of the country that means much of the remainder has disappeared with it.

Having nowhere to skate may be the ultimate discouragement, but not being able to lay hands on proper, up-to-date equipment must run it close. The problem is easy to identify... during the time of the Great Craze, would-be entrepreneurs popped up everywhere, loaded to the gills with everything both desirable and undesirable for the skater.

Established sports equipment shops grew more and more nervous at the beserk press reports, the unexpected intrusion into their business - and of the human detritus carried in with it. Much of the established world of sporting respectability declined to join in the party.

Before long, the disillusioned seekers after instant assets dropped off the wagon to hit other quick buck trails... most weren't interested in offering bothersome things like service or value for money anyhow. Also soon to leave were the well-intentioned but inexperienced and the bungling, so what was left? The answer is, not very much.

It was always hopelessly optimistic to expect every town, city and village to be able to support its own skateboarding shop - no sport in the world could claim that sort of luxury. Yet that's just about the way it seemed last Christmas. Now times have changed and with most of the 'centres' gone, it's imperative that not only do general sports stores start accepting skateboarding for what it is, it's vital also they begin to learn what it's all about.

My brief researches have shown that there're still many dealers around terrified of catering for the market in anything more than a token fashion. They need the help, advice and enthusiasm of the skaters to clear that hurdle.

In fact, how about making it YOUR New Year's resolution. Turn on and support your local sports equipment stockist - then, with a bit of luck, he may end up supporting you.

Bruce Sawford, Editor.

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LIPTORQUE

NEWS, RUMOURS & RESULTS - IN SHORT

GENERAL NEWS

In search of pyramid-power? By the time you've read this, Benjymen Jeremy Henderson, Marc Sinclair and Jules Gayton will have hit the desert world in the shape of Expo '78 at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. BB have had a custom half pipe specially built for the occasion measuring 14' high by 30' vert to vert by 18' wide. Apparently the show is the biggest in the Gulf this year and the theme is - that's right - skateboarding. Stand by now for the inevitable John Povey camel jokes. Other intrepid travellers to the same hot spot are Skatepark Construction (custom facilities for rich arab's sons) Ltd.

Taking a leaf from Free-wheelin' (where Stacy Peralta works out in a restaurant) it seems London's 'Tacos House' in the Tottenham Court Road is now almost exclusively staffed by top skaters. Names seen finding out how to earn an honest living include Jeremy Henderson, Thea Cutts and Pete Stern. And moving a bit further up-market, Si Napper has been known to do a number at Sloanes in Knightsbridge. Could the extra cash be financing his rumoured appearances at the trendy Embassy Club?

Meanwhile at Notting Hill's Meanwhile Gardens all is togetherness with plans afoot to raise funds for a new pool. Meanwhile all the Meanwhile boys seem keen to hold regular contests with the Rolling Thunder lads. . . at the Thunder park (see test this issue).

Competition it seems is generally moving in this direction with many an informal skate-together between local mobsters. Eric Snook's guys were invited recently to Bristol's Ashton Court for a day of one-wheelers, 360's, high aerials and other jollities.

Other known skaters who've been seen getting it together of late are Steve and Brian Kelner, Jim Slater and Tim Panting. It seems their intent is to kindle interest in

'La Costa' type slalom events and much practice is now taking place around Crystal Palace at weekends.

News from Bristol that the 'packing-case' finish Cheap-skate is now being produced in relative quantity with the help of an independant job creation scheme known as the Bristol Youth Workshop. Sounds like the Mariner's 'throw-away' board idea is a goodie.

Skateboarder, America's Guvnor Mag and the one we all keep an eye on suffered a slight hiccup in its November edition. Presenting the first serious look at the European scene from a Stateside mag, their usual ruthless efficiency covered under a hail of mistakes. Kadir Guidrey, Marc Sinclair and Steven Harken are just three of the mis-spells and since when have The Cage and Arrow been in London? Never mind, Mad Mark should be happy. . . he gets no less than four picture checks.

Congrats to Sally Robinson from London for guessing the correct owner of the behind featured in issue 13. Unfortunately her entry arrived too late for the judgement day, but we did like her caption: 'Blast-off-Basil executing a masterful Soya Bean Bowl Clearer' - confusing, but I think I know what she means.

ON THE MOVE DEPT

A good many pros have been switching scenes of late. Tim Altic, the famed Bristol 8-wheeler has just joined Benjy. . . presumably to spread Ben's interest in roller-skates.

Since the collapse of Connoisseur, LOGOS are foot-loose and at a rumoured all-time low at the bank. To stave off this unpleasant thought, Richard Heslop, Ben Liddell and Thea Cutts (along with Paul Conibear) have been touring Italy.

Danny Acton-Bond has gone a step further and (at

least at press time) is aiming to settle down near Milan for a while, armed only with a Skateboard! subscription and a bundle of cheap boards.

Other European travellers are Brad Vine, Neil Harding and Roger Harvey. They've been hot-fotting the continent to promote their new connections with the Fulham based Trade Winds company. They've formed a new power team, along with Neil's ex-Hobie team-mate, Clive Manderson; another name they're tossing around is Tim Levis who's been on a Swedish sojourn.

There's one infamous personage who's name we seldom omit these days and that's Mark Baker. True to form he brought a sweat to manager, Phil Lobatto's, brow by flying off to the States - and promptly disappearing. Surprise, surprise, after a week of no word, Mark rang Phil with the news that he'd just moved into a new apartment in Venice (near LA) with TA hisself! Since then he claims to have skated the Big O Skatepark (blowing Billy Yeron onto the roof) and done similar things to Jim Muir in the 18' bowl at the new Marina Del Ray facility. Confirmation or denial is awaited!

Last of the transatlantic treckers this month are the Stern Brothers. News is they reached California and successfully beat experienced natives at slalom and freestyle in local, amateur events.

INJURIES DEPT

Max Kirsten has broken his ankle for the third time; on this occasion he was rushing to buy a ticket for a 'dirty weekend' in Paris. For him, the stairs at Victoria station will forever hold a new meaning.

Brighton's Twiggy has broken his left arm at the Cage. And not only that, he's also got water on the left knee.

WE'D LIKE TO BELIEVE IT DEPT

Could it be true that ACS got the idea for their new range of tennis shoe rollerskates after reading our DIY roller feature in issue 12? That's the rumour we heard, anyway.

PLYMOUTH DOUBLE-TAKE

A typical situation? With the completion of the Plymouth Skatepark on the site of the old zoo, the local council decided in its wisdom to ban riding elsewhere in the town - particularly on the Ho! The latter decision was supposedly for the summer only, but come the winter, the ban continues. It's an old story . . . the kids can't afford to pay the park's prices so it now stands more or less empty. Street riding's out of order so the result. . . the sport's dying in Plymouth. What about it Mr. Council, how about subsidising skateboarding in your area, the same way you do most other sports?

SPEED NEWS

Alan Snow (of 166 Wyke Road, Trowbridge, Wilts) is looking to start an association for the owners of speed shells. He recently bought Peter Inchley's old machine and right now he's busy modifying it for competition. Anyone interested in helping the cause, drop Alan a line.

UNOFFICIAL RECORDS DEPT

Brian Kelner (yes, again) is busy proving in Pig City that he's master of the 360. He manages a regular 35 turns and the latest we've heard, he's made 39. Beat that you gremis!

ODDBALL OF THE MONTH

Surely it can't be true? It's

said that Traknology (Arrow Skateboards) main-man, Chris Clayton-Wright was last heard of sitting inside a copper replica of the great Pyramid of Cheops — in the back garden of his mansion! Ever determined to outdo America, it seems Britain's zaniest multi millionaire is determined to make the 'Mysterious Mr. Bennet' look as inscrutable as Fibrefats. More nutty news soon. . .

EXIT SKATECIRCUS

Despite reported good attendances at London's Wandsworth indoor facility, the park has closed — at least for the time being. Efforts are being made to re-open Skatecircus whose closure is 'officially' put down to management and vandalism problems.

CORRECTION

We apologise for erroneously telling readers that Ed Nadalin would be appearing at the Skatewave competition — held November 18/19th. The information was received in good faith, but it in fact was Steve Cathey who took the guest of honour spot.

CONTEST NEWS

Scheduled for the 1st of January, 1979 is a speed/slalom competition at Brands Hatch. Named "Come Alive '79" (!!) events will be as follows: giant slalom, speed board, open speed (no restrictions) and skate-car. Entry fee is 50p per event (for members of clubs) and 75p for lone riders. The exception is the skate-car category which costs £1 entry (2 people max per car). It's a pro/am competition and the day starts at 10am. All entries must be in by December 14th and forms are obtainable from: The West Kingsdown Skateboard Club, 37 Neal St., West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent. By the way, under-18's will need their parent's consent.

CONTEST NEWS (REPORT)

Rather sad news regarding a competition held on October 8th at the Wokingham park. We're told teams arrived from Bristol, London (Skyriders and Mad Dog) and Windsor (Skatewave/Pacer). Unfortunately, one person who



Gillingham test preview. . . Hugo Carey, 'blockbuster'.

failed to clock in until right at the end of the day was the organiser!

Skateboard 'Bert' Predgen stood in enthusiastically at the start but before long the day was soured by numerous injuries. Concensus put the blame on the poor surfaces and transitions. No organiser meant no paperwork or scoresheets, but eventually freestyle got under way — to be won by Mark Slough.

Slalom was taken by Shane Rouse of Skatewave/Pacer, Half Pipe by Rupert Henry of the same team, Pool Riding (minus the Mad Dog team who got fed up and left after the Half Pipe) by John Martin, High Jump by Andrew Dark (Skyriders) and Long Jump by 'Monkey' from Wokingham.

A fair amount of time was spent during the day looking for timing gear, slalom and high jump apparatus — and 'Bert' who kept disappearing. Prize giving might have brightened things up except there didn't at first seem to be any. Bert and the finally-arrived 'organiser' then had a stand-up row which resulted in the latter being slung out and told never to come back again! Eventually, some very cheap trophies were found which, in the opinion of Skyriders' Hans Walter, might well have been second-hand. Not an auspicious day for skateboarding.

SCOTTISH SKATEBOARD ASSOCIATION

Austin Tate reports that the 2nd AGM of the SSA was held Sept 30th in Edinburgh.

These are some of the points to come out of the meeting:

1. A Skateboard Facilities Advisory Panel has been set up to advise local authorities and clubs on their skatepark plans. They'll also be providing information sheets on the subject.
2. The SSA has taken the initiative in trying to set-up an umbrella structure to include all the UK skateboard associations. The SSA is also looking to develop its position with respect to the rest of Europe. It's already affiliated to the World Skateboard Association and links have been established with the USA International Skateboard Association.
3. A 6-colour Proficiency Skatepark Grading system has been adopted. White - beginner grade, yellow - preliminary, red - intermediate park riding, black - merit park riding, green - intermediate freestyle, blue - merit level specialist (freestyle, slalom, jumping, etc). A yellow grade coaching manual will be distributed to clubs soon, red and green to follow shortly after. Skateparks in Scotland will also be approached to grade their runs, white, yellow or red - according to difficulty level.
4. A regular newsletter has been started and the first issue has already reached clubs and Associate members. Editor is Kenny Omond and he'd appreciate hearing from anyone with something to say. Contact the SSA via Secretary, Ross Chisholm, at 4 Elcho Terrace, Longniddry, East Lothian, Scotland.

SSA Contest News. . . the first Boag Trophy was held

at Gracemount, Edinburgh on October 1st. It was the first in the SSA Team Series, 1978/9. Eleven teams competed in five events and here's how they ended up: 1st - Mansion Skateboard Club 'A' who receive 12 points, 2nd - Tranent Skateboard Club 'A' with 10 points, 3rd - Mansion 'B' with 8 points, 4th - Kelvingrove Wheelies 'A' with 7 points, 5th - Livingston Skatecats 'A' with 6 points, 6th - Kelvingrove Wheelies 'B' with 5 points, 7th - Livingston 'B' with 4 points, 8th - Tranent 'B' with 3 points, 9th - Borders Skateboard Assn. 'B' with 2 points, 10th equal — Edinburgh University Skateboard Club and Borders 'A' with 0.5 points.

At the event, Chris Mulvey of the Mansion Skateboard Club hit a new Scottish and British Long Jump record of 4.10 metres.

U.S. INVADES

Kryptonics, the American giant, is apparently searching for British talent. Vice President, Duane Hermanson has already discussed with Tim Altic and Si Napper the idea of sponsorship. So far, however, the lure of equipment and money for photo-appearances has failed to produce any positive result.

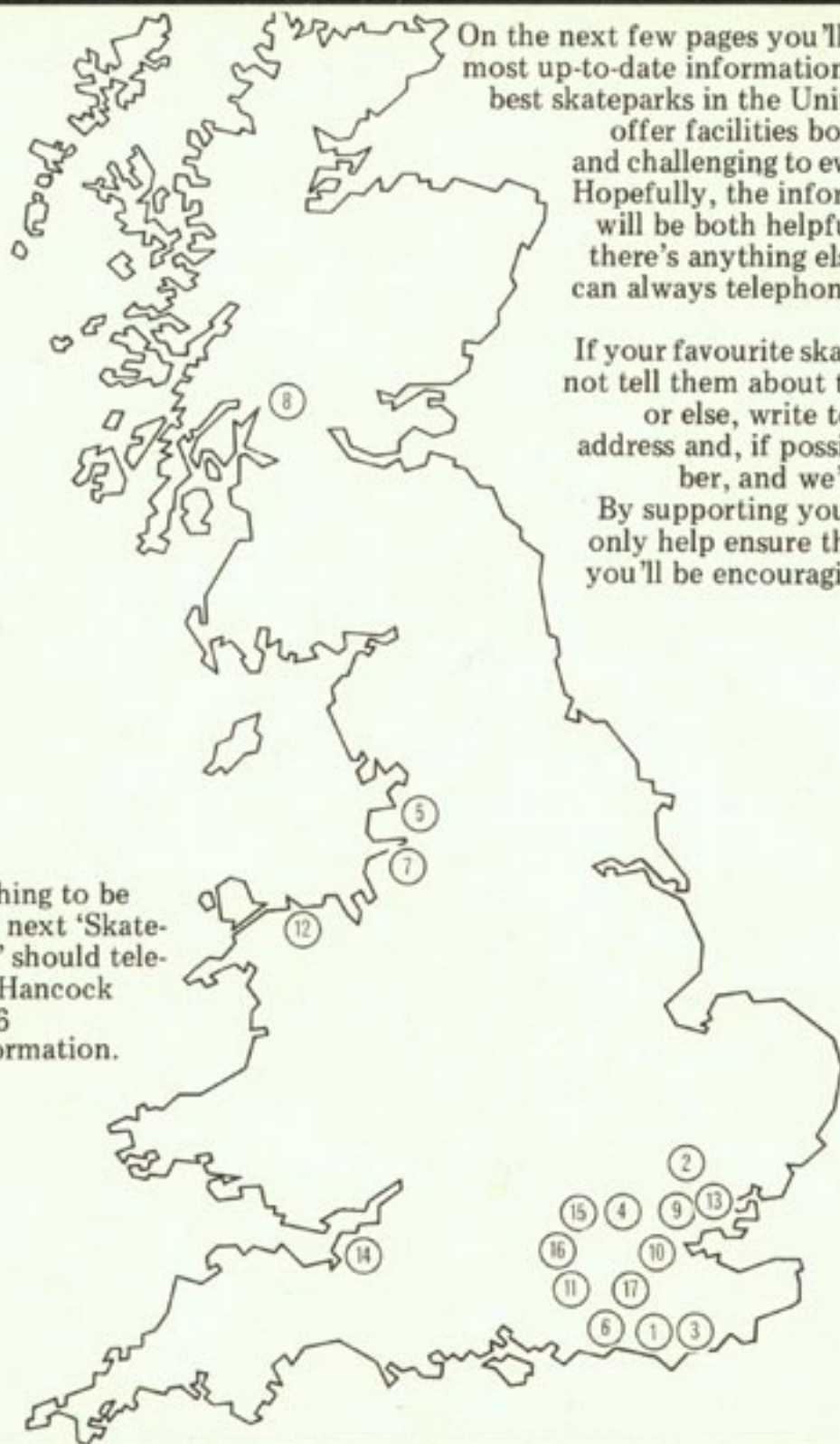
TEAM SCENE

Liverpool's Wheeler Dealers Team has been busy around the 'bowl' parks, including Golden Gate, Bootle and Southport. Up and coming talent rising to challenge Stefan Harkon include 13 year old Justin Davies and 15 year old Neil Dannes (Danzy). Up in Glasgow, Nevisport report they are recruiting new talent to their existing powerful line-up. Lastly, word comes from Minster in West Germany of the British Army's one and only skate team. The contact for other coping-conscious squaddies is: Private Bayliss, 6 Platoon, B Company 1st Battalion Royal Hampshires, Buller Bks, BFPO 17, W. Germany. . . make vert, not war, etc.

CONTESTS (UPCOMING) EXTRA

Stand by everybody for The

SKATEPARK DIRECTORY



On the next few pages you'll find what is arguably the most up-to-date information available on many of the best skateparks in the United Kingdom. All of them offer facilities both helpful to the beginner and challenging to even the most expert skater. Hopefully, the information you can read here will be both helpful and informative. But, if there's anything else you need to know, you can always telephone the park in question before you go.

If your favourite skatepark isn't included, why not tell them about the 'Skatepark Directory', or else, write to us and let us know their address and, if possible, their telephone number, and we'll get in touch with them.

By supporting your local skatepark you not only help ensure the future of the sport, but you'll be encouraging more and better skateparks to be built.

Skateparks wishing to be included in the next 'Skatepark Directory' should telephone Jacquie Hancock on 01-749 1396 for further information.

1

CAGE SKATEPARK

216.225 Kings Road Arches, Brighton, Sussex
Tel: Brighton 21508

Indoor. Open to the public weekends 9.30am to 6.45pm.

Weekdays from 2.30pm to 6.45pm

Latenight Wednesday to 9.30pm

Disco night Friday 7pm to 11pm

2 hr sessions. 1st session 50p.

Reductions subsequently. Spectators 20p

Giant bowl—two ½ pipes (one vertical, one overhang, ¼ pipe, switchback.

Max's Pro Shop, Hire equipment, Fully Marshalled, Food and drink, Amusements.

Open throughout the winter.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

To all our skateboarders at the Cage

2

CAMBRIDGE SKATEPARK

Cheddars Lane, off Newmarket Rd, Cambridge
Tel: Cambridge 60022

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE SKATEBOARDERS

During school holidays open 10am till dark. 3 hour session 50p.

Outdoor. 250ft slalom, 50ft trough, large cloverleaf mogul, half pipe with vertical, large freestyle area, (large bowl in construction).

Equipment Sales and Hire, Marshall, First Aid, Refreshments.

ALL THE LATEST EQUIPMENT IN STOCK NOW

THE CONCRETE CAVE

3

The Concrete Cave,
The White Rock Baths, Hastings Sea Front.
Tel: Hastings 433208
Indoor floodlite. Open all Winter

Open School Days 5.30pm to 8.00pm
School Holidays 10.00am to 8.00pm
Weekends 10.00am to 5.00pm

30p per session
Complete hire equipment 40p
18ft halfpipe with vertical.
24ft bowl with coping. Large Reservoir.
Large childrens area with banking at both ends.

Pro Shop. Marshalls. Cafeteria.
Games room with pin ball, pool tables.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL SKATEBOARDERS**

BARN SKATEPARK

6

Old Barn Way, Southwick, Sussex
Tel. Brighton 595588

Midway between Brighton and Worthing

Open: Monday 4.30 - 8.45pm, Tuesday Closed,
Wednesday 2.15pm - 8.45pm, Thursday Closed,
Friday 4.30pm - 8.45pm, Saturday & Sunday
9.45am - 8.45pm

**35p FOR 2 HOUR SESSION
(SPECTATORS FREE)**

Outdoor. Floodlite. Large freestyle area. (Ideal
also for Roller Skating). Bowl & Competition
pool with coping and marble lite.
Indoor 1/2 pipe & freestyle area.
(FREE COACHING SESSIONS)

Pro shop all latest equipment in stock at discount
prices. All safety gear and boards for hire. Refresh-
ments. Fully marshalled. First Aid Post.

Seasons Greetings from the Skatepark with the
friendly atmosphere.

Visit us this Christmas.

LOCOMOTION SKATEPARK

4

Whealers Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
Tel: Hemel Hempstead 41321/42911

At junction Wheelers Lane and St Albans Hill,
3 mins. from junction 8. on M1.

Open Daily

Members 30p. Visitors 50p. (A reducing rate
thereafter).
Members £1 per day. Visitors £1.50 per day.

Outdoor. Floodlite

Facilities include: A 60ft long 19ft diameter 1/4 pipe,
with 4ft vertical, classic pool with tiles and coping, 3
interlinked mogul bowls, freestyle area with radical
banking, 55metre fast slalom run. Hire Equipment
Pro Shop. First Aid. Fully Marshalled. Music,
Cafeteria. Club House. Amusements.



