

FORTH

CANOE CLUB

NEWSLETTER
OCT
73



FORTH CANOE CLUB

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).
NewsLetter Editor		
Slalom & W/W Captain..		David Cuthill
Racing Captain	...	Jim Hamilton
Shipwright	...	Andrew Boath
Hon. Auditor	...	Jim S. Macaulay.
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

Editorial

I am happy to say that the last editorial resulted in a small but significant response from the readers. In particular, a number of canoeists outside Forth C.C. have asked to be sent a regular copy of our newsletter. It is hoped to have about twenty such readers on our mailing list by Christmas.

The response from our own club members has not been so gratifying. Of the 50 or so members who joined in 1972, only 30 have so far renewed their subscriptions. If you are one of those who has misdeaned, might I ask you to send £2 now, thereby paying for next year's membership as well. This will save my time, your time and your money.

The A.G.M. of the club is to be held in November. Please come along and make your presence felt. If nothing else, it encourages the office-bearers of the club to give of their valuable time and effort to organise the clubs activities.

The accounts have not yet been balanced and audited because the bank statement had not been sent at the time of writing. However, the club is in good health financially with about £100 in the bank, even after paying £60 for new Slalom equipment. Perhaps you have some ideas on how our money should be spent in the future. Why not air your views at the A.G.M. next month. I personally would like to know how you like the new magazine and if it helps to cater for your needs as a canoeist.

COMING EVENTS

F.C.C. COMMITTEE MEETING: 24th October. Compass Adventure Centre at 7p.m.
F.C.C. A. G. M. 14th November (Wednesday). Compass Adventure Centre at 7 p.m.

October 28th Aberdeen University Dee W.W. race. (water permitting).
Details from A.Manwell, Dept. of P.E., University Road, Aberdeen.
November 4th. Scottish Long Distance Racing Championships, organised by Forth C.C.
Details from A. Morton, 23 Oakbank Crescent, Perth.
November 11th Welsh Dee W.W.R. Details from F.Bennet, 22 Chaucer Avenue,
Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire.
November 18th Eden W.W.R. Details from A.E.Emmerson, 16 Vicarage Close, Burton,
Carnforth, Lancs.
November 25th Upper Wharfe W.W.R. Details from M.J.Markham, 32, Wrenbury Cres.
Leeds.
December 2nd S.C.A. A.G.M. in Dundee. Details from G.Smith, Gracemount School,
Liberton, Edinburgh.

During the rest of December there are no competitions in Scotland to our knowledge but there are three other White Water races in England. Details of these may be had from A. Morton.

The Leven Tests in the Lake District take the form of White Water races on the river Leven, held regularly throughout the year. The river race course is very short, only about 6 minutes paddling, and the rapids are usually grade 3. It is not worth going to this event unless there has been some rain. On such occasions the race is quite testing and very enjoyable. No prizes are given, but one may win a small badge for attaining a certain standard of ability. This is directly related to the type of boat which you are paddling, the time you take to negotiate the course and the state of the river. Details from A. Morton.
October 28th and November 4th are the dates of the tests at the end of this year.

Notes: Keith Parker of Benbow Div., H.M.S. Caledonia, Rosyth, Fife, would like to know of any canoeist interested in training with him on the Forth and Clyde Canal. He also offers transport to any competitor interested in going to the Exe Descent with him on Nov. 18th. He will be competing for Forth at the Exe and we wish him every success.

Jim Gilmour

It is with regret that we inform our readers of the death of Jim Gilmour in a car accident some weeks ago. Many of you will remember him as a keen, able and modest canoeist who competed successfully for Ayrshire Kayak Club, and latterly spent much of his time coaching youngsters in the sport. We will miss his cheerful smile at canoeing events in the future.

REPORT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIAAndrew Morton.

