

FORTH

CANOE CLUB



NEWSLETTER
JAN. '74

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

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1974

Hon. Commodore	...	Alastair Dunnett
Commodore	...	Jack Cuthill
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer	...	Andrew Morton, 2, Cedar Place, PERTH. PH1 1RL.
Slalom & W/W Captain	...	David Cuthill.
Racing Captain	...	Gregory Brooks
Paddling Captain	...	Andrew Boath
Hon. Auditor	...	A. M. Cooper, C.A.

Useful Addresses

British Canoe Union	...	General Secretary
Tel.: 01-584-9229		70, Brompton Road, London, SW3 1DT.
Scottish Canoe Association.		Secretary: J. Stuart Ness, 180 Lochee Road, Dundee. DD2 2NG.
Hire of Slalom Equipment and Race Numbers	...	David Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue Edinburgh, EH10 5ED.
Tel. 031-447-3954		

EDITORIAL NOTE

A change has been made in the editorial policy due to the circumstances under which our magazine is produced. The responsibility for what appears within our covers will now be shared between the Commodore, Andrew Morton and David Cuthill. In other words, don't blame Andrew for all you read, it may be another your libel proceedings will be against. Not that it will mean any less work for Andrew: his has usually been the major contribution and you can be sure he will insist on the high standard he has set being maintained. The present circulation of the Newsletter is over 100 which includes the Press. We hope this will grow because we write to cover as wide an interest as possible and the pages which are only of interest to F.C.C. members, such as those with Minutes, Committee decisions etc. are omitted from the copies sent to non-members. We invite contributions on any canoeing subject and, if you feel stirred into some activity with your pen, please send the result to Andrew Morton, 2 Cedar Place, Perth PH1 1RL.

J.C.

Now that a new season of canoeing is starting perhaps some of our younger or less experienced readers are contemplating entering some canoeing events this year. If so, read on, for there follows a brief description of the types of event held, the types of boat used and the standard of competition.

WHITE WATER RACING. (otherwise known as River Racing or Wild Water Racing)

I take this type of event first because these are the first events of the year.

DISTANCE: Usually between two and five miles.

WATER: Rivers with rapids of all degrees of difficulty.

TIMING: Competitors start on their own at minute intervals and are timed down the course. In a few Scottish events there is a massed start.

CLASS: The ideal boat is the purpose built White Water Racer which is 15' long (450 cms) and 23" wide (60 cms). This boat is more unstable, more difficult to control and faster than a Slalom boat. If you plan to buy a new boat, the Mendesta Match Mk2 seems to be the best on the market at the moment.

Beginners, however, may enter in the Slalom boat class for which there are always prizes of one kind or another.

SAFETY: Life-jackets, Spray deck, and Crash Hat necessary.

HAZARD: Rapids can be difficult especially so when negotiated in White Water boats.

VENUES: Tay, Awe, Dee, Nith, Tweed, Clyde, Leny.

STANDARD: Normally about 50 competitors enter, of whom perhaps only 6 or 7 are of high standard. There is no divisional system as yet.

SLALOM.

The Slalom season starts in March and ends in October, with July and August usually free of Slaloms.

DISTANCE: $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at the most.

WATER: As in White Water.

TIMING: Competitors start on their own at minute intervals and are timed down the course. They have to paddle through pairs of poles (gates) hung over the river and they may do so forwards, backwards, upstream or downstream according to the instructions on each gate. If they hit or miss the gate, time penalties are added to their time down the course. The competitor with the lowest time, from two runs, wins.

CLASS: Slalom boat familiar to any beginner. Stable and easy to turn. Paddlers under 13 may use smaller boats in some events.

SAFETY, HAZARDS AND VENUES: as for White Water.

STANDARD: Higher than that of W.W. because of larger number of competitors and considerable degree of skill required. Slalomists are divided into 5 classes: 1st., 2nd., 3rd., 4th., and Novice divisions. The standard of the bottom two divisions is beginner level.

LONG DISTANCE RACING /

2.

LONG DISTANCE RACING (Abbreviated to 'L.D.'). The season is fragmented but broadly similar to the Slalom season.

