

KAYAK MAGAZINE



May 1977

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

CONTENTS

<u>Page</u>	
Cover:	A Forth Canoe Club bat polo team make an attack!
1.	Editorial
2.	Glasgow University Dinner
3.	Close up on slalom and D.R.Racing.
4.	British 10,000 m. Championships June 4th
5.	D.R.R. Roundup
6.	3 Lochs Marathon
7.	i) S.C.A. News ii) Black Cart today - where tomorrow
8.	Round Cumbrae L.D.
9.	i) Awe W.W. Race ii) More S.C.A. News
10.)	
11.)	Letters to the Editor
12.)	
13.	Results Precis
14.	Commodore's Comment
15.	Tweed L.D. Results FCC
16.	Letter to Editor
17.)	
18.)	FORTH CANOE CLUB EXCLUSIVE

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USEFUL ADDRESSES

NEIL BARKER

FORTH CANOE CLUB
Hon.Sec & Treasurer
1, Barnton Grove,
EDINBURGH.
Tel.031-336-1515

KAYAK EDITORS:

J.CUTHILL & D. CUTHILL
2, Merchiston Bank Avenue
EDINBURGH, EH10 5ED.
Tel. 031-447-3954

ANDREW MORTON,
34, Roselea Drive,
Brightons, FALKIRK
Tel. (0324) Polmont 711459

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOC.

General Secretary
A. GRAHAM SMITH
1, Alnwickhill Drive
EDINBURGH
Tel. 031-664-8463

BRITISH CANOE UNION

Director
GORDON RICHARDS
70, Brompton Road
LONDON, SW3 1DT

S.C.A. SLALOM SECRETARY

IRVINE ROSS
Belrorie,
Dinnet, Aboyne,
ABERDEENSHIRE.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOC...

General Secretary
SCOTTISH SPORTS COUNCIL
8, Frederick Street,
EDINBURGH, EH2 2HB
Tel. 031-225-3993

Also at this Address:-
(Irvine Ross - Slalom
(Fred Nelson - L.D.
(Drew Samuel - Sprint
(Ian McAusland-Bat Polo.
(Drew Manzie - Coaching

F.C.C. SLALOM EQUIPMENT

DAVID CUTHILL
2, Merchiston Bank Ave.,
EDINBURGH, EH10 5ED.
Tel. 031-447-3954

EDITORIAL

Once again the weather jinxed Scottish canoeing at Strathclyde Park. At the beginning of the month the first Scottish Sprint Championships to be held at the Park were cancelled due to the strong cross winds. One wonders whether this is a valid reason for cancelling a Regatta? What are the criteria for cancelling a Sprint event? Obviously, "Safety" must top the list, and certainly it could easily be seen that the rescue craft, of which there were at least two, had difficulty coping with capsizing youngsters. But I did not see any of the over eighteens risking their lives! It was obvious that the organisers considered a "democratic vote by the paddlers" as being a close second on the list, and who can blame them; but is it really up to the paddlers to make decisions about events? I don't think so. A few River Racing and L.D. paddlers were keen on continuing the event because they were better able to cope with the rough water, but they were heavily outvoted. Is this fair?

The British Universities paddlers coped after a fashion and their main events were run without a great deal of difficulty. If we had invited foreign teams to the event, would we have sent them home without a race?

What was particularly sad about this occasion was the gigantic amount of work put into the event which went to waste. Moreover, it could be seen that an enormous proportion of the work and responsibility was carried on very few shoulders, and this leads me to another point:

It is true to say that we just do not have enough non-competing officials in Scotland, and events at Strathclyde Park are going to prove very difficult to run well without an increased number of helpers. Unfortunately, at the moment the extra tasks still have to be carried out by active competitors. Some of our best competitors were involved in considerable extra work in the days before to ensure the smooth running of the event. There is no doubt that until competitors are completely free to concentrate on training and racing the full potential of Scottish racing will not be realised. Moreover, the pressures on the present organisers may prove so much that they relinquish their posts.

I am sure all the competitors would join me in, firstly, thanking those who did give of their valuable time to help run the event both before and during the ill fated day; and, secondly, in pleading for assistance from the ranks of our elders to take an active interest in the future organisation of our Sport.

Andrew Morton.

The Universities may have come in for some criticism last issue, but I had to swallow my words and a few glasses of ale at the Glasgow University Canoe Club dinner on Friday 13th May (unlucky for those who did not make it)

As a social event it must rank as the Scottish Championship with gold medals all round. The club boasts fifty active (very) members, and there must have been at least forty of them at the dinner plus another twenty past members and dignitaries - and Graham Smith! The event was held at the Athletic Club at Westerlands and the start was at 8p.m. with no late entries being accepted! Dinner was excellent and was followed by speeches, a slide show and a Disco. I did not make the finish due to lack of fitness, so what followed the disco is perhaps best left to the imagination.

The speechmaking by Irvine Ross, Colin Tannock and the Rev. William Hewitt, lasted well over an hour due principally to the long breaks while the audience recovered from each quip and witicism. The slide show, not suitable for children, was superbly compered by the inimitable, incomparable, iniquitous, incredible, inebriated George Clelland.

There is certainly more to canoeing than the Loneliness of the Long Distance paddle.

