

FORTH

CANOE CLUB



APRIL 1974
NEWSLETTER

FORTH CANOE CLUB
Founded 1934

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 Ave., Edinburgh, EH10 5ED.
Tel: 031-447-3954		

EDITORIAL NOTE

We have now been publishing for exactly a year and find that our magazine has created an interest beyond the Club membership. In order to cater for this demand it has been necessary to more than double our printing and, since the circulation covers canoeists other than Forth Canoe Club members, we propose to change the title, starting with the next issue in July, to: "CANOEING NEWS & REVIEW"

This we hope will give our magazine a more general application to the Scottish canoeing fraternity. We would like to think that canoeists in general will now feel more inclined to send in material for publication.

A year's subscription (i.e. 4 issues) is only 40p and should be sent to: Andrew Morton, 2 Cedar Place, Perth. PH1 1RL.

Communication between our competitive canoeists is a relatively simple matter, meeting as they do at some event almost weekly, but for the hundreds of others who are interested in the canoeing scene we hope that this magazine will forge the missing link.

Since this is aimed at all canoeists may I draw your attention to the article by Clive Freshwater who has rendered such great service to the whole canoeing community in Scotland, and point out that the Appeal Fund in support of the Spey Case is still open. Surely the £600 raised so far could be doubled?

J.C.

After ten days of evidence by fishermen, canoeists and historians, Lord Maxwell in a 20,000^{word} judgment has rejected a move which sought to prevent Cairngorm Canoeing and Sailing School, Ltd. and their pupils from canoeing or attempting to navigate by canoe, landing on that part of the Spey which passes through the Ballindalloch and Knockando Estates. (It is interesting to note that the Trustees of the latter estate all live in southern England and their spokesman in Court, Mr. Joseph Burrell has never been to Knockando.)

Lord Maxwell said the Spey was one of the finest salmon angling rivers in Scotland and many of the private beats, including Knockando, fetched considerable rents. The School's season for canoeing was confined to about 12 weeks in the summer. The river was also visited by canoeists from all parts of Britain. Some of these, like the School's parties, were in well organised and controlled groups who endeavoured to cause as little disturbance to other interests as possible. Unfortunately there were others who were less particular in this respect. The canoeists maintain that the public had a right in law to canoe down the Spey, whilst the angling interests deny any such right.

Lord Maxwell held that there was a public right of navigation on the whole of the Spey, including Knockando, and rejected an argument of the Trustees which was that, even if there was a public right, this did not extend to canoeists. He went on to say that it followed that evidence relating to alleged potential damage by canoeists to the fishing was irrelevant. If there was a public right of navigation, he thought the risks of damage must be accepted by the fishing proprietors, but he was not prepared to accept that this damage would be any more than minimal. If there was no public right of navigation then the canoeists could be excluded irrespective of proof of potential damage.

After hearing the evidence of some 10 ghillies working on the Spey and several well known salmon fishermen, he was of the opinion that, taking one day with another and one season with another, repeated passage of canoeing groups through a salmon fishing beat was likely to have some adverse effect on the catch which was more than minimal, but he did not find it possible to be more precise or put it stronger than that.

An Appeal has been made against this decision which is likely to be heard in the Autumn. In the meantime canoeing can continue on the Spey as before, but there are two points I should like to make clear:

Whatever the outcome of the case is, it will not affect any members of the public canoeing the Spey, including the Knockando stretch, and it will not affect our School on any other stretch than the Knockando stretch.

This was an action taken against our School alone, and to stop individuals they would have to take out actions against everyone individually.

It is clear, however, that in order to maintain the respect that most canoeists have for other people's sport, we as canoeists should make every effort not to upset or disturb the fishermen or the pool he is fishing. Two complaints often heard from fishermen are a mass line-abreast invasion of a pool without warning, and then playing in the rapid at the head of the pool. I feel there are plenty of places where white water practice can be obtained on a river trip without doing it under the nose of the fisherman, and it takes very little trouble to move into line astern to slip quietly past the fisherman after warning him of your presence.

I would ask every individual to make a special effort to avoid these two points. The result of the case so far has been good, but it should be noted that this is a test case for the Spey and other rivers could well be viewed differently. I feel fortunate that the Spey has been used for transport for so long and has been regarded as a public river. Rivers such as the Tay and the Dee may be regarded in a similar light. Certainly, if Lord Maxwell's decision is upheld in Appeal, it creates a precedent for Scottish rivers.