**OPEN ALL WINTER
IF YOU DON'T SKATE TRY OUR NEW
SKI SLOPE MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

BLACKPOOL

5

**PLEASURE BEACH,
INDOOR SKATEPARK**
Tel (0253) 43822



Situated at the South entrance to Blackpool pleasure
beach.

Open daily throughout the winter:

Weekdays 4.30 pm - 9 pm
Weekends and school holidays 11am - 9pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays till 10pm **DISCO NIGHTS**
50p per session - spectators 20p
Roller skaters welcome

Ramps, Moguls, Pipes, Free Style, Amusement machines,
Trampolines, Air Hockey, Games, Pool Tables, Refresh-
ments, Music, Free Tuition, Equipment Hire.

The Management and Staff wish all our Skateboarders
a Merry Christmas and a Happy Skating New Year

SKATE AT

**Blackpool
PLEASURE
BEACH**

SOUTHPORT

7

HELTERS SPORTSLAND

Marine Drive, Southport
Next to Pleasureland

Tel: Weekdays Southport 35581
Weekends " 30424



Open every weekend and school holidays throughout
the winter 10am - 4pm

Entrance 50p. All day. Roller Skaters Welcome.

5 minutes town centre.

Runs include Free Style Area, 1/2 Pipe, Full Pipe, Long
Snake Run, Mogul Maze, 50ft Slalom Run, Fully Equip-
ped Club House, Cold drinks and snacks, Hire shop,
First Aid, Equipment Hire, fully marshalled, music,

The Management and Staff extend seasonal greetings to
all Skateboarding patrons



HELTERS

CITY OF GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parks Department, Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow.

The Kelvin Wheelies Skate Park is the most modern skateboarding complex in Scotland with 3,500 square yards of fun catering for the beginner to the expert.

Hours of opening:

10.30am — 12.30pm	All Week
1.15pm — 3.15pm	All Week
4.00pm — 6.00pm	All Week
6.45pm — 8.45pm	All Week

All participants must wear recognised safety equipment which can be hired.

Skater Cater for snacks Hot & Cold. First Aid Hut. Toilets. Marshalled.

FIND OUT MORE BY RINGING
041-6286

Wishing all Skateboarders a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a MERRY NEW YEAR

Keith J. Fraser, F.Inst., PRA., Dip.L.D.,
Director of Parks, 20 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5ES

SKATESTAR

William Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Tel: Guildford (0483) 70204

5 minutes walk from Guildford Station, close Bus station and A3.

THE 1ST ALL YEAR ROUND OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SKATEBOARD PARK IN ENGLAND

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FLOODLITE

9am—9pm



Spectators free. 60p for 2 hours. All day £1.50

Indoor area features freestyle area, new 1/2 pipe with coping, new 1/4 pipe. Skatepark fully marshalled throughout. Tuition available for beginners. Equipment hire pads & helmet 25p, boards 50p, First Aid Centre, Pro shop. New indoor cafeteria, juke box, pin tables.

We would like to thank the first 10,000 to visit our park and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.

THE MAD DOG BOWL

601 Old Kent Road, London SE15.

Tel: 01 639 8997

IS LONDON'S MOST EXCITING INDOOR SKATEPARK, WITH 2,000 SQUARE METRES OF PURE SKATING FUN.

Nearest Underground Elephant & Castle, then a 53 bus up Old Kent Road. All fully Marshalled, safety gear hireable at 20p. Pro Shop. Snack bar for Hot/Cold food and drinks. Rest Lounge, Music, Pin Ball machines.

Open daily Members 40p per 2 hour session
Non-members 65p per 2 hour session
Membership £3 a year.

Freestyle area banked on three sides, 26m long half pipe, 7m wide, 3.5m deep.
Five interlocking mogul bowls.
A snake run, a 8m diameter "classic" pool with coping.
A 4.5m deep pool.

CROYDON SKATEPARK

Croydon Golf Range, Long Lane, Croydon. South London.

Tel: 01 654 7859

This Outdoor Park has now been taken over by the 'UPS & DOWNS' Club, formerly of Tavistock Road, West Croydon.

It is reachable by Bus No. 54 from West Croydon.

We are looking for new Members to join this already successful Club.
Chairman and Founder of the 'UPS & DOWNS' Club is Colin Batchelor and the Secretary is Liz Standidge.

Membership is 75p. per year with an Entrance Fee on Club Nights of 20p.

Club nights are Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30pm to 9.00pm.

Safety equipment must be worn.

Frequent competitions are held and we are always looking for new talent.

The actual Skatepark is open 7 days a week and the normal Entrance fee is 25p.

Facilities at the skatepark are: 2 1/4 pipes, 2 1/4 pipes, slalom starting ramp, trick ramp, and a good asphalt surface area for freestyle.

Refreshments are available at the park.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS SKATEBOARDERS

North Wales Skatepark Challenge.

LLANDUDNO

Broadway Skatepark, Mostyn Broadway

Tel: Llandudno 76807

Next to Swimmine Baths. Main Coach Park & 3 mins from Railway Station

Outdoor 50yds from the beach.

Winter opening hours all day Saturday & Sunday & all holidays. Weekly Competitions. 50p per 3 hour session.

Unique 140ft x 70ft Continuous Wave Reservoir
18ft x 6ft Perfectly Rounded Soup Bowl, Two 20ft Diameter Half Pipes.

Senior & Junior Slalom Runs, Very large Super Smooth Free Style Area. Well stocked Pro's shop & Refreshment Bar. Full safety equipment & skateboards for hire. Demonstrator skateboards to try before you buy with generous part exchange allowances. Up to 50% discount on admission prices for parties.

Just arrive you will enjoy yourselves.

ROM SKATEPARK

Upper Rainham Road, Hornchurch, Romford, Essex Tel: Hornchurch 74429

Have yourself a cool Yule in Fog Town's Biggest and Best Park
7 mins walk Elmpark Station on District line, one mile Romford Station from Liverpool Street. Bus route 252, passes the door.

Open all week 9am - 7pm
Disco Nite Sat 6pm - 10pm

Membership £5.00 1st year + free T-shirt, £3.00 thereafter.
2 hour session Members 50p
Non-members 80p
Members skating all day £1.25
Non members skating all day £1.75
Outdoor, 9 separate facilities in 4,000 square metres of skating area.

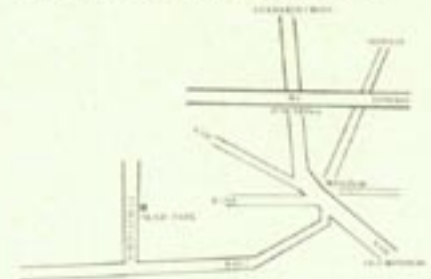
In the UK and Europe simply the biggest and the best. NO QUESTION!
Come and see for yourself.

UK's LARGEST SKATEPARK NOW OPEN

Safety equipment for hire. Fully Marshalled, first aid room, pro shop, cafeteria, clubroom, amusement machines.

SKATEWAVE

Indoor Skatepark, Floodlite North Street, Winkfield Row, Near Windsor. Tel: Winkfield Row 5820



Open weekdays 4pm - 9pm
Weekends 9am - 9pm

Open daily 50p 2 hours. 75p 4 hours. £1.00 for the day
(Coaching sessions Tuesday & Thursday nights)

Large freestyle and ramp area. 1/2 pipes, whip-lash, verticals, slalom run.

Pro shop, hire shop, sweet shop, ice-cream parlour, amusement arcade, restaurant, colour TV, games room (pool and table tennis), free parking for 2000 cars. First aid room. Safety equipment for hire.

PROPRIETORS: HIDDEN VALUE SPORTS LTD.
A Merry Christmas to all the parents, staff and Team that have helped to make our success.

COME TO

SKATECOUNTRY

FOR ALL YEAR ROUND SKATING
At Ashton Court Country Club, Failand Bristol
Tel: Long Ashton 2771.



Wishes all its customers a HAPPY CHRISTMAS
Domed open air skatepark

Mon to Fri 4pm - 8pm
Weekends 10am - 8pm
Members 25p per one hour session. Non members 30p. All Day. Members 70p. Non members £1

Californian pool, 40ft long half pipe, 20ft diameter full pipe, 60ft big Bristol bowl, 80ft snake, large banked freestyle area.

Fully Marshalled
Safety equipment for hire, Snacks and Drinks available, Pro Shop.

In beautifully landscaped surroundings

**WEEKEND COMPETITIONS
BUSES LAID ON**

SKATEWORLD

Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire. Tel: Wokingham 788320

Near station at Wokingham Town Football Club. Trains: Reading to Waterloo. Reading to Guildford.

Closed Tuesday & Thursday all day.
Open Monday 4pm - 8pm. Wednesday, Friday 4pm - 9pm. Saturday, Sunday, 9.30pm - 7pm. Membership £3.24 yearly. Members 50p per 3 hour session. Non members 75p per 3 hour session. Spectators 25p per session.

Beginners area, freestyle area, slalom with bowl, snake run, blue tiling bowl, 2 1/2 pipes. Full pipe in construction.

Fully marshalled, club house includes Pro shop, coffee lounge, amusements and first aid room.

OPEN FREE TO ALL SKATEBORDERS AND SPECTATORS ON DECEMBER 21st & 22nd.



Skateworld wishes all you Dudes and Radical Grinders (Grems included) A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and PLENTY OF EDGERS IN THE NEW YEAR

Thunder Spectacular. It's open competition — no age groups, it's on December 16th, it starts at 12.30, it'll cost £1 to enter each event (£3 for all four. . . half pipe, wheelies, doubles in half pipe, cross country) and there'll be other, on-the-spot competitions as well. Prize money will equal the entry money and it'll be split down to 5th place. Don't miss out on a day of funky-fun, freak-in' and frills. . . for instant information contact Trade Winds on: 01-381 2715

Skateplaces

WOKINGHAM

New from Skateworld (re-viewed issue 13) that they now have over 2,000 paid up members and are proceeding with the construction of a pretty exciting-sounding project. The plan is for a 55m pipe arrangement. . . two-thirds will be half pipe and one-third, full pipe. It'll lead into a 7m diameter by 3m deep pool with coping. Sounds like a useful addition!

Other plans for the fairly immediate future include the provision of general sporting facilities like squash and badminton courts, a swimming pool and so on.

Finally, Wednesday and Friday nights now boast special late sessions that run from 4pm till 9. Charges are 15p for members and 35p for non-members.

BARNSTAPLE

A bit of an omission on our part has been to keep quiet — ever since a brief mention in issue 13 — about the Earth and Ocean Skatepark in Barnstaple. Situated right by the Leisure Centre, for 60p per 3-hours (40p for £2.50/year members) you get the use of the following units and runs. There's two mogul bowls that measure in at 7m diameter by 2m deep, a rather 'suarish' half pipe that's 4m long by around 6m wide, a 250 metre square freestyle patch that's banked on two sides and a giant, nearly 7m deep pool. The last has a diameter of 10m, a narrow entry, plus over a metre of vert with gnarley coping. Ben Liddell has moved down there to become resident pro and already his



Summer sequence flashback. . . John Sablosky holding-on insanely to a near-vert, hand down pop-out at Brighton's Barn.

influence has been felt with the addition of a Liddell Performance Bowl. It's 10m from end to entry point and 7m across the deep end. The deep end in fact has a really sharp lip that gradually rounds towards the shallow to allow for roll-ins. It's nearly 3m deep. The park has a pro/hire shop, board and safety equipment for the day will cost just 50p and visitors will find the obligatory supply of fast food and pinball machines. If you're not sure where it is, head towards the Seven Brethen Bank in Barnstaple, Devon.

ANDOVER

News from Peter Inchley at the Thruyton site includes

the addition of a short slalom run and half pipe. Last checked out way back in issue 6, the park is now accessible from Andover itself by virtue of a Saturday bus service. Peter is also behind a new project. . . this time in the town itself. Situated in an abandoned council swimming pool, so far only the club house and pro shop are in operation. Modifications to the old pool are proceeding apace and, when completed, it'll end up T-shaped with the usual tiles and coping. The design in fact was the winning entry from a local competition and the facility is being built with the co-operation of the town's skating and non-skating community. Much of the assistance comes from Andover's 200-strong club.

The pro shop is open now in the afternoons during the week, and all day on Saturday.

GILLINGHAM

Update on issue 14. . . owner of the Blacklion Skatepark, Alfred Faccenda, tells us plans are moving along for the provision of a good-sized clubroom. In the future he'll be holding film shows and other more social functions. Enthusiasm is running high in the area and a new scheme to be introduced this Christmas is a special 25-session token. It's sale price will be £10 and it should make an ideal Xmas present. Each of the vouchers will allow the owner to skate any time during normal opening hours. Test Team checkout coming in issue 17.

RUMBLES AND RUMOURS

News this month of a proposed £10,000 facility to be erected in London Fields, Hackney. A council venture, the site is to be constructed by Skatepark Construction Ltd.

From Britain's original skatepark, Portland, comes news that, once takings on the door have paid for landscaping, the park is to be thrown open free to the public; a handsome gesture that could bear repeating all over the country.

Skatecity is now finally, officially and irrevocably dead. As of October 16th, the site is now totally destroyed. . . so ends Britain's most famous skatepark. This tragedy of urban vandalism was carried out despite the pleas of a great number of concerned people — not to mention the skaters themselves. As a postscript it's perhaps worth mentioning that, to the best of our knowledge, Southwark Council (wherein Skatecity lay) has so far failed to make any provision whatsoever for skateboarding. Well done chaps!

Resurfacing news, the pool at Swansea's Gorseinon Park is about to suffer surface improvements and similar plans we're told are afoot at Bristol's Skate-Country where cracks have appeared around the drain and coping.

HEREFORD HELPS ITSELF

By Pete Christopherson

During our brief but glorious Indian summer, a small Bristol contingent travelled up to Hereford on the England/Wales border in search of the 'Meanwhile Gardens' of the West – a skatepark built by the kids, for the kids. What we found was a skateplace where there was no regimentation like there is at supervised skateparks, where pads and helmet were not compulsory and where there were no fences or admission charges. Though the design left something to be desired, the energy flowed freely and the kids obviously enjoyed their skating.

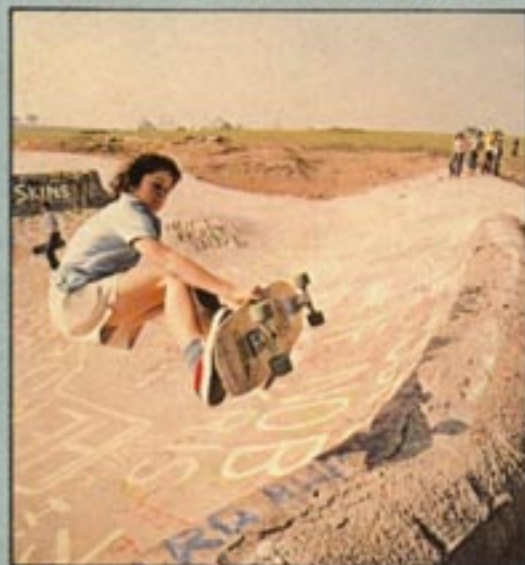
Mrs June Burnham greeted our arrival with news that a grant of £2,000 had been okayed that very morning by the West Midlands Sports Council. Had we arrived two weeks later, the whole place would have been finished. She showed us around the main bowl and adjoining banking, and then left us to get down to riding it.

The main area is a semi-circular bowl, over 3m deep and some 13m across. The walls take a fairly steep transition with varying amounts of vert. Facing this, and forming a separation between the two run-ins is a 2m high bank with a ravenous transition. Each run-in stretches over 10m so plenty of speed can be whipped-up for an attack on the main wall. However, the overall dimensions of the bowl made it very difficult to sustain a prolonged work-out.

The surface is rough but certainly acceptable to any good, resilient wheel. The lip of the wall though, is downright craggy – rock walking took on a new meaning! Around the main bowl we saw laid out the skeleton of the rest of the park – a landscape of sandbags, wiremesh and hardcore. All skateparks at one time or another look like the surface of the moon, so with a little imagination it was easy to conjure up the 5m long by 3m deep half pipe, small bowl and banked freestyle area. Theoretically by the time you read this they'll all have been completed.

June, one of the most resilient 54-year-olds I've ever met, proved to be the inspirational force behind the evolution of Hereford's unique skatepark and she revealed a fascinating story of dogged determination by a group of skaters bent on getting themselves a skateplace.

It all started when June, as organiser of the local Moreton-on-Lugg youth club, was approached by some of the 'Luggers' to help them find a cool place to ride. Having looked into the possibility of getting a skatepark built in nearby Hereford, she found the price of a so-called professionally



Top to bottom: Blocking assistance for Steve Park; Ian Richards – illustration in graffiti; Dave Richards flying the rockies.

made park to be prohibitive. She decided instead to initiate a self-help scheme.

To begin with there was a luke-warm reception from the Hereford Council but, undeterred, she attended every council meeting for three or four months. By chance, one day in the Town Hall June met a 15-year-old local, Andy Morgan, who was there to present a 900 name petition demanding the council provide a skatepark; they joined forces. Finally, against the odds, the powers-that-be gave in to the persistent badgering and offered part of a football field on the outskirts of town. Her advice to anyone still engaged in battles with councils to provide space or facilities is: "Don't be a quitter, be a hanger-on" and, above all, "Keep your temper". Nothing will lose you the respect of the local big-wigs more than emotional outbursts in the middle of boring council meetings.

Round one over, they settled down to a long campaign to raise funds, free materials and cheap labour. Initial plans were already drawn up when June approached Jamie McCullough. Jamie is popularly regarded as the 'daddy' of Meanwhile Gardens in London... the country's first free, community skatepark. The Hereford scheme was in essence much the same as Meanwhile – to provide a facility with no commercial restrictions. He issued the challenge: "Raise £100 and I'll help you get it rolling". June took him at his word and quickly pulled in the required sum via a raffle. Jamie kept his promise and came straight down from London to check out the plans – and promptly had a fit. He got down on the site and, along with the local youngsters, he drew up a revised set that looked a little more realistic.

The initial funds came stuttering through – a £500 loan from Bulmers Cider, a £1,000 loan from a local businessman, and a £500 gift from the National Playing Fields Association, for whom June was full of

praise. "They keep their administrative costs down to a minimum, but are keen enough to send someone along to take a look if a project sounds interesting". Further sums came from more raffles, bingo sessions, sponsored events and jumble sales. June found the people who were most helpful when it came to raising the cash were the older folk. Often the parents of the kids likely to use the park seemed much less interested.

With money coming in, the enthusiasm was running high and Jamie was persuaded to take his summer holidays in Hereford to supervise the construction. A digger was borrowed, the ground sculpted and local firms were hassled for building commodities . . . sandbags, reinforcing iron, ready-mix concrete and so on. During the spraying, Jamie McCullough held the gun while an army of youngsters applied themselves to pickaxes, shovels, wheelbarrows and any utensil that came to hand. It was quite a summer for the Hog-Towners — as they call themselves — and many of them will remember the blisters. Maybe one day the digger did run amok. . . still they managed to raise up their own skate terrain.

But, physical labour wasn't the only hardship the young builders had to put up with, for the nearby resident's reaction was to prove less than enthusiastic. Not only the local kids, but their parents too, resented the arrival of the Hog-Towners on their football field and as well as throwing bad language around, they also at times resorted to strong-arm tactics. Sandbag bank foundations were pushed over, the kids got pelted with stones, the neatly removed and stacked turves that the council intended to sell off were deposited around a cemetery and on one famous occasion the locals tried 'crucifying' three Hog-Towners on the football field goal posts. Eventually, however, one of the ringleaders of the agitators, 14-year-old Danny Hornby, grew so impressed by Jamie that he became his right-hand guy and much of the hostility died away. Nowadays, although coming on as a skateboarder, Danny is more at home riding his Gripter around the lip of the bowl.

The funds they had collected just stretched to finishing the main bowl area and before long, the kids were really progressing in their skating techniques. The adults decided to maintain a low profile in the day-to-day running of the place, but to remain very much involved in the behind the scenes work of raising money, buying equipment and organising club activities. No membership is required to skate there and kids can come and go as they please. The users of the park have divided themselves into several different cliques whose main purpose in life appears at first



Above: Hog Town fashioning the terrain. . . skater power is here! Right: Full Hog Town graffiti vista — Dave Richards achieves lift-off.

sight to be to annoy the hell out of each other. In fact, nowadays, most of their energy is directed towards ripping in the bowl.

One of the most spectacular features of the facility is the graffiti that literally covers the entire site. It was done by the kids themselves and June Burnham tells me she's going to apply to the Arts Council for a grant to finish off the decoration on the rest of the park, when it's ready! "Well, they're nutty enough for something like that, aren't they?"