- DISTANCE:** 5 miles upwards, usually 10 to 20 miles.
- WATER:** Rivers, lochs, canals and the sea.
Rapids are rarely greater than grade 2 or 3.
The canals and rivers sometimes require portages round obstacles.
- TIMING:** Mass start.
- CLASS:** The term K1, although correctly speaking means a single seater kayak of any class, is often used loosely to refer to the International Sprint Kayak, a long unstable canoe used for Sprint and L.D. racing. Verbally therefore the word K1 is only used to refer to the above craft, but in start lists, results etc. K1 is used for all single kayaks as indeed it should be.
So we can say that K1 and K2 class canoes are the proper type of canoe for this event, although W.W. boats are ideal.
Slalom canoes and touring canoes are not really suitable as they involve the paddler in a greater deal of effort per mile.
(I'll get shot down by the tourists)
- SAFETY:** The only essential is a life jacket, and even that is dispensed with in certain races.
- HAZARDS:** A few rapids and rocks to be avoided in a craft which is unstable and difficult to control. The chief danger is that of a capsize.
- VENUES:** Virtually anywhere where there is water deep enough and long enough for a kayak.
- STANDARD:** The standard is low, and poorer than that of W.W. racing.
However the courses are often long and gruelling for inexperienced and unfit paddlers.

SPRINT Events are held throughout most of the summer excluding part of July and August. There are only two or three Sprint events in Scotland per annum.

- DISTANCE:** 250 metres (Youth) 500m, 1,000m, 10,000m ($6\frac{1}{4}$ miles)
- WATER:** Still water with small waves at the worst.
- TIMING:** Mass start of 6 to 9 paddlers in lanes.
- CLASS:** K1, K2 (doubles) and K4 plus a special youth K1 called an Espada.
This kayak has the same dimensions as an International Sprint Kayak but is slightly more stable.
- SAFETY:** No aids required.
- HAZARDS:** Capsizing
- VENUE:** Dullater, or the Forth and Clyde canal. The new Clyde Water Sports centre near Hamilton should be open and in use for canoeing and rowing by 1976.
- STANDARD:** Similar to L.D. with a few exceptions.

These then are the choices for competition for beginners in Scotland. There is an event of one kind or another almost every week and the standard of competition to be found is rarely so high that you will make a fool of yourself! Remember that every competitor has to start some time and at every event you will always find a few people like yourself. Ironically the most popular competitions are Slaloms where it is easiest to make a fool of oneself because /

because of the difficulty on the rough water and the high degree of skill 3.
 required. Some of you may wish to paddle in a Canadian canoe in Slalom, W.W.
 or Sprint (No L.D. Canoe Racing). There are hardly any Canadian class paddlers
 in Scotland except for, surprisingly, two Canadian Class British Champions -
 Willie Richenstein and Rowan Osborne! They would both be delighted to give
 beginners instruction in the paddling of their type of craft, but the beginner
 would find very little competition in Scotland and would have to travel south
 for good class events.

If you wish to enter an event this year, look at the Calendar of events
 and write to the organiser for details. Send in your entry form and arrive
 on the day of the event with all your gear, and if possible, try to get a
 friend who is also keen on starting competitive canoeing.

Make a point of having at least one practise run over any course with
 which you are unfamiliar.

Do not be put off by apparently unbeatable athletes in sleek canoes.
 All you have to do is practise, train and persevere, and you will have success.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION L.D. CLUB TROPHY 1973						
Place	Club	TWEED	LOCH LOMOND	DULLATER	TAY	TOTAL
1.	FORTH	65	66	31	66	228
2.	IRVINE	15	57	41	32	145
3.	E.W.W.C.	22	49	33	15	114
4.	A.U.C.C.	25	0	12	49	86
5.	G.U.C.C.	21	20	9	10	60
6.	RENFREW H.S.	0	41	0	0	41
7.	PAISLEY K.C.	0	34	0	0	34
8.	STRATHCLYDE	0	24	0	3	27
9.	BOROUGHMUIR	25	0	0	0	25
10.	ALLOA	0	17	0	0	17
11.	A'CHRUACH	2	4	0	2	8
12.	EPSILON	7	0	0	0	7
12.	EDINBURGH RANGERS	7	0	0	0	7
12.	CALDER	0	7	0	0	7
15.	COMPASS	6	0	0	0	6
16.	ROXBURGH	2	1	0	0	3
17.	STRATHKELVIN	0	3	0	0	3