The following teams represented Scotland at Lipno in Southern Czechoslovakia.
 Manager, Andrew Manwell

Slalom:	G. Smith (Team Captain)	White Water	D. Cuthill
team	C. Aston	team:	G. Cuthill
	G. Hatfield		A. Morton
	R. Kennedy		G. Smith
	Miss Fay Roberts		Miss A. Ramage

With the help of our Scottish Sports Council grant we made our own ways out to Linz in Austria where we had arranged to meet at one o'clock on Thursday 5th July at the swimming pool. Those opening lines conceal a great deal of blood sweat and tears on everyone's part, but it all paid off and believe it or not we all arrived before mid-day. After exchanging the password (Hooch!) we re-established our comradeship and proceeded to baptise one another in the aforementioned swimming pool.

With our manager and his family in the lead we set off for the Czech border in the afternoon. On arrival we were confronted with a chilling array of iron curtain hardware. The border consisted of a double high fence stretching as far as the eye could see. There were guard towers, search lights, dogs and armed guards in abundance. The road barrier was a high speed electrically operated 2ft thick steel beam which would have effectively stopped a 100 mph tank. It took two hours to pass the scrutiny of customs officers and foot and mouth inspectors. In the process we lost a fair amount of fresh food to the latter officials.

On arrival at Lipno we were treated to a welcome meal by the Czech authorities. However, after the good news came the bad news. There was no accommodation booked for us. A translation error on their part led to a misunderstanding on our part. However, after much discussion and persuasion by our manager we were finally offered cheap accommodation some seven miles from the slalom site. The Hotel, if it dared be called that, would have had difficulty in passing as a Youth Hostel in Britain. We slept in dormitories in beds on which three small mattresses were laid. These parted quite cunningly during the night and resulted in us ending up quite kinked in the morning! The Loos were communal with no showers, baths or hot water. The meals left a lot to be desired, although I'm sure the cooks did their level best to cater for our Western tastes.

Despite all the rigours of Hotel life we enjoyed our stay and at least we were educated in the Czech style of living. Anything is better than a tent, well almost anything.

The Competition itself was very exciting. The river level was controlled by a dam and normally ran very low. So much so that one could walk up the river bed and study the course from the most novel and fearsome angles. When the tidal wave swept down the river our worst fears were confirmed. This was true White Water.

There were East German, West German, Swiss, Austrian, Czech and Polish Teams competing, as well as top paddlers from Australia, France, England and the U.S.A. The competition was therefore very much world class and we suffered accordingly. This can be seen from the results. However, all bar one, completed the course and we gained a tremendous amount of experience from the events.

Numerous slides and many feet of film were taken, so rather than describe the events, I will recommend you all to see the slides and films which will be shown at various times and places between now and Christmas.

Any description of our trip to Czechoslovakia cannot be complete without once again thanking Andrew Manwell, our team manager and trainer, for all the work he did and for the great effort he made to ensure that we were able to compete under optimum conditions of comfort and good health in body and mind.

For all of us it was a memorable experience and I feel sure that it has done, and will do much, directly and indirectly to improve the standard of competition in Scotland.

After the Competition at Lipno, Andrew Morton, Colin Aston and Andrew Manwell returned home while the rest of the team consisting of Graham Smith, Forbes Ramage, Fay Roberts, Ronnie Kennedy, Gordon and myself, went to Lienz in Austria for about 3 weeks. The training was pretty strict under the iron fist of A.G. Smith. There was a 30 minute run every morning and, after breakfast, we usually nipped up for a cruise down the 'Lieser' - or a quiet saunter down the grade IV weirs on the Eisel at Huben, spending the rest of the day away canoeing.

After moving to Spittal we met World Slalom Champion Norbert Sattler of Austria. Above the roar of the thunder, and with the flood water lapping about our ankles, he enquired if "there voss ein paddler who vonted to komme fur ttrainink on der vilde vasser". Needless to say everyone dropped everything sharpish, threw the boats on the cars and roared up to the river amid a cloud of spray. Graham's motor, to his consternation, chose this particular moment to cease to function and consequently his lot missed half the fun.