Unfortunately some killjoy has already written to the local paper complaining that the skatepark committee is encouraging vandalism by letting the kids loose with spraycans. Of course, they've entirely missed the point that skateboarding itself demands strong self-expression, and that the kids need to focus their energy on the facility not only as a place to ride but also as somewhere to hang out that they can call their own. After all, they did build it themselves. Not all the guys want to ride boards but most like to have some home territory where they can thrash out the great universal problems — like which girl is the best looking of the bunch. Hog Town's inhabitants are a mixed lot. . . sometimes local toughs boot out the skateboarders so they can play football in the bowl and often the girls come around to see the action. Mainly though, it's a place where for a few hours a week a kid can be Tony Alva or Marc Sinclair.

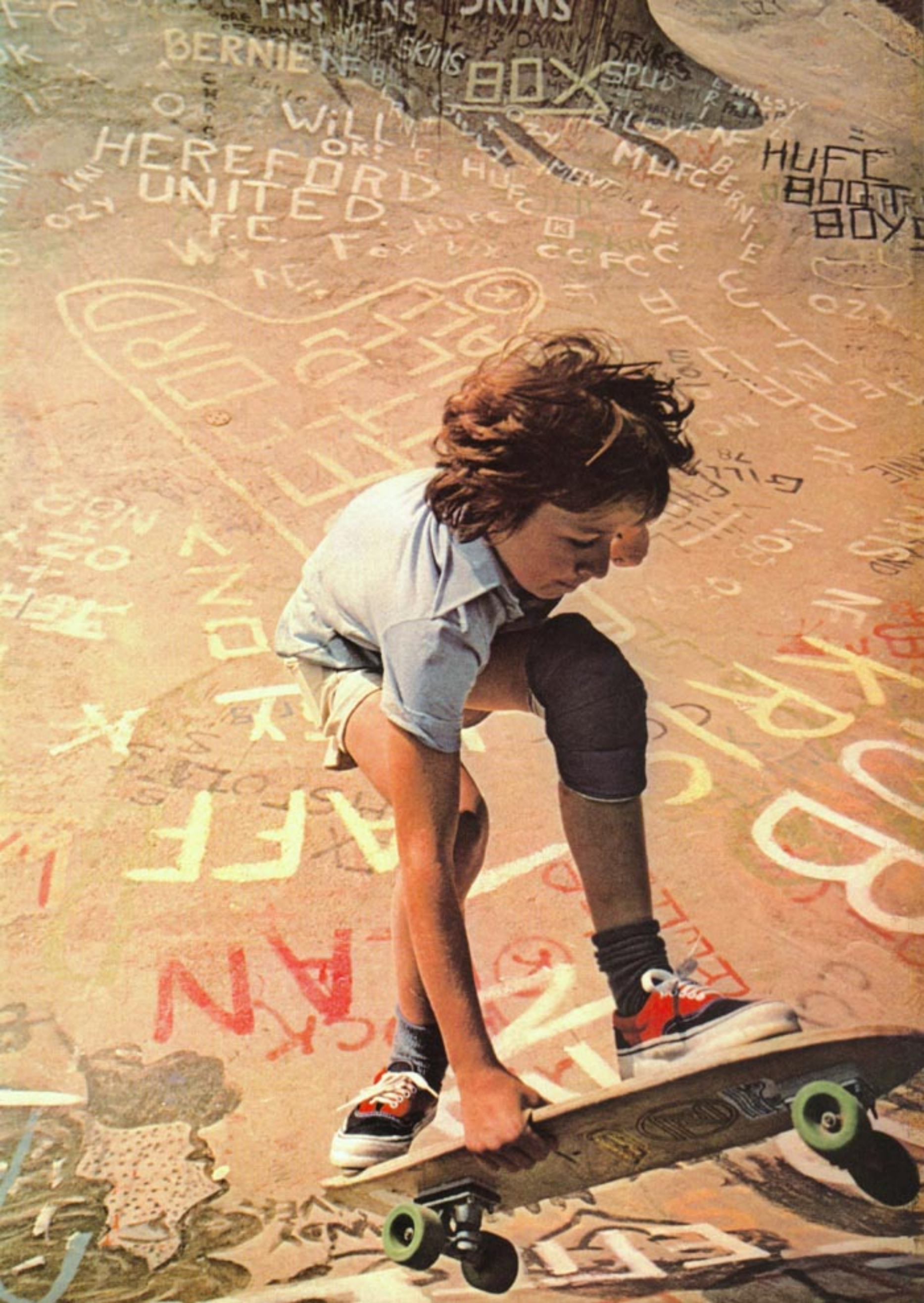
Through their own hard graft, the Hereford skaters have achieved their aim of building not only a park, but also a community meeting place — for around £3,500. It's a far cry from the £25,000 or so that many entrepreneurs have lashed out on a 'professionally designed skatepark'. Not only that, I wouldn't mind betting that Hereford will often prove the more rideable. If you're in the area and want a good, fun skate. . . check out Hog Town.

HOW TO GET THERE

Take the A438 road to Brecon from the Hereford ring road. Past the Buckingham pub, go left up Wordsworth Road. At the roundabout at the top, turn left. Around 200 yards on the right there's a small track leading to a football ground and scout hut. . . it also takes you to Hog Town

HELP YOURSELF ADVICE

Jamie McCullough has written a book entitled, 'Meanwhile Gardens'. Published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (98 Portland Place, London W1N 4ET) it reveals how a vision came true. It's packed with practical advice on how to harness the community spirit. Cover price is 75p.



Photography by Ian Dobbie



DANNY ACTON-BOND

INTERVIEW

It's no harder to equate Danny Acton-Bond with the local skate scene than it is that original West of England sporting mecca, the Bristol Skateboard Centre. 16 years old and the unfortunate victim of 'split parentage', Danny's style and technique run rich with heritage. He's seen his sport transformed from its original sub-cult status, through craze awareness, to finally a sport proper and from that experience he's evolved a unique, sweet-flowing stylistic formula that translates equally across a wide variety of terrain.

Think of Danny and words like – popular, colourful, cheerful spring to mind – not to mention loony! Recently he made a tough decision. . .to break with the competition and team scene in just singular pursuit of fun! In retrospect, not only does he think the move was wise, with his thinly disguised disdain for many of the sport's financial controllers, he's sure others will follow.

Handling his first feature interview for Skateboard!, Rocky Brann posed the questions after a warm work-out at the Rolling Thunder Skatepark in Brentford.

Danny, a lot of people see you as rather a controversial skater in the sense that you tend to loon around a lot. . . taking the mickey out of the pros and so on. Is that a fair image?

Probably — I think skateboarding is there to enjoy and it should be all about having a good time. That's why I don't get on with a lot of the top pro skaters at the moment — because they're rather big-headed and on all kinds of ego trips.

Why do you think skaters adopt that kind of attitude?

Well, having a good time is important, plus lots of go-

for-it and aggression. But sometimes, to get that aggression they get a bit serious — over the top — it should be a balance. One thing a lot of people miss out on is style . . . and that counts as much as anything. If you've got a really terrible style, no one's going to be too interested.

So which skaters fit the Acton-Bond 'Identikit' of showing the right approach?

Marc Sinclair, Ben Davis, Justin Thomas. That's just about it; they're all London skaters and they've all got really beautiful styles. Justin Thomas is totally unknown (see Star Shots. Ed) but he's

really hot. In fact I used to go to school with him so I know he's a nice guy as well.

Lately we've been hearing all this stuff about London skating dominating. Is it just B.S. or can you detect a grain of truth?

I'd go along with it. . . there's nowhere in this country that's anything like London, and probably not in Europe either. London skaters DO dominate because they push each other to get further. But if a little school kid is cooped up in a remote village somewhere, he's not going to get too far — because he's not pushed by anyone.

But one area where there seems a lot of push is down in the West Country. By your reckoning can any of them match up to London skaters? Nobody matches up to London skaters, though I grant they're close behind. What are the features that stamp 'Foggies' as a race apart?

Style, aggression, they're nice kids and they're having a good time. They don't spend all day trying to prove themselves. . . except the few, the unmentionable few!

Would you say there's a Fog Town style at the moment that's comparable to the



American style?

The American's have got it over the British by a small margin. They've been skating a lot longer — they know what they're doing. Our skating has only been going for 3 years; there's a few people who were skating before but not many.

The Bristol scene you must know well. How does it compare to London, not just in riding but in the way people are?

They tend to be a bit more quiet down there, because there's not the social life there is in London; I doubt the scope is there for having

ride vert all the time or just pools I'd soon get fed up. . . I'd probably give up skating altogether.

Your specialities are free-style manoeuvres and slides . . . how would you compare the difficulty rating between working them on banks and flatland?

On banks you have to do them a lot faster and a lot neater. Your reactions have to be a helluva lot quicker because it's all happening so fast. Actually, these days I'm starting to move into hill skating. I've got a new trick — a nose wheelie full extension — and it's really good.

Andy Vining. . . they were hot sessions. Andy is fast, and he just hurtles downhill in the crouch position. I do stand-ups because I'm too scared to go down on my knees.

Despite all this skating you've been holding away from competitions for quite a while. . . why's that?

I don't wanna do any more because of all the idiot manufacturers — well not all, I'm talking about the mindless minority, or is it majority? They're just in it to make a lot of money but they're not going to get anywhere because they make bad

few?

I really like Rolling Thunder at Brentford. Skate Circus is beautiful, though I haven't ridden it for a long time — a lovely surface. I like the snake run at Skatecity and that's about all really. Rolling Thunder, oh and Meanwhile Gardens too. . . they've got great atmospheres — they're probably the best parks around in that respect.

How important do you rate the atmosphere of a park?

High. . . if there's a lot of nice kids, plus a good feeling to the place, you're gonna get into some interesting things.

If you got the chance to



such a good time.

You'd include that as a major part of skating, the social life?

Yeah, it is. A lot of sports have got that. I'm not saying it's always good but, for instance, football has the same sort of thing.

Shifting away from the social aspects of skateboarding, what interests you most at the moment?

I'm into banks right now, but I'm always changing what I want to do. I think if you stick to just one part of the sport you're going to get really bored — well I would, anyway. If I had to only

How about going for vert in pools, does that interest you?

It's fun, but I'm not into it at the moment. . . sometime soon I'll start working on it a lot more. The Rolling Thunder half pipe I rode was nice — probably the best half pipe I've ever ridden. It's got nice transitions, though just a touch bumpy. I don't think that matters too much. . . a good rider should be able to overcome those sort of problems.

What about slalom and speed — can you wire to either of those?

I used to do a lot of speed one time with a guy named

products.

You feel that a lot of them are messing up the sport for everybody else by trying to make the proverbial quick buck?

Definitely, there's no doubt about it, and just about everyone I know agrees. They make all these parks — really bad ones that fall apart — and it proves they've got no idea at all. None of them are skaters and none of them had anything to do with the sport beforehand. . . they're just business men.

There must be some parks that you've actually enjoyed riding. . . can you name a

physically design a park, what kind of runs and units would you build into it?

I think I'd stick in some reservoirs and some pretty weird shapes. I haven't thought about it that much but I'd try to conceive something totally original in the way of bowls. I'd have maybe a half pipe and a proper pool . . . so far there hasn't been a decent pool made in this country.

What kind of equipment do you find suits your non-competitive approach?

Wide boards and full trucks, and wheel-wise, something small in diameter, but again,

wide.

These days you're often seen on longboards. . . how did you first get into that?

Longboards date back some years to when I used to skate with Andy Vining. I only used one for speed. . . we didn't do any kick-turns or anything like that. We just tore down hills . . . such a beautiful feeling. **But now you do use a longboard on banks and in bowls. How would you compare the sensations with those you get from a more averagely sized stick?** It's all very much different. You've got to put a lot of

was really good. It's a case of giving yourself a chance — like anything else in skateboarding.

You've been known to make high speed lip slides on a longboard. . . would you say the added weight and length make the manoeuvre safer or more dangerous?

It can be safer and it can be more dangerous. When you actually do the manoeuvre it's safer because you're less likely to fall off. The trouble is, when you do fall off there's always the danger of your very heavy board going into the back of your legs. It can do a lot of dam-

it's almost always going to be heavy, or it's not going to be made out of wood. For my money wood's the only material that's any good for skateboard decks — it's got that nice, solid feel to it. **We've covered the equipment side of your skating so perhaps it's time now to touch on technique. All through your skating career you seem to have put a lot of emphasis on style. Has that been a conscious thing?** Yeah, definitely. It's a big part of the sport but it's often ignored by people who should know better. If a rider looks good, if he's

that's any good at all and that's Benjyboard. I just wish other manufacturers would spend more time thinking about the kids who are riding for them. **There's a lot of hot kids around now who will not ride for teams at all. Judging by your comments I presume that's a decision you'd applaud.**

Definitely. . . I'm not going to ride for a team again, not unless I get paid really well and, right now, I can't see that happening. There are a lot of kids who, a year ago, all they wanted was to join a team — they didn't



extra power in to make even things like kickturns; it's twice as hard, but then it's twice as much rush as well.

I find a lot of people seem scared of them. Do you find you need a much more developed technique to handle one well?

You need experience and you've got to get used to them. Some kids go out and buy a longboard, they get on it and try riding off — then find they can't because they're not used to it. So they say it's just crap. If they kept at it just a bit longer they'd find it

age. I've been very lucky so far, but I'm pretty scared of it happening. But overall it's definitely safer — wide boards are better than narrow boards because there's more space to move about on.

How do you see design going now. . . are boards going to get wider, lighter, or what?

Well I don't think they're going to get much wider. I'd like to see a 10 or 10½ inch board that's 36 inches long and really light. . . that would be a beautiful board for me. But the thing is if you get a 36 inch board

got style, his tricks are going to look all the more healthy for it. And he'll feel a lot better. . . a far more complete skater. **Not long ago you left the Bristol Skateboard Centre team. . . do you want to tell me why?**

Simple really, I moved to London around Christmas and, besides, they weren't giving me the equipment I was expecting to get. They got a fair amount of advertising out of me, and that sort of stuff, but things weren't working out properly. In fact I think there's only one team to speak of

even care which one it was! Now they're starting to realise just how manufacturers rip them off. I think riders are beginning to understand that skateboarding is all about enjoyment. . . not working for big-business idiots.

Kids who haven't yet had to face these problems are the grems. What's your formula for handling them when they come up and bother you with stupid questions. . . tolerance or what?

If they really get on my wick, I'll tell them what to do — in the rudest sense. You know, they're the ones who
Cont'd on Page 67

TWO STEPS BACK

It's worth a brief look through the history book to see how rollerskates got where they are now. In chronological order the record goes something like this: early 1700's — a Dutchman fixes wooden spools onto clogs to give ice skaters some positive warm-weather relief; in 1819 a Frenchman, Monsieur Petitblue, patented a one-ahead and two-behind, three wheeler design featuring copper wheels and soon after a 5-wheeler appeared with an all-in-line layout to simulate the blade of an ice skate. Not till the 1860's was the world to see something approximating to the modern rollerskate. Then J.L. Plympton produced the conventional configuration we all know; it ran on four boxwood wheels.

The sport started to blaze and soon greater freedom from friction, plus smoother running, came with the invention of proper ballrace-type bearings. By the turn of the century, speed roller races, freestyle routines and roller 'anything' had become commonplace.

THE PRESENT, MORE OR LESS

The growth of rollerskating in skateparks has given Britain's conventional 8-wheel world a shot in the arm that so far it's barely even noticed. In the beginning, skateboarding borrowed much of its technology from rollerskating but now the boot has shifted to the other foot. Advances in truck design and especially urethane wheel manufacture have powered skateboarding into the lead and now it's the roller world that's got some catching-up to do. So far it's been mostly the skateparks coping with the rad demands of those with rolling boots... so I asked Tim Altic if he could ever see established rink owners being able to get in on the act:

"To be honest, unless we really start working on these rinks and getting them stoked on urethane, I think it's going to be mostly down to the skateparks. It seems to me the only way they'll do anything is by gradual transition. What I mean is, rinks will have to start building in small banks — to get people into the idea the world isn't just flat. Many roller rinks still seem to be using wooden or clay compound wheels... they don't look like they've heard of the big advances in urethane at all.

"Another problem is that they get real worried about their floors. That means they won't allow you to use street

WHOLLY ROLLERS!

By Bruce Sawford



Wholly Rollers indeed they are! From a technical point of view and, increasingly from a skater's point of view as well, there's getting to be less and less separating rollerskating from skateboarding. It's not been what you might call quick... right from Skateboard's inception there's always been the odd renegade 8-wheeler ready to mingle with his uni-board cousins. In America now it's really started moving — even the hallowed pages of *Skateboarder* magazine (Nov. issue) carry part one of a multi-page feature on the history and resurgence of the old sport. Trendy New York discos have become meccas for the rolling boot groover, out to snatch a gleam of après John Travolta star-shine; the same phenomenon has already begun to take root in the UK's hipper record parlours. But it's in the skateparks that you'll see most of the truly radical action, and mostly it's thanks to the evangelical path trod by the few. Names that spring to mind include Andy Beales, Adrian Paterson, Jean-Pierre Poissonnet, Chalky Laing and Bristol's resident slice of American pie, Tim Altic. They head what many see as the second coming — the roller revolution of '79.

wheels — in case they're carrying chips of glass or something. Having a spare set costs a bit of money". I asked Tim if established rollers were likely to climb out of their formulaised world to seek pastures new. Could there ever be close links between two such different entities?

"Yes, there's links — the guys that rollerskate seriously are going to want to try parks.

In fact at the Rolling Thunder opening there were a couple of rollerskaters doing the usual rink stuff — but in the mellow bowl. They seemed like they were really enjoying it. There'll be plenty of them who'll be interested in trying something new and once they've got into some outdoor park skating I think it'll be the rinks that'll be in trouble. They're going to have to do something with

their publicity".

An interesting point on which to finish off this section is that, as much as riders accuse skateparks of being boring or badly built, still for years many rollerskaters have been quite happy to perambulate round in circles on the flat. Could it be that skaters just don't know what they've got?

WHAT ABOUT EQUIPMENT?

For the rad outdoor skater there's whole new lines of equipment coming on the market. Already in America, four or five established skateboard names have moved strongly into roller manufacture and in Britain, Benjy and Pacer (ACS) are doing likewise. Tim Altic stresses that when it comes down to making a choice, it's important everybody figures out for themselves what suits them best. Tim goes for a narrow truck — "I can't go anywhere past 2½", otherwise I keep tripping over myself" — and he rides a parallel stance with knees and skates close together for clean pumping. Those riding the toe-out surf stance can take something a bit wider. Tim goes on: "You've got to stay low or else you lose stability. And your trucks don't generally have to turn a lot so I tighten them up, just like a skateboard when I'm on radical terrain".

With skateboards and rollerskates looking increasingly like they're going to feature interchangeable trucks and wheels, it's in the boot itself where one has to look at specific areas of design. I asked Tim what he felt about the new trend towards modified tennis shoes: "I haven't really given them a proper test but I feel, without better ankle support, if I were coming down a vertical wall and hitting transition G-forces, I might easily turn an ankle".

Parkriding boots will certainly need to be heavy duty and accessories Tim recommends include plastic toe and heel protectors and riding covers to prevent the shoes getting too badly beaten up.

TAMING THE TERRAIN

The skilled rollerskater, because of his increased mobility, can take in almost as many places as the boarder. He can 'walk', step over things and make accelerated starts by using the nose stops. A wrong turn on one foot doesn't matter too much either... it can quickly be lifted and re-directed. Extreme direction changes on a board are accompanied by heavy

wrenching — the rollerskater just lifts a foot, turns the ankle, then sets down for the new heading.

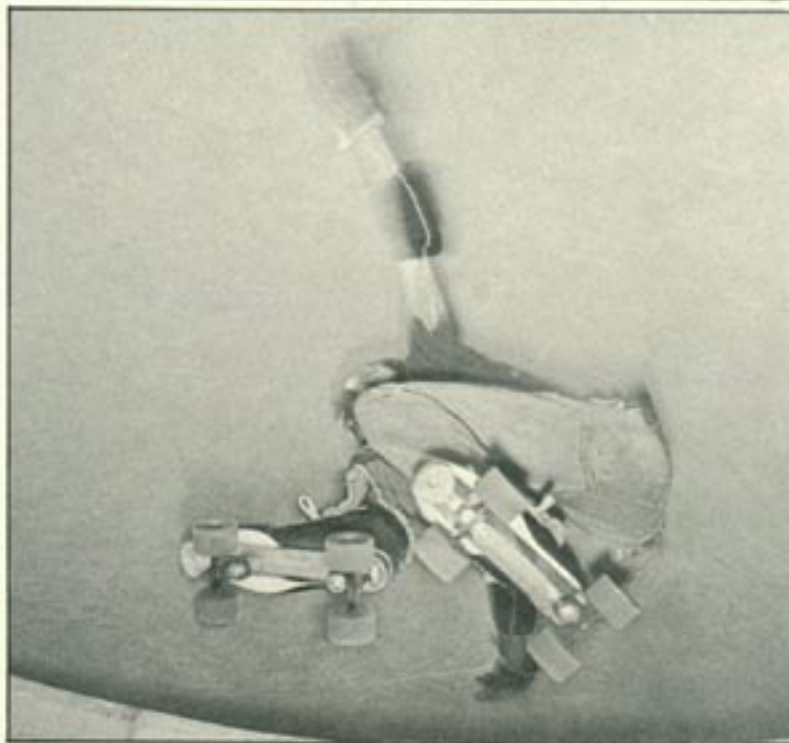
In the same way, the roller man can under or overshoot on an aerial turn and still come down to concrete with his feet pointing the right way. Another advantage is with manoeuvrability... with trucks so close, the shorter wheelbase makes for sharp turns *without* calling for a loose steering mechanism.