A final word about costs. Although costs have been awarded to us, this could be reversed at the Appeal, and we still need to find money to pay for the legal expenses so far. Our Appeal Fund is still in existence at the Bank of Scotland, Aviemore, where cash or guarantees of money if needed would be very gratefully received. We have to find not less than £4000, of which we have so far raised about £600. If there should be any money left in the fund after the case it will be sent to the S.C.A. and B.C.U. for future use in similar actions.

TROSSACHS FESTIVAL OF INLAND WATER SPORTS 1974.

During the period 24th May to 2nd June, a festival is being staged in the Callander area.

Activities range from Canoeing, Sailing, Rowing and Water Ski-ing, to Powercraft, Steamboats, Hovercraft and Fishing. In order to accommodate all these sports for each of the ten days, four lochs - Lubnaig, Achray, Vennachar and Ard, and three rivers - Balvaig, Leny and Teith, are to be used.

Sponsors have been obtained for most of the events and Callander and District Tourist Association are doing everything in their powers to make the venture a success.

Canoeing Events. -

- Saturday 25th May 10 a.m. Sprint Regatta and Scottish Youth Sprint Championships - Men and Ladies- K1 and K2 and Mixed K2. - 500m.
Loch Vennachar Championships - Espada A B C Boys and Girls - 250m (white water boats can be used)
Youth Doubles - 250m.
- Saturday 25th May) Beginners Slalom on River Leny
Sunday 26th May) Organisers Alloa Canoe Club and Strathkelvin Kayak Club.
- Friday 31st May Bat Polo Tournament - Organiser Alloa Canoe Club.
Loch Lubnaig
- Saturday 1st June 10 a.m. Long Distance Race - R.Balvaig - L.Lubnaig - R.Lenly. 6 miles approx. (depending on course specified) - Organiser Bill Kersel.
- Saturday 1st June) Div 3/4/N/J. Slalom on River Leny.
Sunday 2nd June) Organiser Alloa Canoe Club.

Instruction Courses and Demonstration Sessions will be held throughout the ten days.

Entry forms for Sprint events will be circulated to all affiliated clubs whenever they are available. Extra forms and further information can be obtained from Miss Maureen McClure, 5, Glen Gardens, CALLANDER, Perthshire.

Details of all other events can be obtained from Miss Kath Irvine, Secretary of Alloa Canoe Club, Holy Rood Secondary School, Duddingston Road West, Edinburgh.

Top Canoeist is Hooked! from our special correspondent

On the afternoon of Saturday 6th April, well known Scottish paddler and Editor of this magazine, Andrew Morton, married Miss Isobel Hogan from Bridge of Weir. Those of us attending canoeing events during the last year or so have seen the happy couple - Andrew paddling in the event and Izz, the ever obedient fiance, carrying paddle or ferrying the car to the finish of the event - a procedure which is now to cease.

Some eighty guests attended the wedding in Glasgow, many were relatives of the couple, however the canoeing fraternity was represented by several of Andrew's canoeing colleagues from University days and by Andrew Manwell and his good lady.

On this auspicious occasion Andrew had temporarily set aside his canoeing attire in favour of morning suit and tails (a very temporary measure since his car with canoes and gear was parked at the church entrance). The ceremony went without a hitch and an enjoyable reception was held in a nearby hotel. The wedding cake (4 tiers for the cake spotters) was decorated appropriately with miniature gold canoes which were distributed later to favoured guests.

The happy couple spent their first night of married bliss in a nearby hotel and thereafter a week in pleasant pursuit of their favourite pastimes amidst the rolling green hills of the Lake District.

Our best wishes go to both Isobel and Andrew for many years of happiness.

Footnote: It has been reported that several west of Scotland canoeists attending a slalom at Comrie on the weekend of the wedding celebrated the happy event in one of the local hotels. Paisley Kayak Club organised these festivities and one of their leading lights - Big Jim - toasted the happy couple in the way he only could!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

The slalom season opened with a degree of uncertainty due to a lack of communications regarding the venue for the first event and this initial uncertainty seems to have extended to the Scottish paddlers who ultimately ended up on the Tryweryn for what was a doubly important event - division 1 points at stake plus selection for a Scottish National Team. One would have thought with the whole winter to prepare both boats and equipment everyone would have been in tip top form for this event, however the multitude of shortcomings outlined below indicate this was far from the case. Please, please, novices and others, this is how NOT to prepare for an event.

