

# KAYAK

## MAGAZINE



**August 1977**

**A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION**

Cover: The President of the Scottish Canoe Association, Mr. John Turcan, after the Loch Lomond L.D. Photo by Andy Morton.

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EDITORIAL

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Sooner or later the S.C.A. will have to come to a decision and work out a well defined policy governing the teams which represent them in International competitions abroad.

The present arrangement is a compromise between holiday and competition and in the current financial situation of the S.C.A. is probably the best we can do. So long as our competitors are required to pay out a fair sum of money and use up their holiday allotment for the honour of representing Scotland, one cannot criticise the presence of wives and sweethearts in the party, there to enjoy the holiday side of the trip with their menfolk.

However, if it is the intention to put Scotland on the International canoeing map, some more organised and disciplined method of catering for our teams must be devised. There must be engendered a dedicated single minded purpose in the minds of our competitors to train to a laid down programme and compete with a hard and enthusiastic determination. The manager should be like-minded, live with the team and be able to exert the required discipline, if one may use that dirty word.

The whole trip should be without cost to the competitors and manager alike. The situation where one of our top slalomists could not afford to go this year must never be allowed to happen again.

Competitors must not be called on to drive the many hundreds of miles there and back even in their own cars. Perhaps a transit could be hired with the space at the sides, back and front, sold for advertising to a variety of sponsors.

Talking of advertising, why do we not bring ourselves more into the public eye? I watched, with the S.C.A. President, one of our international parties leaving for the Continent in July. It could have been any club weekend outing. Not a clue anywhere on clothing, van or trailer that this was a team prepared to do battle for Scotland on the international scene abroad. How can we attract sponsors if we are so backward?

One can have nothing but admiration for the hard work put in by S.C.A. officials and team members to carry us thus far along the road to international recognition, but we are going nowhere fast at present.

Jack Cuthill.

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September

3/4th	River Tay Marathon	A. Morton, 34 Roselea Dr Brightons, Falkirk
*10th	Canal Race-Falkirk District Council Event.	Falkirk District Council.
*10/11th	Tour - Touring Committee	Peter Moore, 12c Calside Paisley.
10/11th	Teviot Slalom 4 N,J.	K. Fraser, 6 Mansfield Sq. <sup>Hawick</sup>
17/18th	Scottish Slalom Championships Grandtully	I. Ross, Belrorie, Dinnett Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.
*24th	Loch Lubnaig 10,000m Champion- ships.	A. Samuel, 2 Ancaster Sq. Callander.
25th	Leven L.D.	W. McKinley, 8a Ellinger Court, Dalmuir W, Dunbarton.

October

* 1st	Scottish Sprint Championships, Strathclyde Park.	A. Samuel, 2 Ancaster Sq., Callander.
1/2nd	Non-ranking Slalom River Don	P. Jackson, The Academy, Inverurie, Grampian Region.
*2nd	Tay L.D. - Scottish Championships	The Secretary Paisley K.C., D. Shaw, 24a Thornley Bank Avenue, Paisley.
8/9th	Comrie Slalom 4, N.T.J.	The Secy. Glasgow Univ. C.C. Stevenson Bldg. Glasgow.
15/16th	Potarch Slalom 3,4,N,T,J.	The Secy. Aberdeen University C.C. Butchart Recreation Centre, Old Aberdeen.
*22/23rd	Dinnet Slalom 2,3,J. **see note below	Aberdeen K.C. Mrs. A. Spinks, 67 Craighend Road, Aberdeen.
23rd	Clyde L.D.	The Secy. Strathclyde Univ. C.C., Glasgow.
30th	Lower Tweed L.D.	The Secy. Roxburgh C.C. K. Fraser, 2 Mansfield Sq., Hawick.

November

6th	Royal Dee D.R.R.	The Secy. Aberdeen Univ CC, Butchart Recreation Centre, Old Aberdeen.
12/13th	Non-ranking Slalom, R. Deveron	J. Gilchrist, Keith Grammar School, Keith.

\* signifies changes from January Calendar.

CANAL RACE 10th September - Falkirk District Council.

This is the second attempt this year to get the canal race under way. Unfortunately the date of the first race clashed with the Loch Lomond L.D. Many prizes are offered for this event and in the future the event will almost certainly be sponsored. The Senior course is from Kirkintilloch to Falkirk and has a number of portages. The Junior course is from Banknock to Falkirk.

\*\* ABERDEEN KAYAK CLUB - DINNET SLALOM - RIVER DEE - 22/23rd OCTOBER 1977 Div 2 & 3  
Ranking

LOCATION - 3 miles west of Aboyne

ENTRIES TO:- Geoff Hatfield, 3, Straik Rd., Elrick, Skene, Aberdeenshire. (Skene 424)  
to arrive not later than 11th October. Enclose two 9" x 4" SAE

CLASSES Kayak Div 2 & 3 £1. (jun. 80p) Canadian Div A & B £1 and 80p  
Judges Free Team £1.50 (jun. 90p)

CAMPING In the field adjacent to the site. Regs. B.C.U. slalom rules.

\*\*\*\*\* T A Y M A R A T H O N \*\*\*\*\*

3rd/4th SEPTEMBER 1977

This is the first ever race of its kind in Britain and is a marathon in the true sense of the word in that the distance covered by the competitors is sixty miles paddled in four sections over two days.

Stage 1 is from Killin to Kenmore, the start being at 11 a.m. on Saturday at Edinburgh University Furbush Point Outdoor Centre.

Stage 2 is from Kenmore to Grandtully down the River Tay.

Both sections are thirteen miles long and the competitors will have between 30 and 65 minutes in which to rest before the second section. Spectating should be exciting at Grandtully since it is expected that a number of Racing K1 and K2 craft will be trying to shoot the rapids!

On Sunday, competitors start at Grandtully at 10.00 a.m. and race eleven miles to Dunkeld. After a rest of less than an hour they will set off on the last and longest stage of 23 miles to Perth. It is expected that the fastest paddlers will be arriving at the North Inch at around 15.00 hrs. having taken almost exactly eight hours for the race.

Juniors and Ladies will paddle section 1 and 4.

The race will be filmed by both T.V. Channels.

Forth Canoe Club and Strathkelvin Kayak Club are the joint organisers and further information may be obtained about the event by 'phoning A.Morton - 0324 711459.

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FIRSTS FOR FORTH CANOE CLUB .....

Your Co-Editors have distinguished themselves in a number of ways over the past few months and will blow their own trumpets (even if the Walls of Jericho do fall down!)