Trophies

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TROPHIES

Organisers of events may be interested to know of a mail order firm who specialise in Trophies. The firm has had a number of exhibitions of their wide range of cups, shields, medals and plaques in and around Scotland recently.

They have many trophies of a reasonable standard costing little more than a pound, and these may be engraved by machine at the rate of ten letters for 15p.

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Another canoeing season is well underway. Teams have been selected for the Slalom and W/W Tour of the Continent and several successful "home" events have been staged.

In Down River Racing there was considerable disappointment in the low level of the River Nith which resulted in the event being deranked as the Scottish Championship event. This was switched to the River Awe in late April where the medals went to Messrs. Turcan, Lang (without an i) and Oliver. The level of the Awe was lower than normal although the previous day had seen the river in almost flood conditions. Perhaps greater liaison is necessary with the Hydro Board if we are to gain best advantage of this excellent stretch of water. During the 1977/78 racing season an increased number of Canadian boats have taken part in competitions and it is pleasing to note the improving standard in this field. The hard working duo of "George and Hugh"^{**} deserve special mention for their devotion to C2 racing during the year. They have trained regularly and coped with water conditions in a most proficient manner.

Several slaloms have been staged with the usual high attendance at ever popular Comrie. The Teith event was blessed with very good water conditions - perhaps somewhat fierce for several first time novices, however the experience will place these paddlers in an advantageous position in the future. It is always difficult for event organisers to set up a course which can be adjusted to compensate for large fluctuations in water level and it is sometimes the case that a course appears considerably more difficult than perhaps it ought to be for the particular Division under test. Competitors should remember that everyone is placed at the same disadvantage with respect to tackling the gates and the more difficult ones can usually be by-passed if the competitor so wishes. Compared with south of the border, the Scots are in a most enviable position with regard to canoeing waters. Let us set the standard of course at the various divisional levels so that we do not end up with a series of flat water events at the lower end of the slalom spectrum. Only by experiencing moving and rough water can our young paddlers gain experience and confidence.

For several years our top slalom and Down River Racers have come from one of the three centres of population, Glasgow / Aberdeen / Edinburgh but recently new names have appeared in the result sheets from other parts of Scotland. It is encouraging to see, for example, that a most active club is now in existence at Brechin High School. Let us hope that it is not too long before Brechin can boast of having paddlers in the Scottish Team.

In Division I slalom it is the same old names that dominate the top end of the result sheets. Messrs. Dolan, Young and Cuthill continue to /

(** G.Robertson/H.Grey of Kilmarnock B.B.)

to be the best of the Scottish paddlers and there is a noticeable gap before other Scots placings are evident. Perhaps more training and a more serious approach to the sport would see Messrs. Milne and Florence of the Aberdeen Club higher up the finish. When paddlers do qualify for Scottish Team selection they should assume a more responsible approach to the sport so that they give their very best in International events. It is to these experienced paddlers that our young hopes look for encouragement - not to down pits of beer in rapid succession - but to demonstrate a high degree of fitness and skill on the water.

Detailed below are those paddlers who have made International selection for 1977. May I wish them, together with this year's Team Manager, every success.

<u>Senior Slalom</u>	<u>Senior D.R.R.</u>	<u>Junior D.R.R.</u>	<u>D.R.R. C2</u>
J. Dolan	K. Fraser	A. Lyall	G. Robertson
D. Cuthill	R. Lang		H. Grey
E. Milne	J. Oliver		
A. Florence	P. Turcan		

(J. Young was not available for selection)

Team Manager A. Manwell

IMPORTANT*****

BRITISH 10,000m CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time ever the K1 10,000m Championships come to Scotland. The event is to be held at Strathclyde Park on June 4th and should be a most exciting event to watch. In the Senior 'A' class men, Alistair Wilson, Peter Turcan, Andrew Morton and Drew Batchelor will be competing. As you see from the results on page 13 Alistair won this event ten years ago, and in fact, was British Champion for many year.

On the following day, competitors move to Loch Lubnaig for a Long Distance race which is one of the three selection events for the British L.D. Team this summer.

PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY - JUNE 4th - Strathclyde Park.

CONGRATULATIONS to Maureen McClure and Robert Montgomery who have been selected to paddle for the British Spring Racing Team in Continental regattas this year.

The Scottish Championships, the selection events, the ranking races and smaller events are over bar the June race on the Awe.

This season has seen a very high standard of competition in Scotland borne out by the number of different names appearing in the top places at each event. Andrew Morton's stranglehold on Down River Racing has finally been broken and, in fact, his performance throughout the season was completely overshadowed by the speed and capability of Peter Turcan, Robin Lang and Kenny Fraser. These three, along with Jas Oliver, have been selected for the Scottish Senior Team travelling abroad this summer, and we probably have not had such a fit team in the short history of Scottish River Racing.

The early part of the season was dominated by Port Glasgow paddler Robin Lang who performed well at the Eden, came first at the Aberdeen Dee and Grandtully. During the winter, Peter suffered from the rare disease of over training, but as the season progressed, came up fast along with Kenny Fraser who won at the Clyde and the Nith. After these wins Kenny was very disappointed to be beaten at the Awe, especially since he beat Peter again at the Tryweryn the following weekend. Peter really only appeared at the Awe, but with devastating success.

