

FOURTH

— CANOE CLUB —



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1973

F O R T H C A N O E C L U B

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1973

Hon. Commodore	...	Alastair Dunnett
Commodore	...	Jack Cuthill
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer	...	Andrew Morton, 23, Oakbank Crescent, PERTH. Tel.No. 24851 (STD Code 0738)
Slalom & W/W Captain	...	David Cuthill
Racing Captain	...	Jim Hamilton
Shipwright	...	Andrew Boath
Hon. Auditor	...	Jim S. Macaulay

USEFUL ADDRESSES

British Canoe Union	The General Secretary, 26-29 Park Crescent, LONDON, WIN 4DT.
Scottish Canoe Association,	Graham Smith, Hon.Secy. Gracemount School, Lasswade Road, EDINBURGH, EH16 6TZ
Hire of F.C.C. Slalom Equipment	David Cuthill 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, EDINBURGH EH10 5ED. Tel.447.3954
Area Coaching Organiser (East & S.E. Scotland)	John S. Young, 21, Craigleith Drive, EDINBURGH, EH4 3JI. Tel.337.8817.

Editorial

Next year the Club will be 40 years old, and it is now the oldest active canoe club in Scotland. Over the years it has played a major part in the affairs of Scottish canoeing and often outwith Scotland. During the war a club news bulletin called the Spraysheet was published to keep its members in touch with canoeing affairs and it continued intermittently until a few years ago. It made no pretensions of being a magazine but was the secretary's means of communicating with the members and maintaining interest.

At the last meeting of the Club on 12th February, 1973, members decided to revive the old Spraysheet in the form of a quarterly newsletter - so here is the first one. There was a feeling that the name "Spraysheet" did not quite fill the bill in this day and age, so suggestions for a new name will be welcome.

It has also been felt that canoeists, other than F.C.C. members, may like to receive our newsletter, which will have, in addition to Forth Canoe Club news, much to interest all canoeists. It will be sent free, as a matter of course, to all F.C.C. members. All non-members wishing to have copies sent regularly can make an order on payment of 40p per annum. This is a 'give away' price and we hope that every club in Scotland at least will make a regular order. It is hoped to offer the canoeist as much information as possible on canoeing in general and, in particular, in Scotland. So, if there is some information which we have left out in this first issue which you would like to see in future issues, please write and we will try to oblige.

The Newsletter is now in your 'gate', judge for yourselves.....

CALENDAR for the next three months March to June 1973.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Competition</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Key</u>
March	17/18	British Univ.Slalom Championships.	Aberdeen University		(i)
April	7/8	Fairnilee Slalom 3/J/T	Edinburgh "		(ii)
	14/15	Comrie Slalom 4/N/J/T	Ancrum C.C.		(iii)
	21/22	Grandtully Slalom 1/J/T	Manchester C.C.		(iv)
	29	Royal Dee L.D. Scottish University Championships			(v)
May	6	Tweed L.D.	Forth C.C.		(vi)
	12/13	Lochay Slalom 3/4/J/T	Heriot Watt Univ.		(vii)
	26/28	100 mile canoe test on the Tay	Scottish Assoc.ofBoys Clubs		(viii)
June	2/3	Leny Slalom 3/4/N/J/T	Alloa Academy C.C.		(ix)
	9/10	Scottish Youth Sprint and Slalom Championships. R. Leny.	G. Smith. S.C.A.		(x)
	23	Loch Lomond L.D.	Strathclyde Univ.		(xi)
	24	River Awe W/W Race	Forth Canoe Club.		(xii)
	30/1	" " Slalom 2/T/J.	Edinburgh W.W.Club		(xiii)

COACHING A comprehensive coaching calendar for 1973 is available from
A. Manzie, 2 (b) High Road, Castlehead, Paisley. PA2 6AR.