David Cuthill is the first canoeist to have conquered the right hand fall of the Falls of Leny. David shot the fall when the river was in spate and dropped a distance of about twenty feet, disappeared below the surface and knocking three inches off the bow of his canoe in the process. He has the most vivid colour photographs of the event.

Jack Cuthill was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his services over the last 25 years to the Lothian Region Education Department. Such honours are not lightly given away and we congratulate Jack on this recognition of his work.

Andy Morton was selected to paddle for Britain with the Marathon Racing Team in Norway.

Other Scottish paddlers similarly honoured by selection for British Teams this year were: Jim Dolan in Down River Racing  
Robert Montgomery in Junior Sprint,  
Maureen McClure in Senior Sprint  
and  
Willie Reichenstein in Senior C1

CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM ALL .....

4.

SCOTTISH SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Organised by the S.C.A. Slalom and White Water Racing Committee

DATE: 17th - 18th SEPTEMBER - at GRANDTULLY

CLASSES Medals will be presented for

- Men's K1
- Ladies K1
- Junior K1
- Men's C1 (Assuming 3 or more entries in each class)
- Men's C2

PROGRAMME - SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER - 12 Noon - dusk.

Free practice and Scotland vs Combined Services Event.  
 (A selected team of kayaks and Canadians will compete against a similar team from the Services. Please note there will be no practice before noon as the Services will be running their own event at that time).

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER - All Individual & Team Events.

ENTRY FEES

Seniors £1 Juniors 80p Teams £1.50  
 Sent to:- Irvine Ross, Belrorie, Dinnet, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire  
 by TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

Entries on the day make life difficult for the organiser and therefore this privilege will be restricted to the first 20 competitors only. Any further entries on the day will not be accepted so don't take the risk: post in your entry on time. Also please note we cannot cater for several crews using the same C2.

ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to any member of the S.C.A. in Slalom Divisions 1, 2 and 3 and Canadian Divisions A & B.

JUDGES

There will be a judges event for anyone not eligible for the Championship event who is willing to judge. We're always short of judges, however, so would everybody please be prepared to help out.

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RESULTS

AWE DOWN RIVER RACE 19th JUNE 1977 FORTH CANOE CLUB.

SENIOR/JUNIOR K1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Club</u>
1.	M. Swallow	16:53.0	Chester
2.	J. Hibble Y	17:19.3	Leeds
3.	A. Morton	17:26.3	Forth
4.	R. Lang	17:34.4	Port Glasgow
5.	P. Dean	17:51.7	Accrington
6.	D. Hunter	17:56.8	B'ham. University.
7.	K. Fraser	18:07.1	Roxburgh
8.	M. Morley	18:07.8	Leeds
9.	A. Eastwood	18:17.3	Glasgow Univ.
10.	M. Stallworthy	18:29.0	Chester
11.	C. Tannock	18:32.5	Irvine
12.	J. Knox	18:32.8	Roxburgh
13.	I. Linn	18:37.7	E.W.W.C.
14.	A. Lyall Y	18:40.5	Port Glasgow
15.	J. Oliver	18:41.4	Roxburgh
16.	I. Ross	18:41.7	Aberdeen K.C.
17.	A. Munroe	18:54.8	R.W.S.A.B.C.
18.	C. Stallworthy - Y	18:56.1	Chester
19.	H. Syska	19:00.7	Staffs.Stone
20.	D. Brown	19:19.5	Glenrothes

47 finished

C2

1.	Gray/Robertson	21:16.3	Kilmarnock
2.	Henson/Hodgson	21:33.5	Home Office
3.	Cuthill/McCurdie	22:32.1	Forth

3 finished

LADIES /

## RESULTS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Club</u>
<u>LADIES K1/Slalom</u>			
1.	S. Wain	19:50.5	Chester
2.	A. Plant	20:25.3	B'ham Univ.
3.	A. Ramage	20:43.3	Caledonia
4.	K. McLeod	21:05.0	Glasgow Univ.
5.	F. Martin	22:09.0	Bangor Col
6.	B. Digger	23:28.9	Don Valley
7.	A. Wood	23:58.6	Lancs.Univ.
8.	P. Weir	24:17.9	SL Glasgow Univ.
9.	L. Guest	27:31.1	Lancs.Univ.
10.	B. Hamilton	28:21.0	SL Wallace High.
	10 finished		

MEN'S SLALOM Senior/Junior

1.	A. Michie	21:48.2	Wallace High
2.	G. Mowatt	21:58.4	Dundee Univ.
3.	G. Stevenson	21:59.7	Balfron High
4.	P. Main	22:09.0	Benmore
5.	G. Hunter	Y 22:18.2	Wallace High
6.	T. McLean	22:22.8	Paisley
7.	G. Baker	22:23.0	Indep.
8.	N. Meldrum	Y 22:28.6	Wallace High
9.	J. Heath	22:29.2	
10.	J. Linning	Y 22:36.8	Wallace High
	17 finished		

TEAM

(Non-Ranking Scratch Team event)

1.	Morton/Lang/Fraser	17:51.9
2.	Swallow/Hubbard/Dean	18:32.7
3.	Ross/Linn/Nelson	19:28.0
	3 finished.	

Unlike many past events when entries have been less than 40, we were delighted with the hundred plus entry for the first ever Ranking Race on the Awe. Quite a few competitors came up from England including a number of British Team paddlers. The weather and water levels were perfect and there was added interest at the last weir which had been altered considerably by a winter spate. Many competitors came unstuck here and the bank was positively crowded with blood thirsty spectators!

Melvin Swallow, past British Champion and just returned from representing Britain in Italy where he was fifth at Merano, won the event, 26 secs. clear of British Youth paddler J. Hibble and 33 secs. clear of Andy Morton who just failed to beat Hibble. Robin Lang was fourth, eight seconds behind Andy, but this was after a rerun. Robin, although starting ten minutes behind the C2 class, caught up on one straggler and ran into the capsizing C2 at the last weir.

Port Glasgow team mate and Scottish Youth Team paddler, Alistair Lyall came fourteenth and was second Youth in the event. Drew Michie, school teacher from Wallace High School, gave his pupils a good hiding in the Slalom Class event, taking first place, ten seconds ahead of Mowatt from Dundee University.

In the C2 class Gray and Robertson vindicated their selection for Scotland by coming first and beating the English pair Henson and Hodgson by seventeen seconds.

A GOLD FOR BRITAIN

Albert Kerr of Carlisle C.C. is the new World Slalom Champion or "Weltmeister" after his superb run at Spittal.

The win is just what British Slalom has needed for the last ten years, bringing with it overnight a new awareness amongst everyone including other Britishers that Britain can actually achieve this unbelievable standard.