Arrived Friday evening - Paddler No. 1 has forgotten his sleeping bag. (In fact he does not know where it is from the last event!)

Paddler No. 2 on the Saturday morning decides to tape up several holes which have been in his boat for many weeks. (Anyone got canoe tape?)

Paddler No. 3 after his practise run decides that his boat (only one month or so old) is entirely useless for the course and decides to share a boat with another paddler.

Paddlers 3, 4 and 5 discover that their team entry has been omitted from the start list. Question to organiser - Why?

Reply: No money sent with entry.

Response: Does this matter ????????

(This team was later allowed to enter and was then disqualified from one run for not having their canoes numbered correctly)

Paddler No. 4 has arrived for the week-end without a paddle and spends several minutes sprinting between start and finish borrowing paddles from other people.

Two teams were disqualified from the team event for not having either numbers on their boat or no discs or team squares for their numbers. (In addition a ladies team having a Scottish member was also disqualified this same Scottish member had no team square).

Lesson to be learned from Saturday - have your boats numbered clearly.

Sunday dawns. Paddler 6 is disqualified from one run - why? that's correct - no number or disc on his boat so for his second run he borrows another boat.

Come off it Scotland. This is not the impression that your top paddlers should be creating south of the border. Did someone mention a Scottish Team? How many nurses will be travelling with the group? Let's see an improvement at Grandtully.

P.S. Congratulations to Fay Roberts for winning the ladies event.

Name and address withheld by request of sender.

" It pays to practice "

Dear Andrew,

During the Christmas vacation a permanent slalom training site was erected by Aberdeen University Canoe Club members on the R. Don in Seaton Park, Aberdeen. The site is on a side chute from an adjacent weir and therefore guarantees a reasonably constant water level regardless of the state of the river. The course consists of four gates (usually arranged in diamond formation) suspended from three bearer wires. The bearer wires are supported by 6 hollow, 10ft high steel poles - 3 on the main river bank and 3 on an island. The support poles are set in concrete and the bearer wire section which can be reached from the main bank is made from metal sailing dingy 'stays' to discourage 'pocket knife' vandals. Everything sounds ideal so far, you're probably thinking, until I tell you the River Don must surely be the most polluted river in Scotland - effluence ranging from rotting wood pulp to waste from a poultry factory. As a result of this site we are increasing our slalom skills but also losing friends at an alarming rate.

We /

Letters to the Editor (contd.)

We have a standard sequence devised for the four gates which we time ourselves over and this consists of a 26 gate 'mini slalom' including the basic manoeuvres of turning between gates, break outs and 'stagers'.

Since training has begun, club members have achieved the following results at slaloms:

Appletreewick - 2nd div. George McRobbie, 5th, narrowly missing promotion to 1st Div.
1st team - AUCC 'A' Imrie, Milne, McRobbie.

Llandysiel - British Univ. Slalom Championships

Aberdeen 'A' 1st team - gold medals Hatfield, Imrie, Brown
'B' 3rd team - bronze medals McRobbie, Milne, Florence
Geoff Hatfield - 3rd C.1.
Hatfield/Imrie - 3rd C.2.
A total of 9 medals and 1 cup.

Treweryn Slalom - 1st div.