<u>Key</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
(i)	A.W. Manwell,	Butchart Recreation Centre, University Road, Old Aberdeen, AB9 2UW
(ii)		Edinburgh University C.C., Pollock Institute, 46, Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ.
(iii)	J. Ness,	10, Ancrum Road, Dundee. DD2 2HZ.
(iv)		
(v)	A. Manwell, as above.	
(vi)	D. Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue,	EDINBURGH EH10 5ED.
(vii)	W. Stephens, Heriot Watt University C.C.,	Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 1.
(viii)	Address not to hand at this time, send enquiries to S.C.A.Secretary.	
(ix)	D. Michie, Alloa Academy C.C.,	The Academy, Alloa.
(x)	Scottish Canoe Association Secretary, G. Smith. See inside cover.	
(xi)	The Secretary, University of Strathclyde C.C.,	Strathclyde University, Glasgow.
(xii)	A. Morton, F.C.C., 23, Oakbank Crescent,	Perth.
(xiii)	Gordon Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue,	Edinburgh, EH10 5ED.

W.W. RACING NOTES Andy Morton.

A large number of new boats have appeared on the scene this past year and a few more are still in the developmental stage. Below is a brief summary of the new kayaks with the pros and cons which I tried to establish at the Dee W.W. race on the 11th February. Some of the opinions expressed are entirely my own, so treat them with caution!

Streamlyte Sprinter	Essentially the same hull with a different deck.
Gaybo Phantom	Internationally the top kayak for about 4 years up to and including 1971. Many top paddlers still race them especially in rough conditions.
Mendesta Match.	Took most of the top places in the 1972 Internationals. Narrower, more unstable and faster than the Sprinter/Phantom on the flat - about one second in the minute. More difficult to steer, but buoyant for the heavier paddlers.
Canoe Centre Professional.	Introduced late 1972. Similar to the Match but slightly less buoyant. Probably as fast if not faster.
Pyranha Viper.	Introduced late 1972. Narrower, more unstable and faster than three boats mentioned above on the flat - about two seconds over the Sprinter/Phantom in the minute. Hull similar to a K1 and hence difficult to control in heavy water. Not very buoyant and not suitable for the heavy paddler.

Prijon Interceptor /

- Prijon Interceptor. Introduced early 1973. Seems to be less buoyant than the Match with a distinctive cut away 'cruiser' stern. Won the first two places at the Welsh Dee in February.
- Canoe Centre Zombie. A picture of it appears in the latest Canoe Magazine. Introduced early 1973. A few appeared at the Welsh Dee but were not placed, probably due to the paddlers in them and not the boats themselves. Hull seems very similar to the Sprinter/Phantom but deeper with a narrow beam just at the cockpit, presumably for a more efficient paddling stroke. Probably a good boat for the heavy paddler in rough conditions.
- Streamlyte Anon. Mr. Staley tells me he hopes to bring out an original design for the 1973/1974 season.

To conclude, I think there now exists a situation where the competitor now has a choice of boat to suit different body weight, different water conditions and different technical skills.

SCOTTISH TEAMS COMPETING ABROAD. Andy Morton.

Last year the S.S.C. refused to give Scottish Teams grant to compete abroad because the events they had entered were not full Internationals with entry restricted to National Teams.

The S.C.A. is now negotiating with the B.C.U. to obtain permission for Scottish Teams to compete under the Scottish Flag at full Internationals to which G.B. Teams are not being sent.

It is not certain that permission will be given and if it is not then the S.S.C. may yet be persuaded to part with some grant for lesser events.

The S.C.A. should know by the end of March what the situation will be for summer 1973.

A slalom training team will be picked from last year's ranking list with the help of results from Lune, Invercarnie and Grandtully slaloms.

SPRING GENERAL MEETING OF FORTH CANOE CLUB. 12th February 1973.

Fifteen members attended this meeting to discuss ways in which we could attract new members and provide better services for existing members.

There was much discussion on many aspects, however, the most concrete proposals were made on the revival of the "spraysheet" in some form or other.

It was also proposed that some form of literature on Forth C.C. should be sent to Educational Establishments in Edinburgh and selected places such as Youth Hostels, Adventure Centres, etc. outside Edinburgh.

The last item on the agenda was Competition Organisation. Forth C.C. is running two W.W. Races and two L.D.s in 1973 and it is hoped that many members will support the club in organising these events.

