

noticed for the first time since the first 100 yards of the race. With about three miles to go the river started to meander with bends appearing every quarter of a mile. By now the gap facing Ewen and Chris had stretched to half a mile. I then asked Ewen and Chris how they set about reducing the gap:-

"By now we were both getting tired. When the third placed team went round a bend, we decided to sprint in an attempt to reduce the gap. When we rounded the same bend we found the gap still remained the same. This went on for about two more bends. With no decrease in the gap things began to look desperate. Then on the fourth sprint we found that the gap had suddenly been reduced by half. Two more sprints and we were breathing down their necks."

Meanwhile, Chris Springett competing in Class 3A over 18, had come into sight. He was taking things easily and just enjoying himself and didn't realise what was going on behind him. Chris takes up the story:-

"I was paddling along at an even pace, realising that any chance of coming in the top three had virtually gone, when suddenly I heard this voice from behind yell, 'Go left Chris, go left, we're

coming through on the inside of you.' I was so amazed I just veered towards the left and the next minute Ewen and Chris Olsen shot past followed by another double which was apparently in their class. A rare old battle took place over the next 400 yards before they disappeared around the next bend."

Ewen takes up the story this time:-

"I had noticed that our rivals took the inside of every bend fairly widely, leaving ample room for a canoe to pass on the inside. Unfortunately Chris was blocking the bend, so I shouted to him to make room. This he did and we moved up into third place. After this they did make a comeback and started to edge in front again, but another sustained sprint saw us reach the line still in third spot."

Nigel and Peter had problems throughout their race but did well to finish in 5th place. At Arundel they stopped for nearly 15 minutes because of a stomach upset which was giving Nigel some trouble. Again stout work by the support crew, particularly Jeremy Olsen saw the moonraker to the finish.

Philip Mitson and Ron Woolard, competing in Class 3B