

# KAYAK

## MAGAZINE



**August 1976**

**A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION**

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SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL SPRINT TEAM.HAARLEM LONG DISTANCE RACE AND ZAAANREGATTA 1976TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT

W. McKinlay

Although there was decided interest in combining this year's Zaanregatta with the Haarlem L.D., it proved difficult to get paddlers who were able to obtain leave of absence for the extra day or two required, and in the end, with some little difficulty, only the one car was able to go out early enough to take part in the L.D.

The race itself was a tough one, being 20Km. in very windy conditions which made the going difficult in the open lake parts of the course, which alternated with the relatively quieter stretches of canal.

Although the course is an interesting one, especially in the latter stages, where the canal winds through the most beautiful old part of Haarlem, I felt sorry for our younger paddlers who had to paddle the full course.

However, they acquitted themselves very well, with Miss Yvonne Allison obtaining a lovely Trophy as 1st Lady. Master Robert Montgomerie received another lovely Trophy as 1st Youth as well as a medal for 6th place overall.

Ian Speirs found the rough water just a shade too much for the borrowed Hunter he was using, being so unstable that he could not get any effort in, and finished a very creditable 8th overall, with a medal for his being 1st Junior, and he was still as fresh as paint.

We were treated with the usual Dutch hospitality after the race, and with an acquaintance of ours, Sheff Rutte, (one of the Dutch National Team) acting as guide, we had a most interesting tour of Haarlem, before making our way back to Zaandam.

The TREKFOGELS CLUB are very keen to see the S.C.A. at the 1977 event, and I have a written invitation from their Secretary inviting us back.

ZAAANREGATTA

This year's event attracted entries from Russia, Spain, Sweden, Japan, Poland and Israel, as well as the usual strong entries from Germany, Belgium and Holland, and although there were some scratches it was still a Regatta which was obviously no walkover for any competitor, especially in the Senior Events.

The Russian entry was their full Olympic Squad, and A. Morton on first sighting them, before he knew who they were, made the observation that "this lot look very fit."

This lot were indeed very fit and it was fully borne out by their performance on the water. This was the first time I have seen a K4 start where so much power was applied, that from the bung-hole aft the whole stem of the canoe was under water with each paddle thrust.

The Spaniards were comprised of the World Champion K4 crew, with every member of the squad also having reached the finals at the Ghent Regatta just previous to the Zaanregatta.

Against this sort of standard and atmosphere everyone was very much on their toes and a little more tense than usual, and I was aware that our contingent were in need of calming down slightly, while still retaining that necessary degree of extra sharpness. I think we managed to strike just the right balance and I am delighted with our results as a team.

The following results are in neither alphabetical order nor order of merit, but simply as I came to them in the programme.

R. MONTGOMERIE.	500m. Nieuwelingen.		
HEAT 2nd in 2.09.5	SEMI 1st in 2.15.9		
and having had to work very hard in between.			
FINAL 6th in 2.22.0	6000m ADSPIRANTEN	1st	30.59.3.
	500m ADSPIRANTEN	4th	2.04.9.

A. BATCHELOR - up against tremendous opposition.

3.

SENIOR 500m HEAT. 5th with 2.07.6, and if he could have knocked 2 seconds off would have been through to the semi-final, which was won by G. FRYS of Belgium in 1.58.2, but the slowest finalist was H. Spoelstra with 2.11.2.

SENIOR 1000m. 6th in HEAT with time of 4.30.2. but slowest finalist time was 4.27.6.

K1 10,000 7th, time of 51.54.7, just missing a prize.

A. MORTON. Contesting the same opposition as Drew, was 8th in his HEAT of the SENIOR 500m. in a time of 2.14.4. and in the SENIOR 1000m. was 5th in 4.17.9. a personal best for Andrew, and had he been in Drew's heat, would have taken him to the Semi-final.

Both of our Seniors can now claim to have paddled against the world's best and emerged by no means disgraced. Indeed, if we had our training in Scotland organised and like facilities on our doorstep, instead of the usual lengthy and expensive need to travel to Nottingham to meet any real opposition at home, these two have a lot of very real promise.

In the K1 JUNIOR 1000m. event

PETER TURCAN was 2nd in his heat with	4.32.1
COLIN TANNOCK was 1st in his heat with	4.38.2
IAN SPEIRS Was 1st in his heat with	4.35.0
A. SAMUEL was 5th with	4.37.7.

We therefore had the prospect of three of our Juniors competing in the final with it being anyone's guess as to what the respective placings might be. Unfortunately, Ian Speirs was caught paddling backwards at the start and was left badly, and with a great deal of Nationalistic pride we watched

PETER TURCAN 2nd with	4.36.0
COLIN TANNOCK 3rd with	4.39.6

to take two well deserved prizes.

JUNIOR 500m

P. TURCAN was 5th in heat with	2.19.2
C. TANNOCK was 2nd in heat with	2.18.3
I. SPEIRS was 1st in heat with	2.20.6

With three through to the final, this gave us 2 paddlers again to the final, when:

C. TANNOCK was 3rd in	2.13.8.
I. SPEIRS was 4th in	2.16.0, so once again we had two prizes.

In the JUNIOR 10,000m. we had another 1st with

P. TURCAN in a time of	50.04.6	
C. TANNOCK 3rd in	50.05.6, with the 2nd man T. DOMBURG of Trekfogels in a time of	50.05.1, so you can see it was very very close to a 1st and 2nd.

Our K2 pair SPEIRS/SAMUEL missed 1st place in the 1000m. by the narrowest of margins, the winning time being 4.18.0, against their time of 4.18.7, and once again two prizes in the K2.

In the 10,000m. the same crew were 1st JUNIOR and 6th overall, and with the Russians to contend with this is most creditable, and we added two more prizes to the total.

In the ladies' events, the 300m. was contested by M. McCLURE at Senior level, and after the judges had adjudicated on the large number of disqualifications owing to various contraventions, we were relieved to learn that Maureen was not one of the guilty and that she moreover qualified for a prize as 5th overall and 2nd Senior with a time of 16.47.0.

Also in the Ladies' 3000m. at Adspiranten was Yvonne Allison who although stiff after the long paddle in the Haarlem L.D., also managed a 6th place with a time of 18.29.6.

In /

4.

In the LADIES' SENIOR 500m., Maureen just missed getting through to the final with a 4th place in a time of 2.39.2. and Yvonne likewise missed her final with a heat place of 8th and a time of 3.00.8.

Very much to everyone's surprize, including his own, the Team Manager managed to stay upright this year in the VETERANS' 500m. event, and was rewarded with a Bronze Medal for his efforts, this being a third and last prize. I tell you, it feels good, and must be great when you win! If I can maintain this rate of progress, just watch me when I'm 60.

The score for the combined events is:

Five 1sts., Three 2nds., Four 3rds., and Two 4ths.

With four lovely Trophies and ten medals, this was a most encouraging and rewarding result.

My desire now is to somehow or other obtain funds which would enable me to take a Minibus to the various Regattas at Nottingham and to the various National L.D. events South of the Border, so that our National Squad can compete at top level in Britain often enough to gain the degree of competition they require and deserve.

However, to use the private cars of the competitors for the trips, as well as for those to the continent, is far from the ideal way to proceed partly because it does little to engender a team spirit, but mostly because although one may be recompensed for direct fuel costs, few people are willing or able to see their cars subjected to the ordeal of carrying canoes, paddles, tents, food, stoves, etc. over 1000 miles minimum per trip.