AYRSHIRE TROPHY 1973							
Place	Name	Club	TWEED	L.LOMOND	DULLATUR	TAY	TOTAL
1.	A.Morton	FORTH	6	6	3	6	21
2.	A.Batchelor	A.K.R.C.	-	4	5	-	9
3.	G.Smith	E.W.W.C.	3	3	2	-	8
3.	S.Ramage	E.W.W.C.	2	2	-	4	8
5.	G.Hatfield	A.U.C.C.	-	-	-	4	4
5.	A.Burwood	A.U.C.C.	4	-	-	-	4
5.	C.Tannock	G.U.C.C.	2	2	-	-	4
5.	R.McFarlane	E.W.W.C.	1	1	2	-	4
9.	Burwood/ Hatfield	A.U.C.C.	-	-	3	-	3
10.	C.Dunlop	IRVINE	-	-	1	-	1
10.	J.Imrie	A.U.C.C.	-	-	-	1	1
10.	A.Paterson	E.W.W.C.	-	-	-	1	1

RESULTSTAY W.W. Race. 20th January 1974. Organised by Edinburgh University C.C.

The first W.W. race of the year was held on the Tay from Stanley to Thistlebrig. The river was exceptionally high but not any more difficult to negotiate because many of the rapids had flattened out due to the large volume of water. There was a good entry of over 50 canoeists which made for an exciting massed start at Stanley Pool.

It seems that Andy Morton who makes a habit of winning these races has been beaten by marriage preparations and an impending operation to his hand - or so he would have us believe! However, Scott Ramage, Irvine Ross and a few others are building up fitness for the Scottish Team selection events.

A noticeable absentee from the event was Jim Dolan who would probably have won if he could have matched his top class performance at the British Championships in January when he came 5th. We wish him the best of luck in New Zealand.

Also absent from the event were Fay Roberts and Maureen McClure so Annette Ramage was able to win the ladies event easily.

The Team event was well patronised although Forth did not enter a full team.

<u>K1 MEN.</u>	1. S. Ramage	E.W.W.C.C.
	2. G. Smith	E.W.W.C.C.
	3. D. Cuthill	FORTH
	4. Irvine Ross	E.W.W.C.C.
	5. J. Young	E.W.W.C.C.

TEAM EVENT E.W.W.C.C. 'A' Smith, Ramage, Ross.

Because of the mass start accurate timing is impossible. Fastest times were approximately 14½ minutes. The first 4 were within 2 seconds of each other.

NITH W.W. Race 27th January 1974. Organised by Dumfries Canoe Club.

Distance 5.5 miles Course Rough, technical GRADE III

K1 fastest time approx. 30 minutes.

<u>LADIES K1</u>	1. Sue Edwards
	2. Fay Roberts

<u>K1 MEN</u>	1. Scott Ramage	<u>SLALOM K1 MEN</u>	R. Kennedy
	2. Irvine Ross		
	3. Graham Smith		
	4. Jock Young		

K1 TEAM EVENT E.W.W.C.C. 'A' Ramage, Smith, Ross.

LLANGOLLEN W.W. RACE 9/10 February 1974.

David Cuthill

A group of seven Edinburgh w.w.racing canoeists travelled the 270 miles to Wales for one of the most difficult whitewater races in Britain. The water level was very high and the chief hazards being near the start at the Serpents Tail Rapid and at the Llangollen Town Rapids.

Three of the group paddled the slower but more manoeuvrable Streamlite Sprinter and the rest, including myself, raced Prijon Interceptors which are less buoyant, less manoeuvrable, but faster on the flat. Two expert canoeists Stuart Fisher and Chris Avery capsized and swam, so it must have been difficult! Instead of the usual camping weekend we stayed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation in Llangollen.

The official results have not been received yet Dave Hunter won the individual event, but from our group the results were as follows

I. Ross
S.Ramage and J.Young
G.Smith
D.Cuthill
R.McFarlane.

Annette Ramage won the Ladies Event against Barbara Sattler and Sarah Wain and a dozen others.

Total individual entry 89 racers - all our contingent should come within the top 25.