Usually the first four or five competitors at a slalom of world status are within one second of each other. Albert's run was so fast it put him about 10 seconds faster than anyone else.

The win is very important and its significance to British Canoeing is far reaching.

A British competitor has broken the Eastern Bloc/German/Austrian domination, using a British designed and built boat. He has also broken the Chester/Manchester hold on the top British team results. Television, of course, loves a winner, especially a rare gold for Britain and the dubious attitude of the television interviewers about canoeing has vanished, giving way to a respect usually reserved for the worship and awed acceptance of Soviet or American superiority.

ATTENTION ALL CANOEISTS!

"NAVY-GATORS" WANTED

UNION CANAL      EDINBURGH

Under the umbrella of the Scottish Inland Waterways Association (SIWA) the users of the Union Canal have started a determined effort to implement the report by Lothian Region which recommended clearing the Union Canal for recreational use. On July 10th a start was made at the Lochrin Basin behind Fountainbridge Brewery.

With the help of divers, an old gate was closed at Gilmore Park bridge, this was sealed with polythene sheeting and sandbags, and the basin was drained. On the Sunday, groups including individuals, Forth Canoe Club, Watsons Boating Club, Heriots Boating Club, St. Andrews Boating Club and Telford College, armed with grappling hooks and hand-tools, filled seven skips with rubbish and two with scrap metal. There were large chunks of raw rubber from the old Castlemills Rubber Works and scaffolding and rubble from the contractors who built the Fountain Brewery.

From now on, things are really moving. Donald Henderson from the Compass Centre, has negotiated with Permant Plant Ltd., by kind permission of their Chairman, Mr. Keith Miller, for the free loan of a digger machine (Hymac 370 for all you technical buffs) on any weekend when we can make use of this. This will work off the bank initially at Lochrin Basin to give support to the 'navvy-gators' using their own efforts to clear the canal.

If you can help to make this canal a real recreational facility, please make a note of the official dates and come along to give us a hand. About the time you get this issue, there will have been a good effort, with Edinburgh Schools Canoe Association joining the teams. We have arranged appropriate liquid sponsorship from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries and Barrs Irn-Bru (yer other Mashnol Drink) for the younger members. Wear old clothes and wellies/waders. Why not bring a group? If you are into environmental ecology, man, this is the scene for you.

PLEASE COME by 10 a.m. on 27/28th August, 18th September  
2nd October and 9th October

to: The Lifting Bridge, Lochrin Basin, Gilmore Park (behind  
Fountainbridge Brewery) Bring flask and food.

For further information contact:-

Charles Whytock, (SIWA)  
63, Milton Crescent, Edinburgh.  
031-669-4804

Kelso Riddell (Forth C.C.)  
84, Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh.  
031-229-9586



The "Bolero" slipped out of Newcastle dock at 4 p.m. on the 29th June and what a thrill it was for me to be standing on the observation deck above the bridge, on my way to Norway with the British Marathon Team. All the hours of training, the expenditure, the gruelling drive to the selection event at Brighton were behind me and ahead the prospect of two weeks in Norway to race in four long distance events tailor made for my talents!!

Down below things were even better. We had four berth cabins with private showers and the dinner would have been better described as a banquet! The dining room was beautifully decorated and the centre piece was a huge table laden with all kinds of meats, sea foods, salads, gateaux and fruits. One just helped oneself - a kind of Utopian self service!

The passage to Norway took 17 hours and was smooth both at sea level and in the company of the other eight team members. After dinner we entertained the local talent by dancing with them at the disco, and finally to bed and a sound sleep (unaccompanied of course).

In the morning we sailed in glorious sunshine into Kristiansand harbour through a maze of islands and channels. We were met from the boat by one of the race organisers and taken to a nearby campsite pleasantly situated by the sea. At this stage the weather broke, but it was to be the only poor day of our stay; during the rest of the time we saw hardly any cloud. In the late afternoon we went for our first paddle on the sea and found the hundreds of islands and inlets difficult to navigate, so much so, that one of our party got lost and did not turn up until an hour later, walking into the campsite from the opposite direction!

The East coast of Norway was not as I had imagined. Instead of the immense fjords of the west, the scenery was in smaller scale, the highest hills being less than 300 feet and the coast line rocky and inhospitable; a maze of islands, channels, coves and sea lochs.

Our first race was held not far from the camp site and the course passed in and out the islands in a figure of eight. To avoid confusion, all the corners were marked with red flags and a boat led the leaders round the course. There were over one hundred starters on the start line and the starter was strict, so much so that he succeeded in bringing back a false start after we had gone about a hundred metres - quite a feat! The start was very fast, and this proved to be the pattern for all the events. The first 1,000 metres were just about as fast as I could paddle flat out and, in fact, in the first two races I was dropped very quickly by the leading groups.

Canoeing in Norway has developed quite differently from that in Britain. For example, all the Norwegian paddlers paddle with left hand feather blades as standard! There were no racing K2 craft in any of the events, just a handful of touring doubles! Many paddlers use a touring K1 similar to the Zephyr /

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Zephyr which is appearing in Scottish races now. The touring class is the only other class apart from K1 and attracts just as large an entry, including very fast paddlers of all ages. I was lucky if I beat the fastest touring paddler by five minutes in any of the races and occasionally some of our paddlers were beaten by men over fifty! Slalom and Down River racing are almost non-existent despite the many ideal rivers flowing down from the snow-capped mountains. The Sport was very much a minority sport only fifteen years ago, but was given an enormous boost when the Norwegian K4 won the 1,000m at Mexico and followed that with a bronze medal at Montreal. Now, canoeing ranks as a major sport and at every event we were followed by T.V. Cameras and watched by hundreds of spectators on land and in private pleasure boats.

We drove north to Larvik after the first race and raced in another 20 km race on a loch not unlike some of our Scottish lochs. Here I met Einar Kjerschow, a Strathclyde University Graduate, and keen canoeist who often competed successfully in the Scottish circuit. He has returned to Norway with his Scottish fiancée and was in the throes of building himself a house! He didn't race in any of the four races due to lack of fitness but his presence at the Larvik race was most welcome when the organisers made a hash of the results and started awarding trophies to the wrong people. At all the events we had to wait for ages for the results and this seemed to be the only major flaw in the general organisation.

After the Larvik race we had five days to settle in to our new home and prepare for the final two events. Our new home was a holiday house on a tiny island near Tønsberg. The island was leased to the Tønsberg Kayak Club and the house was rather like a primitive hostel with the bare essentials which did not include electricity and running water! However we did have a well and the whole set up was infinitely preferable to camping. At Tønsberg the scenery was similar to Kristiansand, but the place was more populated with many holiday houses all along the coast line and hundreds of pleasure craft plying to and fro almost 24 hours a day.