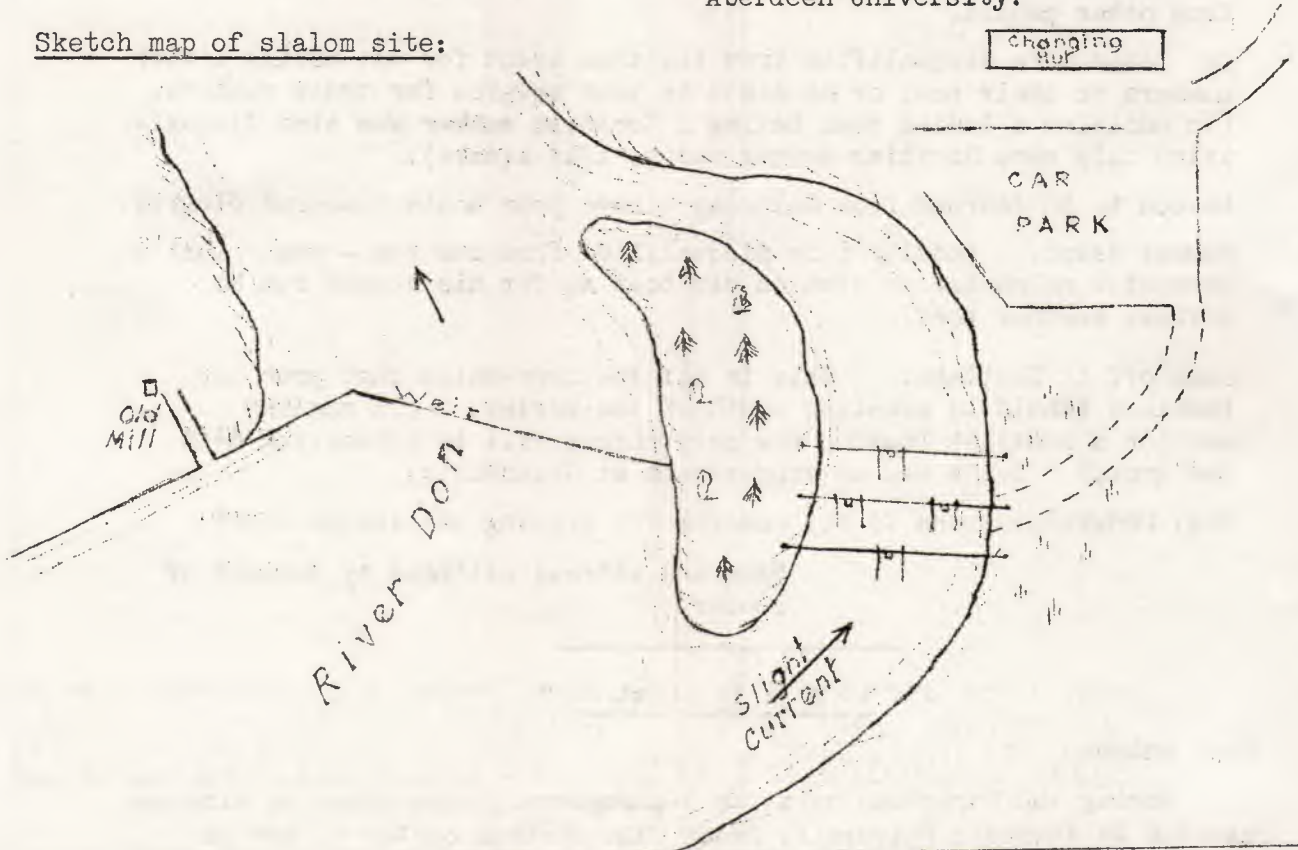
Geoff Hatfield - 26th in 1st div event.
John Imrie - 1st Judge.

Comrie slalom Geoff Hatfield - 1st C.1.

We believe that this site has helped raise the standard of our slalom canoeing and that such sites are now almost essential with the increasing standard of competitive slalom canoeing.

Derek Brown,
Aberdeen University.

Sketch map of slalom site:



This event was held on March 10th in place of the usual Lune Slalom. The slalom site used was not the better of the two slalom sites on the river, I presume that the organisers are keeping the other site for best.

The upper part of the course is vaguely reminiscent of the shallow water and rocks of the Lune. The lower part boasts two fairly respectable falls (as pictured in Canoeing Magazine.) These falls are, however, pretty rocky and could be nasty if approached wrongly.

The organisers were very strict about boat numbering and even though the team I was in had only one number on each we were not allowed to start because the numbers were not on team squares - I suppose that's fair enough but it is rather blindly sticking strictly to the letter of the law instead of thinking of why the rule was made up in the first place. That reason is of course to enable the correct interpretation by the reader of a simultaneous display of two different numbers on the same boat - one for the team and the other for the individual event. The organisers disallowed our immaculate numbering (simply because they were on discs instead of squares - we did not have squares at all on the boats) and accepted some highly dubious diminutive digits displayed on the decks of a few of the other teams boats.