Style, flow and tricks are basically the same as with skateboarding. Tim Altic makes aeriels, roll out and ins, kick or jump turns, carves, hand-down tricks, extensions in pools, cess slides, elevators... you name it. Lip slides get to be a bit more gnarly compared to on a regular board... eight wheels need a little more cranking. There's also a useful angle on safety... Tim again:

"Sometimes when I'm rollerskating and I come a bit close to a skateboarder I'm able to use wheel traction to hold myself on the wall while he passes by underneath. I can get away with a lot more — I can steer clear of trouble".

THE REALITIES

The traditional, rink-orientated roller freak is clearly poles apart from the rad skater turned 8-wheeler. But that's not to say some sort of eventual link between the two is not possible. Skatepark owners worth their salt will be ready to accept the 'newcomer sport' to their lair with special competitions, tuition in rolling



Tim Altic on camera. Page left: Anti-G at Hereford. This page, top and centre: Blacklion Park, Gillingham — Tim guesting with the Test Team (see full test next issue). Bottom: Eccentric carving at Rolling Thunder.

banks and vert and the provision of hireable rollerskate equipment. To overcome the social problems involved in mixing age groups, special 'roller-hour' sessions should be devised — in much the same way as the Old Fools sometimes arrange their own geriatric workouts.

Skateboarding is all about changes, improvements, and new ideas and to today's hip riders, the acceptance of rollerskating should merely be a formality. But at the other end of the scale, rinks may have much more of a problem. Of course there'll be rollerskaters opposed to any sort of change, and that will help keep the ball rolling a while longer. However, for the long term the wise roller-rink owner should think long and hard *now* about the times ahead. Slow, gentle excursions away from the restrictions of pure flatland or, at best, slightly banked rolling must make for a sound investment towards the future.

In its past, rollerskating trends have made front page news... so perhaps it would be appropriate for the young whippersnapper, skateboarding, to be the one to pull it out of the backwaters and shake off the cobwebs. The rad terrain is there, the equipment technology is there, the interest among the skateboarding kids is there... we're all just waiting to hear from the other side of the fence.

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BE SAFE

DEALING WITH "THEM"

When confronted by an angry and irrational car-park attendant with blunt instrument in hand (especially when you yourself are in possession of a potentially lethal wheeled weapon), it's hard to avoid giving or receiving grievous bodily harm. At this late stage, the problem is probably past solution through advice. So, not wishing to put myself in the position of mediator and thus risking becoming the common enemy, I'll reserve my philosophising for earlier in the day.

The key skills involved in avoiding damaging impact with an irate member of the public are tact and tolerance. The practise and exercising of these skills is a different matter.

The safest take-off point for your attitude to others is sympathy. On waking every morning you should remind yourself that nonskateboarders are inherently less fortunate than you; they are thus in need of understanding and careful handling . . . it's obvious really.

There must hardly be a single skateboarding reader who could truthfully stand up with one hand over his black eye and proclaim that he's never suffered a negative reaction to his riding from a ground-bound member of the public, let alone an agent of officialdom. Initial criticisms and retorts predictably range from meek and fulsome apologies to heavyweight punches on the nose. As one who's suffered both a blow on the head from the enraged owner of a 40Kg handbag and a K.O. delivered by a particularly mean security guard, Steve Kane feels you might like to learn by his mistakes. He offers a few words on defending yourself against our fellow citizens. . . 'them'.

The main emotion instilled in a pedestrian who, while struggling on his assinine junketings, sights you gliding serenely past, is pure, lime-green jealousy. He'd certainly deny this to the last turn of the torturer's rack, but nevertheless it's true. He's too old/thick/frightened of his mum/scared/poor or just plain straight ever to master your art and your presence serves only to remind him of this. Why not show him some pity for his tedious life.

The first Indians to see a Spaniard on a horse thought

they were scrutinising a single entity. Half of them worshipped the strange beast while the rest fired arrows. The attitude of the public to us skateboarders is somewhat similar. Pretend you're a friendly alien; show your pleasant intentions and don't lay any heavy missionary stuff on suspicious earthlings. You might even offer a go on your spaceship, if one's not too drunk; it's called winning over with kindness.

'Verbals' usually precede the harder stuff and if your meanie is worth his salt

he'll probably be employing what's generally known in the trade as the be-all and end-all of unanswerable arguments. . . rules is rules. Naturally I'm able to offer the perfect return tactic; make sure your every reply is a simple question. His "You can't do that here — there's a law against it" should promptly be countered by a "Why?" After a few such meaningless exchanges, baffled meanies have been known to shuffle off, muttering to themselves.

However, should 'them' turn hostile, then it's obvious you've totally failed to impress with your superior intelligence and compassion. If you're badly cornered it's worth bursting into tears and grovelling, but as a last resort, if 'them' is really bent on violence, mount your trusty UFO and try zooming off into the unknown. If you're not quick enough, well, then you might learn why all those sub-gremilins wear their helmets in the streets.



THE KNEBORTH '78 AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS



Sunday, September 24th saw the playing out of the Skateboard Foundation's hastily arranged '1978 Amateur Skateboard Championship Finals' at the Knebworth House Skatepark. Even before the great day, buzzes were circulating to the effect that all was not exactly a bed of roses behind the organisational facade. In fact, an English Skateboard Association press release actually indicated their distinct reluctance to remain as part of the joint venture – strange they should hang their dirty washing out so visibly in public. But, politics aside, was it to be a good day for the entrants in particular and, by natural extension, for the sport as a whole? Chris Craske reports. . .

Perhaps one of the best things one can say about the Knebworth Championship is that it happened. With such a pitiful showing on the contest front this year, anyone who manages to organise a national event deserves recognition. Judges for the day included John Williams of the South Coast Skateboard Association, Hans Walter of the Skyrider Team and Douglas Dure of Skatecircus. Colin Batchelor of the Ups & Downs club in Croydon at the last minute declined the invitation. . .he

felt it wrong to be judging his own team members. While applauding his decision, it does highlight the problem of finding suitably competent and non-biased judges.

Sunday morning and the competition proper got underway around 11.30 with the freestyle event. To cope with time and numbers, the area available had been split in half, so there were often two entrants performing simultaneously. The extreme slope was more than a problem; skilled riders like Mark

Slough part-blew their routines and in two-board tricks, often the 'stationary' skateboard rolled away down the hill!

The standard of freestyle riding actually varied a good deal. However, at the top of the market, several of the better known names did very well. The real highspot was Steve Kelner's display of mastery in the 11-13 years section; his stylish, transitional movements blended perfectly to illustrate why, in many people's eyes, he's the champion of Europe. Steve's domination was undisputed, but two names in the junior category also stood out. . . Simon Lane and Neil Hawkins. Neil also went on to collect the 'Overall Champion' award.

Another hot display came from Rob Hunter who in particular showed his remarkable ability to stand on the rail and flip the board from side to side without the wheels touching the ground. He placed third behind Steve Kelner's first place. Keith Smith took the 14-16 grouping with a super-fluid display. He attempted little of real difficulty. . .concentrating instead on flow. He hardly stepped off the deck during the whole 90 seconds. In senior, Doug Cameron took the title, against pretty average competition. Doug himself would probably admit to having a preference for bowl riding.

A bad moment for the organisers came midway through the freestyle when Pig City decided to make a showing on the snake run. The crowd caught the infection and quickly drifted off to see the rad action. Mark Baker led the infidels at a hair-raising pace down into the bowl, up through vertical and out over the fence! The management seemed slightly dismayed at the alternative spectacle taking place and, not surprisingly, they promptly tried to ban all unscheduled skating. The



Above: Steve Kelner proving he ain't all freestyle! Below: Caught kickflipping. . . Mark Slough in below-par performance.



disruption may have been uncalled-for, but it certainly gave vent to the disgruntled bowl rider's feelings. . .why was there no competition for them?

The slalom world had a day of mixed fortunes. The electronics were definitely intent on giving trouble. Timing System One never worked at all. . .the other functioned for a while, then broke. It was eventually repaired in time for the senior slalom. . .thus many other riders were clocked with a stopwatch. Is it really possible to score times with the human finger to hundredth's of a second. . .? I'm sure you can't, but this they did.

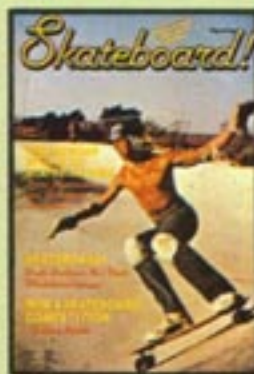
In fact, remembering that slalom is rapidly becoming a very specialist area in skateboarding, it's not surprising that riders are starting to expect the same levels of fastidiousness from organisers that they're prepared to offer themselves. Certainly, among the pace-setters, straight slalom's days are numbered. Comments Brian Kelner: "Kids want to head for giant rather than straight. . .to sort the men from the boys".

In fact the slalom event (14-16) proved another triumph for the Kelner Appreciation Society. Brother Steve ran out with the fastest time of the day - 3.55 seconds. He told me afterwards that he practises at night, "to heighten my perception". His bodily and mental reactions were undoubtedly swift. Neil Hawkins took the under 10's and Martin Davey, the senior. Martin tuned well with his distinctive ski-style, though maybe he'd have problems with it on a giant course.

The high jump event ran alongside the long jump and, of the two, the former held the most attention. The weather began to misbehave and a high wind kept dislodging the horizontal bar from its seating. It didn't, however, prevent a powerful confron-

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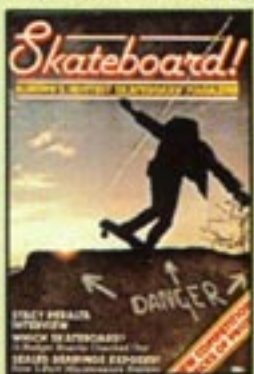
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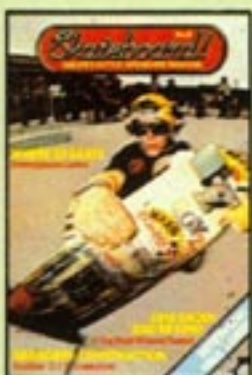
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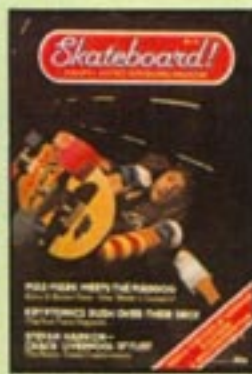
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tation between Andrew Dark of the Skyrider Team (dressed like a Kamikaze pilot, all in white with a rising sun armband) and English title holder, Trevor Baxter. A degree of farce crept into their high-level battle when it was decided to raise the bar by nearly 8cms instead of the previous 2 or 3 – to save time! There was also a deal of confusion between units, with interchange between Metric and Imperial cropping up all day. One person even managed to mistake 1m 90mm for 1.9m!

Trevor Baxter emerged the winner with a best of 4'8½" (presumably measured originally in metric). His later jump of 4'9" failed to count as it was a fourth attempt.

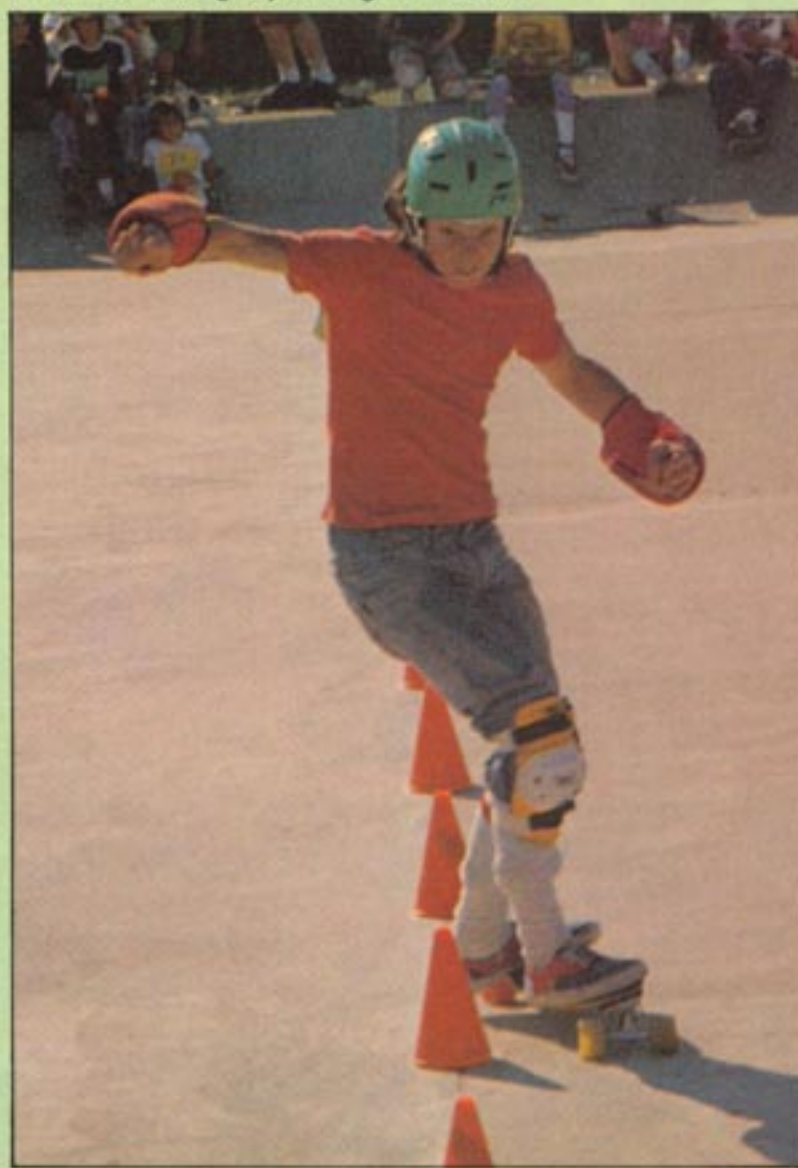
Long Jump was a little less sensational. Trevor again took the 14-16 group with a leap of 13'. . .Crispin Ellis held the senior with a similar figure. Neither performance, however, really compared with earlier British jumps this year (non-ratified) of 18' or so. The start of the event in fact provided the most excitement. Some of the entrants arrived with massive boards that totally contravened the current size regulations. John Williams, one of the judges, quite rightly refused them entry. Several team managers then threatened to boycott the day entirely unless their entries were allowed to compete. After 45' of arguing, the rogue skaters got their way. Were copies of the rules sent out before the day. . .? If they were, then surely the offending riders should have been slung out on their ears.

And that was about it for the events that were. One that 'wasn't' was bowl riding. . .well, that's not quite true. According to the manager of Harrow Skatepark where an earlier heat had been held, the original rules called on flatland freestylers to perform an additional half pipe or bowl riding routine! However strange, that apparently is what happened and many of them probably suffered for it in the heats. Come the final, however, without any warning at all the plan was dropped. It was a dumb decision to omit bowl riding proper. . .let's hope for its inclusion next year.

In the near darkness,



Above: Senior slalom winner, Martin Davey, relaxes on the Knebworth vert. Below: Slalom Champ (14-16 years), Brian Kelner cruises tightly through the cones.



around 7.30pm, the prize giving began. People huddled close around the table in an attempt to see the happy faces of the winners. The sun crept below the trees on the horizon. It was a day of lessons; the marking system had not worked to many people's satisfaction and there was a strong feeling that the organisation had been very lax. Marshalls in particular were either invisible or non-existent. For instance, had there been one on hand, he might have been able to persuade the grumpy installer of the PA system not to string his leads across the snake run! And safety equipment was another bone of contention. . .bowl riders were going rad all day with nil protection while high jumpers paraded under the eagle eye of the judges in full, but arguably unnecessary, padding.

A good many lessons that should already have been learnt were re-learnt at Knebworth, and in many ways too, the park itself proved inadequate for the task demended of it. I don't want to sound harsh but skateboarding is a sport of rising standards. . .and Britain, with half of Europe gunning for it's mantles, cannot afford to retreat a single step. We've got world class skaters in this country – both professional and amateur. Let's hope the competitions are able to provide an equal match.

THE WINNERS

Freestyle: Under 10's, Simon Lane; 11-13 yrs, Stephen Kelner; 14-16 yrs, Keith Smith; over 17's, Douglas Cameron.

Slalom: Under 10's, Neil Hawkins; 11-13 yrs, Kevin Lockyer; 14-16 yrs, Brian Kelner; over 17's, Martin Davey.

High Jump: Under 10's, Neil Hawkins; 11-13 yrs, Russell Hastings; 14-16 yrs, Trevor Baxter; over 17's, John Wilson.

Long Jump: Under 10's, Ian Lockyer; 11-13 yrs, Roddy Pierce; 14-16 yrs, Trevor Baxter; over 17's, Crispin Ellis.

Overall competition winner: Neil Hawkins (aged 9) – 2nd in freestyle, 1st in slalom, 1st in high jump.



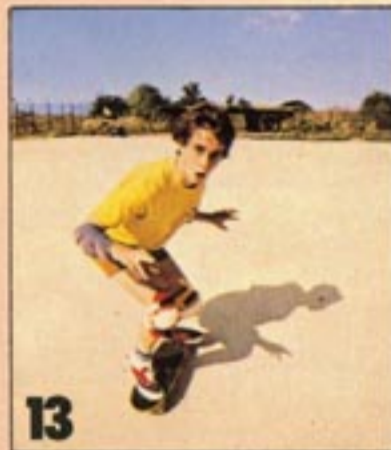
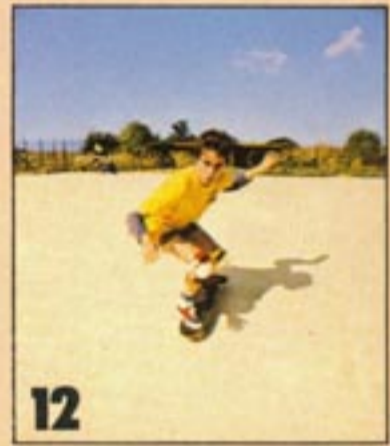
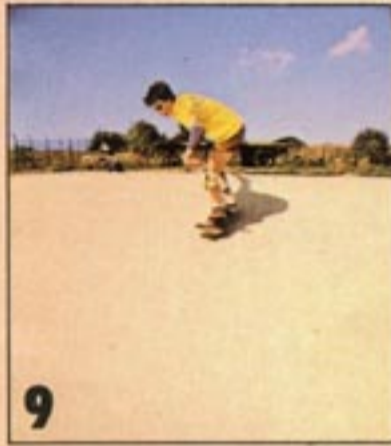
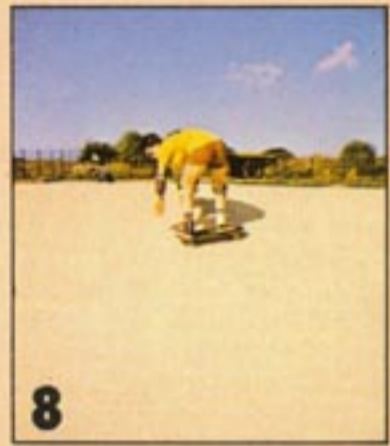
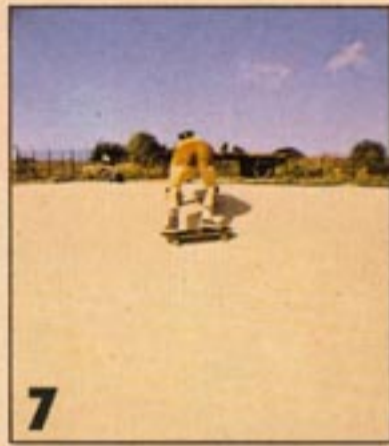
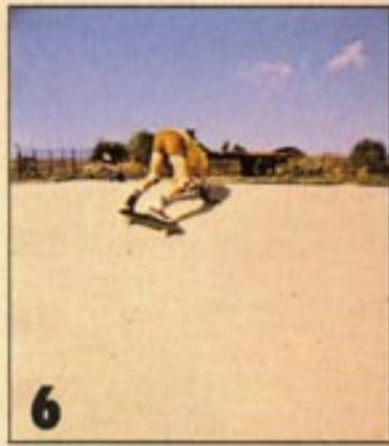
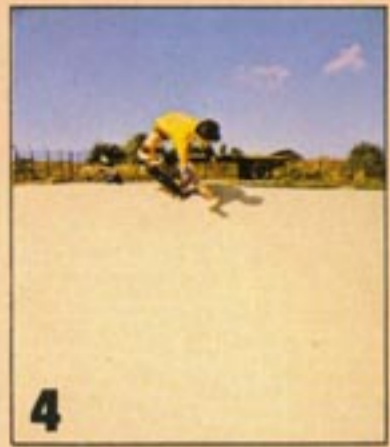
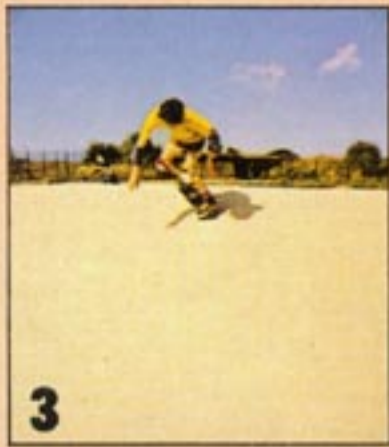
Photography by Ian Dobbie



BANK RIDING SYMPOSIUM

Many comparisons get made between British and American skaters and all too often the consensus of opinion points the outstanding differences to lie in the area of style. Go to any major skatepark in this country and you'll see vert being caned like it's going out of fashion. . . tiles and coping draw kid's imagination like magnets. There's no denying rad terrain tops the popularity poll, yet is it doing so at the expense of other, highly important, areas? Bank-riding for one receives a lot less than its fair share of attention. . . and in many riders, the deficit shows.

