

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

November
1977

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USEFUL ADDRESSES

FORTH CANOE CLUB

Hon. Sec & Treasurer
SCOTT BALFOUR,
23, Buckstone Loan,
EDINBURGH, EH10 6UD.
Tel. 031-445-3966

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. Polmont (0324)
711459

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOC.

Int. Hon. Secretary
Dr. J. FRYER,
12, Balfour Avenue,
BEITH, Renfrewshire.
Tel: 05055 2941

BRITISH CANOE UNION

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

S.C.A. SLALOM SECRETARY

IRVINE ROSS
Belrorrie,
Dinnet, Aboynoe,
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 Avenue
EDINBURGH, EH10 5ED.
Tel. 031-447-3954

EDITORIAL

The Scottish Canoe Association has been sending teams to represent Scotland in International events abroad for five years now. Each year the Association sets aside in the region of one third its annual budget to finance such trips

At the time of its inception it was thought that the incentive for youngsters to take up the sport and train hard would well repay the financial outlay. Has this proved to be the case?

This year has certainly been a good year for our top paddlers some of whom have been lucky enough to be selected for various G.B. Teams. Perhaps they would not have got to where they are without the experience of competing with Scotland abroad in top class events.

Nevertheless, I have been constantly reminded of the lack of depth in Scottish Canoeing during this season. At the Tail o' the Bank Race, the Falkirk Jubilee Race and the Tay Marathon, I found myself having to apologise to the officials for the small entry. As a result of a low Scottish entry at the Tay Marathon the English (British?) Marathon committee were very reluctant to send a team again next year until they could be sure of some competition from North of the Border.

In the Sprint world we see very few new faces. At the Scottish 10,000m K2 Championships there were three entries and the average age of the six paddlers was over thirty!!

In Slalom there still seems to be enormous entries at lower tier events and perhaps next year will see the fruits of the efforts of people like Drew Manzie and Morag Boyd.

Down River Racing seems to be the only exception to the trend. Each event is well attended and the existence of a Scottish Team has resulted in some fairly hot competition for places at least up to 1976. However, this year we were told by the selectors, quite rightly perhaps, that the Juniors at the Awe selection event were not up to standard!

What is to be done then?

I suggest that the amount of money spent on sending teams abroad is cut drastically and that the balance is used to finance the attendance of youngsters at events in England and Scotland. That training weekends are replaced by "Schools" weekends, and that the top few paddlers we have, are encouraged financially to attend selection events for the British Teams.

Canoeing as a leisure activity may still be in a healthy state but competitive canoeing in Scotland is stagnating while in England it flourishes. Something must be done about it, quickly.

A. Morton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

61, Hemphill View,
Knockentiber, Kilmarnock.

Dear Editor,

As usual, I enjoyed my "KAYAK" and in particular your comments with reference to our International Teams. As an ex-Team Manager I always felt it undesirable that we should have to ask for competitor contributions, as I know that on at least a few occasions, this meant that a paddler had to decline selection and at other times it meant having to borrow to allow of the inclusion in the team.

My own endeavours to gain sponsors for International Teams were thwarted by us, (i.e. the S.C.A.) being unable to decide early enough when and where we would compete abroad.

I am sure that provided we can decide in advance, at least 12 months in advance, which events we will attend, then sponsorship can be obtained.

The adoption of such a policy would have one other very real benefit. It would enable that small percentage of prospective paddlers who do not have months of holiday time, to arrange well in advance to take part of their Annual Fortnight at the time of the event and, it would enable all of the prospective competitors to arrange their training schedules in the knowledge that they had a firm selection date followed by a firm competition date.

In conclusion, I look forward to your co-Editor's "red hot critique" in your next issue, but would suggest that a softer, reasoned, balanced viewpoint would have more appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Bill McKinlay.

630, Vennacher Road,
Renfrew.

Dear Editors,

The weekend of 17/18th September found us at Grandtully for the S.C.A. slalom championships. We had a marvellous time spectating and taking a few photographs of the competition and a good weekend was had by all.

On the Sunday, however, at the hill behind the hotel they call the campsite, with absolutely no facilities at all, we were asked to pay 50p per head - £1 for the two of us - for taking up a piece of ground 6'6" x 4' for a total of 15 hours. This is daylight robbery! At Aberfeldy one can camp for 60p per tent plus facilities of toilets, warm running water, showers etc. - there is no comparison.