Other wins came from Alan Eastwood, Colin Tannock and Andrew Morton. Next season we are sure to see Alan making a bid for the Team which could well be successful. In the meantime, lay your bets for the B.C.U. Ranking Event on the Awe.

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THREE LOCHS CANOE MARATHON. SATURDAY/SUNDAY, 25/26th JUNE, 1977

Organised by Strathkelvin Kayak Club

In the past this event has basically been a tour which combined river, loch and sea canoeing for teams of three. Teams were required to carry all gear for the race and for camping and to negotiate two portages. This year the nature of the race has been totally changed.

In September, a Scottish team will compete at Gudena in Denmark and although the selection for this is the Tay Marathon, the results of the Three Lochs will be taken into consideration. Seniors will therefore compete as individuals but in the interests of safety, Juniors will still race in teams of three.

BRIEFING This will take place at 1.00 p.m. on the Saturday at Ardgarten Camp Site. The Senior start will be at 2.00 p.m.

COURSE SENIORS (56 mls). JUNIORS (27 mls.).

SENIORS

Saturday Start at the camp site at Ardgarten (OS 275030). Proceed down Loch Long and turn right into Loch Goil. Canoe up to the head of Loch Goil, turn around a buoy and return to Loch Long and Ardgarten.

Sunday Start at Tarbet on Loch Lomond. Proceed north to turn around a buoy at Ardlui and return to Tarbet. Continue south to Luss and finish at Duck Bay.

JUNIORS

Saturday Start at the head of Loch Goil and proceed south to turn left into Loch Long. Canoe to finish at Ardgarten.

Sunday Start at Tarbet. Proceed south to Luss and finish at Duck Bay.

Competitors must keep to the west bank of Loch Lomond where check points will be situated.

CLASSES Seniors. (Age 18 years on 1st Jan. 1977). K1 / W.W. / Touring
Juniors (Age 15 to 18 years). Teams of three, any class.
N.B. Parents / Guardians signature required.

PRIZES. The first three in each class will receive a medal.
Three canoes to constitute a class.
All competitors who complete the course will receive an award.

FEES Seniors ... £1.50. Juniors ... £3.00 per team.

ENTRIES Please send to Kath Irvine, Secretary,
Strathkelvin Kayak Club,
5, Scaraway Place,
GLASGOW, G22 7LZ

CLOSING DATE: Friday, 24th JUNE.

All clubs will be receiving fuller details regarding this race in the next few weeks. Entry forms and rules will be included.

Please take a note of the date, and I look forward to seeing you at this challenging event.

Kath Irvine. S.K.C.

CONGRATULATIONS: We must congratulate Stuart Ness on his recent appointment to Nigeria for a period of two years. He left Scotland at the beginning of the month and his wife is to follow shortly.

Stuart has been the Secretary of the S.C.A. for almost three years and has also been active in the fields of Coaching, Access and Competition. During that time his influence on the progress of Scottish Canoeing has been considerable and at a recent meeting of the S.C.A. Council members expressed their great regret at his departure. Stuart was presented with a small gift on this occasion.

KAYAK readers will be pleased to know however that Stuart has undertaken the onerous task of Foreign Correspondent for the magazine!

In the meantime A.Graham Smith has undertaken to stand in for Stuart as Secretary to the end of the year, and we are all most grateful to him for giving up his valuable time at such short notice.

COACHING/DEVELOPMENT OFFICER The S.C.A. has received grant aid for such an officer and will be advertising for a part-time paid official in the near future.

Salary and expenses will amount to close on £1,000 and the official will be expected to work on a number of weekends, evenings and holidays during the year. Anyone interested in such a post should contact the Secretary.

SALES S.C.A. Badges and Ties may now be purchased from A. Morton at a cost of 50p and £1.75 respectively.

ACCESS Paddlers using the Stanley-Thistle stretch of the TAY are reminded not to park their cars in front of the cottages at the Stanley pool for more than a few minutes while unloading canoes. Moreover, the Caravan site is out of bounds to cars except for campers and competitors at events, and then only after prior permission has been sought.

ACCESS

BLACK CART TODAY - WHERE TOMORROW?

Peter Moore

Scottish Canoeing is once more forced to fight a legal battle to prove our right to use rivers in Scotland. Paisley Kayak Club have been prevented by Interim Interdict from using a three mile stretch of the River Black Cart in Renfrewshire.

This case is in stark contrast to the previous Spey Case where we had a river used by canoeists from all over Britain, and a very rich fishing interest. The River Cart is only of local interest at Novice level and the Trout fishing could fairly be described as poor. However, the importance of this case lies in the fact that Castle Angling Club claim the support of their "National Organisation". If this is true their motives, and the future effects on canoeing, if we lose, become obvious.

With this in mind, Paisley Kayak Club and the Scottish Canoe Association are vigorously defending the action, using the Spey case as a defense. We can not be grateful enough that Clive Freshwater had the courage to Fight the Spey Case as far as he did, and thus provide us with something in Law to defend our right to canoe on rivers.

The Paisley Kayak Club is holding the Round Cumbrae L.D. on SUNDAY, 12th JUNE, 1977. It will be a B.C.U. Tier 4 race.