"Our riders can do the same tricks as your top pros" is a pretty oft-heard, and well worn, remark. Usually the truth is, yes they can carry out the same basic movements, no they can't do it with anything like the same style, grace or flow. This month, Rocky Brann reveals how he believes the roots of fluidity lie firmly embedded in the kind of gently rolling terrain so native to many an LA park, but so rare in Britain – there's oil under them hills! He's joined in his Symposium by a handful of hot, style-conscious riders.



The Hand-Down 540 Kickturn, with Slide demonstrated for us by Brad Vine. Photo 1 Ride up the bank at a fair speed and keep loose to prepare yourself for the contortions that lie ahead. Photos 2 & 3 Lean hard into the kickturn, torquing your upper body right round to prepare for putting down the hand. Photo 4 If you're regular footed, it's best to put down your left hand (right for goofyies). Place it as far back as you can so that there's no tendency for you to twist off the board later on during the move. Photo 5 This is where you slide as you kickturn to pull the board around. Photos 6 & 7 Keep on sliding the board until it ends up facing the same way as it was on the way up. Photo 8 Begin to rise from the crouched position to prepare for the rest of the kickturn. . . notice how the upper body has now unwound. Photo 9 Just before you start to roll back, initiate the kickturn. Photos 10 & 11 Finish the kickturn and you are now facing back down the slope. Photos 12 & 13 Smugly does it!

Too often skaters fail to realise just how immense are the riding possibilities offered by well designed and finely tuned banks. . . they're the very fountain of style and creativity. And they're not fussy how you approach them, fast and aggressive, fast and laid back, slow and

relaxed, whatever comes to mind.

And it's no exaggeration to say that every single move carried out on vert or flatland can equally be translated and applied to banks. The truth is, a good number of tricks were actually invented there in the first

place. . . for example, most slides.

Slides are in fact one of the most important weapons in the bank manager's quiver of tricks. With a fast, smooth surface and fine transitions there's a near-endless list of 'breakaway' manoeuvres that have been perfected — and an

even more interesting list of inventions still to come.

Favourite moves of the moment look to include the 540 slide, the 180 lip slide and the 180/180. But they can also be interrelated with other familiar actions. For instance the humble kickturn can be beefed into the hand-

down, sliding kickturn, the 540 sliding kickturn, and so on. And don't neglect either such delicacies as the sliding nose grab. Moves like these will quite likely bring you as close as you'll ever get to free expression and true skating spontaneity.

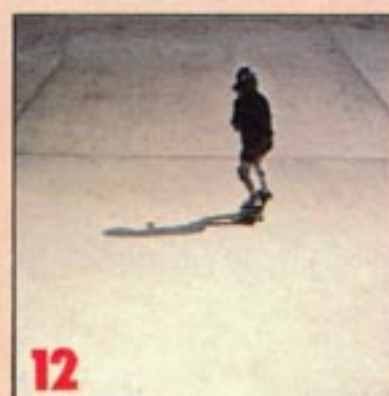
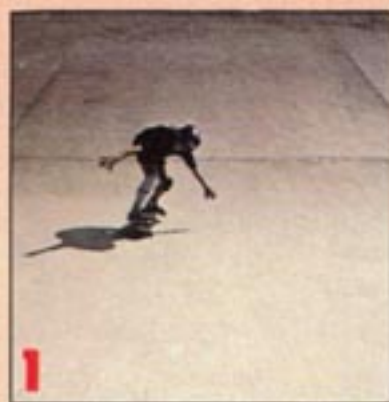
Bank carving at speed (if you're lucky enough to have the use of skate-reservoir type banks) constitutes a sure fire rush with most of the top skaters. They feel it's the only real way of finding one's natural body position, stance and torque – a necessity for more advanced vertical carving and shredding. Ask them if you don't believe it. . . it really does help develop a quick and fluid style.

There are other reasons too for the intense popularity of bank-riding among our better skaters. For one thing, just about every known flatland freestyle manoeuvre can be applied equally to a good bank. Once thoroughly wired, the trick can then be raised by another bunch of degrees to convert to the vertical. Kickflips, 180 slides and pirouettes fit well into this bag.

Even if you're not into freestyle orientated skating, there's a world of scope in wiring up long, controlled wood slides that exude speed and grace. And try, too, to individualise even further by linking really effectively. . . perhaps wood sliding into a Bertleman. Not only will it encourage your skating more towards the radical, it'll teach you as well to be super-creative. That's something that most bank riders badly neglect – if not miss out all together. London riders have something of a pedigree for bank management creativity, but it still seems a rare commodity outside of the Capital.

It's this creativity, plus style-consciousness, that gives the hotter Americans the

The 360 slide, demonstrated for us by cover-man this month, Ben Davies. Points to remember are: 1) High speed is essential to complete the last stages of the move. 2) Let your legs compress completely at the end of the slide, otherwise you'll twist off the board. 3) Stay relaxed and supple. . . this is a flowing manoeuvre that needs to be executed with style.



edge. And the disciplines involved prove effective far beyond the borders of bank-riding. The skater who dedicates himself to the cause can reckon on improvements right across the board.

Five riders, four British and one American, helped us with the Symposium; all of them have achieved some considerable success in the bank-riding field. The line-up is Matt and Ben Davies, Brad Vine, Danny Acton-Bond, and, from the States, Dave Ferry. Special 'Going-For-It' bank-riding photo sequences were taken on loca-



tion at the Locomotion Skatepark in Hemel Hempstead.

MATT DAVIES

Equipment: Fultracks (so loose they almost fall off) and a pretty wide deck that stretches to around 31". Hard, fast wheels without too much grip.

Favourite terrain: Something like a reservoir with banks all the way round that vary in height and angle. "Each bank needs to be different, with a good rounded lip. . . you've got to have flowing transitions and a good surface". Matt also points out the need for more reservoir-type banks with rounded corners – to encourage high-G shredding. Finally, he'd like to see the odd mogul or two built in as well.

Where lies the appeal? "If you can find some good banks, it's worth getting down to a lot of fast carving. There's also room for more flashy moves like lip slides and 540 slides. So far as I'm concerned banks have helped me and a lot of others to develop real style. They've made my skating more artistic".



DAVE FERRY

Equipment: Wide boards and trucks, plus fast wheels (seen on the day carrying 8" Lazers and unbranded board and wheels).

Favourite terrain: "All kinds of banks with good transitions and rounded lips. Usually I ride the freestyle areas in parks — and reservoirs".

Where lies the appeal? "It really helps my riding style . . . and for me it's the closest thing to being in water. I particularly enjoy slides".

His opinion on the British banks he's seen so far: "I think they're very lumpy and could do with a lot of reconstruction. Designers should go over to the States and check out the new techniques."

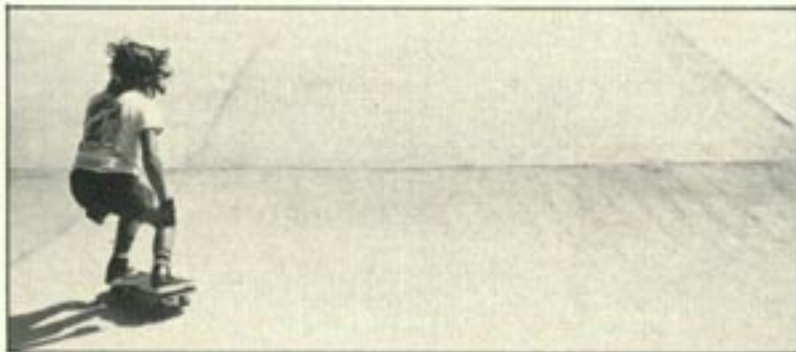
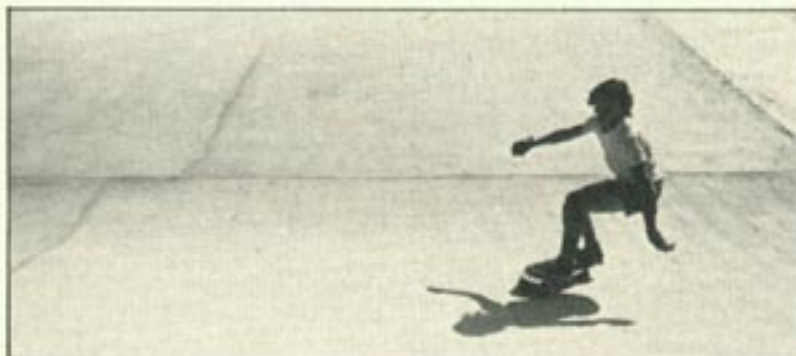


BRAD VINE

Equipment: Wide boards (currently a Trade Winds Wideply 34"), Fultracks and Belair Wings.

Favourite terrain: "I rode something recently that had been built by a company called Radical Banking. The transitions were lovely, the surface good and the lips were rounded for forever carving. In general I go for the reservoir-type bank".

Where lies the appeal? Brad gets into slides in particular, and in general he finds the slopes good for looning around. He also recommends using the terrain for dreaming up new moves. But he goes on; "I think a lot of pro skaters should be designing them rather than skate-park consultants who don't seem to know what they're talking about. They're mostly into cutting corners and making money".



THE 180/180 SLIDE

Demonstrated for us by Rog Harvey

In essence this consists of two standup 180 slides along the bank. They can be performed frontside or backside (illustrated is frontside). Important points to remember are:

- 1 High speed is essential — so, too, is a fair knowledge of flatland sliding.
- 2 Follow the first slide immediately with the second — otherwise you're likely to find yourself thrown off the board.
- 3 Relax and stay light on your feet. Heavy-footers will wipe out more often than not.



DANNY ACTON-BOND

Equipment: 32" deck with Fultracks and either Lip Bombs or Lime Greens. Generally he goes for fairly long decks — and wide — with wide trucks and wide wheels that slide well.

Favourite terrain: "There are some good places in Bristol — at a grems park and also at a secret dam. I still sometimes use the South Bank".

Where lies the appeal? For Danny it's mostly slides with the occasional extra flavouring of kickflips and wheelies. He believes skating banks helps give his style more fluidity. I asked him if Britain could do better with its banks. "Yes, all you need is some paving stones and the correct angles".



BEN DAVIES

Equipment: Long deck with Fultracks and slidy wheels OR a freestyle set-up. . . 27" deck with Haftracks. "There's two forms of bank-riding. One's for jamming around slopes and the other's for tricks".

Favourite terrain: "I like varying banks within the reservoir configuration — that way I can do a good range of moves like aerals on the steeper walls and slides on the more mellow sections".

Where lies the appeal? "It's a real rush; you can take the banks with a lot of speed or you can just slow down and do tricks. In fact you can vary your whole approach towards skating. Mostly I enjoy slides. . . especially 360's. But the main thing is that banks are really enjoyable and they're great for trying out new moves".

TREAD WITH CARE

By Micky Wisternoff

During the last wheels test (The harder they come) it became apparent that many of the manufacturers are using similar compounds. Of the wheels tested, most were extremely quick, with only minute differences in all out speed performance.

There were, however, marked differences in controlability (drift, slide, lock-on, etc). One of the wheels that had outstanding control characteristics was the Z-Groove; whilst not so hot, compound-wise, its slide in particular was excellent. How much of its performance, I wondered, was attributable to its grooves?

Royce Creasey is a long-time contributor to Bike magazine who's wealth of experience in various forms of racing and motor-biking has given him a close understanding of the various factors which affect wheel performance.

I put to him the question of treading-up skateboard wheels.

Micky: Royce, does having a tread on a tyre increase its grip?

Royce: No, actually on a dry surface a bald or slick tyre will outgrip a treaded one.

M: Okay... what effects do treads have on a wet surface?

R: Well it's important to keep rubber in contact with the road; without a tread the wheel will tend to aquaplane.

M: What do you mean by aquaplane?

R: What happens is that a film of water builds up under the wheel, pushing it out of contact with the road (Fig 1).

M: So treads break up and disperse this water film?

R: Right - there's an advertisement on TV which shows it pretty clearly.

M: So do you think treads would increase the grip of a skateboard wheel in the wet?

R: No, not really. Urethane just doesn't have any traction on a wet surface, and of course skateboards don't go fast enough for aquaplaning to occur.

M: So if treads don't increase grip on a dry surface, what affect do they have?

R: Their main effect is that the transition from grip to slide can be adjusted. On a motorcycle where a really positive transition is essential, the tread pattern is a crucial factor.

M: How is this adjustment achieved with treads?

R: When a treadless tyre is forced across a surface until the grip is broken, the tendency is for it to move in a series of jerks - with the whole wheel vibrating.

Fig 1

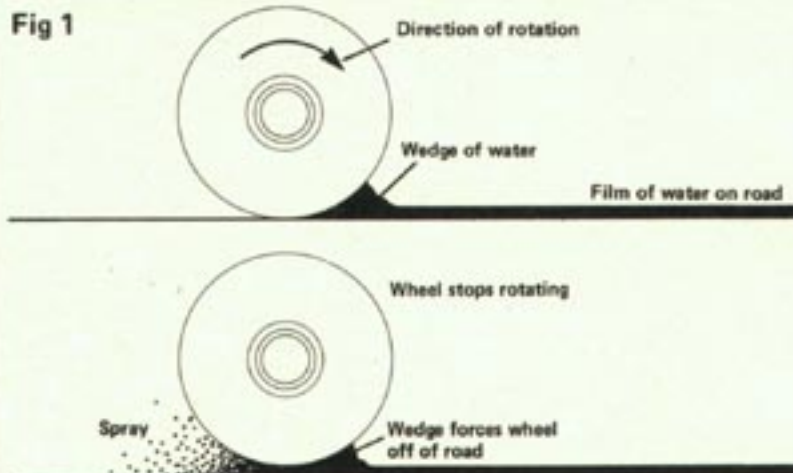
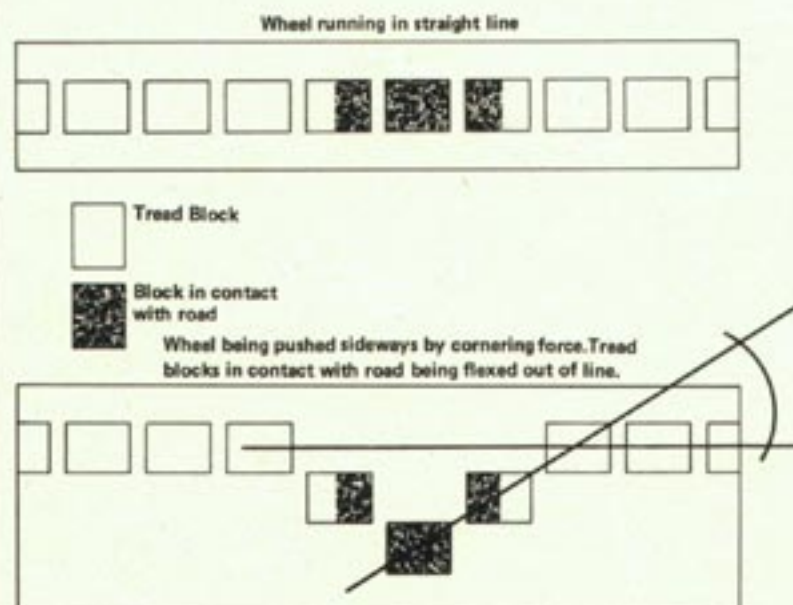


Fig 2



The degree of block displacement has been highly exaggerated in order to clarify the effect. In real terms, such a displacement for a soft wheel would be in the order of 1mm.

You'll be familiar with wheels that fart and snatch when they breakaway. Treads break the surface of the tyre into lots of small surfaces. This stops it from vibrating as a whole, thus smoothing

the transition. Imagine a wheel with a single row of tread blocks. If it is forced sideways as it rolls, each block flexes independantly from the ones trailing and leading it. This allows the

wheel to move sideways slightly, without actually sliding. This is known as the 'slip angle' (Fig 2). As the force increases each block breaks away, but because the blocks are separate, the vibrations taking place are confined to individual blocks.

M: I've noticed that modern racing tyres don't have treads...

R: Yes indeed... this is where the big difference between skateboarding and most other forms of wheeled fun shows up. The sort of power outputs being developed by modern racing engines render treads out of the question. They would weaken the surface of a tyre already at its limits.

M: How, then, do they achieve the necessary control?

R: By intensive development of both the compounds used and the shape and size of the tyre. Decades of developments have gone into both these factors. Modern motor racing compounds and shapes are super-specialised.

Well, it would seem that some form of treading could have a future in skateboarding wheels especially on some of the softer, high performance wheels which are so fast on gnarly surfaces, but tend to suffer from unpredictable handling. As part of our skateboarding wheel development programme we shall be looking closely at treads to determine what benefits, if any, they can give skateboarding wheels.

SKATA RATA

In direct contradiction to our usual policy of conducting comprehensive tests on top-line equipment, we have devoted this month's Skata Rata to an evaluation of those meanest of skateboard accessories, the riders themselves. Usually seen being 'held' to the deck surface via a layer of grip tape, it must be obvious to even the most casual observer that they come available in a wide range of quality and character. We have selected some better-known models, but for the sake of our lawyer we've declined to give their trade-names. However, we've included some illustrations which might help provide a few clues. We hope this month's test and conclusions will give team managers a clearer idea of what they're actually looking for in a prospective team rider.

EXPLANATION OF MEASUREMENT AND TEST PROCEDURES

The first problem we had was in telling the truth. . . once again, due to our lawyer's busy schedule over the next few months we've been forced to make up most of the results. We hope this won't detract from the honesty of our findings.

DIMENSIONS

According to the results of an exhaustive poll — conducted among the staff of the magazine — the ideal length of rider equipment should be 5'5½" (1,700mm). Heights exceeding this can be the cause of gross instability, sometimes the symptoms looking extraordinarily like extreme drunkenness. Those much shorter than the optimum tend to be noisier working, the moving parts often emitting a loud chatter. Intake of food sometimes gives short-time relief from this annoying design flaw.

BRAIN DUROMETER

Soft brains prove best for dangerous riding conditions but, before purchase, clients are advised to make sure they're surrounded by adequate skull reinforcement. A good test of skull protection is to drop your 'soft' model head first from a height of ten foot on to solid gunnite. If the mouth and limb components continue to function more or less satisfactorily you'll know you have top-grade material.

Harder brains often transmit rather bad vibrations and

riders fitted with these tend to lose their grip when going round the bend.

Our test of brain hardness was conducted with a standard Shore 'Z' scale durometer, fitted with extension probe for the usual 'between the ears' test.

By the way — a useful winter-time tip — it's most inadvisable to use human components in conditions of extreme fog or mist. You'll very soon find the rider's bearings get impaired and then it's only a matter of time before he loses his balls. Should the unwary allow this to happen, there's only one real maintenance solution. The equipment will need an enormous quantity of sympathy (it's only human after all), possibly money and certainly some ego-restoring contact with a member of the opposite sex. Believe us when we say the whole procedure can prove prohibitively time consuming and expensive.

PRICE

We rang around the manufacturers of the ten components tested (their parents) and obtained quite unexpected price-tag data. Many were keen to actually give away the goods for nothing. Others felt they'd be quite happy to arrange some sort of swop or exchange. Only one or two in the higher quality range felt inclined to cost their articles, though in these cases the figures quoted were quite exorbitant.

A word of warning here — there appear to be a great many second-hand models arriving on the market right

now, partly due to the foundering of teams. Although the quality of performance of many of these is possibly quite exemplary, the maintenance demands can be excessive, and rehabilitation is not cheap.