We spent an idyllic week at the island, canoeing, swimming and sunbathing. The town and the club house were 45 minutes paddle from the island and so we often paddled along to the club house which was always open, had a shower, played table tennis then went in to town to shop, eat icecream and strawberries or attend the local disco! The island, called Barneskj, was situated a hundred yards off a larger island, Nøtterøy, round which we were to race in the last and biggest race of the series. Nøtterøy was quite heavily populated by holiday makers and from our island we could count tens of holiday houses and hundreds of yachts and power boats. Every morning, the first to rise set off in his canoe for Nøtterøy and bought the day's milk and bread ration. This was all we had to buy for most of the trip, as the Manager and his wife had brought with them £200 worth of food for the two weeks. This was necessary as most food stuffs were priced at double /

double that which one would pay in G.B. !

On the Wednesday we took part in the Kayak club training race of 7,000 m and paddled against the local hero, Egil Sjøby. Egil was a member of the K4 Olympic team at Mexico and Montreal and is now the National Sprint Coach. Over thirty now and a local policeman, he stands 6'6" high and is still incredibly fast. In the training race he actually played around with the British Team paddlers!! Starting behind the line, he caught up on the second group and gave them a wash out wide past the leading group. He then burned them off, stopped, waited for me and Dave Smith and gave us a wash up to the leading group. At the end he burned off everyone to win with ease! Egil has paddled the Nøtterøy Race for many years and his 1964 record of 2 hrs 32 mins still stood. We were filled with admiration!

On Friday evening we drove for an hour and a half to the site of the third race in the series at Svelvik. Here we raced straight down a sea loch from A to B over a distance of around 20 km. In this race we were to get a taste of what the big one would be like in that we were followed by a fleet of small boats who were not in the least bit concerned if their wash upset you. The pace off the start was slightly slower - everyone was taking it that bit easier with the long Sunday race in mind. Robin Belcher, Tim Cornish and I, stayed with the leading group for much of the race and it was only when Robin took the lead that Tim and I dropped from the group! He wasn't too popular that evening!

Saturday was spent resting and then came Sunday and the Nøtterøy Rundt. The race started at 1 p.m. in the blazing sun, with no cooling wind. The start line was in the harbour and half the town had turned out to watch. Over 150 competitors lined up and as usual there was a long wait until the starter was satisfied that the line was straight and still. We had prepared ourselves well for the race, with lots to drink before hand, water bottles and tubes in the boat, sealed spray decks and wave breaks on the fore decks. We were to be racing in temperatures well over 80°F for almost three hours in a constantly moving sea with pleasure boat washes impinging from all angles. Robin Belcher, Keith Owen and myself made a moderately good start and were in the first group of ten for a short while. However, Egil Sjøby soon opened it up by taking away a small group including Jostein Stige, the winner of the previous three events. The field began to spread out, but as the waves got rougher with power boats coming and going, I was able to pull up some places and at the half way mark was the leading British paddler, lying in 6th place. Soon, however, I was overtaken by a group of fast paddlers including Lars Ivar Gran, a Junior paddler who won the event last year. He had had a bad start and was now working his way through the field carrying with him Tim Cornish and Robin Belcher. We three tried to stay with him but he paddled on at a relentless speed taking two others with him. At about this stage we must have passed Egil Sjøby. Unbeknown to us he had dropped out and had been accepting bottles of beer from passing craft! We were /

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were told later that it had been his plan to burn up the first 15 km of the race taking with him the younger and promising Jostein Stige. Stige did in fact go on to win the event a clear five minutes ahead of everyone else and four minutes inside the record set up 13 years before. We will watch with interest how he fares at the World Championships where it is expected he will race in the 10,000m against our own Doug Parnham.

Lars Ivar Gran managed to push through to third place, beating Robin Belcher who was sixth, by two minutes. Despite a bad patch in the middle of the race, Robin had once again proved to be our fastest paddler, and all credit must go to him for performing so consistently well in all four races.

It took many of us some hours to recover from this event. Quite a few, including myself, ran out of water during the event, and for us, the last few miles were a gruelling ordeal we would not care to repeat. For this type of race in those conditions we discovered to our cost that at least three pints of fluid must be taken to replace that lost by sweat.

The prize giving was late as usual and consequently poorly attended. However, this anti-climax was made up by the enormous number of prizes donated by the local shops. All four events had been sponsored in some way or other and in total I came away with seven different prizes and mementos from the events, including a special mug, a shirt, a pewter goblet, an ice bucket and a plaque.

After the prize giving we returned to our island, kayakless as we had sold much of our equipment to the locals at prices which suited them and us! We had a small party on the island attended by the Tønsberg Kayak Club, unfortunately, I was not able to last the pace of this final marathon and retired early at 1 a.m.!

The final two days were spent travelling round to Stavanger for our ferry which left on the evening of Tuesday 12th. We stopped overnight at a Forces Outdoor Pursuits Centre set up by Gordon Richards many years ago and run by the British Army. Here we consumed the duty free beer and sailed their Minisailles on an idyllic loch in brilliant sunshine.

The trip home was marred only by the fact that the ferry was late and we missed our banquet; however, we tried hard to make up for it at breakfast and almost succeeded!

For the record, this is about the fifth time the G.B. team have gone to Norway and it is quite likely they will be going again next year, so come on lads (and lassies?), get training and have yourself the most memorable trip of all time.

BEST BRITISH RESULTS IN NORWAY

- |   |                     |              |   |                 |              |
|---|---------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | <u>Kristiansand</u> | 32 Senior K1 | 2 | <u>Larvik</u>   | 25 Senior K1 |
|   | 7th                 | R. Belcher   |   | 3rd             | R. Belcher   |
|   | 8th                 | K. Owen      |   | 4th             | K. Owen      |
|   | 11th                | M. Harvey    |   | 5th             | N. Clark     |
|   | 14th                | A. Morton    |   | 6th             | D. Smith     |
|   |                     |              |   | 7th             | A. Morton    |
| 3 | <u>Svelvik</u>      | 25 Senior K1 | 4 | <u>Tønsberg</u> | 44 Senior K1 |
|   | 2nd                 | R. Belcher   |   | 6th             | R. Belcher   |
|   | 7th                 | A. Morton    |   | 7th             | T. Cornish   |
|   | 8th                 | T. Cornish   |   | 9th             | A. Morton    |
|   | 9th                 | K. Owen      |   | 11th            | D. Smith     |

SCOTTISH WHITE WATER RACING RANKING LIST

The system used to compile the list was: 50 points for 1st place, 49 for 2nd, etc. All events held in Scotland between 1st November and 27th February run on an individual timed basis counted for points with the exception of the Scottish Championship event on the River Nith which was subsequently de-ranked. The best 5 results were counted. Thanks are due to Mr. Tom McLean of Paisley Kayak Club for the long and arduous work in producing these results.