The meeting closed at 8.30 and was followed by a film show (British Universities' W.W. Race on the Welsh Dee and 'Canoe to win').

V.A.T.

Alistair Wilson, Graham McKereth and Roy Staley all confirm that V.A.T. will add 10% on to the prices of all canoeing equipment from April 1st.

I was reading some ten year old back numbers of Canoeing in Britain and made a note of the prices of G.R.P. Canoes at that time. On average they cost between £45 and £50. I think we owe a hearty vote of thanks to the manufacturers and, dare I say it, free enterprise, in keeping the price of canoes at more or less the same level when many other prices have increased by at least 50% in the last 10 years.

SLALOM and W/W NEWS David Cuthill.

Forth Slalom 'A' team (Morton, Cuthill, Ramage) was the highest placed Scottish team in Britain last year with 14th place.
Scores were: Lune 8th. Grandtully (1) 7th. Grandtully (2) 6th
Llangollen Town 5th.

Jock Young moved from 3rd Division to Div.1 in a matter of a few weeks and was a member of the British International Youth Team last summer.

Andrew Morton, 1972 W.W. Racing Scottish Champion was a member of the 1972 British Racing Team at Monshau and Bourg St. Maurice and came home with very good results.

This year the B.C.U. Slalom Secretary, Chris McAllister has resigned and his place is filled by Ian Pendleton who hails from Edinburgh, was the Forth Canoe Club Secretary about 10 years ago and is still a member.

Some points arising from the Minutes of the Slalom and W/W Committee Meetings of December last year and January this year:-

PROMOTION FIGURES FOR LADIES Ladies in Div 2 or 3 shall be promoted if their score is within 25% of the LAST man promoted at that event.

B.C.U. MEMBERSHIP No person may take part in any ranking or qualifying slalom unless he/she is a currently paid up member of the B.C.U. and can quote his/her membership number correctly at the time of entry.

NEW SLALOM & W.W. ENTRY FEES

Singles	50p	(inc. 15p levy)
Doubles	60p	(inc. 25p levy)
Teams	45p	(inc. 15p levy)

These changes have been made in consequence of a change of status of the team event and restructuring of the slalom administration. Levies go towards slalom committee expenditure e.g. training teams, equipment etc.

PROMOTIONS This occurs at all slaloms (DIV I II III IV & NOVICE) by a 1 in 20 procedure based on starters.

Note a proposal that promotions shall occur at slaloms only and that relegation should occur at midseason has been referred to the executive for study.

NOTICE OF PROMOTION ORGANISER shall post these to those concerned as soon as possible after the event.

TEAM EVENTS. At DIV I II III and IV events the team event shall be restricted to the members of the division competing in the associated individual event.

Note Due to a certain amount of Scottish autonomy this may not always be the case in Scotland.

W.W. MAGAZINE New Editor - Vic Brown of the Olympic Slalom Team.

RANKING LISTS

K1	DIV I	RELEGATION	0 Points	(P.Hall Downwards)
	DIV II	PROMOTION	75%	(I Donkin and up)
	DIV II	RELEGATION	100%	(Cooper Downwards)
	DIV III	PROMOTION	65%	(R.Berzins and up)
	DIV III	RELEGATION to Div IV	100%	(B.Motson downwards)
LADIES	DIV I	NO RELEGATION		
	DIV II	PROMOTION	95%	
		RELEGATION	160%	
	DIV III	PROMOTION	95%	
RELEGATION		125%		
C 1	RELEGATION	0 Points		
	PROMOTIONS	None		
C 2	Non runners relegated No promotions from DIV II			

ASHIESTEEL SLALOM - CANCELLED

It is regretted that last year's very successful Ashiesteel Slalom is not to be repeated as planned this year. Permission had been gladly given by all parties concerned - except one - a rather stubborn farmer who has refused permission for us to tie the gate bearer strings to the trees on his side (the left bank) of the river. His reasons - 'Canoeists disturb the cattle'.

L.D. NOTES David Cuthill.

Long distance racing in Scotland has undergone many changes over the past 10 years. However, until recently, events have been relatively few and not well attended by today's standards. There has been a swing to river L.D. events as opposed to sea and estuary. The handicap system is now a thing of the past and winners now receive points for winning their class.