We learned a lot from Sattler. He is, unlike most of his contemporaries, a very open and friendly character and gave us lots of tips and answered all our questions. His ability in wild water was very evident. The Lieser was quite high and a massive 6 foot stopper presented itself at gate one. None of us ever considered doing anything but paddle through it at an extremely high rate of knots. A suicide squad from Koln canoe club showed us some pretty fair aerobatics in and around this massive wave - just some double loops, skyrockets, landing upside down on rocks - that sort of thing. They had plenty of guts but no control of the boat in the stopper! Sattler, though - now there was something worth watching - he paddled BACKWARDS up into the stopper, controlled the boat so finely that it didn't loop and just sat there fooling about. After a while he simply paddled out! Dead simple! For our own part Ronnie Kennedy gave us one or two uneasy moments going down the 'chicken schute' ! but apart from that everyone managed the heavy stuff O.K. We put in many hours of gatework here on the permanent 30 gate course the Spittal Canoe Club had up, and when the water rose we had great fun looping in the big rolling waves.

The second of the competitions was at Skopje in Southern Yugoslavia, about 1000 miles drive from Spittal. Gordon, Ronnie and myself in our car, and Graham Smith, Forbes, Fay, and Colin Aston (who had just arrived from Scotland) had all travelled down via the coast to Skopje where we met with Andrew Manwell, Geoff Hatfield and Scott Ramage.

The Course was nothing spectacular in comparison with what we were used to. There were only a few waves and only one right hand breakout. The gates were, however, very tight and the river very fast flowing.

The reason this remote international attracted us was the reportedly fantastic Hotel. And sure enough - it was. Chalets in the "Olympic Village - Meals around a big table (with a SCOTTISH flag on it) in a special restaurant laid on for all the international teams. Nice! Very nice indeed!

The East German team were along in force because the next world Championships are to be held at Skopje. They had half-a-dozen officials who marched about the site with stop watches, talking to each other with two way radios or making notes into dictaphones about the team's performance on the gates - the ultimate in organisation. The East German team's bus was a fifty seater affair with a massive 48 boat articulated trailer. The team members flew in to Skopje Airport and I believe boats arrived by air freight. They always had a trainer or a coach overlooking them in case they had any ideas about defecting. This lot really took everything so seriously. For example one of the top East German C2s capsized in practice, right in front of the East German boss. The wretched C2 crew rolled in about 0.6 of a second and just about burst into tears. After a long harangue from the manager and trainers, they paddled back to the missed out section of gates, one of the tightest on the course, and gave us the most spectacular display of technique I have ever seen, flashing through the tight staggers and spinning from forward gates straight through reverse as if the poles weren't there - absolutely fascinating to watch.

Everyone paddled slalom as there was no white water race. The results were as follows:-

<u>K1 Ladies</u>					
1. FALKE MARTINA	East Germany	100	219.8	319.8	
		20	227.8	247.8	
2. BAUMANN MARION	East Germany	110	215.0	325.0	
		60	204.6	264.6	
3. SPINDLER SYBILLE	East Germany	80	221.8	301.8	
		70	202.6	272.6	
4. MALGORZATA SEKULA	Poland	120	200.2	320.2	
		70	221.8	291.8	
5. FAY ROBERTS	Scotland	60	244.0	304.0	
		160	207.2	367.2	

4. Skopje Results. K1 Men

1.	HELMUT KLEIN	West Germany	40	164.4	204.4
			30	159.2	<u>189.2</u>
2.	STANISLAW MAJERCZAK	Poland	40	178.2	218.2
			30	162.0	<u>192.0</u>
3.	JOACHIN TRACH	West Germany	90	163.0	253.0
			30	168.0	<u>198.0</u>
4.	JERZU STANUCH	Poland	100	163.8	263.8
			30	169.2	199.2
5.	HORN SIEGBERT	East Germany	70	169.2	239.2
			20	180.0	<u>200.0</u>
18.	GRAHAM SMITH	Scotland	290	234.6	524.6
			70	182.8	<u>252.8</u>
24.	DAVID CUTHILL	Scotland	90	179.0	269.0
			70	195.4	<u>265.4</u>
25.	GEOFF HATFIELD	Scotland	80	189.0	<u>269.0</u>
			80	200.2	<u>280.2</u>
30.	RONNIE KENNEDY	Scotland	260	192.8	452.8
			80	208.0	<u>288.0</u>
33.	COLIN ASTON	Scotland	120	190.2	310.2
			120	181.8	<u>301.8</u>
34.	GORDON CUTHILL	Scotland	130	178.0	<u>308.0</u>
			120	208.0	<u>328.0</u>
37.	FORBES RAMAGE	Scotland	200	223.2	423.2
			150	219.0	<u>369.0</u>
38.	SCOTT RAMAGE	Scotland	190	185.6	<u>375.6</u>
			200	224.6	424.6

(14 women and 40 men competed in the kayak event.)