As will be seen, the first few names on the list are not those one would expect. This is due to many of our top paddlers being unable to compete in the minimum of 5 events because of racing commitments in the South and elsewhere. The Committee considered, however, that there should be some reward for the paddlers who attend regularly and support Scottish racing. What do you think? Do you have any ideas on how we could improve the system for next year?

Replies please to the Editor or to me at the address on the inside cover -

\*\*\*

Irvine Ross.

Note: My co-editor has already written a red-hot critique which, with some difficulty I managed to restrain him from publishing now, so that it could be included with other replies in our next issue. He does point out, however, that only half of the clubs involved have bothered to send in their 5p. levies. J.C.

ACCESS - BLACK CART

Paisley Kayak Club's legal battle over access to the Black Cart continues to drag its way slowly through the Scottish Law process. The club lodged its defense last May which seems to have so dismayed the opposition that they have asked for three postponements.

However, a further hearing is set for late September.

The Scottish Angling Association and the Scottish Canoe Association have agreed that this case could best be settled by discussion, with the Scottish Sports Council acting as mediators.

I have recently made a most informative comparison between the preparation and travel/canoeing hours ratio for a river trip to the Tweed and for a day trip in the Forth estuary. For a party of eight boats, you can save about three hours travelling in a car and achieve the same enjoyment by paddling in the Forth!

Several informal forays have been made during July and early August, with Inchcolm as the target, but usually finishing as sunbathing/surfing sessions on Cramond Island. What a pleasure to stop paddling in a Clyde double tourer and have your partner keep the boat moving!

Andrew Boath's small eskimo kayak has been tried and pronounced excellent by light-weights Janet Dickson and Fraser Brodie, and strength-tested and approved for surfing and rolling (but not looping) by Kelso Riddell, off Cramond Island. We now look forward with interest to testing his slightly larger version, currently on the stocks at the Compass Centre.

John ("pay yer sub to the club") Cuthbert launched his cut-down decked Granton Tourer at low-tide at Cramond one Sunday, and is well pleased with this modification to a good touring canoe. Certainly, with a light load, it does not catch the wind so much as the higher gunwhales of the boat made up straight from the mould. For those interested, the modification consists in cutting down the original hull moulding by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " at the centre, retaining the original height of stem and stern, and obtaining a smooth curve by springing a wooden stringer between bow, midships ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ " down) and stern. John has also flattened the stern deck considerably, but does not think this is a very good idea for the future, since it precludes the use of the "armchair" go-kart seat for which his original boat was renowned.

On one of our trips, Richard "Barbecue" McCurdie discovered not only that there is barely enough water to line a boat down from Cramond Harbour at low-tide, but that canvas canoes do tend to leak when holed by being carelessly loaded onto the trailer the week before! Another advantage of paddling in the Forth if you have forgotten to bring a repair kit is that you can send the wife to paddle ahead to Cramond Island while you return to the Compass Centre for a replacement kayak. We decided, however, that at low-tide it is probably quicker to walk along the causeway than to line down the channel at Cramond! We never did get to Inchcolm that week-end, but the sun was glorious and so was the lager! We found Clyde doubles a little slow at "picking-up" in the slight surf of the incoming tide on the far side of Cramond Island, and looked forward to our "go" in Andrew Boath's wee eskimo kayak, which behaved like a slalom machine. It was just as well he had re-inforced the cockpit area well, as a little carelessness led to a couple of involuntary rolls in the swell.

For the 25p per seat-day for hiring from the Compass Centre, we all felt we got our money's worth, but several of the lath-and-canvas boats now need a stitch-in-time and help from those who have used these boats would be much appreciated at Granton on Wednesday evenings. If you are not sure of what is required, Alec Farrell is the man to contact. Good patching!

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£ 60.

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COMMODORE'S COMMENT

On our holiday travels this year we called in at Strachur, not only the home of my co-editor Andy's parents, but also the place to where Jack Henderson has now retired after 20 years of exile in London. Only S.C.A. old timers will remember that Jack was in the 1948 Olympics and was one of our West Coast Touring pioneers. His book "By Kayak to Cape Wrath" was a best seller of its day.

One of his war time touring experiences always amused me. In those war years when our sacred shores were guarded against invasion by the enthusiastic volunteers of the Home Guard, such was the impoverished state of our weaponry that they were issued with pikes to fulfil their vital function. Jack, on one of his weekend trips, made to land on an island only to be met by a fierce looking band of the Home Guard advancing down the beach with their pikes at the ready. It took an awful lot of talking to convince them that he and his pals had not come from a passing German submarine and were about to commit some serious act of sabotage.

With much to talk about after the lapse of so many years we finished up by staying overnight. Now that the "Argyll Rot" has set in, or "manāna" as they say in other places, Jack and Marjorie spend a pleasant life landscaping the garden of their new house and sailing the upper reaches of Loch Fyne in the intervals of their social whirl.

A lot of publicity is given to those who make the Channel crossing by canoe, but to me a more praise-worthy trip is this year's double crossing of the Minch by John Young and his touring party. It took just over 5 hours to get there and slightly less for the return journey to Uig in Skye. It was a great pity that this great effort was not rewarded with better weather. Two weeks of wind and rain severely curtailed their exploration of the Outer Isles, but it could not dim the great sense of achievement in getting there and back.

I was very pleasantly surprised during my two days duty at the Royal Highland Show in June, at the intense interest in canoeing shown by mature folk and not as one would think by a lot of kids. The S.C.A. canoe exhibit was part of the S.S.C. Stand. It is hoped to repeat this next year, perhaps a bit more ambitiously. The Forth Canoe Club prepared and manned the Stand this year but we have no desire to set up a monopoly in this.

So we are affiliated to Craiglockhart Sports Centre (C.S.C.) at last!

This really is a far-sighted move by the Club Committee, which not only will give the Club a regular canoeing outing during the week, but also gives us access to potential new members. C.S.C.'s own staff at present run basic instruction courses on the pond for both children and adults, which have attracted an overwhelming demand. This is an ideal opportunity for the Club to gain new recruits, by advertising our existence in the centre, and by running basic instruction classes in conjunction with our BAT POLO sessions (more of which later). We require a permanent poster on the notice board of the centre, together with a supply of membership application forms.