I would like to know where and to whom this unwarranted collection of 50 pences goes, because it must have amounted to a pretty sum if my head count at the site was anything to go by.

So, come off it organisers; are you trying to score people off? It's expensive enough with travelling and entry fees without adding a ridiculous fee for camping on a spare piece of ground.

Yours faithfully,

Ian P. McAusland.

Letter to the Editor

3

Lyle Road,
Greenock.

Dear Editor,

With the season drawing to an end I feel that the Selection Committees for the various S.C.A. teams should have fixed their selection procedures for the coming year.

In the past year we have seen all but the Slalom selection procedure for the Slalom Team changed.

Given that the Nith was void because of low water level, the White Water Team selectors then selected, at the Awe River Race, 4 Senior racing paddlers, only 1 Junior, and a racing C2 crew which, for all their training, were hardly of International Standard. The selectors said that the C2 was selected to encourage Canadian paddlers in Scotland but they seem to forget that unless junior paddlers are encouraged, the sport dies quickly.

The Sprint Team never got off the ground and the Marathon Selectors must have got their dates mixed up because they had selected their team before the selection event and of the selected team of 8, only 4 paddled the selection event.

I also think that any paddlers representing their country abroad should surely paddle against the stiffest competition available, for example (in the case of the Marathon Team) in the International K1 class, and not in other less important classes.

Yours sincerely,

ALISTAIR MUNRO.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Andrew Michie from Wallace High School, took fourteen pupils along with three other members of staff to the Continent this summer for a month's trip to France, Spain and Andorra.

They entered the XIV RALLYE INTERNACIONAL del CANOE-KAYAK NOGUERA PALLARESA and came away with three trophies, three gold medals, 2 silver and 2 bronze.

An evening of films and slides of the trip was to be held at Wallace High at the beginning of November but had to be cancelled due to Drew's involvement in his second car crash. Drew was relatively unharmed but his wife is still recovering in hospital. Our good wishes for a speedy recovery go to Linda.

-oOo-

Andrew Samuel represented the B.C.U. and the S.C.A. at the World Sprint Championships in Sophia this September. He travelled with the G.B. Team and while in Bulgaria learned much about the organisation of top class Sprint events. While there, Drew sat and passed the International Canoe Federation Officials' examination. This allows him to officiate at any World Championship or Olympic event and now puts Scotland in the position of being eligible to run an International event at Strathclyde Park.

-oOo-

Albert Kerr will be appearing on I.T.V. early next year along with Alastair Wilson, Hilary Peacock, Doug. Parnham and David Wilkie (who's he!)

-oOo-

For the first time ever, a Scottish Long Distance (now Marathon) Team competed in Europe. In the past, the only event ever attended was the Irish Liffey.

The Sprint/Marathon committee decided to drop the planned Sprint trip in the summer and the extra money was released to aid the sore pressed Slalom/Down River Tour and the trip to Gudena.

A team of eight attended with Team Manager John Turcan, and Bruce Beeley who paid his way just for the "holiday"!!

We drove to Denmark in three cars via the Harwich - Esbjerg ferry. The voyage lasted around seventeen hours and was the most relaxing and pleasant part of the trip. We were accompanied on the boat, and in the Youth Hostel in Silkeborg, by the twenty strong British Team.

The race itself was a great experience simply from the point of view of its enormity. The seventy five mile race lasted two days and was divided into five stages with an average 35 minute rest between each stage. Over nine hundred competitors entered and of that, over two hundred were in the Senior K1 class. The Programme was printed in book form, comprising forty pages of adverts, photographs and the start list.

The starts were divided into two or three classes, so we set off on the Saturday along with over three hundred other singles craft. After the first few miles we had our one and only portage followed by a crossing of one of the large lakes. The field soon split up and groups of two or three paddlers could be seen strung out over the lake. The first rest point, like all the others to follow, was a bit hectic. Because of sheer weight of numbers it was quite difficult to find ones support party and get changed and eat in time for the next section.

On Sunday we felt quite tired before we even started and the thought of paddling another forty miles with only two half hour breaks was quite daunting. However, one just had to keep going despite all the aches and pains! Eventually it was all over and we luxuriated in the hot showers and sauna!