These results show that we are not by any means out of our depth. In fact our results could very easily have been better. In order to get bigger Scottish teams we must start C1 and C2 paddlers off now. The aim should be to get a full team of a high standard into training and capable of entering an event within the next few years.

One thing surprised us at Skopje and at Lipno. We were one of the best looking teams there! With everyone in our SCOTLAND tracksuits and red Fred Perry T-shirts we looked great - no joking. Even if we didn't win anything we certainly made a good impression and plenty of useful international friends amongst the big-time teams. Some of the past British International teams, especially some white water racing teams, have been very badly organised. I am proud to say that we were one of the best organised and best turned out teams ever to come out of Britain. All the credit for this goes to our Manager Andrew Manwell. He made the difference between a scrappy bunch of individuals turning up to try to chance their way into an International, and a proper International Team. We would have been quite literally non-starters without him; he added an extra edge of professionalism that really made one feel privileged to be there. Our organisation even went so far as to bring gifts for the organising countries and Souvenir SCOTLAND badges for giving away. We matched up to the Jugoslavians' organisation. They provided marvellous facilities, interpreters for every team, free meals, hot showers - the lot. We had been given training schedules, lectures and diets back home and most of us had trained hard and tried to live up to our fellow canoeists expectations.

We, as Scots, felt embarrassed to be British as well. The so called "British" team didn't even bother to turn up. The whole week went by with the British table (adorned with the Union Jack) vacant beside us. These empty spaces really summed up to us - and everyone else there - the apathy of the British Canoe Union. They even allow club teams in certain circumstances to compete as official British teams and it was only until recently that they restricted such teams to 1st Div. members only. What is, to these teams, a bit of a paddle about during a continental holiday, is to the onlookers the official British Entry. International events should be treated very seriously. At least as seriously as the spirit in which the organising countries offers them. It is pathetic to see the petty beurocracy apparent at a minor division slalom in Britain and then compare it to the lacadaisical way in which some International British teams are allowed to carry on. Obviously the Big British team cannot go to all the competitions and it is not really the main team that I am criticising, but whoever takes

takes their place at the ones they don't attend, should be a properly organised National Team. We competed not as a British team, but very much as a Scottish team. We have very big long-term ambitions and we certainly have given the Scottish teams of future canoeing generations a very considerable first step on the road to International recognition and success.

NOVICES and NOVICES

A. Morton.

Those of you who are just starting canoeing may like to know the standard which must be obtained before entering as a Novice in the various competitions. Those of you who have been competing in Slalom for a number of years may be surprised at the following:

The Novice in Slalom is very much at the bottom of a long ladder which may be surmounted quickly (approx 1 year) if you are as talented as Jimmy Dolan - but most of us can expect to take 2 - 3 years.

The B.C.U., in their wisdom, have divided Slalomists into 5 divisions according to ability: 1, 2, 3, 4 and Novices. In each division there are between 400 and 100 canoeists depending on how far up the scale you go. So, if you are a Novice, you have a fair number of canoeists to beat in competition before you reach the dizzy heights of 1st Division. And only when in 1st Div. do most of us appreciate our own mediocrity to the full!

So a Slalom Novice is a novice in the true sense of the word. He is at the bottom of a big league and is neither able to control nor paddle his stable, easily turned, boat on rough water. (sorry if I have hurt a few feelings, angry letters should be sent to the secretary of the S.C.A!)

Now what about the Novice Sprinter? Sprint competition is virtually non-existent in Scotland, but in England, such events are well patronised. It is a firmly established Olympic Sport and, briefly, involves paddling in a straight line over varying distances, namely 500m, 1,000m and 10,000m. Therein lies the first misnomer! The only event comparable with running (in the true anaerobic 'sprint' sense) is the 500m event and even that race is equivalent to the 1,000m in running, time wise.