DURABILITY

As discussed earlier, brain durometer has quite an effect on the degree of durability. Most models come in fairly similar 'skin and bone' structures (as they're known in the trade) but it's true to say that self-abuse is becoming an increasingly significant factor. Often, lack of reconditioning (sleep) has led to impairment of performance. To detect this, check for dark circles round the sight sensors. Usually, however, given regular maintenance, these units will function adequately for years. Bristol's Micky Bee devised a cunning durability test involving thousands of cigarettes, wild women, a ton of maxi-burgers and a week without sleep. The effects of abuse were then measured by a skater's ability to proceed along in a straight line after days of debauchery.

FLEX AND MEMORY

For some unaccountable reason these two characteristics seem closely linked to the token offer of financial reward. Skating modules will generally put themselves out to go somewhere (be Flexible) and actually remember to get there on time (Memory), provided they're

expecting to be paid for it. The skilled operator will of course know how to cope with this annoying character-trait. For the test, therefore, we checked flex and memory against the promise of £50.

JUNK FOOD CAPACITY

An important figure to decide is each rider's junk food per hour rating. We equipped our panel of judges with 'gag-bags' in case nausea should overcome them, then piled a table high with burgers, non-milk fat ice cream, Kentucky-flavoured crisps, coke-substitute and warmed-up instant coffee. After all the models had been weighed, the disgusting spectacle began. An hour later, the stuffed skaters were weighed again — to give the exact junk food figure. It hardly needs us to remind prospective owners that, the price of the 'food' being what it is, such a rating offers important information.

GREM APPEAL

It's absolutely vital that the less-than-hot kids like what they see. We therefore rounded up a dozen of the worst and measured the success or otherwise of each skater module by recording the number of inane questions asked by the ogling grem. We counted phrases like: "Have you got any stickers?", "Can I have your old board?", "Did you really beat Tony Alva in Santa Monica?", and "Which was the last edition of Skateboard! you appeared in?". From each of the rider units under test, apart from the

obvious style, technique and competence, we looked for a continuous flow of jargon (mellow, rip, shred, rad, etc) and the occasional outburst of 'grem abuse', so necessary for total adulation.

EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS (ED)

Running skaters can be a costly business, especially when they display (as most do) a ridiculously high ED rating. We assembled our ten modules in front of their respective managers and counted during intense conversation over a half-hour period, the number of ED's each one made. Most common phrases to crop up were: "When do I get paid?", "How much do I get paid?", "Why don't I get paid?" and "What the hell am I doing here if you're not going to pay me?". Others included: "When does my signature board come out?", "When am I going to the States?", and "I haven't eaten since lunchtime". The judges admitted they found it a harrowing test.

VERBAL ABUSE (VA)

If there's one thing the public have come to expect from the better class skater it's a polished line in VA. Once again we have to thank Micky Bee and the Bristol Crank Tank for setting up the test. He selected six superbly shockable judges (three old spinsters, two scoutmasters and a representative from RoSPA) and recorded their reactions to an exchange between each module and an irate pedestrian who hates skateboarders. The air was more mauve than blue and unfortunately, within only five minutes of the start the RoSPA rep had stumbled, screaming from the room.

COSMETIC APPEAL

It's a sad fact of life that, often, appearance will outsell ability. And it's no more likely to happen than in skateboarding. While the casual observer continues to have not the faintest clue as to what constitutes a fine performance, so cosmetic appeal will remain a highly significant factor. Our panel consisted of a 13-year old skate-crazed schoolgirl, a 'bent' film producer and an ordinary member of the public - Sid Vicious. Unfortunately, the test turned out less complete than



Model	Dimensions	Brain Durometer (Z-scale)	Price	Durability	Flex and Memory
A	7' 3" (2253mm)	All too soft to measure!	\$100 (American Express only)	inclined to wander	clear and accurate
B	shorter		a giveaway (on special offer)	"Which line?"	gets there
C	immeasurable		"qui?" - his mother	"When do I get paid?"	reliable
D	getting high		next to nothing - or near offer	knows how to roll	on time
E	5' 11-7/8" (1862mm)		nothing - plus stamps	deck broke (Cheapskate)	"what appointment?"
F	6' - give or take a foot		\$1,000,000 (his assessment)	deck caught fire	"It's not true!"
G	1' - give or take six feet		not on market (disappeared)	definate signs of deviation	could try harder
H	measured horizontally (in bed) 10"		"see my agent"	no test - couldn't stand up	"£50!!! you must be joking"
I	kept growing everytime we measured him		exchange or repatriation considered	refused test	"the truant officer caught me"
J	The ideal height		100%	1 bag of tiger nuts, 3 whole meal scones and a handful of rice	perfection



we'd originally hoped. This was due to Micky Bee disappearing with one of the judges (our lawyer forbids us to say which). Taken into account in the test were superficial blemishes (scars) plus degree of beauty and finish. Results were compared to that high point of perfection, Leif Garrett.

CONCLUSIONS

As most of you will know, we always try at this point to name one or two best (or in this case, worst) buys. However, because our lawyer is (still) so busy, we won't. But there is one piece of advice that's always worth giving when team managers think it's about time they signed another riding module to their ranks . . . don't.



Junk Food Capacity	Grem Appeal	Extortionate Demands (ED's)	Verbal Abuse	Cosmetic Appeal
could do better	high in Bristol area — loquacious	years of experience	fever-pitch	hard to tell
5kg (paid a visit half way)	good image, could say more	tries hard — technique needs polishing	vocabulary limited	way up
15kg — including wrappers	highly respected	"I won't say till I get paid — so there!"	cool and accurate	above average
poor — goes for class grub	"Bless him" — Ben Howard	quite high score	fell asleep	startling
none — he says	okay. . . jargon out of date	well concealed	uses many military expressions	beneath that ragged exterior . . .
depends who's paying	flash. . . spits cool words	who'd be Phil Lobatto?	too fast to comprehend	dashing and hunky
8kg, plus 4kg found stuffed in pockets	restrained	quiet but ruthless	kutting but kool	a certain 'je ne sais quoi'
averagely disgusting	bombshell on wheels	rising expectations	subtle and sarky . . . brief and to the point	distinctive — high groupie appeal
mmm - munch - holds his own	super-confident when it counts	who'd be Ben Howard?	brisk	brace yourself
nil — health freak	amazing	none — except maybe a set of weights	a gentleman	a pure vision

It's farewell, this issue, to Dave Goldsmith (illustrated above in typical pose). Taking up the 'Data reins' next month, we welcome Micky Wisternoff.

COMPETITION

Come on. . . we all know Christmas is boring. All you've got are food, drink and presents. It's time therefore to sharpen your wits on a new Skateboard! Fun Competition.

There is a distinct possibility that you may think you've recognised at least some of the faces (coincidence, of course). Well, what you've got to do is choose ONE of the skaters you think you know and replace our results with a list of your own.

For the sender of the most enlightening (and printable) new column of results we'll dig out a prize. Also, the ten best entries will be printed in a future edition of Skateboard! By the way, don't forget that we'll want to know the name of the rider you're describing.

Send entries as quickly as possible to: Christmas Fun Comp, Skateboard! magazine, 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE

SKATEPARK SUPERTEST

Built inside the old Brentford Market in Chiswick, Rolling Thunder represents a welcome addition to the ranks of London's indoor skateparks. The cast list for the day was in keeping with the occasion . . . Ben and Matt Davies, Danny Acton-Bond, hot female action from Sheenagh Burdell, Tim Altic who dropped by for a spot of rollerskating and Roger Harvey — on spying mission from Harrow's Solid Surf. Not surprisingly, the session ripped.

The park actually consumes around 3,000 square metres of the old indoor market. There are galleries all along two sides that give an excellent spectator overview. Construction took four months and the designer was Richard Wrigley (a co-designer of the ill-fated Skatecity). Building work was taken on by Mayway Construction Ltd and the entire project is said to have cost £80,000. The runs are formed from pure concrete — with ballast underneath. The surfaces are finished off in what is known as Granolithic Screen, a coating of fine, ultra-hard granules.

LAYOUT OF FEATURES

The design of the park is quite unusual, certainly when compared to the very recognisable work of G/Force and Skatepark Construction (designers and builders of such power places as The Rom, Harrow's Solid Surf and Brighton's Barn). Taken as a whole it's a series of interconnected shapes that can be ridden individually, or as part of the entire complex. The breakdown of runs and units goes as follows:

THE CHANNEL RUN

Slicing down the centre of the park is the Channel. It's shaped rather like a large half pipe, but one that's been turned into a four sided unit. The corners are rounded and the sides, 19m long; width varies from 4m to 6m and depth, from 1.5m to 2.5m. The latter, deeper section almost reaches vertical. The Channel is a pretty popular

ROLLING THUNDER BRENTFORD

There's something of an enigma in this country about the siting of skateparks. On a warm August day, nothing could seem more silly than having a roof between you and the summer breezes. But come winter, suddenly tables are turned and protection against inclement weather rules. Most park owners choose one path or the other — a few, like Skatecountry in Bristol, steer a middle course by use of air domes and other 'semi-permanent' coverings. Rolling Thunder in Brentford has volunteered to thumb its nose at the climate and, remarkably, on fine days it's suffered little for it. While other parks around count their losses, Thunder powers on. The Test Team, under Rocky Brann, paid a visit to check its rating and to determine the cause of its undoubted success.



Top: The Channel run with the Clover Leaf set into the centre of it. Middle: Main freestyle area. Bottom: Reservoir.

feature with all the locals and it struck us as an excellent training ground for half pipe riding. The surface, though lumpy overall, is smooth in texture. However, the top areas of the deeper end seem 'tacked on' — as if something of an afterthought; cracking has started to creep in. On the day just about all the Team used the run to get into gear by forever carving round and round.

THE CLOVER LEAF BOWL

Nestling strangely inside the Channel is the 2m deep by 14m diagonally across clover-leaf. To put it mildly, this has to be one of the least successful attempts at creating a 4-bowl formation the Team's ever seen! 14m may sound a lot but once broken down into the component parts, the tiny diameters of the bowls render them totally unworkable. Judging by the complete absence of riders in the near vicinity, our views were shared; just two solutions came to mind. . . goldfish or hardcore!

FREESTYLE

The freestyle patch shapes up to a triangle that's 12.5m along each side with banks all the way around. Actually it's not unlike the South Bank in some ways, but with far better transitions. The banks vary in height from 1m to 2m and each angles to a different slope. The result allowed for an overload of creative riding, in particular from Danny Acton-Bond whose lip slides into full extensions into 180's looked inspirational.

THE RESERVOIR

Next on the list is the large reservoir-type run that's named 'The Cruiser', and again Danny had a fine old time shooting 2-wheelers and Bertlemans. The Cruiser's outline shows an equilateral triangle with sides 12.5m long that rise to 3m and near-vert. The unit's great fun to ride and allows for some high speed, free expression manoeuvres — because of its spaciousness and the safe, super-fast surface. Once

again, though, the top half metre of banking looks 'tacked-on' and cracking has already set in.

THE RAMP & DEATH VALLEY RUN

The strangest element in the park has got to be the Death Valley Run. Starting with a 3.5m high ramp, it runs hairily into a snake wall of the same sort of height — plus vert; that in turn leads on into a 3m high channel (almost vert) that loops back under the ramp. The walls here climb maybe 3m until the Death Valley Run fades into another freestyle patch that's similar in shape and dimension to the one described earlier. Lan Skateboard's Sheenagh Burdell spent most of her time here putting in nose grabs and wheelies and local boy-wonder, Justin Thomas, was seen making very high aerials — at times pulling off by nearly a metre.

THE WHIPLASH

Around behind the notorious ramp is an insane, 4m high 'whiplash' — one side of which towers to a full 2m of vertical. Once again the textured surface is fast and smooth, but marred (as are many of the other runs) by rippling. Trucks that are in any way loose tend to 'squirm' their way through



the transitions. Ben Davies spent a deal of time here, testing the location with hot aerials.

THE KIDNEY BOWL

Away round the other side of the park we came across the large, kidney-shaped bowl. There are two entry points, each placed where the kidney 'pinches' in. Overall the bowl measures 15.5m from end to end, 7m across and 3.5m deep. . .there's half a metre of vert. Some of the unit is very ridable, some is very heavy going because of the wonky transitions and the inconsistent surfacing. One can't forget, either, the enormous pillar rising slap-bang out of the middle of one of the

bowls. Nobody seemed too interested in skating the Kidney Bowl but owner, Richard Wrigley, tells us it's pretty popular with bike riders! He's happy to encourage them.

THE POOL-BOWL

Another bowl unit (no coping or tiles, however) but this time more of a keyhole shape, except that the shallow end is more rounded. The run-in to the deep end is all of 20m, and this, the unit's most demanding section, measures 6.5m across by 3.5m deep — plus there's a ½m of vert. From end to end, the bowl measures 12.5m. Transitions and finish are both excellent, the only limiting factor (by

general consensus) being that it's too deep for its diameter. Though that rather damps down the fun rating, Thunder's Pool-Bowl still has a lot more to offer than some of the so-called pools that are to be found in many a British skatepark. Coping, tiles and a coat of paint don't make a pool.

This particular example in fact rather sums up the rider's overall feeling about the park as a whole. . .some love it and some hate it. Rog Harvey had a great time throwing around forever axle carves, while others in the Team just passed it by.

MINI BOWLS

Leading into the Half Pipe (see next section) are two minute bowls that tape in at 6m across by 3.5m deep, again, with the regulation ½m of vert. Unfortunately, because of the near-nonexistent run in and their inadequate diameters, they're completely unworkable. Indeed, local wags have dubbed them 'the changing rooms'!

THE HALF PIPE

A roll on the drums. . .and time now to introduce what everyone thought was the most impressive feature in the park — the Half Pipe. It's a massive 55m long, 6m in width with, again, a ½m of vert on one side. There are



Bottom: Half pipe showing the two mini-bowls that leak into it. Top: Overview showing the Death Valley run that spills into the second freestyle area. On the left, the Whiplash.

three points of entry, one at the start and two half way along. It's a fine run, partly because it's so spacious, but once more the drawback lies in the surface and transition finishing — some of the work is very weird indeed. The cleanest section lies near the far end — which causes ridiculous overcrowding around the two halfway entry points. All the hot riders seem to gravitate towards the Half Pipe but it seems a shame the whole unit doesn't boast an overall high standard. With a little more work, Thunder could claim ownership of one of the finest half pipes in the world.

Moans apart, the Test Team gave it a caning most of the day. The air was thick with snapback gnarlers, aerials, grinds of all descriptions — micro edgers, the lot.

IN GENERAL

Rolling Thunder will accommodate around 100 skaters in a fair degree of skating comfort — depending as always on the way they're riding. Expansion-wise, Richard Wrigley is building dance studios and a small cinema in the galleries (at the half pipe end of the park) and a disco (the freestyle end). "We want to cater for all kinds of people. . . young mothers, dancers, skaters, anyone. So far, it's been a social success because it's informal — it's a good place

to hang out".

The point is well taken. The sounds played over the PA are excellent, the whole atmosphere of the park is fantastic and what really took our notice was the genuine friendliness between skaters . . . and between them and us. People looked happy to be there.

FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, CHARGES

There are four pool tables, a plethora of electronic games and pinballs, a snack bar (soft drinks, pizzas and so on) and a pro shop. Live bands play on the stage at the top of the ramp.

Arrangements have been recently made to

give regular coaching practise. Other attractions include an Old Gold session for 'the mature' skater, once a week — and free skating on Fridays from 9.00 till 11.00pm — along with the disco. Richard is also setting up a winter bussing system to bring in skaters from other parks and shops (contact him via the park for more information).

Admission and hire charges are as follows: members skate for 30p an hour (membership £2 a year) and non-members skate for 40p an hour. Anyone who's skated a session can then hang around free for the rest of the day. There's a yearly pass that costs £25.00 and that'll allow you unlimited skating. Alternatively, you can pay £5.00 a month for the same thing. Hire is 5p an item (non-members, 10p); a pair of pads is considered one item.

Rolling Thunder stands adjacent to the junction of the M4 and the North Circular Road — between Chiswick roundabout and Kew Bridge. It's actually right by Kew Bridge railway station, and not far either from Gunnersbury on the London Underground (District Line). Bus routes 27 and 91 pass close by.

Weekday opening times are 4pm to 9pm (Fridays till 11pm); Saturdays and school holiday time it's open from 10am to 9pm — Sundays it's 10am to 6pm.



Top: Pool bowl-note weird transitions. Middle: Kidney bowl, the pillar obviously hinders performance somewhat. Bottom: One view from the Death Valley ramp.

STARSHOTS

NEW RIDERS OF THE SKATE AGE



Photography by Ian Dobbie

BEN DAVIES

Ben is 15 years old and now rides for Hang Ten. Being one of London's creme de la creme he has, of course, a colourful skating history that dates back over two years. Ancient terrains include the Broadwalk and some vintage Southbank. Not being one to mince words, he has a lot to say about skateboarding; "There's a lot of B. S. about skating being dead, but it's only the rip-off artists who are finished. It's a sport now plus a great social scene. . . instead of just a kid's craze". Ben's favourite riding spots are Harrow, Rolling Thunder and Meanwhile where he works out regularly with the boys. He has a fluid, aggressive style which he applies explosively to vertical, half pipes and pools. His choice moves right now are aerals and long drifters. . . "You've got to get high to get high". Other riders you'll often see with him include his brother, Matt, Marc Sinclair and Shane Cutts.



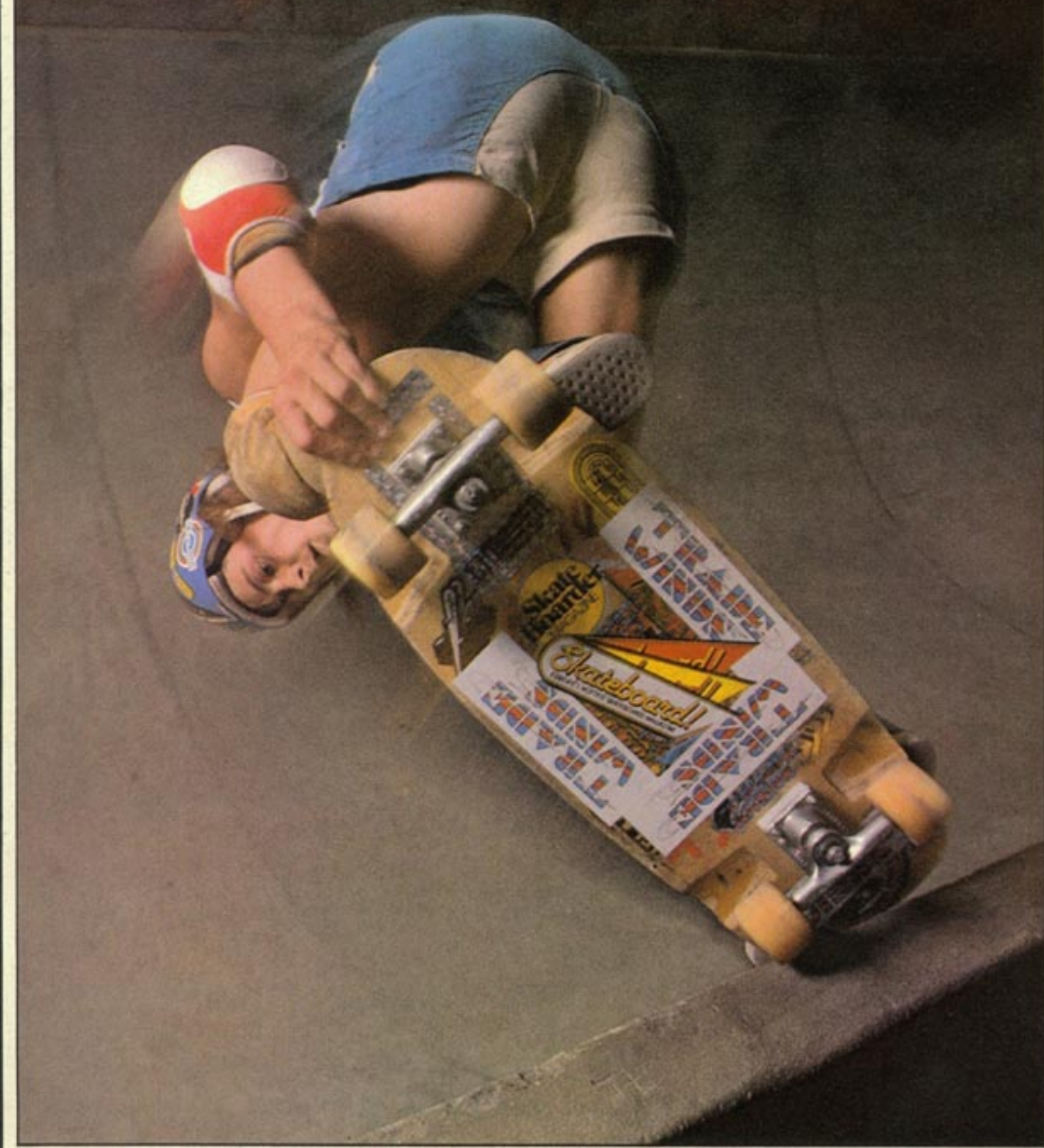
SHEENAGH BURDELL

13 year old Sheenagh Burdell is the first, hot girl skater on the vertical that we've seen in Britain and she proved a real match for the boys at Brentford's Rolling Thunder park where she was pulling off classy rail-grabs and tail blocks. Sheenagh's skating inclinations point towards vert, pools and pipes, and unlike most other girl skaters, she's not at all interested in straight forward freestyle. She rides for Lan Skateboards — generally at her 'home' park, Southport — and uses a 29" Lan with Fultracks and the new Wings. The encouraging news from Sheenagh is that; "We're going to see a lot more girls getting rad" and in fact she herself has only been skating in parks since March — just goes to show it's not hard to be hot! Other skaters she admires include Marc Sinclair, Roger Harvey and Mark Baker. . . all of whom rate her as well.