Prize giving was in a huge sports hall nearby and was preceded with yet another helping of meat balls, gravy and tatties - our staple diet for the weekend!

The British Team performed superbly, taking most of the major prizes. Brian Greenham won a wooden Ranger as first prize in the K1 class! British paddlers also took third, sixth, seventh and thirteenth in the K1 class; first, third, and fifth in the K2 class; first and third in Ladies K1 and first in Ladies K2.

Drew Samuel and Willie Reichenstein received prizes for being third and fifth in the Veteran Touring and C1 class respectively.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|
| Scottish results were: | Peter Turcan | 24th. | 9.58.05 | (B.Greenham was 9.09.10) |
| | Andy Morton | 31st. | 10.05.50 | |
| | Ian Speirs | 32nd. | 10.06.07 | |
| | Alistair Munro | 108th | 11.14.32 | |
| | David Tuttle | 24th. | Junior | 11.01.07 |
| | Drew Samuel | 3rd. | Veteran | 10.42.40 |
| | Bruce Beeley | 18th. | Veteran | 12.06.23 |

Short Course

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Yvonne Alison | 6th.Junior | 4.59.37 |
| Willie Reichenstein | 5th.C1 | 4.42.19 |

BOOK REVIEW

"CANOEING" by John Brailsford and Stephen Baker, published by Oxford Press.

"This book is the result of a discussion between the authors on the theme of what canoeing means to them"- reads the first line of the introduction, and it transpires that the book is nothing more than this, which is rather disappointing. The authors do not appear to have a clear idea either of what they wanted to write about or for whom.

The mediocre impression given by the book was reinforced in the last chapter headed "Interview" and in the Appendix. The Interview appeared to be an almost unedited chat between the authors and some school children and provided such gems as the boat builders' Grading system. Grade one is "very difficult!!! Obviously a very useful piece of information.

The Appendix lists clubs which "encourage young canoeists". Under the heading Scotland we only apparently have two worth mentioning: Edinburgh White Water Club and Madras College Canoe Club! Under the heading "Access" we are informed that rivers, unlike public highways, are private property and one must ask permission to cross private property.

A good deal of the book is devoted to surf canoeing and here I take strong exception to the detailed comments on surfing in England and Wales with the passing remark - "Scotland is being explored and some pioneers rave about conditions..." That is presumably if they have managed to fight off the savage kilted Scotsmen who have obviously never seen a kayak, let alone a Surf shoe.

Barring that particularly patronising remark, this section of the book is without doubt the best, probably because the authors have a particular liking for this form of sport and have been backed by good photographs taken by Mike Clark.

Frankly, the authors would have been better to stick to this subject in which they have some knowledge and leave the rest of canoeing to the experts.

A.M.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION
Touring Award Scheme

The S.C.A. are offering, from January 1978, an award scheme for its Touring Members. The intention is to provide some recognition of the achievements of this large membership group.

The scheme has been deliberately kept simple to operate and is based on the keeping of a log, which most tourists do anyway. Each year this log will be sent to the Touring Secretary for verification of the mileage claimed. Awards will be made as follows:-

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| Bronze Standard | 600 km | (375 miles) |
| Silver Standard | 2000 km | (1250 miles) |
| Gold Standard | 4000 km | (2500 miles) |

At least 75% of the distances must be on Scottish Waters.

The actual Award will be the Association Medals.

To Register for the scheme, send your name and address, Membership number, and age if under 18, with the fee of £1 to:-

P. Moore,
12c Calside,
PAISLEY

In return you will receive a folder giving the full details of the scheme with Log Sheets.
P. Moore.