I am very much indebted to the Sprint Secretary Drew Samuel and to the Treasurer A. Morton for their assistance, during and prior to this regatta. Also to Johnnie Walker of Kilmarnock for their donation of the National Beverage, which was received with a great deal of pleasure by our hosts at Zaandam. And last but not least, I am indebted to our competitors for their conduct off the water as much as on.

It is no coincidence that we from Scotland are so warmly welcomed and invited back each year, and the fact that this year we were taken on a tour of the points of interest around Zaandam by two very nice Dutch kindred spirits will remain, for me, an added bonus which I will treasure. I share the feelings of the Mayor of Zaandam, who says:

"Of course the matches are very important; of course I like to say that the best may win; but perhaps the main thing of this regatta is that young people of different nationalities meet and get acquainted with each other."

In his letter to me, Mr. A. Reitmaier, Secretary of K.U. De Geuzen, states that this is the best Regatta the Club has organised in their history, and warmly thanks us for our attendance once again. He hopes it will be possible for them to return the visit if we can find a date which would be acceptable to them in an already very busy sporting calendar. We are of course cordially invited to attend in 1977.

We are also invited to attend at their L.D. on 14th and 15th August.

W. McKinlay.

12C Calside,  
Paisley.

Dear Sirs,

Canoe Polo

Over the past few weeks Paisley Kayak Club have run two successful canoe polo tournaments, one at Callander held in conjunction with the Water Sports Festival with a massive entry of sixteen teams and a smaller affair at Castle Semple with five teams.

The Callander event was won by Edinburgh White Water Club, with Strathkelvin Kayak Club and Glasgow University Canoe Club taking second and third prizes. The games showed an exciting combination of skill in boat handling and competitive (killer!) instinct. The former showed up in the number of goals scored in each match and the latter showed up in the number of holes scored in each boat. More of this later.

The Castle Semple Tournament provided the same boat handling skills, but much less of the aggression. In one way this was a better tournament in that the small numbers allowed time for each team to play each other. Forth Canoe Club were the deserving winners on this occasion with second place going to newcomers to competitive canoeing, Renfrew District Canoe Club.

As far as the organisers, Paisley Kayak Club, were concerned, the kindest thing I can say is that they are far too gentlemanly for this game (the mugs).

Since I am about to indulge in some mild stirring for the rest of this article I would state that the opinions expressed here are my own personal ones and that I have no connection with the official canoe polo committee.

Until now Scottish Paddlers/Clubs had been waiting for canoe polo to get off the ground before taking it seriously enough to provide themselves with the necessary equipment. I would suggest that the sport is now in full flight, all be it a little ungainly. What is now required is a bit of a power boost in the form of a damn sight more boats than are available at present.

To my knowledge there are only two clubs in Scotland who have Vampire Bats and are, or have been, prepared to allow their boats to be used in organised competitions. Polo fans will know that the vampire is more suited to the game than conventional bats.

Readers will note that I say "have been prepared to allow their boats to be used". I am not at all sure that this will be the case in the future. At present teams have simply rolled up, handed over £2.50 to the man taking names, usually late, and proceeded to enjoy at least two games and the possibility of wrecking someone else's boats. I really don't see the two Club Committees wearing this situation much longer.

On the bright side, I would point out that there are at least two vampire moulds which I am sure the two aforesaid clubs would be pleased to hire out to other clubs thus permitting them the privilege of wrecking their own boats. The other alternative, of course, is to jack up the fees to cover boat repair and replacement cost. Perhaps we will even see an O.P.E.C. Type Cartel controlling hire fees.

Finally something which is official. The Committee of Paisley Kayak Club would sincerely like to thank Forth Canoe Club for their invaluable assistance in running these two competitions.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd. PETER MOORE.

6. RESULTS

LOCH LOMOND L.D. 12.6.76.

1. P. Turcan	71.02	1. Ladies. M. McClure	59.24
2. A. Morton	71.08	2. C. Lynn	66.59
3. F. Nelson	77.32		

1. Junior	G. Robertson	57.17	Club Points:
2.	A. Munro	59.40	Irvine - 36 E.W.W.C. - 22

AWE WHITE WATER 13.6.76.

1. A. Morton	15.42	Slalom: 1. D. Brown	18.20
2. R. Lang	15.56	2. D. Payne	18.46
3. P. Turcan	16.05	Team: 1. E.W.W.C.	16.44
4. J. Oliver	16.22 (1st Jun)		

Ladies: 1. L. Williamson 21.49

TROSSACHS SPRINT REGATTA: 6.6.76.

Senior 10,000 K1	D. Brown	England.
Senior 10,000 K2	Belcher/Brown	England.
Senior 500 K1	D. Brown	England
Senior 1,000 K1	R. Belcher	England
Senior 500 K2	Batchelor/Speirs	Scotland.
Senior 1,000 K2	Batchelor/Speirs	Scotland
Ladies 500 K1	M. McClure	Scotland
500 K2	McClure/Smith	Scotland
Junior 10,000 K1	R. Montgomery	Scotland
Junior 10,000 K2	Montgomery/Speirs	Scotland
Junior 1,000 K1	P. Turcan	Scotland
Junior 1,000 K2	Speirs/Samuel	Scotland
Junior 500 K1	C. Tannock	Scotland
Junior 500 K2	Speirs/Montgomery	Scotland.

ROUND CUMBRAE 27.6.76.

1. A. Morton	103.00	Junior: 1. A. Munro	69.05
2. R. Lang	104.42	2. A. Lyall	69.35
3. P. Turcan	107.09		

Ladies:

1. M. McClure	73.20	Club Points:	
2. Y. Allison	86.16	Strathkelvin	25
		Trossachs	15

TAIL O' THE BANK L.D. RACE 28th August 1976.

1. A. Morton	Overall singles winner and 1st W.W. Racer
2. D. Samuel	2nd Overall and 1st Touring Class
M. McClure	1st Lady
A. Munro	1st Junior
B. Beeley	1st Veteran

A. Morton's time (unofficial) 1 hour 20 mins. for the 10 mile course. The force 3 winds made the going tough through confused wave patterns.



A total of twenty-eight competitors took part this year from nine Scottish clubs, with Irvine Canoe Club again showing their strength in the older age group taking all of the first place medals. Due to the bat polo being staged in the morning, all the sprint events had to be crammed into an afternoon session. The paddlers are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and stamina, some completing a total of 8,000 metres in all. For the future I would like to see a full day being set aside for the championships enabling competitors and officials to take a break. This would allow the 250m and 500m events to be staged in the morning and the longer distances after lunch.

The 250m bat "sprint" race scheduled unfortunately did not take place due to the fact that the bats did not arrive from Callander. For this the organisers of the sprint event are eternally grateful as we promptly ate the prizes!

On behalf of Strathkelvin Kayak Club I thank all those who supported the event and in particular Drew Samuel and members of the Trossachs Canoe and Boat Club who set up the course.