As in Slalom, the competitors again, are divided according to ability into groups: Seniors, Juniors and Novices. Here we have misnomer number two. The term "Junior" has absolutely nothing to do with the competitor's age!

Finally, misnomer number three. A 'Novice' Sprint kayak paddler is, on average, a talented, fit, fast kayakist who can handle a very slim, unstable boat competently.

So, if you plan to enter the Sprint scene, it would be advisable to spend a lot of time paddling a K1 before trying to enter an event. Youngsters of true Novice ability are catered for, so they need not worry, the above only applies to those over 18.

There follows, for those not quite convinced, two examples of the standard of paddling in Sprint.

1. The winner of the Junior 10,000 British Champs was 6th in the Senior event, only 100 secs behind the winner. The winner of the Novice 10,000 was 6th in the Junior event. Can you imagine someone in third div. coming 10th at Grandtully?
2. Some may know the name Evans of D-W fame. He won this marathon K2 event with another Royal Engineer in 1972 - 125 miles, 77 portages in 19 hours! He paddled in the Novice K2 events at the Sprint Championships with another equally fit looking paddler from the Army - and didn't even win!

To conclude, If you are just starting at the bottom in competition and have an ambition to be the best, it's just like climbing a mountain. Once you reach what you think is the top, there is another hill to climb.

Get your aspirations in perspective from the start. Although the standards are increasing fast every year, a Scottish Champion at the moment does well to come in the 1st 10 on a British scale. On top of that, the British champion is doing well if he can reach the top 10 on a world scale.

Don't base your estimate of your ability by that of your team mates. Keep world class competition in your sights, train hard try for the very top - you might even make it.

23rd September 1973

Forth and Clyde Canal - Dullatur

This year, not only the venue of the championships was changed but also the classes of canoes. Almost everyone ventured forth in either K1s or Espadas. Also in evidence were three K2s and four K4s, which provided good fun for all clubs present.

Forth Canoe Club did well in producing champions in Men's K1 1,000m, K2 500m; Ladies K1 and K2 and Mixed K2. In the Youth events, first place was gained in Espada Class B, a second in Class C and a first in the youth K2.

Points were awarded to paddlers both in Championship and Youth events and the Club gaining the highest number of points gains the Rowardennan Racing Shield.

Mathematics behind the system are as follows:-

Points are awarded in all classes i.e. Senior Men, Ladies, Mixed and Espada Class A, B and C, both boys and girls

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
K1	3	2	1	-	-
K2	4	3	2	1	-
K4	5	4	3	2	1

Individuals must state and compete for the same club throughout the event.

Scratch K2 and K4 teams including paddlers from different clubs have points divided in proportion.

Fractions of points are rounded off. For those who have not read "Modern Maths for Schools" this is done as follows, "If the first decimal place is greater than 5, increase to the next whole number; if the first decimal place is 5 round off to the nearest even number; and if the first decimal place is less than 5 round down to nearest whole number" e.g. 11.75 becomes 12; 11.5 becomes 12 and 11.25 becomes 11. End of Maths lesson. As a result Irvine Canoe Club won with 43 points, others:-

Forth	27
EWWC	14
Aber.Univ.	14
Alloa	3
GUCC	6

Results sheets were sent to all clubs competing, and apologies are due to Andrew Morton and Alan Burwood who won the Men's K2 500m and not, as printed, Batchelor and Reichenstein. Apologies are also due to fellow K4 team members - we were clear winners against Alloa in a time of 1.49.6.