The organisers really got themselves in a mess when they ran behind programme time. They were in such a hurry to catch up that they scratched about eight or nine teams for not having correct numbers. This allowed them to catch up about 20 minutes in the space of about 3 minutes. The teams at the campsite thought the slalom was running 20 minutes late and, not wishing to stand around in the cold at the start, waited at the campsite near the finish. Meanwhile the organisers caught up on the 20 minutes virtually instantaneously and the unfortunate competitors not at the start got disqualified for that run. This of course had a cumulative effect and the organisers started to get ahead of schedule. At one stage the team I was in was waiting at the start being informed that we may not start because of no squares as already explained. The course was then empty for five minutes because the organisers were trying to drop back to schedule.

I'm afraid that, despite the cold, all we could do was laugh at them for being so officious. They had successfully organised a slalom and then tried as hard as possible to disqualify people from paddling, ending up with the dubious achievement of having about 24 amazed paddlers left standing at the start. The starter had a spectacular argument with one team (not ours I hasten to add) and it would have come to blows had there not been a metre of water between them. However, the starter eventually relented and actually admitted that he was probably wrong to have disqualified teams for arriving late after a fast return of the slalom to running to time and some teams stayed to get their runs at the end of the event.

The cold was so bad that one had no sensation left in the hands at the end of a run down the course. One chap actually dropped his paddles due to the cold. The results were surprising for some members of the British Team considering the amount of alcohol they must have had in their veins after the night before!

Pos.	Name	Club	Pen	Tim	Tot	Pen	Tim	Tot	Best Tot.	Pts.
1.	R. Calverley	Manchester	10	222	232	-	220	220	220.4	60
2.	M. Swallow	Chester	10	232	242	-	232	232	232.8	59
3.	M. Peters	Bristol T.	40	225	265	-	238	238	238.1	58
4.	A. Edge	Manchester	50	228	278	10	230	240	240.2	57
5.	D. Mitchell	Chester	30	238	268	10	233	243	243.0	56
10Y	J. Dolan	Edin. Sch.	40	247	287	10	244	254	254.5	51
12.	J. Young	Edin. Sch.	10	253	263	30	279	309	263.3	49
15.	M. Hopkinson	Leeds	10	264	274	80	253	333	274.1	46
25.	D. Cuthill	Forth	40	263	303	70	275	345	303.3	36
26.	G. Hatfield	Aberdeen	30	280	310	120	268	388	310.2	35
43.	N. Rickerby	Strathclyde	90	253	343	170	281	451	343.0	18
48.	S. Ramage	Edin.		Scratch		40	311	351	351.6	13
49.	G. Florence	E.W.W.C.	100	300	400	60	292	352	352.4	12
50.	M. Hall	E.W.W.C.	60	295	355	40	320	360	355.1	11
67Y	R. Kennedy	E.W.W.C.	100	297	397	180	284	464	397.9	
76.	G. Smith	E.W.W.C.	110	297	407	110	334	444	404.3	
88Y	G. Boag	E.W.W.C.	120	327	447	130	320	450	447.4	
103.	R. McFarlane	Edin.	230	338	568	290	327	617	568.2	

LADIES K1.

Pos.	Name	Pen.	Tim.	Tot.	Pen.	Tim.	Tot	Best Tot	Pts.
1.	F. Roberts Edin.Univ.	120	286	406	20	302	322	322.4	10
2.	P. Goodwin Staffs & St.	120	308	428	20	302	322	322.6	9
3.	P. Mitchell Chester	30	295	325	150	305	455	325.8	8
4.	B. Sattler Austria	80	300	380	90	321	411	380.7	-
5.	J. Clark Deptford	170	375	545	130	371	501	501.5	7

Congratulations must go to the winning lady Fay Roberts for her first "1st" in top competition. 1974 looks like being her year.

There was also a selection event for the British W.W. team.

Best wishes also to Annette Ramage for success in the international W.W. Races this year with the British Team.