- October/ November By consultation with the S.C.A. Slalom Committee, fix a date for the event and decide on a Ranking Status. Information about your event will then automatically go into the S.C.A. and the B.C.U. Calendars for the following year.
- January/ February a. Form an organising committee and delegate general duties.
- b. Book "Tutti" (Headsets, timers etc.) from the B.C.U./S.C.A. These sets are moved from slalom to slalom. It is essential to book early so that your set is on the local circuit and not in the south of England, since you will be collecting it on the previous weekend!
- c. Contact landowners, fishermen etc. for permission to use their ground for access to course, campsite etc. Enclose a S.A.E. for their reply and remember you are only asking for use of the land and not the water.
- d. Book gates, if you do not have your own set. Forth Canoe Club will hire a full set for around £10 - £15. Contact David Cuthill: 031-447-3954.
- e. If you wish, advertise your event in the various canoeing publications. For "Kayak" magazine contact the Cuthills with above 'phone number.
- f. Order prizes with engraving. Two suitable sources of good quality trophies at very reasonable prices are:
Bernard Bott: 18, Ludlow Hill Road, Melton Road Industrial Estate, W. Bridgford, Nottingham. (Engraving is free of charge up to 30 letters).
Colborne Trophies: Park Road, Silver Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.
- g. Order Result Sheets, Judging Slips and Entry Cards from the B.C.U.
- h. Obtain the current Slalom Year Book and read it!
- Six weeks before Delegate all duties. The following should be arranged if required:
Duplicate information on the event and send out to clubs.
Design course on paper at least.
Obtain scaffolding, toilet tents and polythene bags for rubbish.
Manufacture signs e.g. for Slalom, Campsite, Toilet.
Obtain Terylene Cord (see Advert. page in White Water Magazine)
Inform local shops, police, newspaper of impending event.
Obtain P.A. system.
Arrange for collection of "Tutti".
Nominate Judges and Jury if possible.
Arrange for someone to give prizes.
- One week before a. Draw up start list leaving spaces for late entries.
b. Duplicate start list and send to those who enclosed a S.A.E.
c. Draw up provisional results sheet, pre-write Judging Slips.
d. Fix Judging boards with clip, pen, whistle and poly bag.
e. Obtain and charge a car battery for the operation of "Tutti".
f. Obtain a stop watch for timing Team gate.

Thursday/
Friday /

Thursday/
Friday

Erect course, lay out "Tutti" and set up Control and Judging positions.

Finalise Start list.

Set up Notice board with start list, judging rota, names of Jury.

Saturday/
Sunday

Organise practise runs if necessary.

Run main events to time, of course!

Tutti will time up to a maximum of five competitors on the course at once.

Apres event

Prizegiving

Dismantle course

Clear up Campsite and River Bank

Finalise results and send out copies to competitors.

Copies of results should also go to:

The local newspaper

The S.C.A.

The B.C.U.

Appropriate levies should be sent to the S.C.A./B.C.U. where applicable.

Return all borrowed equipment

Write to landowner/farmer etc. to thank them for allowing the event to take place.

Keep this document and add to it any points requiring special attention or improvement for next year!

FORTH CANOE CLUB SLALOM EQUIPMENT
IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE BY OTHER CLUBS

It includes:- 30 Gates with Bearers;
Gate Nos 1-30; START and FINISH Banners;
Road Direction Signs, Signs for: CAMP,
CAR PARK, "LADIES", "GENTS", JUDGING POINTS
and CONTROL. 2 Toilet Tents and Judges Boards.
Apply to David Cuthill - 031-447-3954

N.B. When collecting the Slalom equipment, realise that it is a lot of stuff and heavy.

Do not be like the chap who turned up one night to collect the gear in an 1100 with three passengers and no roof rack. When asked how he intended to take the equipment he replied, "Well, it is only some poles isn't it"?

At the beginning of each slalom season our equipment is complete and whole. By the end of the season the damage and loss is incredible. So a plea is made to all who use our gear: PLEASE LOOK AFTER IT. Don't cut or leave knots in bearers; untie the gate numbers etc. so that the corners are not pulled off the hardboard and CHECK CAREFULLY that everything is returned.

STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY SPANISH TOUR - SUMMER 1977.