RESULTS

\* Medal winners

GIRLS ESPADA 'A'

250m	1st	Ruth Stevenson	Garnock C.C.	1 min. 48s
1,000m	1st	Ruth Stevenson	Garnock C.C.	9 " 49

GIRLS ESPADA 'C'

500m	1st	Yvonne Allison *	Irvine C.C.	3 m. 25s
1,000m	1st	Yvonne Allison	"	6 m. 41.2
	2nd	Kathrynn McLeod	G.U.C.C.	7 m. 19.3

BOYS ESPADA 'A'

250m	1st	Craig Samuel	Trossachs C.B.C.	3 m. 25
1,000m	1st	Craig Samuel	"	11 m. 4.2

BOYS ESPADA 'B'

500m	1st	Alastair Lyall	Port Glasgow	2 m. 49.6
	2nd	Robert Smith	Trossachs C.B.C.	3 m. 11.4
	3rd	Jim Linning	Wallace H.S.	4 m. 22.8
1,000m	1st	Robert Smith	T.C.B.C.	6 m. 51
	2nd	Billy McKinnon	T.C.B.C.	6 m. 55
	3rd	Tommy Turcan	S.K.C.	7 m. 38
	4th	Graeme Bruce	S.K.C.	7 m. 55

BOYS ESPADA 'C'

500m	1st	Robert Montgomery *	Irvine C.C.	2 m. 43.8
	2nd	Peter Smith *	Forth C.C.	2 m. 59.8
	3rd	George Robertson	Irvine C.C.	3 m. 2.4
1,000m	1st	George Robertson *	Irvine C.C.	5 m. 59
	2nd	Peter Smith *	Forth C.C.	6 m. 11.5
	3rd	Alastair Munro	Port Glasgow	6 m. 20.5
	4th	Jerrold Fraser	Forth C.C.	6 m. 52.8
<u>K2 500m</u>	1st	G. Robertson/R.Montgomery *	Irvine CC	2 m. 35.4
	2nd	A. Munro/A.Lyall	Port Glasgow	3 m. 10.3
	3rd	A. Wilson/P.Smith	Forth C.C.	3 m. 52.4
<u>K2 1,000m</u>	1st	G.Robertson/R.Montgomery *	Irvine CC	5 m. 20
	2nd	A.Munro/P.Smith		6 m. 34
	3rd	T.Turcan/G.Bruce	S.K.C.	7 m. 16.

\*\*\*\*\*

Six teams entered The three Lochs Marathon this year, two tackling the 52 mile course and four the 32 mile course. No team was forthcoming from Irvine C.C. due to a sprint event at HolmePierrepoint, however Bruce Beeley and Les Maitland paddled the course for enjoyment.

The winning team, and last year's winners, Robert Todd, John Cameron and Colin Campbell of the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club, set off from Duck Bay at a cracking pace passing Dumbarton 1 hour 2 mins later. From there onwards the Senior teams encountered a force 5 wind and had to negotiate sandbanks slowing them down considerably. The juniors, by starting at Helensburgh did not have any problems with weather or tide, and finished the course on the Saturday without any problems.

Sunday began wet with both the Royal West teams holding the lead. The portage from Arrochar to Tarbet saw the junior team in trouble when their trolley collapsed. The fastest portage was by Bruce Beeley and Les Maitland taking only 31½ minutes. From Tarbet to Duck Bay the weather became hot and sunny and two teams were forced to retire.

<u>RESULTS</u>		<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>SENIORS</u>				
1st.R.W.S.A.B.C.	...	7 hrs 36m	3 hrs 47m	11hrs 23
2nd.BLANTYRE	...	8 hrs 51	4 hrs 38	13hrs 29
(Bruce/Les).	...	8 hrs 15	3 hrs 30	11hrs 45
<u>JUNIORS</u>				
1st.R.W.S.A.B.C.	...	3 hrs 31	4 hrs 48	8hrs 19
2nd.S.K.C. "A"	...	4 hrs 00	4 hrs 37	8hrs 37
S.K.C. "B"	...	4 hrs 36	Retired	-
Blairvadoch	...	4 hrs 21	Retired	-

On behalf of Strathkelvin Kayak Club I wish to thank all who gave their time to support the event.

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KYLES OF BUTE WEEKEND - SCA TOURR. Todd Jun.

Saturday 3rd July saw twelve canoeists on the beach close to Wemyss Bay pier on the Firth of Clyde, preparing to embark on a weekend paddle to Colintrave in the Kyles of Bute. This was the first SCA organised tour for some years and although many individuals and clubs were notified, the event was supported by only three clubs: Paisley Kayak, Strathkelvin Kayak and Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club.

Brilliant sunshine and a light breeze accompanied the paddlers as they made their way across the Clyde round Toward Point and into the Kyles of Bute. Total distance for the weekend was not more than 25 miles. While this may be considered a fairly short weekend paddle it did allow plenty of time for fishing, sunbathing, general discussion and other well known activities participated in by Paisley Kayak club members!

After a lunch stop near Ardyne Point next to the Oil Platform Construction Site, the party moved on over fairly calm waters eventually reaching the campsite at Colintrave, 200 yards South East of the ferry slipway. Despite newspaper reports that the area was "swarming" with basking sharks only one unconfirmed report of a dorsal fin was made during the whole weekend. Fishing was not over productive but enough mackerel were available to enjoy the taste of smoked fish later in the evening round the campfire. Considerable discussion took place with regard to the organisation of Sea Canoeing. A summary of points raised which may be of interest to others is outlined:

Due /

Due to the relatively poor response to this weekend paddle is there any demand for organized Sea Canoeing from S.C.A. members? Will Sea Canoeing continue to be dominated by English paddlers who are travelling hundreds of miles to the West Coast of Scotland in order to meet the unique challenge on our turbulent tidal waters?

Do Sea Canoeists present the wrong image to inland and competition paddlers? (Does paddling into Corryvreckan or pushing across the Minch in a heavy mist not qualify as competition with the highest stakes?)

The similarity between mountain climbing and the challenge of the sea to the canoeist was stressed by more than one paddler. Most persons enjoy the quiet paddle on an easy stretch of water, but to meet these conditions all the time would be boring. Rough water, Surfing, and Open Water Crossings also have their appeal. If you feel there is a demand for this type of activity then make yourself heard.

Next year will see several trips organized by my own club. From easier trips, such as the one described here, right through the scale up to a more advanced level where members will attempt an open sea crossing to one of the more remote island groups in the Outer Hebrides.

Meanwhile, back at Colintrave, probably due to the hot weather combined with the location of our camp next to the stream, the most violent attack by the Scottish midge was in progress. Such was their ferocity and enthusiasm that one member of the group was forced to rush from his tent at 0500 on Sunday morning, paddle across the Kyles to the concrete slipway on the Isle of Bute where he managed to lie undisturbed for one complete hour without one single midge attacking!

Sunday brought with it another fine day of brilliant sunshine. Members of each club did their "own thing" today. John Turcan (Strathkelvin Kayak Club) with his son and friend paddled down the west side of the Kyles via Tighnabruach. Paisley Kayak Club, consisting of SCA Touring Committee Secretary, Peter Moore, who organized the weekend, Dave Shaw, Ian McAusland plus two other members of the club, headed back down the Kyles toward Port Bannatyne. The Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club consisting of Linda Mitchell, Jen Duncan, Colin Campbell and myself decided to enjoy the sun while it lasted and eventually headed back to reach Wemyss Bay at 2000 with a Force 5 North Easterly which helped to make life a little more interesting.

As requested by Peter Moore, I've given a brief account of this SCA Tour. An interesting weekend for those involved but could have been better supported by SCA members. Many thanks to Peter for organizing the trip and I hope more support will be given to future SCA Touring Committee Ventures.

R. Todd (Jnr.)

#### BAT POLO COMPETITION - SATURDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER 1976

FORTH CANOE CLUB invite you to a BAT POLO COMPETITION at CRAIGLOCKHART SPORTS CENTRE (Happy Valley) Colinton Road, Edinburgh (near Meggetland) on SATURDAY 11th September at 11 a.m.