MEN'S TEAMS

1.	Calverley/McLeod/ Thomas Manchester B	70	261	331	70	254	324	324.1
8.	Hatfield/Florence Cuthill Aberdeen Univ.	200	358	558	Scratched			558.2
11.	Young/Dolan/ Foley Edin.Sch.	290	344	634	280	335	615	615.8
18.	Ramage/Smith/ McFarlane E.W.W.C.	510	360	870	360	409	769	769.0
22.	Boag/Kennedy/ Hall E.W.W.C.	590	382	972	440	371	811	811.6

SCOTTISH W.W. CHAMPIONSHIPS and SCOTTISH TEAM SELECTION EVENT.

RIVER DEE

MARCH 3rd

This event was held on the "short Course" on the Aberdeenshire Dee. Competitors assembled at the "pre start" near Potarch and paddled the 3 miles or so down to the Start proper. Many paddlers were affected by race nerves and returned poor results.

Andrew Morton and Graham Smith put up very creditable times, overtaking other paddlers in front.

RESULTS

1st	Andrew Morton	Forth
2nd	Graham Smith	E.W.W.C.
3rd	Jim Dolan	Edin.Schools
4th	Neil Rickerby	Strathclyde
5th	David Cuthill	Forth
6th	Irvine Ross	E.W.W.C.

The selection policy for this event was that the first 4 qualify for the Scottish Team.

GRANDTULLY SLALOM

The slalom was run fairly competently by Aberdeen University and the Edinburgh W.W.C. This was also a selection event for Scottish Slalom Team. At the Trewerwyn slalom the first two in Scotland got selected and it was up to the rest to achieve 2nd and third places at least, at Grandtully (2nd and 3rd because J.Dolan would, as it turned out, be well ahead of the rest of the Scottish competitors there, gaining 5th place overall and 1st Junior).

The slalom results showed a fall in performance of a lot of paddlers including amongst others - Scott Ramage and Jock Young) and several unpressurised paddlers amazed themselves by doing relatively well.

Results are not to hand at this time but the positions of the Scotland paddlers are as follows:-

In Scotland		
1.	J. Dolan	5th overall
2.	A. Morton	20th overall
3.	R. Kennedy	
4.	N. Rickerby	
5.	S. Ramage	
6.	G. Florence	

Grandtully (contd.)

Fay Roberts again won the Ladies event and is now two thirds of the way to being 1974 Ladies Champ. Fay certainly deserves a place in the Europa Cup Slalom Team competing for G.B. There is a selection event at the Awe Slalom on May 19th and it is hoped that she will be selected even although this means that she will be unable to compete for Scotland. A Scottish squad was selected at a meeting held at Grandtully.

The squad is as follows:-

Scottish White Water and Slalom Team:

A.G. Smith, A. Morton, D. Cuthill, J. Dolan, J. Young, I. Ross, N. Rickerby, G. Hatfield, S. Ramage, R. Kennedy, Miss A. Ramage
Miss F. Roberts.

Certain paddlers may be unable to attend due to British Team commitments.

The team will be attending three events: Mittenvalde, Bourg St. Maurice and Lofer. Mr. Andrew Manwell will travel with the Team as manager as in 1973.

SCOTTISH SPRINT NEWS

Mr. A. Manwell has received an invitation to take a team of sprint canoeists to represent Scotland at the Zaandam Regatta in Holland in early June. The team will probably consist of 5 or 6 canoeists and it seems likely that they will be selected from the Sprint Results in 1973. On this basis, both Andrew Morton and Maureen McClure of Forth Canoe Club will be going with the Team.

The Scottish Sports Council have been asked for a grant to travel to this event and it is hoped in future years to take Junior paddlers in particular to these international events.

Juniors interested in the 1975 events should enter the Holme Pierrepont Championships in August when a number of Scottish paddlers will be competing. Transport can be arranged.

For Sale: Scorpion Slalom Canoe unused £38. Apply to the Secretary, 2 Cedar Place, PERTH.

ESPADA NEWS

By the time this magazine reaches you the S.C.A. will have 12 Espada kayaks in their possession. These will be divided among the Area Coaching Organisers for their use and it seems likely that a number will be made available to clubs for hire on a yearly basis. It is hoped that full use will be made of these canoes in the promotion of Sprint and L.D. paddling among the young canoeists of Scotland.

SPONSORED CANOE RACE IN AID OF THE LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

River Teith - SATURDAY MAY 4th at Approx. 6.00 p.m.