Most of the Scottish White Water Fraternity will already be familiar with the details of this year's international canoeing week at "Seo de Urgel" in North Spain. Previous tour reports have sung of the exploits of the Scots in those sunnier climes - names such as "El Fred" and "Irvina" Ross are still hallowed memories in Spanish Slalom circles. To name but a few. For this reason we will merely mention those facets of the tour which made our trip different from the rest -

1. The water - it was ~~**?~~y BIG! - Regular evening rain in Andorra kept the Valira high throughout the week. The organisers duly delegated course design to the Germans and ourselves and we produced a fairly open course. 'Twas just as well. Not only had the water gone up, but the Spanish boats had gone down (in buoyancy!) and it was a rare sight to see a Spaniard upright after gate six (not to mention some of our own paddlers!)
2. The opposition was somewhat variable -
 - French - who were good - but only stayed two days
 - Irish - who'se minibus had been almost totally renovated at their own expense during the journey!
 - English- who'se Team Manager kept writing off boats!
 - Dutch - who liked big water but not gates!
 - P.Schafer - still handing out stickers - an unchanging memory.
 - Spanish - 'nuff said
 - and US
3. The River Race Course - started below the famous weir for which one of our party was very grateful. It still caused a few problems for some however - Angus fell in 3.2 yards from the start (had he recovered from the Strawberry Liqueur the previous night I ask myself?) and Susan eventually crossed the finish after 45 minutes of Racing, Swimming and Self-rescuing - the only lady to do so!
4. The results - The Scots traditionally excel at this particular series of events and Strathclyde were no exception, collecting some thirteen Trophies (not to mention four picked up by the "Dynamic Duo" Hugh and George); "Bluebell" took four, Susan three, Colin Two, Duncan Two, Alistair one, and one for the Club. Celebrations took place in the time honoured way and lasted well into the night (and into the swimming pool!)
5. The "after competition" tour - A day was spent on the "Nogeura Pallaresa" - and we lost a set of paddles and half of an Olymp 5! A day was spent in Andorra - replacing a wheelbearing on the minibus! A day was spent in Perpignon - getting fried on the beach and paying a small fortune for food and drink!

Eventually we arrived in Vichy to view what Peter Schaffer had called a "Mini-Augsburg". For a bottle of beer a local motorcyclist took us to the site where we found we could camp free of charge (in France?). The course would be a good Div III in Britain and the only problem was when "Bluebell" was taking one of his homicidal practice runs.

The French extended every courtesy to us during our three day stay and we can recommend a visit for anyone travelling to or from Spain in the future. Shortly thereafter we ran out of money and headed for the Channel in a bus laden with Booze, Fags and Assorted Contraband.

A magic time was had by all - AMEN

All races run in Scotland between 1.11.77 and 27.2.78 will be considered ranking if their 5p per head levies are sent to A. Morton by the end of the season.

The Scottish Championships at Grandtully will not count towards points.

The best four results of any competitor will be considered.

A trophy will be provided to the overall winner.

Organisers should draw up their results in the following categories:

Senior Men, Junior Men, Senior Ladies, Junior Ladies, C1 and C2 regardless of type of boat used.

----oOo----

RAVES FROM THE GRAVES - Ten Years Ago.

British National Sprint Championships 1,000m 2nd A. Wilson
1967 500m Novice 1st Colin Tannock.
500m Novice K2 J.Gilmour/C.Tannock

Gourock Singles Sea Race. 1st. John Young (Sen)
2nd. Andrew Morton
2nd K2. Cuthill/Riddell

British Open L.D. Championships. 2nd. A. Wilson
1967

Kyle Canoe Club Regatta 1st. 500m W. Reichenstein
1st. Slalom class A. Batchelor

----oOo----

CANOEIST OF THE YEAR 1977

TOP TWENTY

| | <u>Name</u> | <u>D.R.R.</u> | <u>Slalom</u> | <u>Sprint</u> | <u>Marathon</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. | R. Lang | 9 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 35 |
| 2. | C. Tannock | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 28 |
| 3. | A. Morton | 6 | - | 5 | 8 | 19 |
| 4. | K. Fraser | 7 | 9 | - | - | 16 |
| 5. | P. Turcan | 10 | - | - | - | 10 |
| 5. | J. Young | - | 10 | - | - | 10 |
| 5. | W. Reichenstein | - | - | 10 | - | 10 |
| 8. | J. Oliver | 8 | - | - | - | 8 |
| 8. | E. Milne | - | 8 | - | - | 8 |
| 10. | I. Speirs | - | - | 7 | - | 7 |
| 10. | A. Samuel | - | - | - | 7 | 7 |
| 12. | A. Batchelor | - | - | 6 | - | 6 |
| 12. | S. Balfour | - | - | - | 6 | 6 |
| 14. | S. Ramage | - | 5 | - | - | 5 |
| 14. | R. Galbraith | - | - | - | 5 | 5 |
| 16. | A. Eastwood | 4 | - | - | - | 4 |
| 16. | A. Florence | - | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| 16. | C. Dunlop | - | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| 16. | F. Nelson | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |

----oOo----

SCOTTISH DOWN RIVER RACING KAYAK/CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

FORTH CANOE CLUB 5th FEBRUARY 1978 GRANDTULLY

Start: 11 a.m. Distance: 5 km Grade: 4

Course: The start is the same as in the past five years, i.e. on the SOUTH bank at the Lagg, half way along the main Grandtully/Aberfeldy road. The finish will be about 350 metres below the bottom fall at Grandtully.

Prestart: Due to problems with parking and damage to fencing, there will be a prestart at Aberfeldy. All competitors will set off from above the main Aberfeldy bridge on the south bank at the point where the Team event normally starts. Cars should not be parked at the Lagg parking point. SET OFF AT LEAST 30 mins. BEFORE YOUR START TIME.

Entries: To A. Morton, 34 Roselea Drive, BRIGHTONS, Falkirk.
70p Senior 40p Youth £1 C2 Team - 30p (10p per paddle)
These should arrive no later than the 2nd February for compilation of the Start List which will be sent to those sending two envelopes. Individuals (not teams) entering on the day of the event will be charged an extra 30p.

Safety Competitors must abide by the B.C.U. rules regarding safety and conduct during the race. Starting is at minute intervals and competitors with boats not clearly marked will not be accepted for start.

Practice Competitors wishing to practice should do so on Sundays if possible, to help maintain our good relations with the fishermen.

Camping: The main Aberfeldy site is closed at this time of the year. Competitors wishing to camp should use the old station or knoll behind. They must not leave any litter.

Team event: A relay race (Championship) will be run from Aberfeldy to Grandtully. The race will start at Aberfeldy bridge at about 3pm. The finish is the same as in the individual event. Each team must consist of three paddlers, and they must be from the same club to be eligible for medals. The paddlers carry a cork on a loop of string and they may do so in any manner. The "baton" is passed on to the next person in the Team at each change over point. The first point is at the Lagg and the second point is 200m upstream of the top fall at Grandtully above a shallow weir. There will be a massed start comprising one member from each team.

Medals 1,2,3 Senior K1 1,2, Youth K1 (under 18 on 1.1.78)
 1 Ladies 1 Youth Ladies "
 1 Team 1 C1 and 1 C2 (if 3 or more entries in class)

Prizes: 1 Senior Slalom 1,2,3 Youth Slalom 1 Youth Lady Slalom
 depending on entries 2nd Team or 1st Youth Team.

Enquiries: To A. Morton, any evening. 'Phone (0324) 711459

DON'T FORGET THE S.C.A. DINNER/DISCO ON SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 1977

IN THE SUFFOLK HALL HOTEL, CRAIGMILLAR PARK, EDINBURGH, 9.

DINNER (£3.50) 7 p.m. DISCO (50p) 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

TICKETS FROM: S.C.A. OFFICE, 8 FREDERICK STREET

BEFORE WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBERSEE YOU THERE...

I regretted very much not being able to attend the dinner given to John Dudderidge by the B.C.U. for his phenomenal contribution to British Canoeing for over 40 years. However, John wrote to tell me about it. Among a distinguished company were Denis Fellowes, Chairman of the British Olympic Association and Mary Glen Haig, Chairman of the C.C.P.R. Lord Killanin, Chairman of the I.O.C. and the Minister for Sport Denis Howell, sent flattering tributes. A fine crystal bowl engraved with emblems representing John's many activities at home and abroad was presented to him and he was made Honorary Life President of the B.C.U. I cannot think of anyone so richly deserving the accolades showered upon him.

In the last issue of Kayak we carried a full page advertisement for a Part-time Coaching and Development Officer. I learned recently that no applications had been received. Does this mean that we have no such qualified people to do a stint for Scotland? Surely there is an enthusiastic club Secretary or Area Coaching Organiser somewhere who could take a sabbatical year from his present canoeing job and devote his energies to the National interest. It would be a sad blow to our National pride if one with an accent other than Scots were to get the job.