ENTRIES to Kelso Riddell, 18, Spottiswoode Road, EDINBURGH, EH9 1BQ.  
Telephone: 031-447-2030.

COST £3 per team, which includes use of BATS but please bring your own paddles (no metal tips), spray decks, crash hats and buoyancy aids.

This is not a knock-out competition but a FULL LEAGUE EVENT  
No sex discrimination in this competition.

"Canoeing in Corsica? Rather a long way, is it not? And, what "white-water" will you find there, in the middle of summer, in the middle of the Mediterranean?" A fair question reader, especially if you are a youthful canoeist - and 99% of canoeists probably are. But, when this particular canoeist happens to be already knocking at the door of older age (I suppose at 57 one is knocking) - the prospect of spending six weeks floating in his collapsible "Tyne" in the warm, lovely sunshine of the Med. is a most tempting one. Besides, what else is there to do when the Fates have made him a widower, and he has six sunny weeks in hand? "Pack the car", I said to myself. Your list is to hand - canoe, paddles, trolley, bags, spare parts, tent, maps, clothes, and 'surtout' as I shall soon be saying in France, FOOD, in great big capital letters - a full supply of tea, coffee, tins galore of meat and fruit, Marvel, packets of soup, and some butter packed in a Thermos jar for the first days of the journey. After that, one lives off the land.

What a pity I can't give you a lift, reader! You would love it. The journey to Dover, by means of the A1 and the A14, to the Dartford Tunnel, and the final and delightful A2, London to Dover, passes pleasantly. Why hurry unduly? So I leave the Motorway, and a kindly farmer allows me to pitch my "Good Companion" in his field. The Channel is calm, and, when one is by nature a poor sailor, one could be forgiven if I knelt on the deck, faced East to Mecca, and thanked Allah for his maritime mercies.

Calais to Nice - six hundred miles of what is rightly called "La Belle France". Away from the towns, motoring in France is a fine experience - the vast, green, fields of Normandy, the long, Poplar-lined avenues, the changing country scene of fields and forests as one travels south to the vast city of Lyons, around which there is now a splendid by-pass. Motoring made easy. And so one comes to the Mediterranean and to Nice, the port of embarkation for Corsica. It is a night crossing and, by good luck, perfection. No need for a cabin. One sleeps on deck, with a full moon for companion, and the warm, soft, air of the Mediterranean as a night-cap. At 6 a.m. next day Corsica is glimpsed through the morning mists. The jagged peaks of the mountains are unforgettable in their thrill. Calvi, beloved by the Greeks, two thousand years ago, has a perfect setting of sea, beach, and pine-woods, and it is with a mind full of anticipation that one leaves the Car Ferry and finds oneself in Corsica at last.

In the S.E. corner of Corsica lies the small town of Porto Vecchio, an easy day of travel, firstly over mountains and then by a long level road by the sea down the East coast. "But go to Palembaggia" my friends had advised. "It's marvellous." And marvellous it most surely is. Eight miles from Porto Vecchio, Palembaggia is a beach - and nothing but a beach, a lovely beach of fine sand, with a background of those enchanting umbrella Corsican pines. Behind the fringe of pines is an extensive clearing in the forest, and it was there that I pitched the "Good Companion". In summer, this glade is more than occupied by family camping, the families coming mostly from Marseilles for their summer vacation. Wonderful campers the French, and expert in the provision of the creature comforts of life "a la belle etoile." - equipment, food, wine, and above all, a sense of enjoyment and appreciation of living in the sun. There were three difficulties to overcome - frightening difficulties. Palembaggia was not, when I first went there ten years ago, a camp site. It had no water, no toilet accommodation and no shop. You brought your own water with you, and drove the eight miles back to Porto Vecchio for refills. As for the second lack, then carry a portable chemical "Lou", or go to the woods. The third problem was easy of solution. A morning van would appear, with a good supply of that most luscious of breakfasts, warm, French bread in the shape of "la Baguette."

This, then, was the Canoe Scenario - the warm, calm sea of the Med. with its background of beach, pines, and distant mountains. Collapsible canoes are probably becoming a rarity, the modern fibre-glass being so much easier to carry. But it's most satisfying to empty the canoe-bags of all the bits-and-pieces, and to spend a pleasant hour in the morning sun assembling /

assembling your craft. Carefully, I load it on to the small trolley and push it to the water's edge. No need to carry waterproof gear - one canoes in swim-trunks and stays that way all day, if your skin is properly protected against sun-burn. It's cooler on the sea and a joy to move through the water with that easy, smooth, stroke of the paddles that is possible on wide waters as compared to the white waters of turbulent rivers. A sport particularly suited to older canoeists, and it was with appreciative anticipation that I examined the possibilities of some canoe-voyaging. By the happiest of chances, Palembaggia has a group of small islands a mile or so distant - Les Iles Cerbicales. Over I went to explore the beaches that lay, so temptingly, across the mile of water. An occasional out-board motor craft passed to explore some quiet, lonely, spot, and only the small yachts lay motionless on the calm sea.

Canoe-camping has many joys, and none better than the evening meal. After eight o'clock, darkness falls, One dresses for dinner - shorts, shirt and sandals. The table is set outside the tent, complete with Gaz lamp radio, (used with the greatest discretion) wine and dishes, and, in such a setting, even the simplest meal becomes a feast. It is a wise canoeist who looks well to the inner man. Never be satisfied with less than a three-course dinner after a day's canoeing!

Canoe-voyaging round Corsica is perfectly feasible, the greatest practical difficulty being water. A 2-gallon Jerrycan is essential and an ample supply of food for two or three days must be carried fore and aft. Lacking a companion, I settled for day voyages, finding many, many small bays seldom visited even by the native Corsicans. This was endless pleasure, two or three hours' canoeing, then the afternoon spent sun-bathing, reading, sleeping, swimming, as one willed. One regretted not sharing such delights, and found consolation in the knowledge that, come night, and a return to Palembaggia, the society of others would have a double sweetness. As I canoed homewards, the joys of such an entirely physical life filled me with gratitude. But is one ever alone upon the sea when the coast-line is so near? And, if one is, such feelings of isolation disappear when suddenly, a Mermaid pops up before the very bow of the canoe. "A Mermaid," you say, patient reader - "But it's impossible. The silence of the seas has made you mad". Oh no! Not at all. It happened! All of a sudden, right in front of me, so near that I had to hold the descending paddle lest I strike her on the head, there popped up my "Mermaid" - an under-water Jacques Cousteau maiden complete with rubber suit, compressed air cylinder, mask, goggles and flippers. A charming creature and how grateful I was that I managed to recall some of my school French to indulge in a short conversation with such a marine "find". Surely, a touch of Scottish gallantry was indicated! And what more fitting than to wish her "Bon Voyage!" with a little rhyme?!

"Merry Maiden in the Med,  
Popping up her rubbered head,  
'Bonjour, M'selle! Mais quel surpris!  
To meet, right here, a charming she!' "

And so the days passed. For two weeks I lived the life of a Mediterranean "Riley." Day after day, the sun rose in a cloudless sky, and the day's canoeing came and went, leaving in my mind unforgettable memories of a quite perfect holiday. When I left Palembaggia at last, to go into the forests and mountains of the interior, and to explore the entire coast-line of Corsica, I know that I had made the most fitting start. Regretfully, I dismantled my trusty Tyne, and set forth, enriched in recollections.