A trophy has been given by parents who lost their son with Leukaemia. This will be held by the winner of this event for 1 year. Competition for this trophy, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be held on the river Teith over a distance of 12 miles. Competitors in this race are asked to find people to sponsor them at x p per mile. A special form is provided.

Start Take the A81 Glasgow road from Callander, cross the river then turn left following the A892. The start is on the A892 about 50 yds after the entry to the Callander Holiday Park level with a small lay by. Parking will be difficult so please drop off boats as quickly as possible and move on.

Weirs There are two weirs on this course. The first is about 2/3rds of the way down the course. This weir should be treated with respect. If you do not know it you would be strongly advised to examine it before you decide to shoot it. Portage is best by a fairly long path on the left bank. The shoal is on the right hand side of the weir close to the salmon ladder. The second weir is easily shot close in to the left hand bank and is about 1 mile downstream from the first.

Entries Should be sent with or without fee of 20p. to:

Mr. W.R. Kersel, 2 Balm Well Avenue, EDINBURGH, EH16 6HF.

Entries will only be accepted from paddlers who have obtained sponsors.

Commodore's Comment

As we enter into our second year of publication I have been thinking back on some of the contributions which have appeared in previous issues and it seems extraordinary to me that out of a membership of about 50 the names of only 5 members appear as contributors.

Equally remarkable is that the only reactions I have had to the magazine have been expressed by non-members. Could it be that if a charge was made to members for their copies a wider interest might be aroused? Even a rude postcard about such a suggestion would give us hope that what we write is read.

Some of you may feel the urge no doubt to get some official recognition of your canoeing prowess. There is a comprehensive series of official training courses for proficiency and Instructors Certificates available throughout the year at a number of centres.

Details of all these are on the Club Notice Board at Granton. If you wish to qualify for a B.C.U. Coaching Award, contact the Area Coaching Organiser: John Young, 21 Craigleith Drive, Edinburgh 4.

The Spring General Meeting is rather later than usual this year because with such a high proportion of our Junior Members involved in Scottish Certificate of Education exams, not to mention our Secretary in the throes of getting himself married, it seemed better to wait until all the excitement had died down and so give the prospect of a better attendance.

We hope to see a full turn-out of paddlers and helpers for the Club Tweed Race on Sunday 12th May. All non-paddlers are required for duties from transport to dispensing soup.

ANDY'S WEDDING (to the tune of Mairi's Wedding)

CHORUS

Dip we gaily as we go
Keel for keel and bow to bow
One blade in and one blade out
going to Andy's Wedding

O'er the falls and down the flow
Miss that stopper down below
Past the mill lade as we go
on to Andy's Wedding CHORUS

See how charming Izz the bride
Walking down by Andy's side
See her doing a ferry glide
Now she's married Andy CHORUS

Red her cheeks as rowans are
bright her e'e as any star
Fairest o' them a' by far
Izz our Andy's darling CHORUS

Plenty paddling yet to come
Plenty races to be won
No forgettin' a bonny son
That's our toast for Andy

Dip we gaily as we go
Keel for keel and bow to bow
One blade in and one blade out
going to Andy's Wedding.

There is more to touring than just paddling.....

She caught my eye immediately as I paddled round the corner of the jetty into Oban Harbour. Not surprising perhaps as she was the only one there, sitting at the edge with her big feet dangling in the water at the end of her long thin legs. The others landed to go shopping in the town leaving me floating around to keep my eye on their canoes, so it seemed a good way to pass the time by having a wee chat with the lass.

She could scarcely be called radiant but her capacity to talk compensated for any shortcomings in that direction. Her name was Chrissie and she was on holiday in Oban from Torryburn. Though only maybe 16 or 17, a Fifer would probably have described her as "One who had seen mair places than Torryburn"! Naturally she was curious about us; who we were, where we had come from and, as her familiarity grew, it was obvious I was about to be talked into giving her a paddle round the bay in one of the canoes, so I asked if she could swim. "No" she had never learned to swim. Not being one to pass up a chance like that to do a bit of line shooting, I launched out on the story of my own expertise as a swimmer - "I used to be something of a polo player as well" I added. "Oh, ah widnae be able to dae that" she replied, "A'd fa' off the horse"!