Senior Men 1000m

1. Andrew Morton (Forth)	4.08.2
2. Drew Batchelor (Irvine)	4.13.0
3. Alan Burwood (AUCC)	4.26.0

Senior Men 500m

1. Drew Batchelor (Irvine)	1.51
2. Alan Burwood (AUCC)	1.52.4
3. Andrew Morton (Forth)	1.57.2

Senior Men K2 1000m

1. Batchelor/Reichenstein (Irvine)	4.14.5
2. Hatfield/Ross (AUCC)	4.29
3. Foley/Smith (EWWC)	4.34.3

Senior Men K2 500m

1. Morton/Burwood	1.41.7
2. Batchelor/Reichenstein	1.45.1
3. Hatfield/Ross	2.02

Ladies K1 500m

1. Maureen McClure (Forth)	2.43.5
2. Christine Linn (GUCC)	3.04.5
3. Kath Irvine (Alloa)	

Ladies K2 500m

1. Linn/McClure	2.25
2. Alison/Daniels	2.35.9

Mixed K2 500m

1. McClure/Young (Forth)	2.03.8
2. Reichenstein/Scarath (Irvine)	2.21.4
3. Linn/Linn (GUCC)	2.33.3

Open K4 500m

1. Batchelor/Dunlop (Irvine) Montgomery/Reichenstein	1.54.
2. Burwood/Brown/Hatfield/Ross (AUCC)	2.03

Espada Class A

1. Montgomery (Irvine)	1.11.7
2. Cairns (Irvine)	1.22.8

Espada Class B

1. G. Brooks (Forth)	1.10
2. D. Cameron (Irvine)	1.21
3. D. Woolfe (Forth)	

Espada Class C

1. J. Dolan (EWWC)	54.5
2. J. Young (Forth)	55.8

Espada Girls

1. Y. Alison (Irvine)	1.32.5
2. C. Daniels (Irvine)	1.34.5

Youth K2

1. Dolan/Young	2.03
2. McCairns/McKinlay	2.19

Youth K4

1. Dolan/Young/Foley/Hall	1.31.2
2. Cameron/McCairns/McKinlay/Montgomery	2.14.3

Thanks are due to all those who helped in making the event so successful.

SCOTTISH SLALOM AND WHITE WATER RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS

GRANDTULLY - SEPTEMBER 1973

D.Cuthill

The Championships this year were held over two days - that is first runs on Saturday 15th and second runs on Sunday 16th September. This system seemed to work quite well. The first and second run times were fairly well matched although I think the Sunday runs were perhaps a little easier. The water level dropped a few inches over night despite heavy rain on the Saturday.

The results were as follows:

Championship Slalom K1 Men

			Best			
			Time	Pen	Tot.	
1.	J. Dolan	ESCA	203	10	213	1st Junior
2.	J. Young	Forth	219	20	239	Junior
3.	D. Cuthill	Forth	210	50	260	1st Senior
4.	G. Smith	EWCC	241	30	271	Senior
5.	C. Aston	EWCC	234	40	274	Senior
6.	G. Hatfield	AUCC	245	30	275	Senior
7.	R. Foley	ESCA	234	50	284	Junior
10.	A. Morton	Forth	214	80	294	Senior

K1 Women

1.	Fay Roberts	EWCC	249	120	369
2.	A. Ramage	EWCC	270	330	600

White Water Racing Championships

1.	A. Morton	Forth	18'25"
2.	G. Smith	EWCC	19'43"
3.	S. Ramage	EWCC	19'57"

White Water Racing Team

1.	Edinburgh W.W.C.	Ross/Ramage/Smith	20'52"
2.	Irvine CC.	Reichenstein/Batchelor/ Dunlop	21'19"
3.	Forth CC	Morton/Young/Cuthill	21'22"

COMRIE SLALOM 29/30th SEPTEMBER '73

Club transport was available for our Novice Division members this weekend; 5 of our girls and David Payne, supported by the Commodore and Andrew Boath.

All did very well - not a capsized in any of the 4 runs each did - but not yet well enough to make the prize list.

Congratulations, however, to David Payne who led the winning Novice team and finished high enough in the individual event to be promoted to 4th Division.

CALEDONIAN WATER RALLY

Anna Baikie.

This was very appropriately named, as I don't think I have seen more rain in my life before. The campsite was about an inch deep in water and this is where platform soles come in useful - they keep your feet out of the water and I never got my feet wet all weekend except when canoeing.

The weekend was organised by the Scottish Scout Association and took place from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st October at Loch Oich and Loch Lochy on the Caledonian Canal. There must have been about 300 people there and we were organised into Squadrons. The activities were (a) basic and advanced canoeing instruction, (b) Cruising Instruction, (c) Outboard Motor Instruction (d) Water ski-ing, water discing and a treasure hunt, the last two of which were disbanded because of the weather. Although each squadron was meant to be occupied all day long nothing was compulsory and I found myself canoeing most of the time, when I wasn't steaming off at the fire which had been built on the beach.