The Club has been playing BAT POLO regularly on Tuesday evenings (6.30 for those who don't know yet) and Scott Balfour is the link-man between the Club and the Centre. We could not ask for better facilities, with a sheltered pond, permanent goal-boards, a centre-jetty, and even tennis-type umpires high-chairs! Forth C.C. members have the use of superlative changing facilities (50p returnable deposit for a locker), hot showers, and storage of the BATS during the week. At present we are working up for a BAT POLO Challenge Match against Roxburgh C.C. at Tweedbank, Galashiels, on Saturday 3rd September, and a team or teams will be selected from those attending regularly.

We have established excellent relations with the management of C.S.C., and we hope that future Tuesday evening sessions will include a basic canoeing instruction programme at the same time as the BAT-POLO games. C.S.C. have eight glassfibre slalom canoes for use on the pond, and those attending BAT-POLO always include several members who are able to give coaching. If you want further information, contact Scott Balfour on 031-445-3966.

Please remember to bring 20p with you for each session (non-members pay a little more), and please remember that the BATS will not repair themselves. The Club relies on those who use the boats to make sure they are kept in good condition and not allowed to deteriorate. At present, Andrew Boath and Kelso Riddell have had one repair session, but we must make this a regular feature of Wednesday evening meetings at Granton if we are to get a reasonable life from the BATS. Bring your own brush!

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POINTER 65 (vaneer) Excellent racing condition.

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The yearly West Coast Canoe Tour led by John Young, took him and his group this year across the LITTLE MINCH to the OUTER HEBRIDES and back.

Seven people were on the trip, they were John Young, John Young Junr. Tina Mitchell, Robert Blanch, Stephen Russell, Peter Buchanan and Andrew Boath. After waiting for two days at Loch Pooltiel, at the West tip of Skye, for the weather to improve, we left to cross the LITTLE MINCH on Thursday, 21st July. Just over 5 hours later we arrived at Loch Skipport, South Uist. The weather was ideal for our 21 mile crossing of open sea.

After pitching tents and having a meal we headed out on foot to find a telephone for John to ring his wife Edith, to let her know all was well after the crossing. We could not find the telephone which was marked on the map so I decided to enquire at the nearest cottage. The man of the house said the 'phone had been removed and the nearest one was about five miles away. He then asked if we had come over by boat; I told him we had canoed across, to which he replied "You are all mad, but come in and have a whisky".

While his wife entertained us, Mr. McCorie our host, ran John in his car to the telephone. What a grand character Mr. McCorie is.

Bad weather stopped us from canoeing for another four days, however I did a bit walking up the hills not getting much of a view and returning very wet.

Monday 25th We paddled from Loch Skipport to Loch Boisdale: 17 miles south with a following wind and waves large enough at times that even the 22 ft. doubles were surfing.

Tuesday 26th was a dry bright day for a change but it was windy, a chance to dry all our wet gear. Our food supplies had lasted well up till this point but now had to be replenished. The arrival of the rest of our party by boat, Keith Bootland, Alex Farrel and David Wolfe, caused a little excuse for having a few pints that evening.

Wednesday 27th With the weather having been so bad and not showing much sign of improving, Alex, Keith and David decided to go back to the mainland where they thought conditions would be better for canoeing. After arranging a ferry crossing for Thursday morning to Oban, we decided to have another few pints that evening to see them off.

Thursday 28th. was a fine day so we had a walk up to the top of a hill just to the north of Loch Boisdale. The view was fantastic, about 40 miles to the west we could see St. Kilda, to the south the most southern islands of the Outer Hebrides, beyond and to the east all the Inner Hebrides.

Friday 29th we left Loch Boisdale and paddled back up to Loch Skipport; it was raining again and we had a following wind.

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st Apart from having a swim both those days, and quite a few other days, the time was passed reading in the tents, or playing cards, due to the weather problem.

Monday 1st August The weather was worse than ever and very wet. We had a walk to the two nearest villages on the main road at the west side of the island, about 14 miles all round, and a lot of the way across marsh land.

Tuesday 2nd After a calculated risk, we decided to paddle back across the Minch to Skye. This time the weather changed a little and it got a bit choppy at times. 4 hours 40 mins. later we landed at Meanish Pier, Loch Pooltiel. We were followed most of the way by a couple of Gannets; Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills, Gulls and Terns were also seen.

Wednesday 3rd Was the day to start back for home. We drove all day in beautiful weather to Loch Moidart, where John took some camera shots of a superb sunset. Those slides, along with all the others on the trip will be shown at the COMPASS ADVENTURE CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER.

TEVIOT SLALOM - 10/11th SEPTEMBER 1977 ROXBURGH CANOE CLUBDiv 4 Novice and Judges TEVIOT BRIDGE - KELSOLOCATION: on River Teviot on the A699 Kelso to St. Boswells road  
½ mile from Kelso. (O.S. 1" Sheet 70 - map ref. 720 335)

ENTRIES TO: K. Fraser, 6, Mansfield Square, Hawick. Tel.2148.

To arrive not later than Tuesday, 30th August

All entries to be on BCU Entry Forms.

<u>FEES</u>	Div 4	Kayak and Canoe	£1
		C2	1.20
		Teams	1.50
		Judges	50p

CAMPING will be on same site as last year. No Water is available.

<u>RESULTS</u>	<u>AWE SLALOM</u>	<u>20/21st AUGUST 1977</u>
<u>TEAM</u>	1st Div 3	LEEDS YOUTH 4.38
	1st Div 2	BRADFORD/CHESTER 2.96
<u>Div 2.</u>		
<u>MEN</u>	1. M. Scarlet Y	Manchester 2.45
	2. N. Summers Y	K.C.K.C. 2.47
	3. J. Knox	Roxburgh 2.51
<u>JUNIOR</u>	1. D. Sykes	Manchester 2.60
<u>LADY</u>	1. J. Roderick	Manchester 3.82
<u>Div 3.</u>		
<u>MEN.</u>	1. R. Glover Y	Aston 2.54
	2. C. Edwards Y	Staffs Stone 2.67
	3. P. Hulland	Shrewsbury 2.75
<u>JUNIOR</u>	1. A. Dent	S.O.C. 2.83
<u>LADY</u>	1. M. Soutar	Dundee W.W.C. 6.36
<u>Div A.</u>		
<u>C1</u>	1. G. Hatfield	Aberdeen 4.20
<u>Div B.</u>		
<u>C1.</u>	1. A. Eastwood	G.U.C.C. 5.90
<u>Div A C2</u>	1. Robertson/Grey	9 Kilmarnock BB 4.73
<u>Div B C2</u>	1. Hatfield/Hatfield	Aberdeen 5.80
<u>JUDGES</u>	1. P. Godfrey	Manchester 1.82

This was a very well attended slalom, 160 paddlers taking part.