S. Brown.

---oOo---

This year Scottish paddlers will have the pleasure and pain of paddling on one of the best L.D. courses in the world from Dunkeld to Perth on the River Tay. The race is on the 3rd October and by that time there may be a little more water in the river, enough to make Campsie Linn and what follows a good test of watermanship.

With a view to raising the status of this race, Peter Turcan and Andy Morton set out to paddle from Kenmore to Perth on the 11th August. They used a Lazer and Sabre K1 respectively and paddled in low water conditions without any portages for 6 hours 20 mins., not including four stops totalling 1½ hrs. During their paddle their times and wellbeing were checked by Mr. J. Turcan who followed the paddlers' progress by car. Is this the first time that the course has been paddled in a day and is it the first time that Sprint/L.D. kayaks have negotiated Grandtully rapids?

It is hoped that next year a race will be run over the same course, extended a little to make it 50 miles long! By way of an easier introduction the race will be held over two days with an overnight stop at Dunkeld. An attempt will be made to obtain sponsorship for the event and it is hoped to make the race one of the top Marathon events in the British and perhaps even World Calendars.

Any comments or assistance from interested parties will be welcome.

#### THE WHITE WATER CALENDAR COMMENT

A.M.

Has the time not come to reappraise the White Water Calendar to suit more adequately the training requirements of our paddlers? To date, our W.W. competitors have to train to top fitness for the Scottish Champs in January, then three months later do the same for the Team selection event and finally maintain or improve fitness for the Continental competitions yet another three months later!

When abroad we discover that the National Championships of Germany and France are during June and July and that foreign competitors don't see a boat for half the year in some cases principally because of the severe winters.

#### TEVIOT SLALOM

#### ROXBURGH CANOE CLUB

SEPTEMBER 11th and 12th 1976  
 Division 4 - Novice/Judges  
 Teviot Bridge Kelso  
 -----

LOCATION The Slalom area is on the River Teviot on the A699 Kelso to St. Boswells road, only ½ mile from Kelso. It will be well signposted from both North and South. (Ordnance Survey 1" Sheet 70 - Map Reference 720 335).

ENTRIES Entries to arrive NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY 31st AUGUST.

(All entries to be on B.C.U. Entry Forms).

Postal Orders or Cheques should be made payable to:  
 Roxburgh Canoe Club.

Entries should be sent with Fees and 2 S.A.E. to:-

Mr. K. Fraser,  
 6, Mansfield Square,  
 HAWICK.

Telephone No. HAWICK 2148.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION

SLALOM SELECTIONS

At the forthcoming Scottish Championships at GRANDTULLY on Saturday/Sunday, 18/19th SEPTEMBER, there will be a Scottish versus Combined Services Team Event. The following teams were selected at a recent slalom committee meeting.

- K1 SCOTLAND "A" CUTHILL, DOLAN, YOUNG.  
SCOTLAND "B" FRASER, MILNE, RAMAGE.  
SCOTLAND "C" OLIVER, A.FLORENCE, TANNOCK.  
SCOTLAND "D" ROBERTSON, KENNEDY, MORTON.
- C1 HATFIELD; YOUNG; EASTWOOD.
- C2 RAMAGE/KENNEDY; EASTWOOD/ROBERTSON; ANO/ANO.

\*\*\*\*\*

S.C.A. SPRINT TEAM 1976

The following team has been chosen to represent the S.C.A. at the EMSCHADE SPRINT REGATTA in HOLLAND on 18th/19th SEPTEMBER.

SENIORS W. Reichenstein. A. Batchelor. M. McClure.

JUNIORS P. Turcan. I. Speirs. C. Tannock.

JUVENILES R. Montgomery. Y. Allison.

TEAM MANAGER W. McKinlay.

Unfortunately, although Andrew Morton was selected, he is unable to go and there may even be other changes in the above team. However we wish them the best of luck and hope for another barrow-load of medals.

---oOo---

STOP PRESS NEWS .... STRATHCLYDE WATER SPORTS CENTRE is opening on the weekend 18/19th SEPTEMBER and it will be fully functional from the 20th SEPTEMBER. There are the following facilities:

A NINE LANE CANOE COURSE: CANOE STORES:  
CHANGING ROOMS AND SHOWERS: ROOMS FOR MEETINGS:

It is hoped that the next SCA Council Meeting will be held at the Centre.

Surf canoeing is one of the most exciting sections of the sport. It is difficult to describe the exhilaration and excitement achieved from this sport but someone once described it as akin to driving a high powered sports car along a twisting mountain pass - there is no way of knowing what is around the next corner and only your own reactions can save you from imminent disaster. Most people today surf either in a slalom or a specially designed surf shoe. The surf shoe performs very like a conventional surf board, it runs before the green wave and can be used on fairly big surf. Slalom canoe uses most of the wave and very rarely uses the bottom or trough of the wave. In big water it is completely uncontrollable because the breaking water falls on the canoe and either breaks it up or puts immense strain on the paddler and the canoe.

Very little competitive surfing has taken place in Scotland. I would think this is mainly because of the lack of surf canoeists in Scotland and the fact that the English surf scene is chiefly down in Cornwall where they hold national championships in September each year.

A surf event normally comprises of a canoe handling event which is open to anyone and uses only slalom type canoes. There are also novice, ladies and junior sections of this competition. Surf kayak handling event which is for the surf shoe or specialist surf boat. There is also a surf race and a surf relay race with teams of four people. The surf races are probably the easiest to organise and judge. Competitors line up on the beach between two poles. At a starting signal they take their canoe to the water, get in without help, paddle through the surf and around a buoy or boat somewhere beyond the break then return, the winner is the first across the line between the two poles. The team event is similar to this but when the first canoeist crosses the finish line, the second canoeist can start off. The race finishes when the fourth canoeist has crossed the finishing line.

Canoe handling and surf kayak handling are a little more difficult to judge. Six competitors start with their boats on the edge of the water. They can be assisted in getting into their boats, they paddle out and surf for 20 minutes and a signal is given at this time for the end of surfing. Then the next six competitors enter the water and so on. The final is run with the top scoring competitor from each heat. The main things the judges are looking for is the ability of the surfer to catch a wave with ease and then to ride a good wave on the shoulder and constantly beat the break. If you don't beat the break the canoe is carried into the "soup" and the paddler has then to paddle out beyond the break to surf back on the green wave. The canoeist is judged on a maximum of ten points per run with the best five runs counting. There are additional bonus points for specialist feats.



For those of you who would like to be involved in surfing or improve your surf technique, why not come on some of the special courses run from time to time for surf. You could, of course, come to the North East of Scotland Surf Canoeing Championships which are to be held at Sandend, near Cullen and organised by Elgin Canoe Club on the 28th and 29th August. This is a weekend not only for surf competition but also for those who just want to come and find out what surf is all about. On the last course run by Elgin Canoe Club several very good slalom paddlers came along and discovered, to their amazement, that white water was rather "tame" in comparison to surf!

12, Milnefield Avenue,  
Elgin IV30 3EL.

John G. Mould, B.A.  
Advanced Sea Canoeist  
Senior Instructor (Sea).