By this time a number of youngsters had arrived on the jetty loudly discussing the canoes they were going to go in, the one with the initiative coming down to ask me my charge for an hour!

The return of the others from their shopping expedition put an end to that discussion. This was the day that 3 others were due to join the tour so we paddled down to the railway jetty at the South end of the town. As we slowly drifted into the bay there, surprise, surprise, the 2 cars from Edinburgh were just coming along the road at the head of the bay. Packing touring canoes is an exercise that never ceases to amaze me. When the mountain of stuff stacked on the beach disappears into the canoes and still leaves room for the paddler it seems nothing short of a miracle. On this occasion, however, it was obvious that miracles were about to be performed when the largest member of the party staggered down the beach bearing an outsize carton of beer cans with 2 half loaves balanced precariously on top. "Good heavens, Man" I said, "what are the half-loaves for?" In the ensuing confusion I can't remember what did happen to that bread, but the result from the order which eventually emerged was that all the canoes had an adequate cargo of loose beer cans rolling about below decks. What a boon this turned out to be in the hot days which followed - feeling around under the spray sheet there was always a happy answer to be found in some corner to a raging thirst.

That night we camped on Kerrera and as I sat in front of my tent in the afterglow of a wonderful sunset I reflected on the strange phenomenon that the latest generation of young canoeists growing up should believe that all canoeing amounts to is a matter of manoeuvring a slalom boat between poles.

LATEST CALENDAR

May	12th	River Tweed L.D.	Forth Canoe Club	David Cuthill
	18/19	Awe Slalom	CANCELLED	
		Old Windsor (London)	Div II	Easby Abbey III (Leeds) D.C.
	25th	River Teith W.W.	Callander to Doune:	Alloa C.C. Miss K.Irvine, Holy Rood Secondary Sch. Edinr.
	26th	River Clyde L.D.	Strathclyde Univ.C.C.	Mr. B.Cornwell, 4d Birkbeck Court, Cathedral St. Glasgow.
	25/26	Scottish Scout/Guide	Flat Water Slalom,	Broughton. D.C.
	31	Bat Polo, Callander:	Alloa C.C.	
June	1st/2nd	Leny Slalom	3,4,N and O.	Alloa C.C.
	9th	3 Lochs	Mr. G. Smith, Gracemount Sec.Schl.	Lasswade Rd. Edinburgh.
	16th	Round Cumbrae L.D.	Paisley Kayak Club.	Mr.D.Shaw, 24A Thornlie Pk.Ave. Paisley.
		Carlisle Slalom 4/N	D.C.	
	22nd	Loch Lomond L.D.	Luss.	Strathclyde Univ. as above.
	23rd	Awe W.W. Race.	Forth C.C.	Mr. A. Morton, 2 Cedar Place, Perth.PH1 1RL.

D.C. means contact David Cuthill.

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

RIVER TWEED L.D. 1974

SUNDAY, MAY 12th

The event will be run on the same programme as in previous years

Senior Course Walkerburn (A72 Peebles-Galashiels Road)
16 miles to Gattonside (Suspension Bridge after
Melrose Cauld)

Be at Walkerburn at 11.30 a.m. for 12.00 midday start.

Junior and Ladies Event

Course Fairnilee to Gattonside
8 miles

Be at Fairnilee at 1.00 p.m. for 1.30 p.m. start.

The event will be run to the current Scottish Canoe Association
L.D. Racing Rules.

SAFETY You are recommended to wear a crash hat and you must
wear a buoyancy aid. Boats will be checked for safety
and numbering. Competitors whose equipment is not up to
standard will not be allowed to start.

ENTRY FEES 50p All senior classes except K2
75p for K2
40p All youth classes (Youth=18 and under in 1974)

All classes will be offered with prizes for
K1 K2 W.W.K1 Slalom K1 In youth & senior
for men and women. If sufficient numbers justify the
award of prizes in other events, this will be done.

NEWSFLASH 30.4.74

AWE SLALOM CANCELLED

AWE 2/3/0 Organised by E.W.W.C.C. for MAY 19th
Cancelled because of Drought.

FOR SALE

Interceptor - white water kayak - almost new
Cost £73 - Yours for £50
Colour - Blue deck, clear diolen hull
Must sell because I need the money
Apply David Cuthill, right now.