In order to promote certain classes of canoe re international K1, K2 and also to boost attendance at L.D. events, an additional points system is being considered by the Long Distance Committee. Colin Tannock of Glasgow University Canoe Club has an idea which he has put forward for a points system comparable to the Hasler Trophy system in England. By awarding a trophy for the club with the most points in the year attendances from the less competitive or less able club paddlers will be more meaningful. At the moment these paddlers know they are not going to win anything even before they start. With the new points system they will be increasing their club's chances of success by merely managing to finish. By fixing the values of the points awarded for each class certain classes can be encouraged as required.

The system may take the following general form:

K2	1st	14	points	for	the	club
K1	1st	14	"	"	"	"
	2nd	12	"	"	"	"
W.W.Racer	1st	10	"	"	"	"
Slalom boat	1st	6	"	"	"	"

Every paddler who crosses the finish line will score 2 or 3 points depending on the class of boat. The system has not been finalised yet but should be in operation for the Tweed L.D. The first L.D. fixture of 1973.

FORTH CANOE CLUB - TWEED L.D. SUNDAY, MAY 6th, 1973.

SENIOR COURSE (16 miles) Walkerburn Bridge (A72 Peebles-Gala) to Gattonside (Suspension bridge at Melrose Cauld)

JUNIOR COURSE (Competitor must be under 19 in 1973) & LADIES (8 miles) Fairnilee to Gattonside.

Last year this event was without a doubt the most successful of the Scottish L.D. Calendar. The Tweed is excellent for L.Ds with its large water volume and small rapids. It is well within the scope of novice slalomists to senior K1. It is a Ranking event for the canoeing trophies of the Scottish Canoe Association. All classes will be offered in all events for seniors or juniors. A further information sheet for competitors follows later.

As the organising club F.C.C. members have a responsibility to give other canoeists value for money. Every F.C.C. member is requested to attend either to compete or to help organise. In this way we ought to be able to achieve as much or even more success than last year.

F.C.C. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due.

If you have not already done so, please remit the membership fee to the Secretary without further reminder.

Have you any friends who might be interested in starting canoeing?

A colleague/your wife/your colleague's wife/girl friends/boy friends/someone else's girl friend?? - See if you can't inspire them to come to club activities with you and if they are interested in joining, a membership application form is included.

SLALOM EQUIPMENT

One of Forth's more valuable assets is the Slalom Course Equipment. The equipment has been very ably looked after by John Knox for many years but is now being kept at Granton in the charge of David Cuthill.

Slalom organisers can hire the equipment at £5.00 per slalom by writing to 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh, EH10 5ED or 'phoning 031-447-3954.

It is planned to replace the slalom poles with larger ones of international specification. The purchase of the wood is in progress and once delivered much help is required from Forth Canoe Club members in producing the finished articles sawn to length, painted and drilled. It is hoped that every member will devote some time to this project.

FORTH C.C. SLOPP SHIRTS

Until fresh stocks arrive here, these can be obtained individually from Canadian Slopp Shirt Company, 35, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey. Tel. 01-588-9377.

Club Colours, Light Blue material with Blue Printing.

FORTH C.C. TRACKSUIT BADGES are available from Andy Morton.

FORTH C.C. BOAT STICKERS are available free from David Cuthill on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

F.C.C. BATH SESSIONS All types of rolling; paddle strokes; gate practice -

Every Wednesday Night at the Old Royal High School, Regent Road, 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This is also a meeting place and centre of information about club activities. Don't miss out on the latest news.

CLUB OUTINGS

There may be Club outings at any time at very short notice, especially during the light evenings, Tweed, Tay, Falls of Leny, etc. Maureen McLure lives in Calander and can give us up to the minute information on water levels and weather conditions at the Leny. Transport for these and all other events may be arranged but limited places only are available. Everyone who can provide their own transport should do so and if they can offer lifts to others please let me know.

PHONE CHAIN

If you wish your name to be put on the 'phone chain' please 'phone 031-447-3954 David Cuthill.