JUSTIN THOMAS

16 year old Justin Thomas has been skating for 2 years now, and is currently one of the major attractions at Rolling Thunder where he produces super high aerials, grinders and blocks. He tends to ride a Sims Taperkick 30" with Midtracks and Bones but intends soon to go wider for more control. Justin's riding is vert-orientated so naturally he admires the qualities of skaters like Valdez, Sinclair and Baker.



ROGER HARVEY

Though not quite 'Old Gold' league (30 yrs plus), Roger uses his 22 years to high account. . . he works as assistant pro/assistant manager at Harrow's Solid Surf skatepark — where he also doubled as design consultant. A skater of 2 years, his riding style inclines him towards half pipes, vert and pools where he shreds aerials and grinders. Park-wise he rates Wolverhampton (Arrow), Kidderminster and, of course, Harrow and his preferred equipment includes a Trade-Winds deck, Fultracks and the new red Sims Snake. He has it all supplied to him by the Trade-Winds team. Roger's favourite skaters are Benjymen Tim Altic, "Because he's so hot and such a great guy" — and Jeremy Henderson.

SKATELINE



Hot 2-sequence of a Seth Cutts fly-out into later lip slide — venue, Locomotion Skatepark, Hemel Hempstead.

ROLLER CONVERSION

Could you please tell me where I could get some bearing adaptors as I want to put skateboard wheels on my rollerskates. I was very impressed by the photos of Fred Blood and others bowl riding on skates and I'd like to try it.

Gary Wilkie, Stroud, Glos.

It's very hard to know if anything can be done without having more information on the rollers you've got. Ed.

ON THE MARC

In some of your interviews and talks with 'pros' we hear a lot about 'grem's'. My nearest definition of a 'grem' would be somewhere between a first-time and a reasonable skater. . . and that's where I, and probably 50% of riders in Britain would fall. When Marc Sinclair said, 'I know most pro skaters just laugh in their faces when they're asked something. I don't do that, I'll go, 'Wait a minute, I'll show you how it's done' . . . it's good to hear. Pro skaters must learn to give less experienced riders a chance to gain knowledge — not spit in their faces.

Stephen Kelly, Appleton, Warrington

GETTING CLOSER

The letter from Chris Winters in the Orkney Isles (issue 14) made me

think how lucky we are here in Pembrokeshire. . . Swansea Skatepark is only 70 miles away. The council here said they'd build a bowl but there's no sign of any construction plans; looks like we'll have to wait till someone wins the pools.

Douglas Howell (plus many others), Newgale, Pembrokeshire.

Something like every other letter we get in here concerns council inactivity. . . it's a national problem. Ed.

PLEA

I'm writing to you for help. I'd like a Hobie sweat shirt but where I live the shop that used to sell them closed down.

John Laidlaw, Llandaugh, S. Wales.
Problem, John, Hobie UK has closed down too. . . can anyone help? Ed.

BOGGED DOWN

Here in Bog Town (Hedge End) we are trying to get skating facilities but are short of funds. We have need for anything down to a decent quarter pipe — although we're trying for a 20' half pipe. If anyone can help would they write.

Graham Woodason, 2 Heath House Close, Hedge End, Soton SO3 4LD
Sounds like a good place to start off might be our Hereford Self-Help feature this month. Ed.

ONE MAN'S ZIT

On the subject of names for towns, although we here in Taunton keep very quiet and just get on with the fun element of skating, we've been known for quite a while now as Zit City. We all have it written on our boards and it causes a laugh when we visit Bristol or Exmouth.

Neil Ruffell, Taunton, Somerset.

ONE OF THOSE

So who is Walt Dangerfield? I'd be much too scared — Skane's my Hero! It'd be like going for an ice cream soda with Dr. Kildare!

Gremmy Grammy

Actually, Walt's a bit multifarious. Ed.

AND ANOTHER

Elo man! Iza rite'n t'yoo jus t' tell you bout wee guys: wee all in wun o dem bordin skools in Somerset, iss realy borin — but somo us is skit-boarders an wee git ourselves a team! — yea das rite — wees da Millfield Rad Lads, an wees hot! (I ain kiddin). Wee all wen down t' skatecountry an found dat dair pool ain git no vert, an is so small dat wan o' us mistake eet for a public convenience! Stil

Cont'd on page 60

GOING-WITHOUT-IT GOING

Tailor-made for American eccentrics, we feature in this month of madness and celebration, the less-than-clothed Tim Altic demonstrating a skinny-dip version of the 360 Dam Fool Aerial. Location is the Secret Dam near Bristol and the photographer, Penny Dowdswell. She was fortunat-

ely radically undisturbed by such an unashamed display of total nudity. . . there's no sign of camera-shake at all!

We fished a dripping Altic from the murky waters and asked him to explain his erratic behaviour, stage by stage.



Photo 1: You can feel the tension mounting as I slip between the water breakers, heading to make the Guinness Book of Records with the most outrageous Dam Fool Aerial yet.

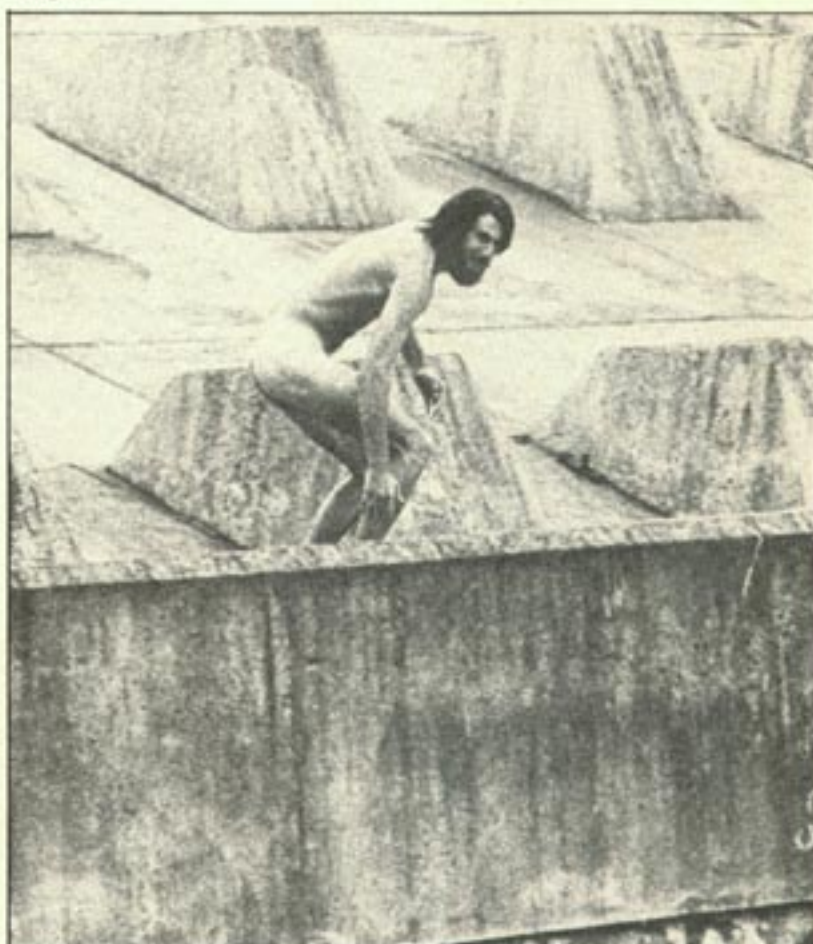


Photo 2: I'm starting to crouch before shooting the short, concrete ramp section. . . I'm also beginning to wonder whether it's worth risking drowning for the sake of a spread in Skateboard!



Photo 5: Wrenching the board round on take off, you can see here that I'm already on a quarter revolution. There must be better ways of earning a living.



Photo 6: This doesn't make any sense at all because it's from a different sequence (shut-up! Ed).



Photo 3: Right down now and I'm getting a grip on the board (not to mention myself) — the water's starting to look deeper and colder.

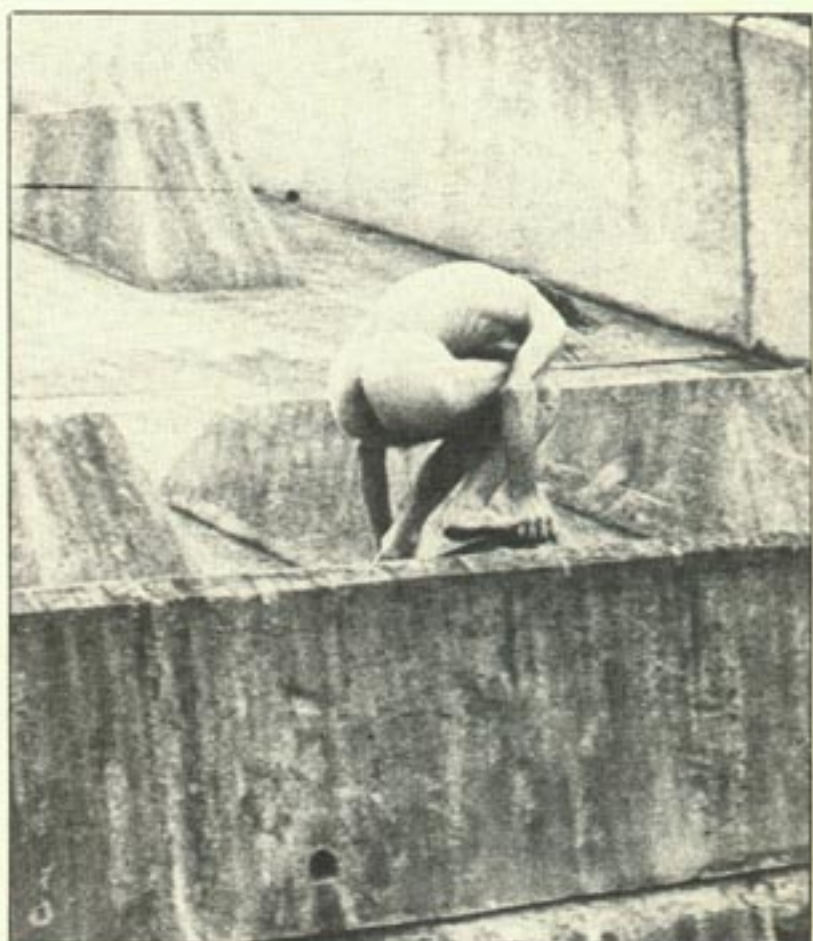


Photo 4: Last moment of contact. . . was my psychiatrist right?



Photo 7: The end is nigh and it's a perfect entry. The board slaps the surface flat-on and disappears forever to the bottom with a miserable gurgle. . . hell! I didn't check for sharks.



Photo 8: Glug
Editor's note: alright, I know what you're thinking, but one loonie's enough and, apart from Tim being a good swimmer, the Dam Fool Aerial was executed under very organised conditions. Without stringent precautions, such manoeuvres should not be attempted.



EURO

Skateboard Centre

Have a Happy

CHRISTMAS

"BARGAIN TIME"

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Cont'd from page 57

we rip an wee git losso air. Yoo guys git one helloa cool magazine, bit yooos never at ma favoreet holiday rip hole. Skatecircus in d' depths o' Vauxhall. Yoo orda come down won day an score som ripability. Well, time t' end dis pees o' fantastic literature. Keep up d' vibes cos yooz gonna be hearen more of us guyz in d' neer fochure. Slong. Anon of no recorded address. So *that's* what boarding schools do to you! Ed.

VOICE OF SANITY

In answer to the point raised in your Alva Report and that implied by the 'Alva Critic' in Skateline (both issue 14), Tony Alva is probably the greatest skater in the States because of who he is and how he skates, rather just because of what he can do. Alva's carves at Mad Dog, for example, were incredible. He managed to express so much of what skating is all about. . . force, grace and sheer fluidity; qualities which are rarely found combined in any other sport and which take skating beyond the limits of mere accomplishment of 'tricks'. The fact that Alva did not attempt the aerials that Mark Baker achieved could not have mattered less. It was how he skated that made his performance so unforgettable. For similar reasons, Simon Napper could well be considered the greatest bowl-rider in Britain, although he, I suspect, would be the first to admit that he was not necessarily the best. There is too much of this business in skating as to what you can do. The question should be, how do you do it, and with what attitude of mind (a factor that naturally dictates your performance).
James Fraser, London SW11
Sir, you've said it all. Ed.

ANTI-RAT

Who said the West Country was called Rat Town? It's the first I've heard about it. I live in Cornwall and skate mainly in the Cabbage Town areas (Camborne, Redruth and Truro). Tris Team rips! Essjay Williams, Truro, Cornwall

BIG LETDOWN

In issue 12 you mentioned that Enfield swimming pool had been converted for skating. Well, all that're there are two ramps and anyway, it's only open after summer's over - half the time it's rained out. A year ago the council said it was going to build the biggest and best skatepark in Europe. They charged people over a £1 each to come and see a 3' by 6' model of the 'superpark'. Now they're saying it'll take three years to get

Cont'd on page 62

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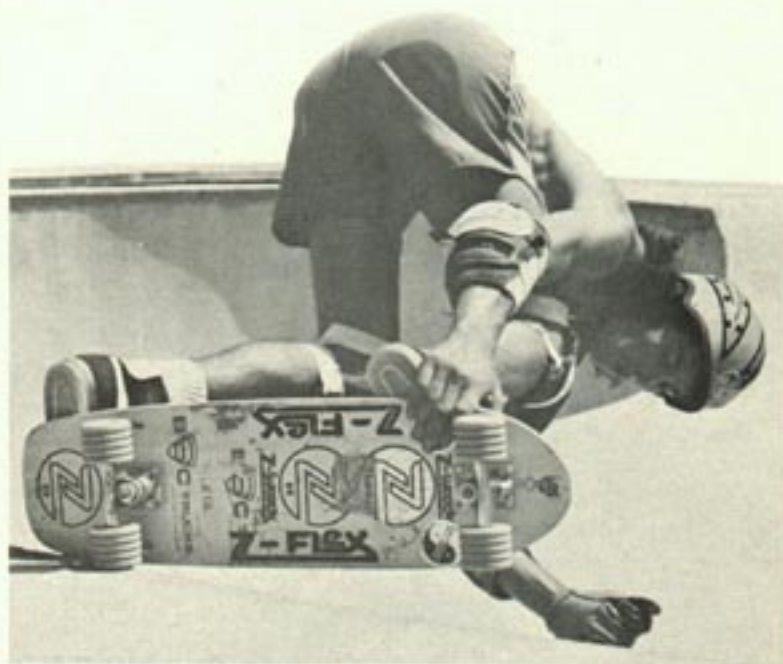
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SKATE ABOVE THE LINE
IN '79

Cont'd from page 60

planning permission — from themselves! It's pathetic, but we will not be beaten by the morons. . . we'll continue to skate the South Bank and our secret car park.

G. Russell, Eric & Sean and all Rad Cats

FAIR COMMENT?

After reading Steff's interview we were totally stoked over the Northern coverage. The southskaters are a load of (*tut tut. Ed.*) Man! are they big-headed thinking they dominate the Scene. The reason the south are really (really?) 'it' is because there isn't any real coverage of the North, as S. H. pointed out. There's plenty of HOT stuff up here so why have photos of grems down south (are they really 'up and coming?'). What we're trying to say is that southerners are (*here we go again. Ed.*) and we DOMINATE. Some mad, radical skaters from Liverpool
More Northern coverage on the way.
Ed.

DISCOVERY

On a recent trip to London I discovered some concrete banks. You can find them just along from the Royal Festival Hall, underneath the art galleries.

Charles Coutts, Hartley, Kent.

Lad, lad. . . unless I'm very much mistaken you've just 'discovered' the South Bank! Ed.

THANKS

Just a note to tell you Glasgow's name which is Sin City. By the way, glad to see you're at last acknowledging Glasgow and Scotland. May your dog sprout wings.

Neil Buchanon, Glasgow, Scotland.

And may yours, too. Ed.

MORE SUPPORT

Tony Alva is *there* and always will be, so *@?% (*what's happening this month. Ed.*) Dean Legg. Skates at dawn, pillock. . . I got T.A. on my side).

Alex, no address

This and 'Voice of Sanity' are just two of many we received in support of T.A. Ed.

OVERREACTION

Our attention has been drawn to a recent report and a photograph in the Sunday People regarding the use of a dog to propel a skateboard; I enclose a copy of the item in question. I do not have evidence, nor do I suggest, that dogs are widely used to propel

Cont'd on page 64

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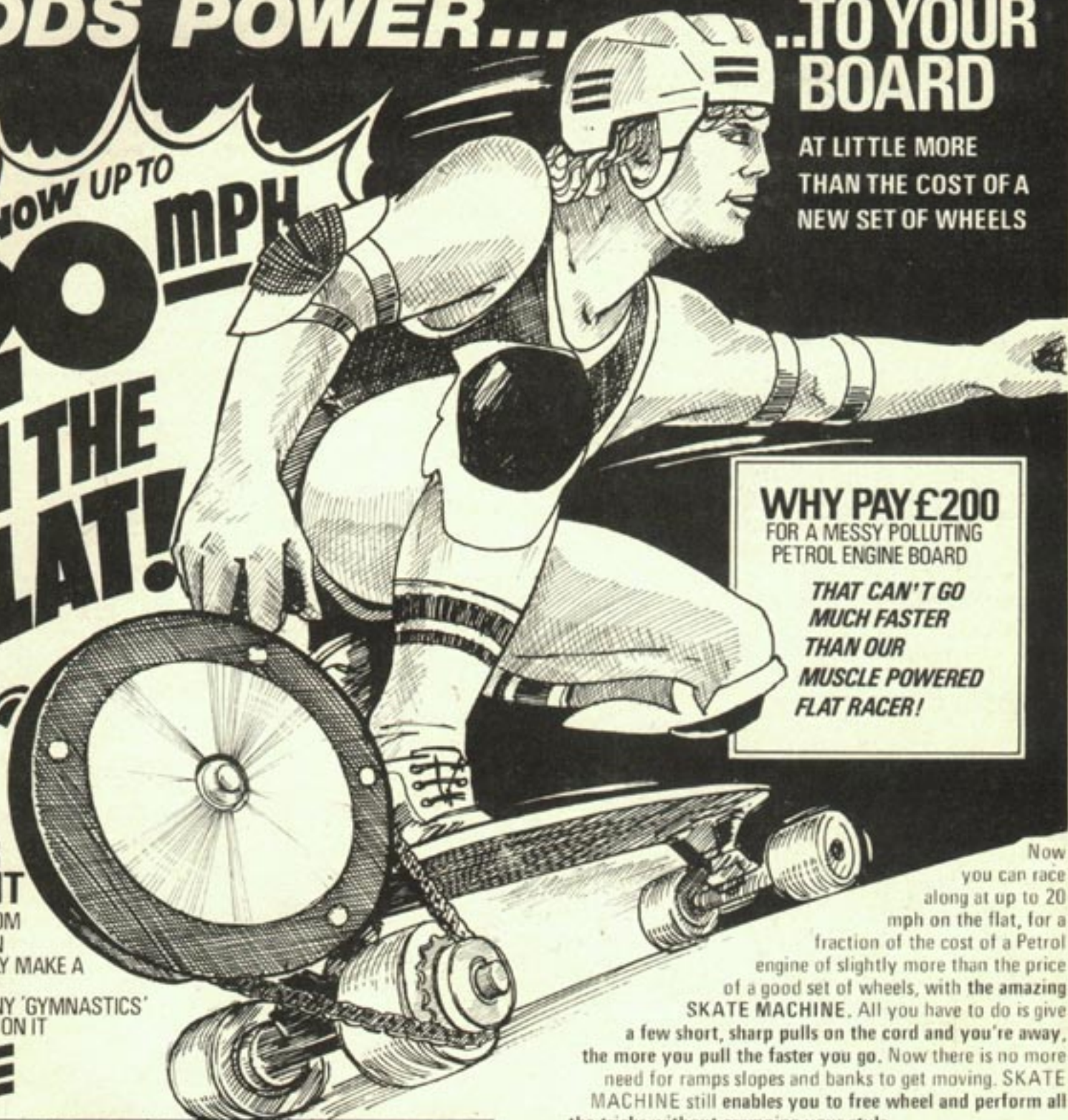
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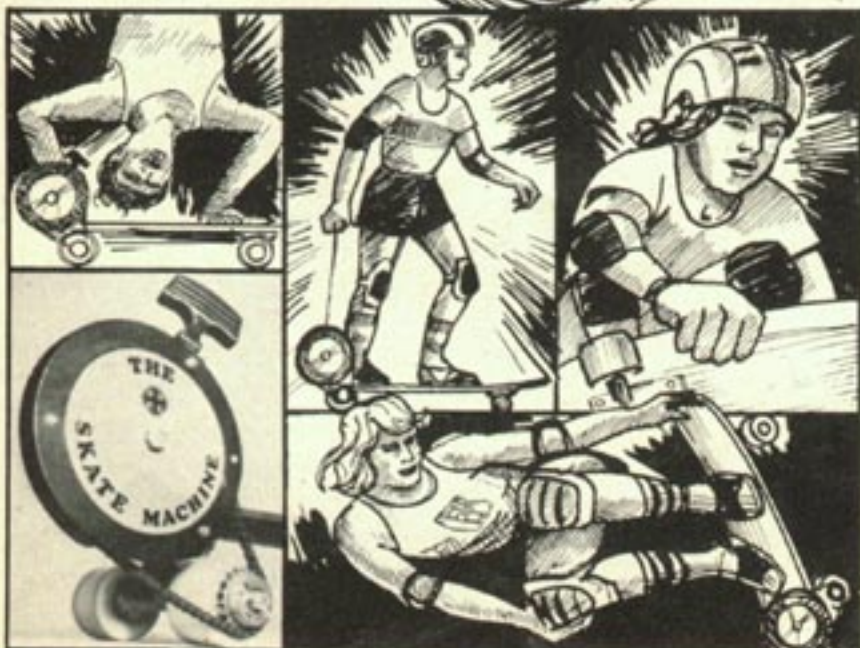
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Cont'd from page 62

skateboards but I know you will appreciate our concern that publicity of this kind may well encourage such a practise and result in abuses. Would it be possible for you, in your columns, to urge skateboarders not to follow this example?