Despite the weather everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and I hope we will be able to go back again next year.

Commodore's Comment

It occurred to me the other day that the club will be 40 years old next year. This seems as good an excuse as any to have a celebration. Think up some of the ways in which such an occasion can be celebrated and we can discuss it at the A.G.M.

 / / / /

A few weeks ago I met a young lady who gave me a glowing account of how much she had enjoyed the canoeing course at Oban this summer, but when she said she was sorry she had had to leave the course early and so miss the trip through the Corrievrechan I was absolutely horror struck. Any instructor who even gets the length of thinking about taking a party of learners on such a trip can only be so irresponsible and lacking in sea experience that he has no right to hold an instructors qualification. It is a situation that the coaching committee might well enquire into. Having logged up something like 5,000 miles of sea touring over the years including the waters around Scarba, I know better than most just how foolhardy such a trip with learners can be. The tragedy at Cruden Bay last July is an example of what can happen to those who have yet to learn that you must never trust the sea, and that slalom canoes are not sea going boats.

 / / / /

Have you ever felt, as I do, just that little bit confused for the moment when you read some of the result sheets circulated by those who organise our canoeing events?

For instance, a weekend slalom event which also includes a river race; results show that the race was won by a K1 and overleaf the main slalom event is the Individual K1 class. The only similarity between these two K1s is that they come within the general classification of canoes. A K1, K2 or K4 is an international class racing canoe and the K is the International symbol for a racing boat. It does not stand for Kayak as our slalom organisers appear to think.

Perhaps the S.C.A. could standardise the method of showing results to avoid confusion in the minds of those we are trying to initiate into canoeing. The simple solution of course is just to label a slalom canoe S1, though no doubt there will be others with more devious solutions.

 / / / /

"CANU '73" is the name given to the Scottish Scout/Guide Annual 500 metre sprint Championships which are held at the Lagoons beside Musselburgh Race Course. We have always been closely associated with this event and many of our club members have also participated in the racing with distinction. Over the last 4 years it has become increasingly popular and this year we had 432 entries for 57 races. Our organisation went like clockwork and we got through the whole event in 7 hours. Only one of our eligible members Anna Baikie competed this time, picking up 3 prizes and capping the weekend by winning the Scottish Open Singles under 18. It is interesting that among the keenest competitors are a group of Rangers from Irvine who also distinguished themselves at our S.C.A. Championships. I am asked by Captain George Pound, Scottish Chief Commissioner, to convey to the members of Forth Canoe Club the gratitude of the Scout and Guide Movements for all the assistance given in running such a highly successful regatta.

 / / / /

The West Lothian Historical and Amenity Society are keen to preserve the Union Canal and encourage as much as possible its use by the community for fishing, canoeing, nature study and the like. To help to this end they presented 2 cups for an annual canoe race on the canal.

Being a first occasion I was invited to join the committee as an adviser and the main part of the organisation was done by the Linlithgow Canoe Club.

West Lothian County Council are obsessed with the idea that canoeing is highly dangerous and I had to fight to have the age groups adjusted to include those over 14 and under 16. Stewards had to be spaced at regular intervals along the 4 mile course in case of accidents.

The /

Commodore's Comment (contd.)

The weed was so thick that it did not seem possible that a canoe could turn over! It was a miserable wet day but everything went off well. We had about 10 entries from the Club. Gregory Brooks won the under 16 event and Lesley Hodge the girls under 16 event. Unfortunately no results were ever published so relative placing and times are not known. It did strike me as being a bit mercenary minded on the part of the Linlithgow Canoe Club when, instead of giving the competitors the usual cup of hot soup at the end, they had set up a hot soup/hot dog stall at the finish and competitors had to buy what they wanted.

However, as a first ever event by this club it went well and no doubt by next year some of the rough edges can be smoothed over.

 / / / /

REMEMBER, REMEMBER the 7th of NOVEMBER

The usual first Wednesday of the month gathering at the Compass Club.