#### NOTES FOR JUDGES - SURF CANOEING

##### Kayak Handling Event

1. Take-Off - Catching the wave at its peak prior to it breaking, consider position of canoe, and size of peak or shoulder.
2. F/ward or Diag Run - Running forwards or diagonally across a green section of wave.
3. Zig Zag - From a diagonal run two changes in direction to finish in original direction. Turns should be fast and definite.
4. Change of Direction Forwards or Backwards (C.O.D.) - Running diagonally to running diagonally in the opposite direction. The canoe must be established in each run i.e. visible pause in C.O.D.
5. Shoulder Run - Maintaining a position in the green wave ahead of its breaking section.
6. Reverse Run - Running stern first in green water.
7. Roller Coaster - Climbing and dropping in the shoulder.
8. Nose Dive - Diving the nose in front of the wave in order to lose the wave.
9. F/ward Loop - A 180° rotation stern over bow..
10. Pop Out - A nose dive executed with such power that the canoe nearly becomes airborne as it pops backwards.
11. Dry Loop - A forward loop with a half twist so as to land upright.
12. Reverse Loop - A loop backwards bow over stern.
13. Eskimo Loop - A reverse loop with a half twist (dry reverse loop).
14. Pirouette - 360° spin with canoe verticle.
15. Soup Roll - Rolling in the white-water whilst still riding wave.
16. Bongo Slide - Sliding down a green face sideways usually in high paddle brace.
17. New Technique - Any skill performed not listed.

ALL SKILLS MENTIONED MUST BE CARRIED OUT WITH PADDLES

Overall Variety - One extra point added to final score for each skill executed throughout heat.

Technique - Awarded to canoeists showing efficient techniques whilst paddling out through surf, i.e. using rip currents - going out between sets. Also the selection of well formed waves will score in this section. Only scored once per heat.

Extras - ROLL OUT - Rolling in a broken wave in order to lose it.

ROLL UNDER - Rolling under a broken wave whilst paddling out. Once p. heat

Debit Marks - Deducted for bad sportsmanship and unsafe manoeuvres.

24.8.76.

Dear Ed.,

While on a trip to Stanley Weir the other day, I met a most pleasant French gentleman who asked for advice on river touring in Scotland, with a view to bringing over a party next year. He extended an invitation for any Scots paddlers to join him at Paris, and perhaps a continental tour could be made with his group providing transport on the other side of the channel. Anyone interested should contact:

CLAUDE KOLSKI,  
Jeune Kayak Parisien,  
18 Avenue de la Porte Brancion,  
PARIS, 15.

personal address: 58, Rue François Pinson,  
92320 Châtillon,  
Tel.No. 645 6422.

Yours sincerely,

KELSO RIDDELL.

\*\*\*\*\*

RESULTS: BRITISH SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS 14th AUGUST 1976.

Despite being injured in a car crash on the Friday night, Ian Speirs of Irvine Canoe Club paddled to glory on Saturday and Sunday at the British Championships at Nottingham on 14th August.

While driving Willie MacKinlay's Morris Marina, Ian was rammed by another car travelling at speed on the wrong side of the road. Ian was trapped for half an hour in the car and spent the rest of the evening in hospital receiving attention to cuts and bruises. He left the hospital at 1.30 a.m. on Saturday with 9 stitches, and nine hours later was paddling in the 1,000m Junior heats. Not surprisingly he had to withdraw half way down the course. However he and Robert Montgomery also of Irvine and also a passenger in the car, raced in the K2 event in the afternoon and won their heat! Later in the day they came 4th in the final. On the following day they gained two bronze medals, one in the 500m K2 and one in the 500 K4.

One wonders what they would have won if they had not been involved in the accident.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP K2 10,000m OPEN EVENT  
at CASTLE SEMPLE

1st	Drew Batchelor / Willie Reichenstein
2nd	Ian Speirs / Robert Montgomery
3rd	Drew Samuel / Alistair Wilson.

IRVINE L.D.  
22nd AUGUST 1976.

Due to an investigation by the L.D. Committee into the running of this event, the results are not yet available.

A. Morton.

ROXBURGH CANOE CLUB

17.

LOWER TWEED L.D.

SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER, 1976

KELSO to COLDSTREAM - distance approximately 10 miles.

Further details from John Currie,  
Howdenburn School House,  
Jedburgh.  
Tel.No. JEDBURGH 2542.

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18.

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS..... (or problems on returning from Zaandam).

Good News: Lets go to Amsterdam and see the Red Light district!

Bad News: Used a gallon of petrol to get there and have barely enough to  
get back to England.

Good News: We made the ferry with  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon to spare.

Bad News: It is the English Bank holiday and all the Harwich petrol  
stations are closed at 7 a.m.

Good News: The A.A. office says there is a 24hr. petrol station at Coldstream.

Bad News: The needle is at empty after ten miles.

Good News: There's a petrol station open just when we are losing hope.

Bad News: The car sitting in the forecourt has just taken the last two  
gallons of petrol in the whole garage!

Good News: There is a petrol station a mile away that will be open.

Bad News: You've guessed - it's closed.

Good News: There is an inhabited house above the station.

Bad News: The owner will not open even for a £1 a gallon

Good News: There is another chap with the same problem but a little more  
petrol, so we drive to the nearest 'phone box and 'phone the A.A.

Petter News: While we are 'phoning in a deserted village square at 8.00 a.m.  
an A.A. van passes the box. We tell the operator who immediately  
contacts the van - "Big Brother is watching you".

Bad News: He only carries one gallon of petrol, not enough for a two ton  
van let alone a thirsty car.

Good News: We'll just have to go back to the garage and wait till it opens  
at 9. Since there is time to spare why not fill a page for  
the Kayak Mag.?

A. Morton.

# Commodore's Comment

19.

This wonderful summer has aroused a great dormant urge among our many canoeists to take to touring. John Young, after years of patient waiting for the right weather, took his party round Mull in July. We have had weekend trips round the islands of the Forth; to upper Loch Etive; to Loch Lomond; and to the Tweed and the Tay during July and August.

Even the S.C.A. organised a weekend tour as you can read elsewhere in this issue. However, reading between the lines of the S.C.A. tour report I get the impression that there is perhaps some confusion in the mind of the writer as to the difference between sea canoeing and sea touring.

If one wants to go "canoeing for kicks" the sea can provide as much excitement as Grandtully or Campsie Linn, at places like the Grey Dogs, the Falls of Lora, the sea rapids at the mouth of Loch Creran and the Shiel Falls into Loch Moidart at low tide. The Dores Mor in a strong south westerly against the flood tide can have hay stacks 10' to 15' spouting around, or try the overfalls at the south end of the Kylereea. And, of course, there is always surfing which John Moulds describes so well in his article in this issue.

Sea touring on the other hand is using the canoe as a vehicle to get from A to B, carrying everything you need and being completely independent for as long as your food lasts; and experience has taught us that 3 days worth of food is the minimum to carry. This is a leisurely pursuit and not a L.D. Race. In fact canoeing becomes almost a secondary interest as a bicycle is to a cycling tour. Interests in geology, marine biology, birds, history and the like can be pursued to ones hearts content. However, the route has to be well planned and some discipline exercised at times to make sure the destination is reached on time.

One need not be a practised canoeist to go touring; in fact a tour has been on a number of occasions the first attempt at the sport by some who are still my friends to-day! This is the essential difference between touring and sea canoeing. In touring one need not be an expert, but for sea canoeing it is safer to be experienced.

  /                          /                          /                          /                          /  

The usual club meetings on the first Wednesday of each month in the Compass Centre begin in October with a slide show by John Young of his trip round Mull this summer. New Members are welcome.