F.C.C. BAT POLO TEAMDavid Cuthill

Anyone interested in forming a bat polo competition team?

All members are encouraged to seriously consider this proposal. I can see Bat polo developing into a strong branch of canoeing. The normal canoeing competition has the disadvantage that it is extremely individualistic. Bat polo can help to counteract this fragmentary effect within a club by pulling a nucleus group together. A six man team could train in the baths playing 3 a side. By the way, to play bat polo, place 2 goal boards about 4 metres above each end of a square of water, line up the two teams in front of their own goals and throw a plastic football into the middle of the pond. In the ensuing melee, the object is to try to throw the ball against your opponents goals. A better name for the game would be canoe rugby! Training will consist of Rolling, which is a vital skill in the repertoire of the "grapple" experts, "special skills" and polo playing.

At the moment we are trying to obtain the use of a bat mould for canoe production. Attributes of a bat polo expert are brute force, and animal cunning-which shouldn't be beyond the range of the majority of our prospective Polo Aces. (Take note Kim Smith, Bobby Cox, David Payne, David Wolffe, Gregory Brookes). Also required is a bat, of course, which should be buoyant, fast and easily manoeuvrable and of a sound prestressed concrete construction. A super duper spraydeck is a must and should be of 2 mm steel plating - for safety - guarding against injuries caused by an opponents carelessly applied vertical shaft jab.- I believe the technical jargon for this is lower lumbar protection. Special paddles without metal tips are stipulated by the rules.

If our club gets started forming a team now, we stand a very good chance of success. The price of success could be a trip down south for events like "its a knockout" (all Hotel accommodation free: meals and liquid refreshment by courtesy of a well known Brewery Corporation) as indeed happened last year. Ask Drew Michie or Ronnie MacFarlane.

Speaking of Drew Michie, it's great to see that he is making such a fine recovery after his car crash (He crashed his MGB underneath a jacknifed articulated lorry). However he's up and about and we met him spectating at the River Tay Thistlebrig W.W. Race. Glad you're still with us Drew and we wish you a speedy recovery.

The first A.G.M. of the 'new' S.C.A. was held in Dundee in early December. Quite a few F.C.C. members were present among the 50 or so who attended the meeting. The meeting went very smoothly compared with previous occasions and was finished at a reasonable hour in the afternoon.

The new Office Bearers in brief are:

John Young - PRESIDENT. J. Stuart Ness - SECRETARY.
Andrew Morton - TREASURER. Drew Manzie - VICE-PRESIDENT.

Stuart Ness is based in Dundee and replaces Graham Smith who has resigned because of pressure of work. Stuart can be contacted at 180 Lochee Road, Dundee, DD2 2NG.

Those of you wishing to join the S.C.A. can do so automatically when you join the B.C.U. as an Individual Member. This now costs about £1.50 per annum. There are about 400 members in Scotland.

Petrol Rationing

In the event of petrol rationing it may be possible for competitors who have a good record of attendance at last years events to obtain a supplementary allowance to attend events during the rationing period.

Selection Events for the Scottish Team

There has been some confusion over the times and venues of these events. The latest information is that the W.W. team of 4 men and 1 lady will be selected from the Aberdeen Race at the beginning of March. The Slalom Team of the same size will be selected at the 1st div. Grandtully events and at the 1st div. event at either the Lune or in Wales. The selection committee will consist of Andrew Manwell and Stuart Ness. The S.S.C. will be providing a Travel grant for a team of paddlers to attend Lipno or Spittal on the 7th July and Bourg St. Maurice on the 28/29th July. No final decisions have been made yet.

Espada Kayaks

These are Youth Sprint and L.D. Boats for competition in the U.K. The Scottish Sports Council has proposed that the S.C.A. may wish to implement a purchasing scheme for clubs, whereby clubs would receive a 50% grant from the S.S.C. for buying two or more boats. This may be supplemented by a small grant from the S.C.A. Furthermore, the club would then be entitled to approach their Local Authority for additional grant. At best this would be a 20% grant, at worst, nothing!

The only proviso is that the kayaks must be made available to the area coaching organiser on certain weekends during the year for coaching purposes. It is not thought that this will amount to a great deal of time.

