

continue to work with Imray's existing customers including their UK based distributor, Bookharbour (Stanfords). There will also be continued involvement from the Imray production team.

The next step is for Imray and F&B to formalize arrangements between the two companies.

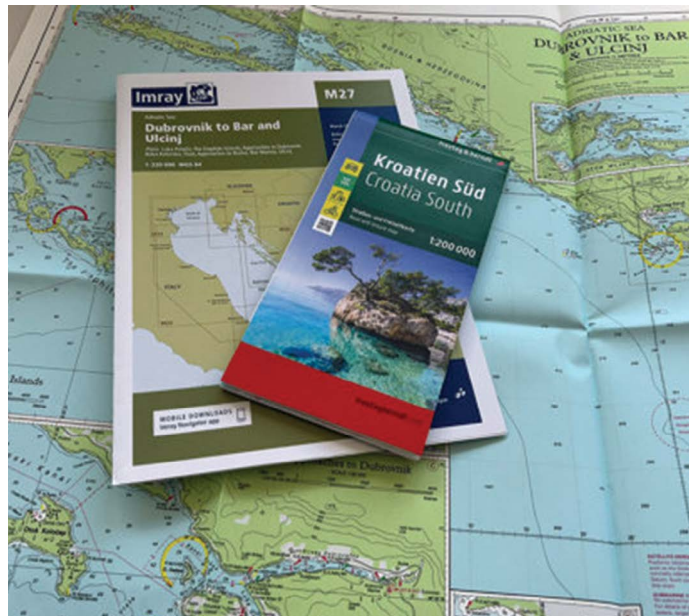
This collaboration will ensure the continued availability and development of Imray's nautical charts and books. There will be no interruption in service. Paper and digital charts and books will continue to be available as always.

The new joint venture, FB Imray Laurie Norie & Wilson GmbH (FB Imray), will be headquartered in Vienna. Bookharbour (Stanfords) will continue as the main UK based distributor of Imray charts and books. Combining Imray's maritime expertise with Freytag & Berndt's extensive cartographic knowledge will strengthen and expand the Imray portfolio.

The evolved organization is set to launch in the summer. The focus will remain on producing high quality nautical charts and publications under the established Imray brand while also developing new products tailored to the needs of sailors and advancing digital navigation solutions.

The two companies each date back over 250 years. Operating in its current guise since 1904 and still owned and run by descendants of the original founders, Imray, Laurie, Norie & Wilson is a cornerstone of nautical navigation, setting industry standards and providing sailors and maritime enthusiasts with expertly designed charts, books and guides since the mid eighteenth century. Lucy Wilson, managing director of Imray, is a direct descendant of one of the founders.

Carl Rauch, managing director of Freytag & Berndt, says 'With this joint venture we are taking a big step towards becoming a global cartographic publisher. Until now we have only been involved in predominantly land based cartography so with this partnership we are literally filling a large blank spot in our maps. By continuing and further developing the Imray portfolio and tapping into digital opportunities we are creating innovative solutions for navigators.'



Headquartered in Vienna, the traditional publishing house can look back on over 250 years of experience. The extensive range now includes around 1,500 maps and atlases, specializing in hiking and cycling maps, international road and leisure maps and city maps from Austria and abroad. A team of 30 cartographers ensures that all maps are up to date and of high quality. In recent years the publishing house has also specialized in digital outdoor geodata for apps and hiking maps. In addition to the publishing house, the company also owns a distribution centre and a travel bookshop in Vienna and Rother Bergverlag from Germany.

Letters

CRT

From **Andy Morton**.

What's CRT stand for?

Ed: When British Waterways became a charity it split into Scottish Canals north of the border and the Canal & River Trust to the south. I have asked a number of times whether the River bit relates to all rivers or just the ones for which they charge a licence fee but nobody will give a straight answer. It has particular relevance when they claim that X% of the population live within Y distance of a river.

Length of the Thames

From **Nick Creswell**.

On page 6 of the November issue 'Thames records' it states Steve Backshall and Tom McGibbon lowering the time for the 270km Lechlade to Teddington section. Is this not 200km, as claimed in the Thames Ultra? Incidentally, I took part in the Thames Ultra and had a thoroughly good time as part of a relay team although the ski I was in was certainly not ideal for portages!

Ed: You are right about the 270km. Backshall's publicity said 168 miles, which I metricated without spotting this was nonsense. I wonder if the original info said 200km with a typo taking it to 270km which somebody then translated to imperial units.

Lengths of walks

From **David Martin**.

Looking at your book reviews with a number of 15 *Short walks* xxxxx books, one has to ask what's a 'short' walk? I guess (but could be wrong) that these are day walks but could you help please by characterizing their average lengths? Eg > 10km or > 20km or < 20km?

Ed: Distances range from 1.5 to 13.5km in the titles reviewed with 7km being typical. However, the interest for us relates to water being followed and that might only be part of the walk.

Paul Caffyn Klassic Kayaking Books

Now available in England, both the Australian and South Island books.

Sadly, the exorbitant cost of overseas postage has killed off mailing these A4 size books from NZ. However, an old work colleague, Mick, loads up his hand luggage after he visits NZ annually. He has already sold out of the recent 2nd edition of the Stewart Island book but the two classics are available in England from:
paulskayakbooksuk@gmail.com