Advantages of the 'phone chain are quick circulation of information at short notice, low cost. Cost shared equally.

A completed list will be drawn up and the initial 'phone call will communicate this list to you. At any future time just 'phone the person next on the list. This service is available to any FCC member or prospective member:

If you are planning a canoe outing and wish it to be circulated by 'phone please give me a ring.

SLALOM TEAMS AND TRAINING

If you want to join a slalom team or take part in competition training contact me.

Canoeists not at present in F.C.C. and who are looking for a regular team to train and compete with, are most welcome to become members. Come along to the baths sessions at the O.R.H.S. (Wed 9-10) or see us at any competition.

ENTRIES TO COMPETITIONS

If you have not been able to organise transport for yourself before the closing date for entries for a slalom, it is best to send off the entry in time and hope for a lift. It is a lot easier to organise transport than to try to get a late entry in. Most organisers should return your entry fee if you cannot get transport, providing you get a letter to them a couple of days before the slalom. Remember your 2 stamped addressed envelopes.

F.C.C. FILM NIGHTS Next film night next month. Details later at baths sessions or on the 'phone.

NOVICES

If you want full details of Slalom & W.W. Rules and fixtures, the Slalom & W.W. Yearbook will be on sale soon from the F.C.C. Slalom Secretary.

For all enquiries about the above contact David Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh, EH10 5ED. Tel.No. 031-447-3954.

FORTH CANOE CLUB TROPHIES

The Club has two Trophies of which many new members may not yet have heard. There is the Commodore's Cup which is presented annually to the member who carries out any activity of outstanding merit in the realm of canoeing, which not only brings renown to himself but also reflects favourably on the Club. As there was no club meeting during 1972 and only spasmodic gatherings before that, there has never been an appropriate occasion for the Commodore to actually hand over the cup recently. However, for the record, the winners over the last three years have been:

1972	Jock Young
1971	David Cuthill
1970	Kelso Riddell.

Any member is eligible for this award, from a beginner to the hardened competitor. The next reckoning is due at our Autumn General Meeting in October.

Our other Trophy is the Forth C.C. Challenge Cup, first presented in 1948. This was for inter-club competition raced in double seater canoes from Granton to Cramond Island. It was the main event in the Club's annual Gymcanoe. Unfortunately this event was allowed to lapse and it is now many years since this race was run.

I can think of no good reason why such a race should not be revived, say, from Newhaven Harbour (no canoeing is now allowed in Granton Harbour) to Cramond Island, but the Club Committee will have to consider the idea first.

Of course, if Club members would like to go pot hunting, the S.C.A. have a number of trophies for which they would be delighted to have more competition.

The list is:

- Scottish Junior Championship Cup for Sprint
- Ayrshire Cup for L.D.
- Canoeist of the Year Trophy for all round excellence.
- Lady Mears Trophy for Slalom Team
- Peter Burton Trophy for Open Sprint
- Young Salver for Sprint (Ladies)
- Tay Shield for Open Slalom (now awarded to the Scottish Slalomist who comes highest of the B.C.U. Ranking lists)
- Loch Lomond Cup for the winner of the Loch Lomond L.D.
- Florence Cup for winner of Scottish Slalom Championships.
- White Water Championship Trophy.
- Doubles Championship Cup for Sprint. K1 Men.
- Cruising Shield.



FORTH CANOE CLUB

CHALLENGE CUP

A decision will be made later on the event at which this cup will be competed for.

RESULTS SERVICE and COMPETITION REPORTSCLYDE WILDWATER RACE - 18th February

Only once in its life can this event ever claim to have been wild. As the English would say:- "Ah, but you should see it in a 5 foot flood," "Fantastic!" - Of course we know that any river is entertaining whilst in spate. As it turned out the Clyde was far from spate conditions and the usual abundance of rocks made the going painful - at least for the boat. Ice floes were also a problem. Results? Not so hot for Forth with our international section not competing (Andy didn't go that weekend). David Cuthill only managed a third place in the senior W.W.Class with a time of 15 minutes 15 seconds, but Jock Young did very well in winning the junior and senior slalom class. Also competing for Forth was David Payne in his second competition. His verdict "very boring".....