Forth C.C. committee is at present considering the proposal and if any members have any views on the matter please make them known to the Secretary or the Commodore

Continental Holiday - Driver wanted

Stuart Ness is taking a party of Dundee canoeists to Germany and Austria from the 5th July to the 22nd July. He still requires two drivers for the expedition who must be over 25. The cost for the trip is £60 which includes ferry, food, transport, camping fees and insurance.

Commodore's Comment

7.

As so often happens, the only contact one has with old friends is the short message scribbled inside a Christmas Card. There is always the cheerful greeting from Dr. John Walford of Ipswich by this means. For those who do not know him, "Wally" is the man who was responsible for the start of the Forth Canoe Club. That is worth remembering at this time, because it was 40 years ago, in October 1934, and I feel such an anniversary should be suitably recognised.

I would like anybody who has any ideas as to how best this can be done, to commit them to paper and post it to me as soon as they can.

I have often wondered how fishing came to be called a sport? Man, of course has always depended on the catching of fish for his livelihood from the beginning of time but that kind of fishing is a necessity, and I have never heard of true fishermen complaining about canoes scaring off their catch.

But the so-called "sport" of fishing is a totally different matter. Fish could never be classified as pests such as foxes, yet consider the uproar from time to time against the foxhunter for his cruelty to that animal.

There is probably no other living thing less harmful to man than the fish which swim our rivers and lochs, yet with barb and gaff they are yanked from their habitat and beaten to death with a gaff handle or have the life stamped out of them with the heel of a ghillie's boot, and all in the name of sport! A word that to me has always meant fair play, but I doubt if a fish would call it so.

The sadistic method of dispatching fish is matched by the cruel and barbarous treatment of the one that is too small to keep. The hook is wrenched out tearing the mouth to pieces and the fish thrown back into the water most likely to die being unable to eat.

When the fish are lying on the bottom and not rising for reasons of their own, maybe tired, over-fed, wrong water temperature, their own underwater enemies at hand and the like, God help the canoeist who comes drifting past. He is the heaven sent excuse for the unsuccessful fisher, and so we are sworn at, cast at and prosecuted by those who will think nothing of jumping into a boat and go splashing out with unpractised oarsmanship, or even start up the outboard to go fishing.

Our fight is rarely against the individual fisher who on the whole is a reasonable character but when we come up against the highly financed fishing associations, reason and common sense drown in the conflict.

We got rid of cock fighting and bear baiting; we wait now, impatiently, on public opinion rescuing us from the surviving barbarous practice of organised fishing which claims monopoly rights on so many of our rivers and lochs.

BRITISH CANOE UNION
SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION
CANOEING EVENTS

1974

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Organiser</u>
January 13th	British White Water Racing Championships, Llangollen.	1
January 20th	Thistlebrig White Water Race. Stanley - Thistlebrig	2
January 27th	River Nith White Water Race. Sanquhar	3
February 2/3rd	Scottish Team Training Weekend, Benmore	4
February 6th Wed.	F.C.C. Slalom Judges Course 7.30 p.m. Compass Club	6
February 10th	Welsh Dee W.W. Race	
February 17th	River Clyde White Water Race. Stoneybyres Power Station.	5
February 24th	River Tay White Water Race. Grandtully	6
March 3rd	River Dee White Water Race. Potarch - Banchory Team Selection	7
March Wed. 6th	F.C.C. Film Night Compass Club World Slalom Championships film (1973)	
March 10th	Lune 1st Div. Scottish Selection Event	
March 23rd	Long Distance Race, Loch Lomond	8
March 30/31st	Scottish Team Training Weekend	4
April 6th	Young Lovers Affair - Wedding of A. Morton	??
April 6/7th	Comrie I. Div. 3,4, N and J. Ancrum Canoe Club	
April 13/14th	Grandtully Div 1 - Scottish Team Selection Event	
April 20/21st	Fernilee Slalom. Div 3,4,N and J.	2
April 28th	River Awe White Water Race Teviot Slalom 3,4,N.	9
May 4/5th	Teith Slalom. Div. 3,4,N and J.	10
May 12th	River Tweed L.D.	6
May 18/19th	Awe Slalom Div. 2,3 and Open	9
May 25th	River Teith White Water Race. Callander to Doune	11
May 26th	River Clyde L.D.	12
May 25/26th	Scottish Scout/Guide Flat Water Slalom, Broughton.	
May 31st	Bat Polo Competition - Callander	11
June 1st/2nd	River Leny Slalom. Divisions 3,4,N and O.	11
June 9th	3 Lochs Race	4
June 16th	Round Cumbrae L.D. Race	14
June 22nd	Loch Lomond L.D. Luss.	12
June 23rd	River Awe White Water Race	6
September 22nd	Loch Lomond L.D. Duck Bay	15
September 28/29th		
October 5/6th	Scottish Scout/Guide Sprint Racing Championships	
October 12/13th	Comrie II. Div. 3,4,N and J. Ancrum C.C.	
October 19/20th	Scottish Slalom Championships. Invercarnie, R. Dee.	4
October 27th	River Tay L.D. Bridge of Isla - Perth.	6
November 3rd	Welsh Dee W.W. Race	
November 10th	Royal Dee White Water Race	7