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ENGLISH CHANNEL RECORD ATTEMPT

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In September 1976, Drew Samuel of the Trossachs Canoe and Boat Club, broke David Shankland's eleven year old K1 World Record for the Channel in a new time of 3 Hrs. 33 Mins. 47 Secs., and this year Drew set out to attempt to break the existing two-way record of 12 Hrs. 47 Mins.

After months of preparation in both diet and training, the dates set for the attempt were 9/10th July at neap tides, but strong north-easterly winds caused the attempt to be postponed. In all Drew waited for some ten days at Dover while the winds persisted, and on Saturday 16th July, the last day before he was due to return home, he decided to make the attempt despite winds of force 3-4 at Dover, in the chance that the weather would settle as indicated by the weather forecasters.

In fact the winds became stronger, and increased in excess of force 6, causing Drew to abandon the attempt just off the French coast after four and a quarter hours of hard paddling and well ahead of the record at that stage. This situation further aggravated by heavy shipping in the Channel, is typical of the difficulties which swimmers and canoeists encounter on a Channel attempt, and is perhaps the reason why these records are inclined to stand for many years.

Well done Drew - better luck next time.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Apply:- George Robertson  
78, Peatland Quad,  
Shortlees,  
Kilmarnock.

FORTH CANOE CLUB FEATURE NIGHT

The Forth C.C. feature nights on the first Wednesday of every month, start on 5th OCTOBER, 1977 with a slide show and talk by John Young on his Hebridean Tour. These meetings are held in the Compass Adventure Centre, West Granton Road at 7.30 p.m. and all are welcome.

It is hoped to follow this at the November meeting with a showing of the Everest film.

ADVERTISEMENTADVERTISEMENTADVERTISEMENTPART-TIME COACHING and DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of S.C.A. Coaching and Development Officer. This is a new position and full details of the nature of the duties to be performed by such a person are available from the S.C.A. at 8, Frederick Street, Edinburgh.

The person appointed will be responsible through the General Secretary to the Council of the S.C.A. for:

Advice, co-operation and liaison with Area Coaching Organisers in general Coaching matters.

The training of Competition Officials.

The general Development of Canoeing in Scotland.

- e.g. talks to schools, youth clubs etc.
- participation in the creation of new clubs
- co-ordination of public relations activities
- representation of the S.C.A. at major exhibitions
- attendance at appropriate meetings of the S.C.A.

WORK LOAD It is not practicable to specify a precise work load in terms of hours and days. The person appointed will need to be enthusiastic enough to devote a substantial number of evenings and weekends to the duties, and will be expected to keep a comprehensive record of work performed.

HONORARIUM An Honorarium of £300 per annum will be paid quarterly in arrears.

EXPENSES The maximum sum available for travel, administration and subsistence expenses is £500 per calendar year. Expenses claims will be dealt with by the Treasurer on a quarterly basis.

QUALIFICATIONS

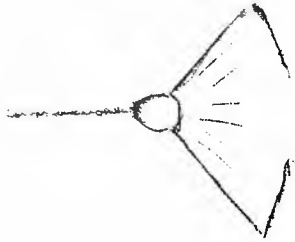
Applicants should have a B.C.U. Senior Instructor qualification for Sea or Inland Canoeing and they should have a wide experience of canoeing.

A car and telephone are essential.

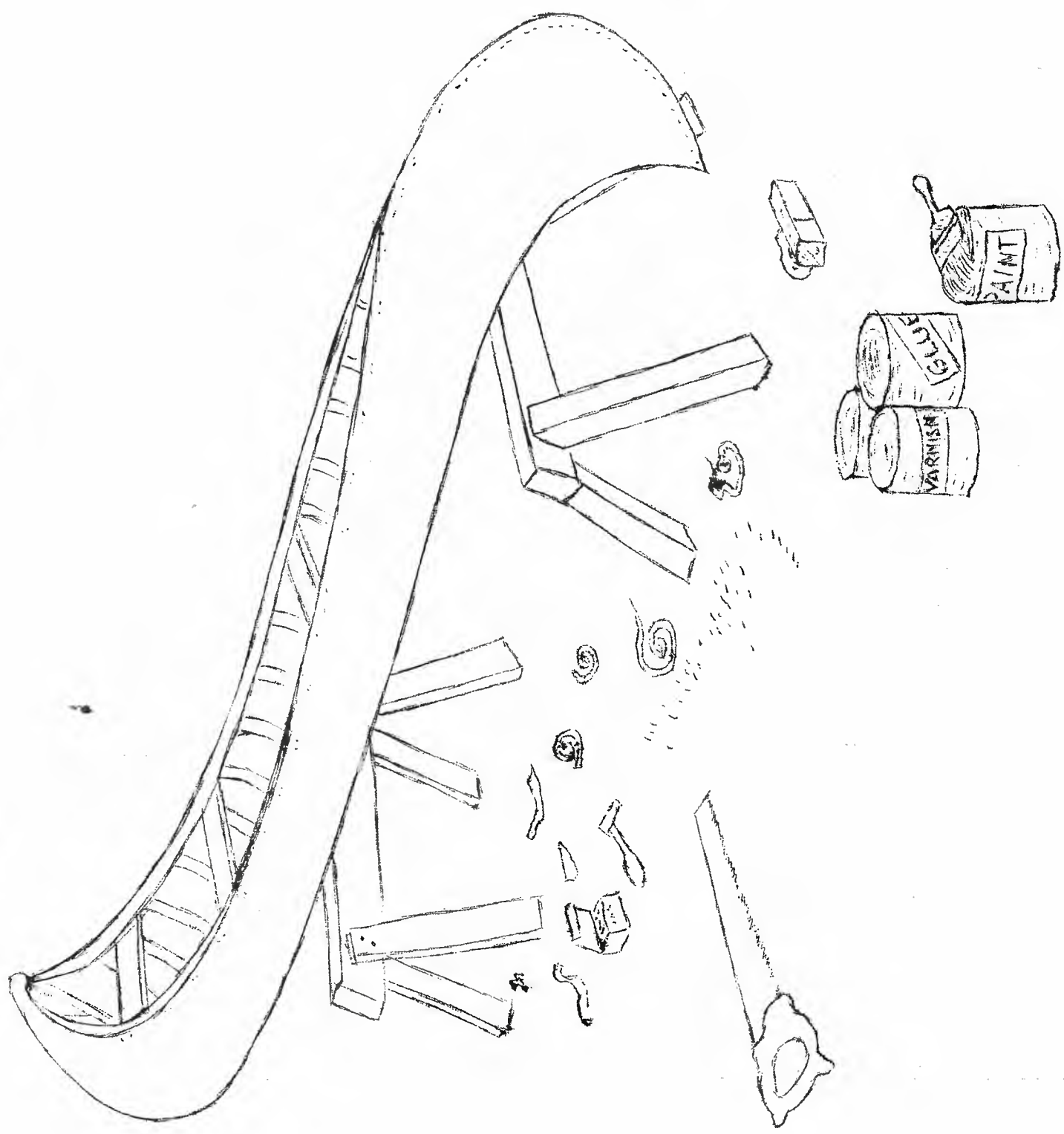
APPLICATIONS

Applications with the names and addresses of two referees should be made in writing to the General Secretary of the S.C.A. at 8 Frederick Street, EDINBURGH.