The event will start and finish at the Pencil Monument, Largs. O.S. Sheet 59, map reference 208577. Competitors should assemble in the car park near the monument on the road from Largs to Fairlie.

START TIME Start at 1200 hrs. Briefing at 11.10 a.m. As usual the race will start promptly.

COURSE Senior Route - Round Great Cumbrae. Approx 12 miles.
Junior and Ladies Route - Pencil - Downcraig Ferry - Keppel - Pencil. Approx. $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

CLASSES K1, K2, WWR, T1, T2, Slalom; Senior, Ladies, Junior, Veteran and Juvenile.

There must be a minimum of three canoes of a type to constitute a class.

RULES Competitors must comply to B.C.U. L.D.R. Committee Rules.

SAFETY This is a sea race. All competitors MUST wear Lifejackets/Buoyancy Aids, and canoes must be rendered unsinkable. The Organisers cannot accept any responsibility for injury to competitors or damage or loss of their equipment.

Safety boats will patrol the routes.

The event may be cancelled if the weather is bad.

ENTRIES Entries should be sent to:-

Mr. G. Mullin,
5, Palmerston Place,
JOHNSTONE. PA5 0RF.

Entries with fees and class should arrive by **TUESDAY 7th JUNE.** Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to "Paisley Kayak Club".

FEES The fees are Senior and Ladies 60p
Juniors 40p

Entries will be accepted on the day of the event with a late entry fee of 30p.

CAMPING Camping will be available at the edge of the football pitch beside the Pencil car park. No charge.
Hot soup and orange drink will be available to competitors after taking part in the event without charge.

Organised by FORTH CANOE CLUBSTART: 12 noon.DISTANCE: 5 km.GRADE: 3

The start is at the Hydro-Board Barrage where the river leaves Loch Awe in the Pass of Brander.

The finish is on the right bank at the Inverawe Power Station.

Runs will be timed with competitors starting at minute intervals. Competitors' boats which are not clearly marked cannot be guaranteed a timed run.

Competitors should not practice on the Saturday for three reasons:

1. The water is low
2. To maintain good relations with the fishermen
3. There is ample time and water during Sunday morning.

Competitors must abide by the B.C.U. rules regarding safety and conduct during the race.

ENTRY FEE: 80p Senior. 60p Junior.

Sent to: A. Morton, 34, Roselea Drive, BRIGHTONS, FALKIRK.

It makes the organisation of the event a lot easier if entries and cash are sent in the week before the event. So competitors entering on the day of the event will be charged an extra 20p.

PRIZES:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Senior.
- 1st and 2nd Junior
- 1st Lady
- 1st C1
- 1st Slalom
- 1st Jun. Slalom

CAMPING: There is a public camp-site with shop and garage where the road crosses the river about 1 km from the barrage.

In the event of a drought an alternative flat water race will be arranged. Competitors wishing up to date information should 'phone Polmont (0324) 711459.

TEAM EVENT: There will be no team event.

THIS EVENT IS ONE OF THE 5 B.C.U. RANKING DOWN RIVER RACES.

S.C.A. NEWSSCOTTISH CANADIAN CANOE SLALOM RANKING EVENTS 1977

G. Hatfield.

Following cancellation of Invercannie Slalom, it has been decided to add COMRIE II to the List of slaloms comprising the S.C.A. Canadian ranking list, to bring the number back up to the original 6.

The full list is now:

Fairnielee	...	2/3rd April	Awe	...	3/4 September
Comrie I	...	16/17 April	Comrie II	...	8/9 October
Leny	...	28/29 May	Potarch	...	15/16 October.

Each C1 or C2 competing will be allocated points - 5 to 1st, 4 to 2nd etc. and the best four results will be counted at the end of the season.

University of Aberdeen,
Department of Physical Education.

Dear Andrew,

I really am surprised at the tone of your recent editorial in 'Kayak'.

In the first place I think it is a bit much coming from a Glasgow graduate who must remember full well the difficulties that were experienced in the late sixties of getting a good turnout from membership on a guaranteed basis. In that same vein the fact that you had direct experience of club organization in Glasgow and again in Aberdeen must have made you aware of the real problems of student club organization and its peculiar ability to fluctuate almost with the phases of the moon. Over the years I believe this is an inevitable consequence of the rights of students to organize and control their affairs in clubs and I strongly defend their right to do so without interference from people like myself or other officials however well intentioned or informed we may well be in the activity concerned. And so, as you well know, there are bound to be ups and downs in the affairs of student groups, who have a fairly short attachment to the club and are subject to a multitude of other pressures, that cannot be anticipated to any great degree. Any coach or official in the University has to come to terms with these pressures and on the effects they have on the way in which students approach their leisure time activities, and I can only surmise that your attack on the students has occurred in a period of blackout on your own University and College experience. Secondly I think it is unfortunate within the canoeing scene of Scotland for any group or individual to single out a particular section for public attack. It would be and is too easy to launch into attack on event organization, on responses to events on the assumption that by attacking you will bring about an improvement in those affairs.