Following our very successful schools visit to Denmark, Jim Purves and I were delighted to learn that our friends in Aalborg had finalised their plans to visit Scotland.

On 14th July, two well packed cars containing 10 canoeists were met at Hillend and ceremoniously convoyed for a quick drink and welcome. Jagermeister is recommended to any lover of Bassett's Liquorice Allsorts who wants to get drunk! Then, the merry band were taken to their home for the week - Meggetland - where Jim Purves had prepared excellent self-contained quarters with recreation facilities on the door step (Jim is head groundsman at Meggetland).

They were allowed a short rest and game of tennis before being rushed off to Granton to see the Compass Adventure Centre and see the delightful points of Edinburgh's sewage farms. They bravely endured a short paddle to Newhaven and back - then demanded to be taken to a Scottish Pub. After a beer or two, the conversation turned to the white water the Danes had come to sample. The dangers of the Awe, giant waves and falls were described in great detail - but their leader Chris ignored our warnings and said proudly "I am the greatest". We told him about a graveyard at the foot of the Awe where we would erect a special monument - "Chris - he was the greatest".

Thursday and Friday were spent in Edinburgh and the Danes enjoyed bargain hunting in the town centre - Meryl Montgomery, Sylvia Greenhorn, Anne Wilson and Cathy Balfour, dragged them into all the mod boutiques....

The afternoons were spent sunbathing or playing tennis.

On Thursday evening, Forth C.C. organised a Bat Polo competition on the Canal - superstars like Ronnie Kennedy, Scott Ramage, Kelso Riddell, appeared along with another 21 canoeists giving an excellent evening with a men's league and girls league, 3 capsizes and a couple of rolls. Excellent refereeing by Scott and Cathy Balfour (well, I thought I was always right and my wife is always right) helped jog the teams along. .... Highlight was the International where the Danes were beaten by a strong Scottish team - however Chris still maintained "I was the greatest"- we told him to say "We wis robbed".

On Friday night we had an impromptu Disco when we taught the Danes the Dashing White Sergeant, Eightsome Reels, Gay Gordons....until the wee sma' oors.

On Saturday morning, two transits conveyed pupils and Danes to an old Hunting Lodge near Dunoon. Here - on the bonny banks of Loch Eck, we settled into our primitive abode and in the evening treated the Danes to their first trip on moving water - the dangerous rapids of the River Eachaig. While they are very competent K1 racers and tourers, they mastered the slalom canoes very quickly and adapted their technique to moving water. After this a terrific sing song.....

Next /

Next day we left for the River Awe and drove through the fine country of Inveraray and Loch Awe - nervous looking faces peered at the water thundering over the barrage at the head of the river - however, Ronnie Kennedy told them that we wouldn't paddle over the barrage today - maybe another day - and we moved to the Bridge by the campsite. Bodies were wrapped up and popped in canoes and pushed off into the unknown. Jim Purves, Sylvia, Ronnie K., Scott R., lead small groups down the rapids - pale faced Danes gradually started to enjoy the trip and found the water particularly pleasant for swimming. By the time we arrived at the weir they were all quite enthusiastic and ready for anything; just as well - their faces were a treat as they plunged down the chute. Here, Jim Purves, our experienced and rather relieved S.I. confessed that he had never been down the Awe and had not been on any river trip like that for years! Jim had not appreciated our awe-inspiring stories!!

Chris had still not capsized! "I am the greatest"..... After lunch we offered to take them down again - however, the cold weather put most of them off except of course for Chris and Jan, a 17 year old enthusiast. Up to the barrage - down through the graveyard this time - no problem and straight down - luckily I was in a WW racer and managed to keep ahead of Chris in a slalom boat (he won the K2 Gudena Marathon a couple of years ago).

Of course - no capsizes....."I am the greatest" said Chris.

A rather relieved crew drank an enormous cairyoot back at the Lodge and made plans for a Regatta on the Monday. Superb times in the 100m slalom sprints and Jumbo doubles - never again! A Draw in the racing K2 and guess who won the K1 - yes, Chris again, reminding us "I am the greatest". The competition depended on the WW race along the Loch and down the River Eachaig - only a few points separated the Scots and Danes. A game Danish crew paddled individually down the river; by the bridge a rather sad looking Chris was seen emptying his boat - he informed us later that a tree jumped out from the bank and pushed him in - a joyful Scots crowd happily jeered "he was the greatest".

On Tuesday evening, back in Edinburgh, we had another Bat Polo Competition - again the male and female mini leagues gave everyone 2 or 3 games before the big International; Scotland 5, Denmark 2. The Danes made up for it by drinking more afterwards in the Boroughmuir Club Rooms where Jim Purves kept them in order and helped empty the glasses. Their last day in Edinburgh was spent looking at the rather poor selection of canoeing items available in Edinburgh. In the evening Jim Purves, Jed Fraser, Cathy and myself spent a fantastic night translating the Scots language to a rather merry Danish crowd at the Jacobean Banquet at Dalhousie Castle - a good night's entertainment and especially appreciated by the Danes - beware of the Mead!

Next morning, the Danes packed up. We exchanged gifts as mementoes of our happy days together and Chris thanked Jim and me for our hospitality - the whole group expressed their appreciation of the help and friendliness of the Edinburgh canoeists who had joined in the competitions and trips. Chris hoped we might come to visit them again in Aalborg and summed up his new experience: "I was the greatest - Skol".  
Scott Balfour.

For the fourth consecutive year the International Slalom and White Water Racing teams were fortunate to receive grant-aid from the Scottish Sports Council. Because of Europa Cup clashes and attendance of the G.B. teams at certain events, only three Internationals proved suitable for the Scottish teams.

The first of these events was the International Slalom Championship of West Germany held on the River Danube near Lauingen. Unlike every other Continental slalom course the water at Lauingen presented an almost flat but fast moving current to the paddlers. The absence of rocks and broken water meant that the organisers were required to set a course which required a high degree of expertise in canoe manoeuvrability. The majority of paddlers were using the cut-down version of the Sanna - the Meister, which could tail and bow dip to an extent which resulted in a significant time saving over the more conventional canoes. Even the Perfekt was hard pushed to compete with this new craft from the West German manufacturers.

The presence of all the West German team members at the event resulted in an extremely high standard of competition and John Young (Edinburgh WW Club) did well to attain 17th position. In the team event competition was just as keen and the Scots, Messrs. Young, Cuthill (Forth Canoe Club) and Milne (Aberdeen University C.C.) gave a most creditable performance. This was the first occasion that a Scottish Team had visited this event however from the point of view of the competition and the friendliness of the organisers it is certainly an event to attend in the future. Perhaps future teams to this venue will be better trained by practice at home on tight gate sequences set on flat but fast moving water.

At the venue of the German White Water Racing Championships, Mittenwald, the Scottish contingent experienced a rare combination of canoeing conditions - continuous rain for the six day duration of our stay and a steadily falling water level. The race course at Mittenwald is over a six mile section of the River Isar which flows through a most beautiful, steep-sided gorge. The river is extremely narrow in parts, akin to the Awe, and at times the overhead branches of trees intermingle to form a complete archway. The boulder strewn river, in spite of its shallowness, was still as demanding to the paddlers in that they were required to exercise great skill in water reading ability. Not all corners could be cut and several paddlers ran aground due to their inability to read the water and retain a mental picture of the correct route down the river.