CLOSING DATE: Saturday 15th October 1977.



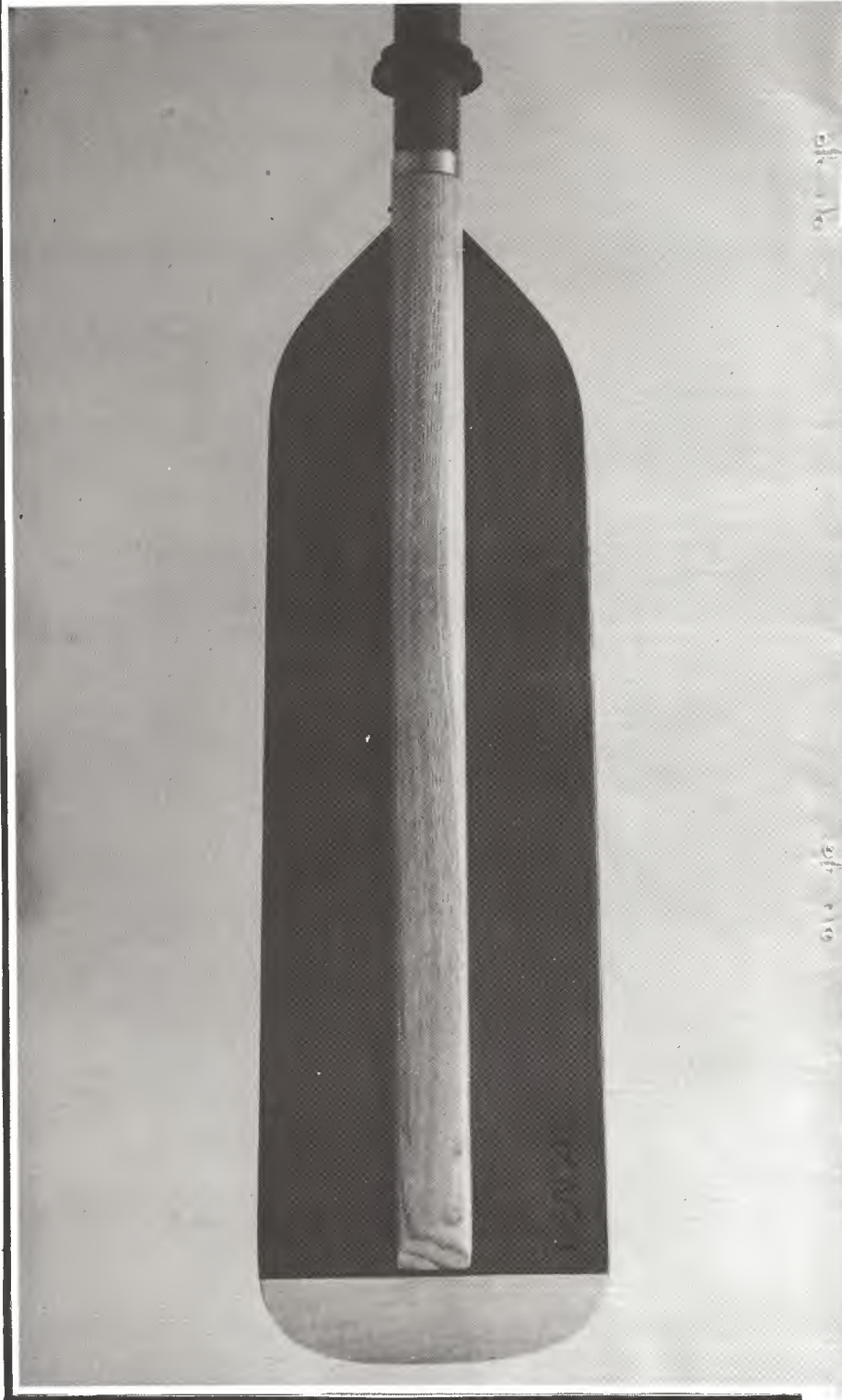
OH BLOODY HELL!



# NEW 'LENDAL SEAMASTER'

LENDAL have pleasure in introducing a new paddle to their range, primarily aimed at the sea canoeist. The maximum length of the paddle will be 240 cms. (7ft 10½ ins), blade length 48.5 cms. (1 ft. 7 ins). Any length below these measurements is available on request. The flat blade is slightly tapered, maximum width being 15 cms. (5¾ ins). The shaft of the paddle is made with our heavy weight glass tube and can either be fitted with one extended grip, which makes it suitable for either right hand control or left hand control, or with two extended grips, in which case it would be necessary to state the control required. The blade is strongly constructed of top quality marine ply with a multi laminate spine. LENDAL expect shortly to be also producing this paddle with a centre joint, making it invaluable as a spare paddle for extended sea trips. The price will be £12.96 including V.A.T. for the single grip version. The two grip version will be £13.80 including V.A.T. Carriage and packing will be free to all B.C.U. and club members anywhere in the U.K. mainland. Carriage and packing will otherwise be £1.50 to non members.

A cheaper version of the 'SEAMASTER' blade is obtainable in our normal kit form, being constructed of rounded ash spine and W.P.B. exterior grade ply. Individual blades will retail at £1.88 including V.A.T. A 4 ft. tube will cost £1.35 including V.A.T. and a 5 ft. tube—£1.78 including V.A.T. Carriage and packing will be £1.08 including V.A.T. This blade can be varnished at an additional cost of 40p per blade if required. Please state this requirement when ordering. The overall length of a kit paddle made up is 254 cms. (8 ft. 4 ins) with 5 ft. tube and 224 cms. (7 ft. 4 ins.) with 4 ft. tube.



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