I think, however, that experience shows the reverse is likely to be the outcome, with those under attack deciding "why should we bother if through any effort we make, it is seen as being inadequate by those who have access to communication systems or in official positions". In the circumstance under present attack, the control of affairs lies with the Committee and the event organisers, - simply to establish the already agreed procedure "not to accept entries on the day" but so often organizers are disappointed at the turnout and then may be very happy to accept any money that comes their way whether on time or not.

Finally I feel it is unfortunate that Forth Canoe Club and Kayak Magazine should have joined the ranks of the gutter press in knocking students, as over the years the clubs you attack have provided a very substantial part of the canoeing programme in Scotland and a fair amount of the hardware - even to allow Forth Canoe Club the ability to run the race in question! - so that I would have expected a rather more tolerant attitude towards them, in times when their strengths and enthusiasms are not quite what we would like. I would suggest that the editorial theme of Kayak would be more effective if the exhortation was laced with encouragement rather than criticism, and promote a greater sense of our collective responsibility for the success of Scottish canoeing which cannot be enhanced in my opinion by indulging in attack in print to be given such wide distribution as "Kayak".

Best wishes,
Andrew Manwell.

(The point of the Editorial was that if the educational élite of the country cannot organise themselves, with massive grant aid, then what hope is there for the independent clubs who also have multitudes of other pressures?

It is our Editorial policy to stimulate discussion and action and we would like to think that recent events, for example, Glasgow University's well organised races, are a vindication of this policy. Ed.)

Gracemount High School,
Lasswade Road, Edinburgh.

Dear Editor,

A regular subscriber to your magazine since its inception, I feel that I must take you to task over what, in my view, is a detrimental theme by one of your major contributors. On receipt of your most recent issue I read with some annoyance the editorial, contributed by the writer in question.

We are all aware of Mr. Morton's high ideals and administrative ability - reflected in his competent management of the S.C.A. monetary affairs. However, I would plead that he "lays off" getting a dig at the majority of the canoeing fraternity - the recreational paddlers, who turn up at the eleventh hour to take part in Down River Races.

In earlier issues he has criticised the organisers and now his latest outburst is directed at the paddlers. We are all aware that organisers would like entries 'days' before the event and, in slalom, I am in complete agreement with the official B.C.U. regulations. However, none of our races are so well attended that rigid start times need be adhered to. It is no great hardship to add extra late entries to the start list on the day and thereby boost the income of the organising club. (Perhaps Mr. Morton's own club is sufficiently wealthy not to need this extra cash - if so might I suggest that he refunds some of the extra money charged at the Grandtully event through - dare I say it? - incompetency by the organiser!!).

In an area of the sport which is attracting a growing following of young paddlers, let us not get so tied up with needless red-tape and over officiousness that we reach the stage where there are more spectators than paddlers.

The Universities have not come out particularly well in the recent asides by the 'Marjory Proops' of canoeing. Let us not forget the time in the not too distant past when it was the University Clubs who assumed the bulk of all organised canoeing north of the border. The pioneer work by Aberdeen University Canoe Club introduced many people to the competitive scene (including myself) in the late sixties and early seventies. Under the auspices of Strathclyde University, our Coaching Secretary has given stalwart service for many years. No! Mr. Morton, please refrain from getting in your "digs" at the event organisers. Why not turn your energies to a 'dig' in your back garden - rumour has it the Roselea Drive Residents Association are up in arms!

Yours sincerely,

A.G. Smith,
Chairman, Slalom and
D.R.R. Committee.

(Mr. Smith's comments regarding red tape seem at variance with his own practice in dealing with entries from south of the border. He might also be pleased to note that there is a row of lettuces appearing at 34 Roselea Drive!!
Ed.)

Strathclyde University C.C.
90, John Street, GLASGOW.

Dear Andy,

We were interested to read your comments on the organisation (or lack of it) in Scottish Universities canoeing and, while recognising that postal entries make race organisation much easier, we would like to make the following observations.

The information sheet for Grandtully stated that entries would be accepted on the day of the event and that such entries would be subject to a 20p surcharge. S.U.C.C. decided to enter on the day and we were very pleased, if a little surprised, when this surcharge was not levied. Since the purpose of the surcharge was to discourage entries on the day, the effect of not charging it is surely to encourage these same entries - so perhaps the organiser should not blame Universities for using the system which his actions encourage.

We would also like to point out that some of the criticisms of late arrivals and entries were un-called for. The editorial claims that Glasgow and Strathclyde were late, which is factually wrong since both were at Grandtully before the organiser, and submitted their entries long before the stated dead-line.

We are told that the students failing is 'organisation', but apparently the graduates failing (Andy was himself a student no more than a decade ago) is 'perspective and accuracy.' We wonder who is worse off,

Yours faithfully,

John Guthrie
Alistair Denny.

(We were at Grandtully at 10 a.m. and did not receive the bulk of our entries - student and non-student - until after 11 a.m. Ed.)

STOP PRESS: Further to the note on Trophies on page 2, we have just received an invitation from that firm to attend an exhibition of Sports Trophies and Awards on Thursday 9th June 1977 from 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the Birkgate Hotel, 38, Victoria Road, Kirkcaldy.