The majority of young people taking up canoeing start off in a slalom boat. This I suppose is because there are more of these canoes than any other and they are, of course, much cheaper and more easily transported. Most schools introduce canoeing to pupils via a slalom canoe, and also supply paddles, life jackets, spray decks and "boulder bowlers".

When the pupils leave school it is a bit of a shock to learn that all of these things cost money plus transport so that of all the young people who have been given a taste of the sport at school, only a few trickle through into club canoeing. There are the lucky ones who go on to University where they can continue canoeing for free, but again, mainly in slalom canoes.

It is little wonder then that the lower ranking slalom events are well nigh crowded out. It also goes some way to explaining the dearth of hard paddling sprint men. A slalom can be thrilling and skilful, which is more attractive to the majority than the hard lonely grind of sprint racing.

Be that as it may, I have an unhappy feeling that we are going to be looking around for more top class 1st Division slalom men shortly.

Graham Smith produced a generation of 1st Division Slalomists almost wholly on his own: such as Fay Roberts, Jim Dolan, Jock Young, Scott Ramage, Gordon Cuthill and others. What we need now is another Graham Smith and his counterpart for racing.

Success is not a thing one can organise on paper; it has to come from personal leadership. I wonder how many of our long-in-the-tooth international canoe men will accept the challenge!

I am sure that some of the slalom judging is not all it might be, and there have been occasions when one had grave doubts as to whether a judge had even read the rules in the handbook. For years it has been our endeavour to raise the standard of judging and to this end we run an annual Slalom Judges Course open to all canoeists on the first Wednesday of February. From February 1978 it is intended to award a certificate to those who are successful in the written test in the hope that one day all our slalomists can compete with confidence in the marking of their run.

Jack Cuthill.

'FORTH' ON THE UNION CANAL

Work on cleaning out the Lochrin Basin of the Union Canal, co-ordinated by the Scottish Inland Waterways Association, is now complete for this year. At the last work weekend there were two machines at work, a JCB from Rollo's and a HYMAC 370 from Pennant Plant. Several members of the Club were taking part, together with some of the lads of Heriots Boat Club. Unfortunately the weather was poor and the hand squad was rained off at mid-day on Saturday. Needless to say the weather immediately improved as soon as they had gone home.

Those of the Club who have not yet helped clean the basin will be interested to know of our intentions and progress for canoeing. We have managed to obtain, at a very nominal rent, a section of land in Lower Gilmore Place, on the bank of the canal. We have our own gate, and the intention is to erect a canoe shed on the land where we can store our boats and use as a base for beginner training in the basin. For those who wish to train seriously, it is only about a twenty yard portage to the other side of the lifting bridge, from where you may sprint up the $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Wester Hailes before meeting a solid wall. We feel that a facility right in the centre of town will be very useful to us, rather than somewhere which is relatively inaccessible.

Morag Eaton's father has drawn up plans, and these have been submitted to the relevant authority for planning permission, which should come through about the beginning of December. We can then proceed to erect the hut, which will require the help of all able-bodied members. We have a brick wall to build on the edge of the land, and sleepers to acquire for foundations. The hut that we have has been given to us, but needs some attention. We will have to scrounge the usual bits and pieces such as six inch nails, coachbolts (to bolt it together) and roofing felt, as well as guttering and other 'incidentals'. The co-ordinator for all this activity is Kelso Riddell (tel: 031-229-9586) and any offers of help should be directed to him. Needless to say if you do not offer, he is likely to ring you up to disrupt your weekends anyway.....

SIWA's long term intentions for the canal are to dredge it for the full length to Wester Hailes for all water activities, and a project is at the study stage to re-connect the Edinburgh section with the Ratho section, which is not as far fetched as may at first appear. There is currently a Job Creation Scheme squad working on the stretch from Leamington to Harrison Park, and we will be taking part in water activities on the canal on a co-ordinated 'Open Day' next summer. This will probably include boat hire, a horse-towed barge trip (Mrs. McCurdie volunteer please), a still water slalom on the basin, and some BAT activity also. We hope to co-ordinate with all the canoeists in the Edinburgh area to show the Region that this facility for the City requires more attention than it is getting at present.