Unlike Scottish events the Team events were held on the Saturday and the individual events on the Sunday. This meant that individual times could not be used to choose the Scottish team. Using the results of timed runs held during practice the senior team comprised of A. Morton (Forth C.C.), P. Turcan (Edinburgh University C.C.) and R. Lang (Port Glasgow C.C.). In their event the three seniors achieved third position and collected the bronze medals. Our junior team comprising J. Oliver (Roxburgh C.C.), A. Lyall (Port Glasgow C.C.) and G. Robertson (Kilmarnock C.C.) out shone the seniors finishing in 2nd place only 8.5 seconds behind the winning team.

In the individual events on the Sunday J. Oliver attained 4th place in the junior event and his canoeing companion, K. Fraser (Roxburgh C.C.) was the highest placed senior finishing fifth. A most satisfying performance by both these paddlers from the same club. The results attained by the other Scots are appended and it is most encouraging to note the increase in performance over the years. In 1974 A. Morton finished some 90 seconds down on the winner, in 1975 he had narrowed the margin to 78 seconds and now it has been reduced to less than one minute by Kenny Fraser. This is undoubtedly a reflection that home paddlers are training much more seriously and improving in standard each year. This yearly improvement would certainly not be apparent if the incentive of International representation did not exist.

With the events in Germany completed the teams moved to Bourg St Maurice for the French Slalom and White Water Racing Championships. Great tales had been recounted of the conditions at Bourg by those who had previously attended and it was most disconcerting to learn on the day of our arrival that our entries /



entries had been refused - reason lack of water. It had been the driest Summer on record in France and the dam-controlled lake which feeds the River Isere was at an extremely low level. In an endeavour to conserve water the organisers had decided to both curtail practice and to restrict entry to only French paddlers thereby altering the event to a restricted championship. Notification of the French decision had been passed to the B.C.U., however the machinery of processing the correspondence was such that the Scots had left for the continent before the amended programme had filtered north of the border.

After the build up for a course such as Bourg there was tremendous disappointment in the ranks of the Scottish Team. As a consolation both the slalomists and racers were able to paddle over their respective courses, however the sense of achievement was marred by the inability to compete in the events proper.

It was a somewhat dejected team which left Bourg several days earlier than had been planned to begin the long journey north.

Compared with earlier International tours that of 1976 will be remembered for its anti climax, nevertheless those participating would readily agree that they gained an invaluable experience. In terms of success our achievement at Mittenwald was the best on record and the performances at Lauingen, hopefully, marks the beginnings of a regular appearance at this particular venue.

As Team Manager it would be wrong to conclude without congratulating the teams on most creditable performances. Both on and off the water conduct was exemplary and much was achieved in making new contacts and strengthening earlier established links. Looking to the future when one day we might succeed in attaining I.C.F. recognition of Scotland then this year's team can rest assured that their performance has increased the prospect of such an attainment.

#### SLALOM TEAM

David Cuthill	...	Forth Canoe Club
John Young	...	Edinburgh White Water Canoe Club
Eric Milne	...	Aberdeen University Canoe Club

#### WHITE WATER RACING TEAMS

##### JUNIORS

James Oliver	...	Roxburgh Canoe Club
Alistair Lyall	...	Port Glasgow High School Canoe Club
George Robertson	...	9th Kilmarnock B.B. Canoe Club

##### SENIORS

Kenneth Fraser	...	Roxburgh Canoe Club
Robin Lang	...	Port Glasgow Canoe Club
Peter Turcan	...	Edinburgh University Canoe Club
Andrew Morton	...	Forth Canoe Club

#### RESULTS (Abbreviated)

A.G. Smith  
Team Manager.

<u>Rennen Mannschaften</u>		Herren K1	(Team Event K1 Men)	
1.	Strobel-Ott H.-Ott H.	TSV 1860 Munnchen		22.36.6
2.	Gunzenberger-Gunzenb.-Hollerith	KK Rosenheim		22.47.9
3.	Turcan-Lang-Morton	Scott. Canoe Ass.		23.21.2

Rennen /

## 24. Abbrev. RESULTS (contd.)

Rennen Mannschaften Jugend K1 Mannl. (Team Event Junior K1 Men)

1. Fischer-Fischer-Konigseder	TV Passau	18.26.5
2. Oliver-Robertson-Lyall	Scott.Canoe Ass.	18.35.0
3. Bechtold-Bechtold-Lembke	SG Unterturkheim	18.41.8

Rennen 4 mannl. Jugend LK I K1 (Event 4 Junior K1 Div I)

1. Hollerieth Konrad	KK Rosenheim	17.10.2
2. Schonauer Alfred	1860 Munchen	17.36.1
3. Ritter Harald	KC Regensburg	17.39.9
4. Oliver James	Scott.Canoe Ass.	17.41.4
14. Robertson George	Scott-Canoe Ass.	18.27.3
15. Lyall Alistair	Scott.Canoe Ass.	18.31.6

Rennen 11 Herren LK I, K1 (Event 11 Men's K1 Div I)

1. Ott Heini	1860 Munchen	21.55.1
2. Strobel Michael	1860 Munchen	22.05.5
3. Ott Richard	1860 Munchen	22.36.0
4. Gunzenberger Peter	KK Rosenheim	22.40.2
5. Fraser Kenneth	Scott-Canoe Ass.	22.53.5
6. Lang Franz	KC Regensburg	22.58.0
7. Morton Andrew	Scott-Canoe Ass.	23.05.0
8. Turcan Peter	Scott-Canoe Ass.	23.12.0
9. Lang Robin	Scott-Canoe Ass.	23.13.1
10. Schwalbe Ulli	1860 Munchen	23.20.4

Rennen 21 Herren Mannschaft (Event 21, Team Event K1 Men Div I)

1. Forstl Dichtl Trojovský	AKV I	133.0/40/173.0	136.0/ 10/146.0
2. Trach S Loos D Trach V.	KKM	141.8/ 20/161.8	147.8/130/ 277.8
3. Lex Fassler Rothorl	TSV A	149.1/ 30/179.1	155.1/ 20/ 175.1
7. Milne E Young J. Cuthill D.	Schottland	165.9/120/285.9	174.1/ 60/ 234.1

Number of teams 12.

Rennen 10 Herren K1 LK I (Event 10 Men's K1 Div I)

1. Ewald F.	KVS	125.1/ 10/135.1	123.7/ x /123.7
2. Loos D.	KKM	124.6/ x /124.6	135.3/ 20/155.3
3. Dichtl B.	AKV	125.3/ 10/135.3	121.2/ 10/131.2
4. Fabler W.	TSV A	136.3/ x /136.3	150.4/ 20/170.4
5. Forstl D.	AKV	118.0/ 20/138.0	120.4/ 30/150.4
6. Senft W.	Seitz K.	140.1/ x /140.1	141.8/ 20/161.8
7. Rosenmuller J.	AKV	140.6/ x /140.6	133.8/ 40/173.8
8. Trach St.	KKM	135.3/ 30/165.3	130.9/ 10/140.9
9. Prophet H.-J.	Rawa W K.	131.4/ 10/141.4	133.1/ 20/153.1
10. Lex R.	TSV A	133.7/ 10/143.7	129.7/ 50/179.7
17. Young J.	Schottland	135.7/ 40/173.7	135.9/ 40/175.9
20. Cuthill D.	Schottland	147.1/ 40/187.1	145.9/ 40/185.9
24. Milne E.	Schottland	149.3/ 50/199.3	150.6/ 60/210.6

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