R.J.Hopkins, R.S.P.C.A., Horsham, Sussex.

POETIC LICENSE

Congratulations on a great mag. BUT, in issue 13 the centre spread caption read 'tight inversion' while on page 71 there's a picture of the same manoeuvre but here it's described as a backside aerial. Be careful. . .

Rog McLean, Camberley, Surrey
Backside aerial is a correct technical description. . . tight inversion was me waxing lyrical. Ed.

MADNESS DOMINATES

Last week on our arrival at a skateboard comp heat at Nottingham's Malibu Dog Bowl we were greeted with a mouth-full of abuse from the home team. We were quite upset by their aggressive manner; we also read on the walls some slanderous comments about one of our judges. Then, as if this were not enough, we were told to p. . . off by the manager. Name and address withheld.

It seems to me there must be SOME sort of explanation for such extraordinary behavior. . . naturally, equal space for a reply is granted to Malibu. Ed.

THEFT AND VANDALISM

It's my misfortune to be sent to a public boarding school where we have to do homework every night. One night the topic was to draw anything on wheels so I decided to copy one of your fantastic photos of a bloke doing something cool on a skateboard. I was halfway through when my assistant housemaster, a horrendously fat, bald man with shiny head and eyes like ping pong balls walked up and took the magazine from my desk. He strolled over to the bin and, ignoring my protests, proceeded to rip it up - saying I'd been reading it.

R. Sawyer, address withheld.
Replacement issue in the post. . .
how about joining the National Union of Students? Ed.

DUPLICATE

Answering your call for nicknames for towns. . . the boyz down here in Cambridge have called it Bogtown, because our park is surrounded by an abattoir seweridge farm and a gasworks. Even so, it's a good place.

Dean Tyrrell, Cambridge
Longboards at dawn between Cambridge and Southampton. Ed.

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A: WHEN IT'S A...



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...HAZEL NUT

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...WALL NUT

Normally found on walls, but when searching for them you have to be quick because they've been known to make a bolt for it.



...HORSE CHESS NUT

Once he starts playing, the horse chess nut has been known to play all knight. He might be a better player if he used the other pieces as well though, mate.



...MONKEY NUT

Might be slightly bananas, but when it comes to spotting a bargain there's no-one deaverer at the local jungle sales.



...WOODEN'UT

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ask things like — "Got any stickers mate?" and "Can you get me on a team?" But if a kid is really serious and is asking a proper question, I'll answer and encourage him and maybe teach him something if there's anything I can help with.

Moving across to the social side of 'Acton-Bond', I think I'm right in saying that you're quite an indulgent person; you like to go out a lot, you smoke too many cigarettes and you seem to revel in a basically unhealthy lifestyle (much laughter!). Would it do you good if you went on a diet and did some weight training like Jock Paterson. . . would you end up skating better?

Was that a question? Actually, I think it's a really bad idea to go out and run all round the country — you know, 12 miles before breakfast followed by raw eggs watered down with brandy. Skateboarding is the best practise for skateboarding. Healthy living is okay if you want to take things really seriously. To be honest I suppose I should take more care. . . I don't eat at all well.

You don't wear any safety equipment when you're skating. Is that because you find it hinders you?

It does hinder me a lot, it puts me off my balance — helmets particularly. Pads also restrict me a lot but if I've had a bad graze, I'll put one on to stop the injury getting any worse.

Does that mean you've had to develop special wiping out techniques — to cope with the complete lack of added external protection?

Yeah, I've had to suss out how to roll. I don't think it can come by practising in the way these people say in skateboard manuals — like falling on grass, practise mats and so on — because it's never going to happen like that. Tumbling off a bank or out of a half-pipe, a pipe or a pool, the first thing you can be sure of, you're not going to be hitting grass. It's all down to experience. But that said, I'm sure beginners should wear safety gear for their first few months of skating — definitely.

There seem to be individual groups that are doing their bit by building parks for the community as a whole — Meanwhile Gardens is a good example. Can you see that kind of energy appearing more often?

I think it should happen more. They're almost like a family, the Meanwhile boys, and it's certainly working well. Actually Richard Wrigley (of Rolling Thunder) was talking recently about an idea for skaters to build a pool in Notting Hill Gate. Those who'd like to use it will come along and have a go at getting it together — especially to advise on the design. It could turn out a really nice pool. That's important. . . all the park designers should consult the skateboarders.

With all these bad parks around, do you feel skateboarding could stay on the streets? I know you yourself do a lot of street riding.

Yes, it could happen, although the

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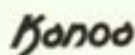
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Cont'd from page 67

police are starting to get pretty heavy. But since there are fewer gremlins and anyway, more people just seem to want to use their board for transport, I think it will stay — it'll always be there on the streets. That's how it started and I think that's maybe how it'll end.

Something you're pretty well-known for are your slides. Would you like to describe a couple?

I put my hand down a lot. . . like variations on extensions. And. . . actually it's hard to explain because there's not a name for them, but I'll do 90, 90, 90 slides, that sort of thing, or maybe a 100, 100, 100 slide. Probably nobody will know what I'm talking about!

Do you find that, as you get older, you're going-for-it less and less?

I think I'm slowly realising how much I can hurt myself. The sort of riding I'm doing at the moment is not that dangerous. Like in bank riding, you don't fall, you just slide down on your backside or knees, or something. You graze yourself quite a lot but that's about all.

Have you any idea what the peak age for skateboarding might be?

I don't think there is a peak age. A lot of people say it's around 18 because they think of it as a kid's sport. But I know some skaters — Micky 'B' and Lorne Edwards for instance — who are way over 20 and getting on for 30. I mean, Micky is at least 78!! And Tim Altic as well come to that. He's a really hot roller skater — one of the hottest in the world — and he's a fantastic skateboarder as well.

Facts of life time. . . as you've no intention of joining another team, does that mean you'll have to look for a straight job?

I'd like to work in skateboarding, something like park management perhaps, but I don't think that'll happen; no-one wants to employ me because I muck around too much. But no way am I going to work in an office behind a desk — plus a secretary and all that.

Rog Harvey mucks around a lot and the park that he runs — Solid Surf — is one of the most successful around. Could it be that the kids find they can relate to him — better than they could a business man?

He sounds like a really nice guy who knows what he's doing. I think you're right. . . all parks should be run like that.

Just as parks have problems with the kind of name they've got, so too I presume have the skaters. Do you find it difficult having to live up to the images that other people lay on you? Well, sometimes it is. Just because I've been in the mag a few times I occasionally find myself getting these morons almost kneeling down in front of me! It makes me totally sick. I just want to go down to a park to muck about and have a good skate — but reputations seem to follow you around. I don't skate up to my reputation because I see my reputation as being more than just what I can do on a skateboard.



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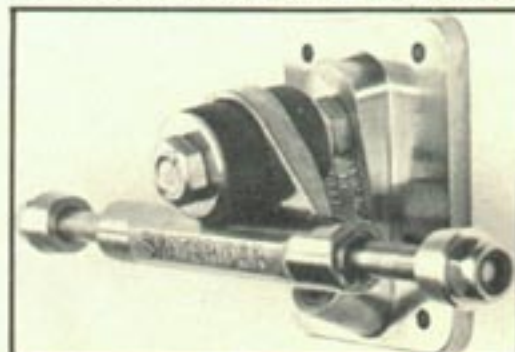
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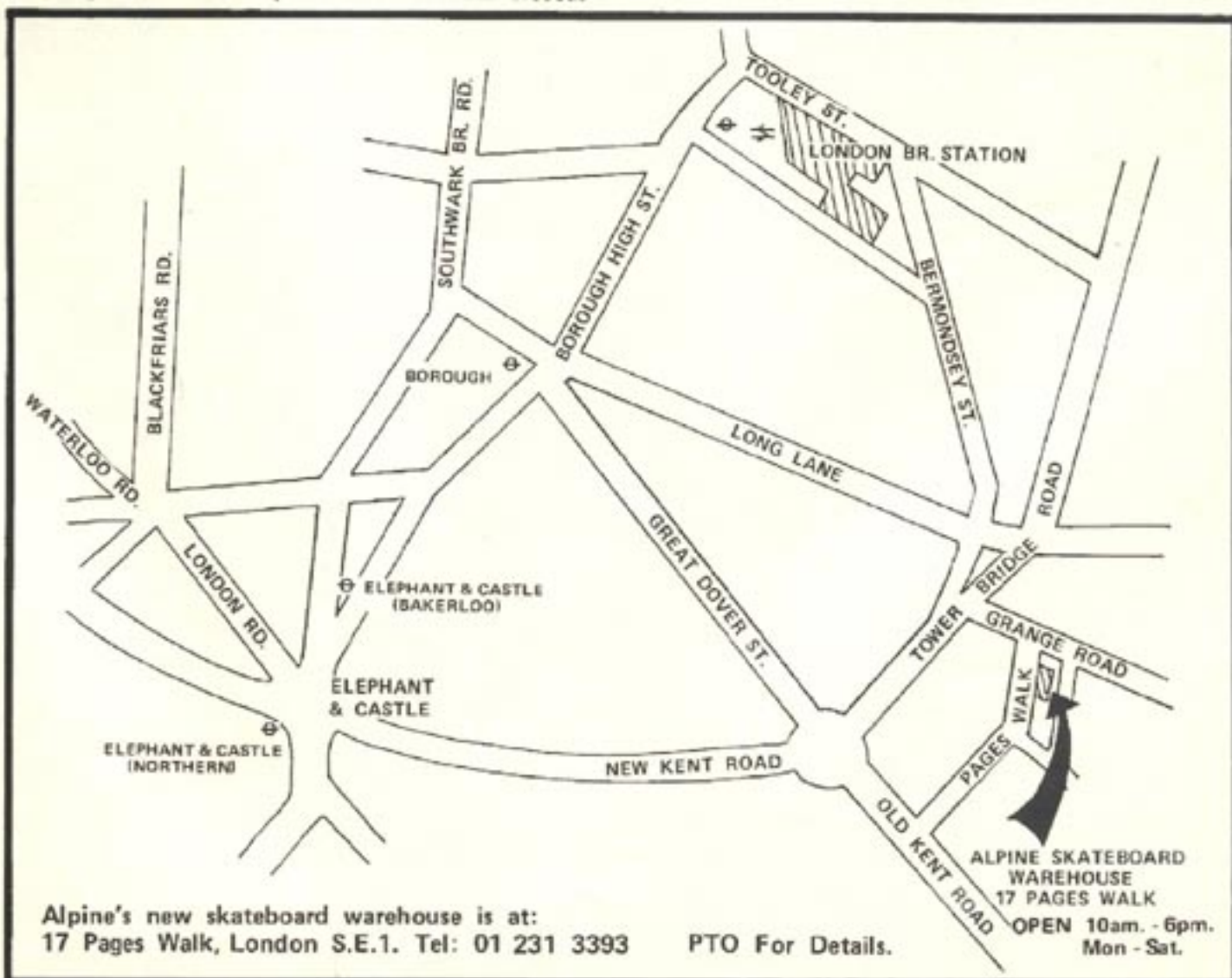
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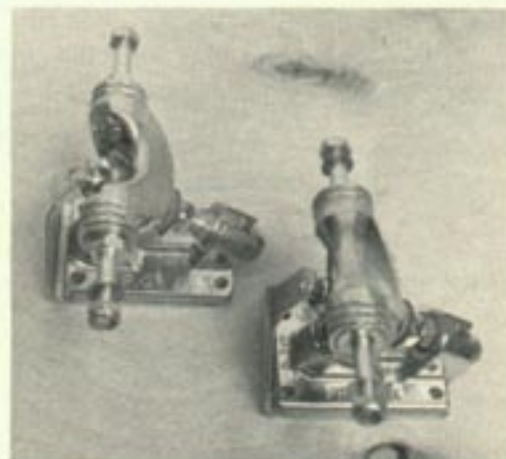
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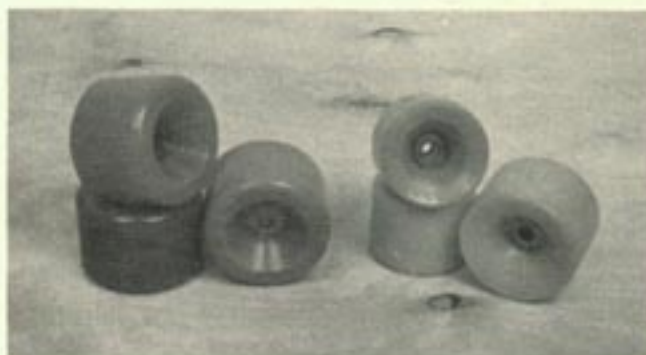


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All only £2.95 including bearings

Wheels only 99p



N.B. These wheels are sold without bearings and spacers. Please add £1.00 for two precision bearings and a spacer.

Sims Comp II 62 mm.	£ .99
O.J. Super Juice 64 mm.	£ .99
O.J. Slalom 55 mm.	£ .99
Tunnel Rock 64 mm.	£ .99
Tunnel V 64 mm.	£ .99

Road Rider 2 48 mm.	£ .99
Road Rider 4 60 mm.	£ .99
Road Rider 6 68 mm.	£ .99
Hang Ten 4 55 mm.	£ .99
Hang Ten 6 64 mm.	£ .99
Powerflex 7 65 mm.	£ .99
Mk.II Kryptonics C/D Green 70 mm.	£ .90

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Protective Gear

Freestyle Elbow Pads s,m	£1.95
Freestyle Knee Pads	£2.50
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Standard Knee Pads	£1.50
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 - * Freestyle Elbow Pads
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- ONLY £7.95



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12 full colour action packed back issues selected from Skateboard!, Skateboarder (USA), Skateboard World (USA), and Skateboard Scene.

ONLY £1.00

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Griptape Circles 2" diameter	£ .05 each
ACS Rubbers	£ .05 each
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Packages

1. GRENTEC COYOTE £7.95

This is indisputably the best value 24" polypropolyne board available. Kicktail deck, alloy trucks, and urethane wheels.

GRENTEC COYOTE SUPER

As above but with precision bearing wheels.

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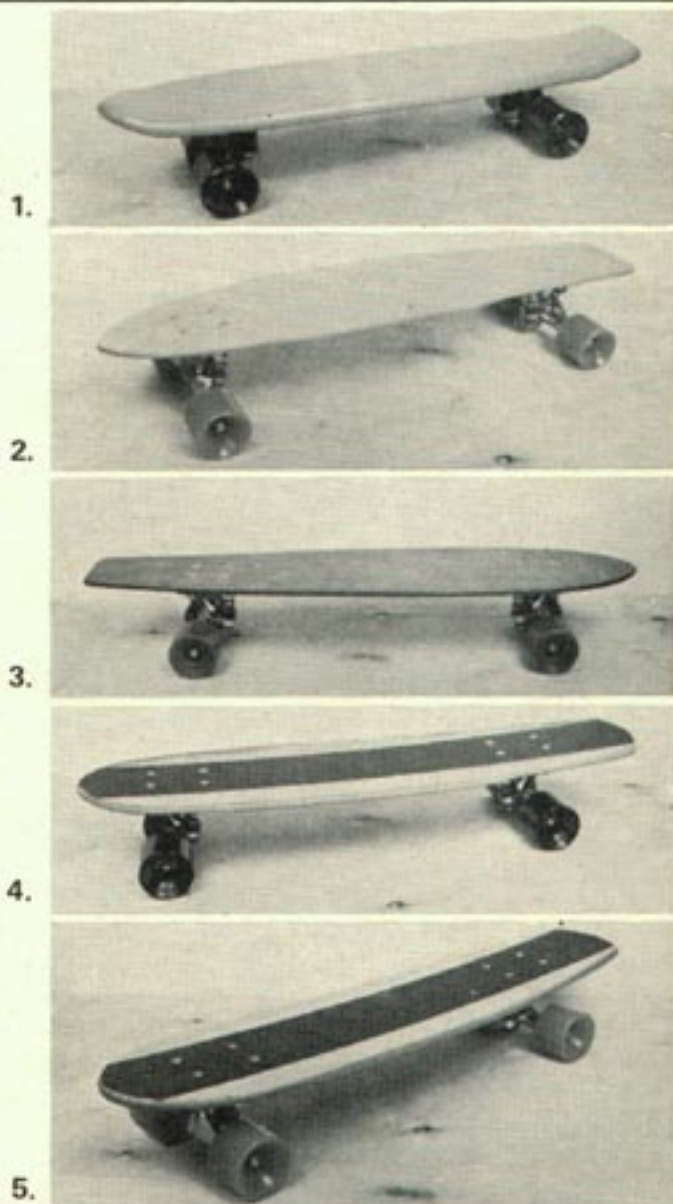
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The skateboard with the $\frac{1}{2}$ " rocker extending the entire length and a wide square kick tail designed to satisfy even the most experienced skateboarder. A full $7\frac{1}{4}$ " wide in a choice of lengths: 27"—29"—31".

B LAN FORMULA 2

NEW. The full $8\frac{1}{4}$ " wide laminated board with or without wheel wells—for the Real Champ 27"—29"—31".

C MINI MIRAGE

Again a pure Maple laminated wood board offering Real Value. Outdates the polyprop. board—by light years!

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Designed for the striving challenger this board will do all WA-HOO does but is more easily controlled. $7\frac{1}{4}$ " wide in a choice of lengths: 27"—29"—31" with square kicktail but no rocker.

Custom private branding is readily available upon request. We invite skateboard manufacturers and distributors to investigate the advantages of our programme.

THE BEST WHEEL SYSTEM MONEY CAN BUY...



AND FIVE REASONS WHY!

1. THE BEARINGS-We've combined the speed of German bearings with the protection and durability of sealed bearings. We started with a bearing manufactured in the U.S. to A.B.E.C.3 specifications. To reduce friction and increase speed we specified smaller ball dimensions, special lubrication, an inner metal shield, and a patented non-contact outer seal. You'll find our name on the white outer seal because we feel this is the best bearing made for skateboarding.

2. THE CORE-We started over a year ago with aluminum and finally settled on a hard engineering grade nylon. It dampens vibration and noise better than aluminum and it's lighter. The core assures precise bearing alignment and eliminates flex normally found in urethane bearing seats. The result is a faster, quicker reacting wheel.

3. THE URETHANES-We now have two formulas developed specifically for parks. The green formula (96A) is harder for more consistent slides and higher speeds on smooth surfaces. The blue formula is hard (90A) yet smooth. It has excellent traction and unreal speed. The red formula (78A) remains unchanged but performance is improved dramatically by the core.

4. THE DESIGN-We've made several changes to the C-Series wheels that improve performance. The 60 and 65 millimeter wheel are now two inches wide like the 70. The 70 is now a flat back design and all three have radiused back edges except the red formula. The front edge is also thicker to reduce flex and increase acceleration out of turns.


5. THE PACKAGE-We decided that a wheel system as advanced as the C-Series needed a special container for display and storage. So every set of wheels now comes in a reusable can with bold color graphics.



Remember, the KRYPTONICS C-Series wheel system offers features no other wheel has and performance no other wheel can match.



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