For key to organisers of these events please see over.

KEY

EVENTS ORGANISERS 1974.

1. Manchester Canoe Club, Mr. F. Bennett, 22 Chaucer Avenue, Reddish, STOCKPORT.
2. Edinburgh University C.C., Mr.R.McFarlane, 30, Boswall Quad, EDINBURGH, 6
3. Dumfries Canoe Club, Mr.A.D.Alison, The Old Farmhouse, 58 Nunholm Rd., DUMFRIES.
4. Mr. G. Smith, Gracemount Secondary School, Lasswade Road, EDINBURGH, EH16 6TZ.
5. Glasgow University Canoe Club, Mr.G.Cleland, Stevenson Building, GLASGOW UNIV.
6. Forth Canoe Club, Mr.A. Morton, 2 Cedar Place, PERTH, PH1 1RL.
7. Aberdeen University C.C., Miss S.Coleman, University Union, Broad St., ABERDEEN.
8. Clydebank Canoe Club, Miss J.Esiladale, 27 Duntocher Road, CLYDEBANK.
9. Edinburgh White Water C.C. Miss A.Ramage, 9 Suffolk Road, EDINBURGH, 9.
10. Heriot Watt University C.C., Mr.M.Mozolowski, Canoe Club, Chambers St., EDINBURGH.
11. Alloa Canoe Club. Miss K.Irvine, Holy Rood Secondary School, Duddingston Road, EDINBURGH, 16.
12. Strathclyde University C.C. Mr.B.Cornwell, 4d Birkbeck Court, Cathedral Street, GLASGOW.
13. Roxburgh Canoe Club, Mr.J. Currie, Causeway End, Ancrum, JEDBURGH.
14. Paisley Kayak Club, Mr.D.Shaw, 24A Thornlie Park Ave., PAISLEY.
15. Irvine Canoe Club, Mr.J.Kerr, 32 Crocus Grove, IRVINE.

LETTER TO AN EDITOR

Dear Mr. Morton,

I was interested to read, in your article on the different types of canoeing, the definition of "class" under the section on Long Distance Racing.

It would appear to me that you have put it the wrong way round and it should really read: "Correctly speaking a K1 is an International Sprint Racing Kayak, but K1 is often loosely used to refer to any kind of single seater kayak".

To say that the term K1 is only "verbally" applied to the International Sprint kayak is just not true and equally misleading is the statement that in start lists and results sheets the term K1 is used for all single seater kayaks. What is intended by the concluding phrase, "As indeed it should be", is not quite clear when you know that results sheets divide canoes into classes K1-K2-w/w Racers and slalom - and all get separate prizes. K1 and K2 terms are correctly used in this case "As indeed it should be"!

In the early days when folding boats were used for slalom they were classed F1. Later when glass fibre boats appeared on the scene the official classification was S1, and it is only recently that the term K1 has become so loosely used, but that does not make it correct.

One could, of course, continue the discussion still further and put forward the point that the 'c' in C1 and C2 does not stand for "Canadian" though popular usage probably has it so. The original craft called a 'canoe' referred to the open boat propelled by a single blade from a kneeling position. This was the Canadian Indians' main form of transport as the terrain between the rivers and lochs was almost impassable. It came to us from Canada, thus we called it the Canadian Canoe but to Canadians that is a Canoe. When over in Canada I got myself, and some people I was talking to, into a hopeless muddle because we were not really talking about the same thing. To save others a similar confusion it should be noted that a Canoe is a light open craft, sharp at both ends and paddled by a single blade in a kneeling position. The C1 and C2 classification therefore stands for "Canoe" single and double.