The main feature is an illustrated talk on photography and the difficulties of taking good canoeing photographs.

Even if you are not interested in the technical side, you are asked to bring your 10 best recent slides of the canoeing scene.

These will be commented on by a professional and the tips he gives might well improve your technique.

 / / / /

A CHANCE if you are quick:-

FESHIE CANOE
Spray sheet
Fibre glass paddles
Ottersports Life Jacket

All in new condition - best offer over £40

Apply to: Mr. Charles Murphy
89 Riverside Drive,
Haddington

Telephone:
Haddington 2667

ANOTHER CHANCE - if you are quicker

The FORTH CANOE CLUB financial year ends on 30th October and all those who have not paid a subscription between 1st November 1972 and 30th October 1973 will have to do so without delay or this will be their last copy of the Newsletter and we shall regretfully have to conclude that they have no further wish to retain their membership of the Forth Canoe Club.

Remember - Andy Morton's address is
23, Oakbank Crescent, Perth

and the subscription is: under 18: 75p
 over 18: £1

F.C.C. MEMBERS STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

GET YOURSELF YOUR VERY OWN FORTH CANOE CLUB SLOPP SHIRT

Ideal for training on and off the water, or just for keeping warm.

It is a Light Blue Windcheater type crewe neck pullover.

Order yours now from Andy Morton. Price about £2.50 each.

RESULTSLIPNO CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1973.

<u>SLALOM K1 MEN</u>			<u>Time</u>	<u>Pen</u>	<u>Tot.</u>
1.	ERIC EVANS	U.S.A.	213 220	70 -	283 <u>220</u>
2.	SIEGBERT HORNE (Olympic gold medallist)	EAST GERMANY	230 216	40 30	270 <u>240</u>
3.	DIETER LOOS	WEST GERMANY	244 228	100 20	344 <u>248</u>
26.	C. ASTON.	SCOTLAND	276 311	300 100	576 <u>471</u>
28.	R. KENNEDY	SCOTLAND	277 257	390 230	667 <u>487</u>
29.	G. HATFIELD	SCOTLAND	290 311	310 200	600 <u>511</u>
30.	F. RAMAGE	SCOTLAND	275 270	470 250	745 <u>520</u>

SLALOM K1 WOMEN

1.	SYBIL SPINDLER	EAST GERMANY	271 259	100 70	371 <u>329</u>
10.	FAY ROBERTS	SCOTLAND	285 302	320 190	605 <u>492</u>

WILDWATER RACE K1 MEN

1.	ERIC EVANS	U.S.A.	13' 48.9"
2.	PETR HAAS	AUSTRIA	13' 53.0"
3.	LUDVIG SCHANG	WEST GERMANY	13' 59.3"
4.	ANDREW MORTON	SCOTLAND	14' 10.1"
12.	GRAHAM SMITH	SCOTLAND	15' 20.4"
13.	DAVID CUTHILL	SCOTLAND	15' 25.2"
14.	GORDON CUTHILL	SCOTLAND	16' 15.7"

Slalom results could have been better! Note that Eric Evans won both events.

In the white water event Andrew Morton did well to come 4th on a very heavy and difficult course. World Champion Norbert Sattler was fairly low placed in Slalom (about 10th I think) because of a hand injury caused by a slip with an axe a few days previous to the event.

DULLATUR LONG DISTANCE RACE, SEPTEMBER 22nd 1973

	<u>Class</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. A. Batchelor	K1	Irvine	1. 7.13
2. A. Morton	K1	Forth	1. 8.10
3. J. Dolan	JK1	E.W.W.C.	1.13.14
4. C. Dunlop	K1	Irvine	1.14.26
1. Burwood/Hatfield	K2	A.U.C.C.	1. 7.12
2. Foley/Hall	K2	E.W.W.C.	1.15.07
1. I. Ross	WW	E.W.W.C.	1.13.15
2. G. Smith	WW	E.W.W.C.	1.13.26
3. J. Young	JWW	Forth	1.18.15
1. Maureen McClure	LWW	Forth	1. 8.31
2. C. Linn	LWW	G.U.C.C.	1.17.01