PYRANHA ADVERT: Send S.A.E. for details to:
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REMEMBER TO QUOTE REFERENCE "KAYAK MAGAZINE WHEN REPLYING
TO OUR ADVERTISERS

6th May.	National 10,000m Championships	1st. A. Wilson	48.10
		2nd. L. Oliver	48.18
13th May.	Marsh Lock Div.1 Slalom	1st. R. Calverley	
		2nd. D. Mitchell	
4th June	Scottish confined Slalom	1st. B. Palmer, Forth C.C.	
		2nd. J. Roberts, Forth C.C.	
		1st Lady J. Tupper, Forth C.C.	

1977 23rd April Awe W.W. Race (Scottish Championships)

1st.	P. Turcan	Edinburgh University
2nd.	R. Lang	Port Glasgow
3rd.	J. Oliver	Roxburgh
1st Junior	A. Lyall	Port Glasgow
1st Lady	K. McLeod	Glasgow University
1st Team		Roxburgh C.C.

7th May. British Universities Sprint Championships

1st Senior K1	P. Turcan	Edinburgh University	500m
1st Senior K2	Tannock/Munro	Strathclyde University	500m
1st Senior K4		Strathclyde University	500m

8th May 1st L.D. Team Event "Telegraph Challenge Trophy"
R. Clyde Strathclyde University.

21st May Loch Lomond L.D.

K1	P. Turcan	Edinburgh University	67.52)	
K2	I. Speirs/A. Batchelor	Irvine	64/47)	
W.W.	A. Denny	Strathclyde University	81.00)	9 Miles
Touring.	A. Samuel	Trossachs	78.23)	
Veterans.	B. Beally	Irvine	85.06)	
1st Lady	Y. Allison	Irvine	65.25)	
Ladies WW	S. Bell	Strathclyde University	80.13)	short course
1st Jun.	A. Lyall	Port Glasgow	59.12)	6 1/2 miles
1st Jun. Touring.	A. Graham.	Garnock	92.15)	

22nd May Trossachs Sprint Regatta

<u>Singles</u>		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
500m	Open	A. Wilson	P. Turcan
1000m	Open	A. Wilson	P. Turcan
1000m	Novice	G. Speirs	S. Kerr
500m	Ladies	Y. Allison	B. Hamilton
500m	Espada "B"	A. Stewart	
500m	Espada "C"	C. Fraser	
1000m	Espada "C"	C. Fraser	
10,000m	Veteran	A. Samuel	
10,000m	Espada "C"	C. Fraser	
10,000m	Novice	G. Speirs	
<u>Doubles</u>		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
500m	Open	Batchelor/Speirs	Wilson/Samuel
1,000m	Open	Turcan/Morton	Batchelor/Speirs
10,000m	Open	Turcan/Morton	Wilson/Samuel
1,000m	Novice	Allison/Speirs	McDonald/Philip

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

It seems quite a possibility that the Bala Mill Slalom site could be lost to canoeing due to the inconsiderate and irresponsible behaviour of some competitors at the event held there at the beginning of May. This is a serious matter, but the problem is how to cope with it. Can I suggest that all entries from the Club to which these ill behaved canoeists claim allegiance be banned for a period of time. I cannot imagine any self-respecting club putting up with such a ban and it would take them no time at all to sort out the transgressors in their midst.

I was interested in the response aroused by Andy's Editorial in the last issue, some of which prompts the mis-quote, "The reader doth protest too much methinks".

The glaring omission from all the replies is even the suggestion of apology or regret at the inconvenience caused - the point of Andy's criticism.

What do you think of the new B.C.U. car sticker just issued with 'Canoe Focus' ? That the Headquarters of an Olympic ranking sport should issue such a ridiculous, undignified, uninspired piece of publicity is difficult to understand. It will certainly never be displayed on my car. Those in charge at Brompton Road should be ashamed of themselves. What about the S.C.A. producing publicity labels of a more suitable nature?

At the Tweed race it was noticeable that a number of competitors stuck their race number bibs on the deck of their canoes instead of wearing them. This is most inconvenient for the organisers, and will not be acceptable practice in future.

Sometimes we have space left in Kayak which you, the reader, might have something worth while to fill. We would be happy to include any anecdotes or reports which you think might interest other canoeists. Organising clubs should send a copy of their event results to "Kayak" for results precis.

15th MAY

15.

FORTH CANOE CLUB - TWEED RIVER RACE
RESULTS

SENIOR K1

1. P. Turcan	E.U.C.C.	1-29-29
2. A. Morton	F.C.C.	1-29-30
3. C. Dunlop	Irvine	1-36-00
4. I. Linn	E.W.W.C.	1-40-45
5. S. Balfour	F.C.C.	1-41-50
6. G. Kerr	Garnock	1-47-10
7. L. Berrow	B.E.A.	1-52-50

SENIOR TOURING

1. A. Samuel	Trossachs	1-36-30
2. W. McKinlay	Irvine	1-57-50
3. J. Turcan	Strathkelvin	2-08-20

CANADIAN - C2

G. Robertson)		
H. Gray)		53-20

JUNIOR K1

1. D. Tuttle	R.W.S.A.B.C.	47-10
2. G. Dryburgh	F.C.C.	50-15
3. P. Buchanan	F.C.C.	58-15

JUNIOR W.W.