Yours truly,
John Harrower.

APPEAL TO ALL CANOEISTS IN THE EDINBURGH AREA

Quite a lot of us make good use of the canal for practice and for canoe trips to Ratho and beyond. It would be a bit of a blow if any more of the canal was to be lost to us, yet there is talk of the stretch out by Hermiston being lost to us in the interests of new motorway construction. The Scottish Inland Waterways Assoc. are mounting a major operation to clear the channel & banks between Wester Hailes and the bridge at Sighthill on the Calder Rd.(A 71) on 2nd.-3rd.March to show that we want the canal to stay as it is, that we need it and we mean it.

It could be wet and dirty work, so dress accordingly. Bring your flask and sandwiches and meet at the bridge over the canal on the Calder Rd. at 10 a.m. on the 2nd. March and/or the 3rd. March.

Extracts from Minutes of The Slalom Executive of the B.C.U.

PROMOTIONS The B.C.U. Executive at their meeting on Sunday 2nd December has fixed the size of men's divisions at:

DIV I	...	150	Competitors
DIV II	...	300	"
DIV III	...	350	"
DIV IV	...	400	"

PROMOTIONS & RELEGATIONS (Provisional)

DIV I	Relegate	D. Austin	and 0 points down
DIV II	Promote	T. Chilvers	and better than 76%
	Relegate	J. Hall	and worse than 110%
DIV III	Promote	B. Curtis	and better than 85.5%
	Relegate	L. Smith	and worse than 110%
DIV IV	Promote	Best 119	
	Relegate	no results	

Tough luck Scott Balfour, Forbes Ramage, Bill Geddes, Jim Wilson, Ron Hodgeson on being demoted, but remember, don't give up. Promotion back from DIV II should not be too difficult.

Congratulations to Miss A. Rammage who is promoted to Ladies DIV I.

PROMOTIONS FROM SLALOMS 1974.

Following on from the general meeting the Executive discussed this at some length. It was agreed that there had to be greater opportunity for promotion from Novices, and the formula was agreed:-

Promotions from Novice	...	1 in 5	or part thereof		
"	"	DIV IV	...	1 in 10	"
"	"	DIV III	...	1 in 20	"

Since promotion for ladies is linked to the result of the best man promoted at an event, this will boost the ladies chances also. Note that Novice Canadians can qualify only at Novice events, no Ranking Canadian events being allowed at DIV III or IV Slaloms.

B.C.U. MEMBERSHIP - SLALOM ENTRIES. The present system, of simply requiring proof of membership without regard to the fairness to paddlers, was highly unsatisfactory. The Executive agreed on that. They agreed that:

- Paddlers quote B.C.U. number (when obtainable) on every entry card.
- Paddlers must either show their B.C.U. card to the appropriate Ranking List Compiler or send it to him with a s.a.e. (if they want it returned), in either case before 1st October of each year.

It was agreed that as from 1974 the 'D' rule would be reinstated and reinforced. Paddlers who do not comply with (b) above in 1974 must pay a fine of £3 and prove payment of 1974 and 1975 B.C.U. subscription, all before they are allowed to enter an event in 1975.

It was decided that the Secretary's part-time typist could be asked to implement the 'D' rule next winter.

MASTER CLASS It was agreed that a Master Class should be created (within DIV I) for K1 men, the members of which are segregated or in some other way identified at each event. The nomination system being:

- The top 20 on the Ranking Lists shall start the season as Masters.
- Should a Master finish below 25th at an event he shall forfeit his status.
- Any paddler who finishes in the top 10 at an event shall be promoted into the Master Class for the next event.
- Paddlers who start and remain in the Master Class for the whole season (paddling in at least 3 events) shall be awarded a medallion or other small token.

The Chairman had explained that, without disrupting the divisional system, this would give encouragement to those who were good but not quite prize-winners, that it gave an intermediate target for promising youngsters, and also that it gave recognition to paddlers outstanding over a period of time.