The other results were: 1st. Colin Tannock - Glasgow University C.C. 14'55".
 2nd. Irvine Ross - Aberdeen University 15'08"
 3rd Equal. Jimmy Dolan - Edinburgh Schools 15'15"

Scott Ramage had a bad day with a time of 15'48".

Forth came 3rd in the team event with a Scratch team of Young, Cuthill and Stevens. Maureen McLure (F.C.C.) won the ladies event.

GRANDTULLY WHITE WATER RACE. 25th February

The race attracted a moderate entry of 55 paddlers. The conditions were excellent, with a dry, sunny although cold day and a moderate to high river.

Forth C.C. came out on top again, with a 1st place in the Slalom, Team, Ladies and W.W. Class.

The Team event was of a novel type, being a relay race from Aberfeldy to Grandtully, a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Eleven Teams of 3 entered and each team had to have at least one Slalom boat in it. There was a mass start from Aberfeldy Bridge, each team being represented by one competitor who carried a loop of string attached to a cork round his wrist as a "baton". This was passed on to the second competitor at the 2 mile stage, who raced for another 2 miles to the last stage which had to be paddled in a Slalom boat, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down Grandtully rapids.

The race went without a hitch. 1st and 2nd places were not decided until the half way mark, and 3rd and 4th places were not decided until the last 500 yards. So the event proved quite exciting and popular. As a result it will become a regular feature of the Grandtully W.W.Race for the years to come.

	<u>OPEN W.W.Class</u>	<u>OPEN SLALOM Class</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
TAY. 21st Jan.	1. A.Morton. Forth.13.53 2.(D.Cuthill. " 14.31 (G.Smith 4. J.Dolan 14.38	1. J.Sharpe. E.U.C.C. 15.28 2. C.Aston.H.&C.+W.C. 3. C.MacLean E.W.W.C.C.	1.Forth Racing Team 14.58 2.Aberdeen 15.03
CLYDE 18th Feb.	1. Tannock. G.U.C.C.14.55 2. Ross A.U.C.C.15.08 3.(Cuthill Forth 15.15 (Dolan E.S.C.A.	1. Jock Young. Forth.	1. E.W.W.C.
GRAND- TULLY 25th Feb.	1. Morton. Forth 17. 2. Ramage. E.U.C.C. 18.03 3. Ross. A.U.C.C. 18.10 L.1. M.McLure.Forth. 20.21	1. J.Young. Forth 19.48 2. Boag G'mount 20.25 3. Paterson E.U.C.C.21.06	1.Forth Racing Team 35.41 2.Aberdeen 36.55 3.Glasgow 37.06
MAKERSTON 4th March	1. Morton. Forth 2. Ramage E.U.C.C. 3. Smith E.W.W.C.C.	1. Young. Forth 2. Aston E.W.W.C.C.	Forth/ Heriot Watt C.C.

TO A STOPPER

Great roarin', towerin', heavin' beastie
Oh! what a panic's in ma breastie
Ma wee craft starts awa' sae hasty
wi' shudderin' rattle
I would fain prefer to pass ye and
save the battle.

Though ma wee boatie's no a new ane
a widnae like tae risk its ruin
and see its broken bits a' strewin
doon the water
I'd hate the risky swim ensuin
maun I faulter.

A fearsome thing this Campsie Linn
When melting snaw has raised the brim
a widnae like to be the yin
that taks the lead
and meet this muckle stopper towerin'
abune ma heid.

But, wavie, thou art no alane
in proving foresight may be vain
The best made strokes o' maist canoe-men
Gang aft agley
and leave them wonderin what they're daen-
in the Tay.

Am no' sae keen tae have a go
Ma hert leaps at the fearsome flow
but down comes Andy just to show
How false ma fear
Encouraged thus I face the foe -
Now! Stanley Weir.

NEXT ISSUE

Assessment of Slalom Kayaks by D.Cuthill.
The Tourists view of Competitors and Competitions - J.Fryer.
Results Service.
Three Months ahead.
B.C.U. S.C.A. report.
Progress with Grant for the Scottish Team.