1. A. Lyall	Port Glasgow	45-31
2. T. Turcan	Strathkelvin	49-15
3. C. Tracey	Port Glasgow	49-21
4. K. Lister	Port Glasgow	52-30
5. S. Borland	Port Glasgow	52-32
6. J. Leslie	F.C.C.	53-50

JUNIOR SLALOM

1. N. Richardson	Selkirk	55-30
2. G. Davis	"	55-34
3. M. Craig	"	55-50
4. G. Riddell	"	56-00
5. B. Richard	Strathkelvin	57-07
6. T. Carlisle	F.C.C.	58-05
7. R. Widdowson	F.C.C.	59-16
8. D. Cramb	Selkirk	1-06-10
9. F. Brodie	F.C.C.	1-07-25

SENIOR W.W.

1. R. Lang	Port Glasgow	1-35-30
2. K. Fraser	Roxburgh	1-35-32
3. J. Oliver	Roxburgh	1-39-35
4. A. Munro	R.W.S.A.B.C.	1-42-50
5. J. Knox	Roxburgh	1-44-00
6. R. Marshall	Sund.Poly.	1-45-45
7. G. Smith	E.W.W.C.	1-47-30
8. B. Scott	Roxburgh	1-57-20
9. D. Cockburn	Port Glasgow	2-03-30
10. R. McCurdie	F.C.C.	2-14-04
11. R. Dixon	F.C.C.	2-30-25

LADIES SENIOR K1

1. M. McClure	Trossachs	45-30
2. K. Irvine	Strathkelvin	55-52

LADIES SLALOM SENIOR

1. J. McCurdie	F.C.C.	59-50
2. H. Brodie	F.C.C.	1-12-30

JUNIOR LADIES SLALOM

1. S. McRae	Selkirk	59-56
2. A. Ambler	F.C.C.	1-03-00
3. F. Brodie	F.C.C.	1-05-30
4. G. Russell	Selkirk	1-05-45
5. G. Marles	Selkirk	1-05-50
6. S. Watson	F.C.C.	1-06-20
7. J. Ambler	F.C.C.	1-08-20
8. M. Stewart	F.C.C.	1-20-20
9. E. Carr	F.C.C.	1-20-25

THANK YOU to everyone for coming
to make this event a success

Letter to the Editor

May I endorse the sentiment of your editorial remarks in the last issue of our club magazine. It does seem inconsistent that those who are capable of booking their group transport well in advance for an event are incapable of reserving their entries at the same time.

But the answer to your problem of late entries lies in your own hands as organiser. Should you feel that it is essential that events be run with precision, may I suggest that you merely implement firmly the well-established procedure of refusing to accept late entries. By insisting on this as a matter of course, organisers may be assured of their events running like clockwork.

As an alternative, may I suggest that organisers make a substantial charge for late entries. This would achieve the long term effect of encouraging early registration for events, and in the short-term, would compensate organisers for the complications involved in accepting last-minute entries. It must be possible to arrive at a late-entry fee high enough to deter late entries without a detrimental effect on attendance.

May I comment on another distressing habit of some competitors which was observed both at Grandtully DRR and at the more recent Teith Slalom. I was amazed at the number of paddlers who made little attempt to mark their boats clearly. It is in the competitors own interest to ensure that his number may be easily and correctly read from the bank by the judge, so that times/penalties are assigned to the correct person. I am surprised that those competitors who take the trouble to mark their own boats carefully are not giving short shrift to those who are less careful, and whose penalties they may accrue due to an error. Clear marking is especially important where two are sharing a boat, are assigned start-times close together, cannot return the boat to the start in time for the second person and who consequently starts out of order. If you think that is confusing you should see what happens to the results for the people involved.

It was inexcusable for one slalomist with a kayak and a Canadian Canoe at his disposal, not to have his boats clearly marked. He will not start at the next event where I am setting paddlers off, and I hope that judges will simply not mark any boat whose number they cannot read.

Again, the answer is within the organisers grasp. They have merely to stock white circles/squares and black tape for sale to those who have been refused a run for a poorly marked boat. There is no cause for any animosity if the organisers think out the answers right out to the end.

A word of warning. Let not our club be found short in any of the above matters in the future.

Yours sincerely,

an organised University Drop-out.

(name and address supplied)

FORTH CANOE CLUB EXCLUSIVE

**** F.C.C. Current Activities

Tuesday Night Group

The Tuesday Nighters are a group of canoeists within the Forth Canoe Club. Anyone who is a member of Forth can come with us. The aim is to make full use of the summer evenings to go canoeing. There have already been two evenings, the first to Walkerburn Weir and Fairnilee; the second was to the Clyde at Crossford. Future venues are R. Leny, Stanley/Thistle, surfing at Dunbar. The slalom season is now in full swing and gate practice is important. When possible, gate training on white water will be available. Phone David Cuthill on Monday nights at 6.00 p.m. for details. 447-3954.

Wednesday Night 17.00 hrs. CLUB NIGHT

Every Wednesday night is a club night at Forth's Club rooms at Granton. Anyone interested in building or repairing fibreglass or wooden canoes will find plenty to do. Other facilities are, a library, boat storage, films and slides (first Wednesday of each month), facilities for spray deck and tent making. Black and white photography facilities can be made available. New members are always welcome whether beginners or experienced canoeists, to meet and plan events or canoe trips.

Clubroom Address:- Old St. David's School, West Granton Road, Edinburgh
Also Wednesday night: Wardie hotel 21.30 hrs to 22.30 hrs. Help with the fibre glassing all night and get a free pint!

Thursday nights 18.30 hrs. Meggetland - Union Canal:

Training night in all kinds of racing and in slalom gate technique, organised by Scott Balfour 445 3966.

F.C.C. Tee shirts Please send in your order for these as soon as possible (Cost £3 approx.) to David Cuthill.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED:

All F.C.C. Members should make it their own responsibility to introduce at least one or two new members as soon as possible. The activities, some of which are listed above, are ideal opportunities to bring along a new member.

CANAL FACILITIES

Forth Canoe Club members are prospecting for suitable sites on the Union Canal to provide boat storage and training facilities. If you know of anything suitable, i.e. existing disused buildings or buildings which may be partly used for our purposes, please communicate with David, Kelso, Richard, Andy Boath, Scott Balfour, Scott Ramage. The site we are looking for will be central and off the rowing course. We are looking into possibilities of the canal basin end which has a number of advantages.

BATHS

If anyone can acquire us a baths night please inform the Secretary!

FCC Spring General Meeting

This is a semi-formal meeting about club policy, featuring Reports from the Club /

FCC SPRING GENERAL MEETING (contd.)

Club office bearers and formation of plans for the future. Attendance at this meeting is not to be considered optional. If you regard yourself as a Forth Canoe Club member you should make an effort to be there. If you cannot attend it is customary to send a letter to the Secretary, apologising for absence.

FORTH CANOE CLUB

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 14th JUNE, 1977 in the COMPASS
CENTRE, GRANTON, at 7.30 pm

The presence of all members is desired at this meeting. Should you be unable to come please send your apology to Neil Barker, 1 Barnton Grove, Edinburgh.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies received for absence
2. Minutes of last general meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. General Financial Statement
5. Report on Tweed River Race
6. Kayak Magazine
7. Club Programme during the Summer
8. Other Competent Business

FORTH CANOE CLUB on the FORTH

Jackie McCurdie

On Sunday 22nd May a group of our club members (Andrew Boath, Richard & Jackie McCurdie, Kelso & Sandra Riddell, David Cuthill and Judith Low) set off from the West Bay, near Granton, in 3 Clyde doubles and a Clyde single.

Our first landing was on Inch Mickery, which is a bird sanctuary, where we explored pillboxes and other relics, as well as watching gulls and ducks and various other kinds of birds nesting peacefully. It's amazing the neatness of the way the eggs are lying in the nests.

We then paddled over to Inchcombe, a fair sized island, which boasts fine scenery and a picturesque Abbey. The Abbey is looked after by a Resident Custodian who keeps the grounds in good condition.

After having our lunch we paddled back to the West Bay. While crossing the main shipping channel on our way back, certain members of the group had to paddle like mad to avoid some ships which were approaching at a fair rate. Throughout the trip we were constantly soaked - by brilliant sunshine - and temperatures as high as 75° F.

We hope our day trip will spark off an interest in making full use of the resources that the Forth has to offer, along with the availability of good touring skin boats from the Compass Centre. It is hoped to arrange with the Department of the Environment to camp on Inchcombe in the near future when new and more experienced tourers will be welcome to participate.

LENDAL LENDAL

In the lead



LENDAL

Sprint and Whitewater Paddles

LENDAL PRODUCTS have now introduced into their range their new contoured back racing paddle. They are retaining the name PACEMASTER for the fibreglass shafted model and SPRINTMASTER for the wood shafted model. The blade is asymmetric in shape and the face has a centre rib for blade stability in the water. The new contoured back is designed to shed water extremely efficiently and also presents a more aerodynamic shape when paddling into a head wind. The blade is strongly constructed of multi-ply veneers, laminated up to give a balanced lightweight, dimensionally accurate blade. These factors all being most important for maximum performance.

These two models can also be supplied with a slightly heavier, more robust blade for use in down river racing, at the same price. If ordering, please ask for the PACEMASTER or SPRINTMASTER for use in whitewater.

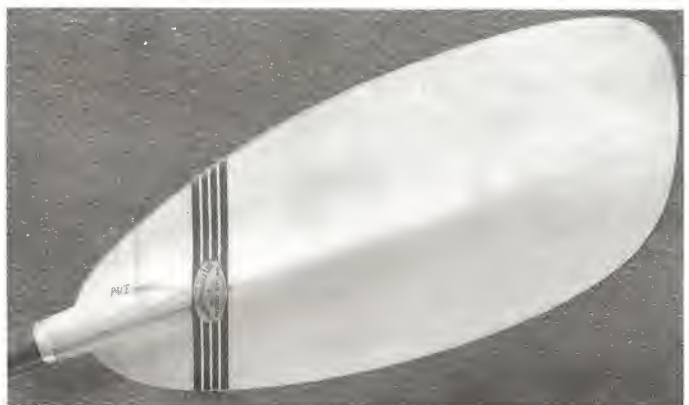
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