If you have any good ideas, or even bad ones, discuss them with Kelso Riddell on the 'phone, or at the Compass Centre on Wednesday nights over the winter.

FOR SALE:

CLYDE SINGLE CANOE - GOOD CONDITION
COMPLETE WITH SPRAY DECK AND RUDDER

£40 O.N.O.

APPLY:- Jack Cuthill. 031-447-3954

The Royal Dee D.R.R. on 6th November proved a popular event with the prizewinners coming from a' the airts.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------|---------------|--------------------|-------|
| <u>K1 Men</u> | 1. K. Fraser - Roxburgh | 21.18 | <u>Ladies</u> | 1. Karen Patterson | 26.23 |
| | 2. C. Tannock- G.U.C.C. | 21.19 | <u>C2.</u> | Robertson & Grey | 23.50 |
| | 3. I. Linn - E.W.W.C. | 21.39 | | | |

Slalom Class 1. A. Fulton. Keith Grammar School 24.27
The Team Event was won by E.W.W.C. - Ross/Smith/Linn 21.47

There was an interesting innovation at this event in that the slalom class was run from a mass start. It was a useful experiment but perhaps some sort of provision should have been made for slalom boats to encourage people to come along, i.e. provision for a trophy or the like for the Slalom Team event.

---ooOoo---

River Racing Training Weekend - Benmore - 18/19/20 November 1977.

This weekend, organised by the Slalom and River Racing Committee was most successfully run by Graham Smith, Irvine Ross and Neil Spinks.

Graham pushed everyone to their limits as usual with a never-ending programme of runs, interval training, weight lifting and timed runs down the river. Your correspondent is still aching from his exertions. A number of other weekends are planned for early in the new season and those interested are strongly recommended to contact the S. & R.R. Committee Secretary, Irvine Ross.

---ooOoo---

C2 Success

Our congratulations go to George Robertson and Hugh Grey who will be appearing at No. 3 on the British C2 Slalom Ranking List. At the Leven test series they have recorded the fastest C2 time of the year. In fact they only just failed to break the long standing course record.

---ooOoo---

J. Stewart Ness

Stewart returned to bonny Scotland for a few weeks from Nigeria recently. He terminated his contract there due to his wife's illness. Now that she has recovered, he is dragging her off to Iran for another year's contract where, we are told, the climate is more congenial and the money even better.

---ooOoo---

B.C.U. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JANUARY 1978

Due principally to the efforts of John Turcan, our S.C.A. President, a proposal for Federalism is being put to the meeting.

We await the outcome with interest.

---ooOoo---

Sponsorship

Dewars have agreed to sponsor canoeing events in the United Kingdom up to and including the World Championship Series in 1981. A number of expensive trophies will be awarded and the cash available will be considerable.

---ooOoo---

S.C.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 4th DECEMBER 1977

The meeting will be held in the Edinburgh Outdoor Education Centre (Old Broughton School) MacDonald Road. We hope there will be enough clear heads to see the business through.

The preliminaries will begin on the Saturday night, 3rd December, in the Suffolk Hall Hotel, Craigmillar Park, with a dinner (£3) at 7p.m. and a disco (50p) at 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. with a late bar.

Order your tickets from 8, Frederick Street now whilst supplies last.

COMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 27th November | Thistlebrig R.R. | E.W.W.C. |
| 3rd December | Dinner (£3) 7p.m. | Disco (50p) 8pm - 1am. |
| 4th December | S.C.A. Annual General Meeting | 11 a.m. |
| 18th December | Mackerstoun R.R. | Roxburgh C.C. |
| 8th January | Teith R.R. | Trossachs (A.Samuel) |
| 22nd January | Nith R.R. | Dumfries C.C. |
| 29th January | Thistlebrig R.R. | Edinburgh University |
| 5th February | Scottish Championships Grandtully | F.C.C. (A.Morton) |
| 12th or 19th February | Clyde R.R. | Glasgow University |
| 18th March | Grandtully 1st Div Slalom | |

FOR SALE

SABRE W.W. RACER £70 EXCELLENT CONDITION
 SPRINTER W.W. RACER £10 NEEDS ATTENTION
 PAIR OF PACEMASTERS 218cm £15 MINT CONDITION
 Contact: M.McClure, "Craigievar",
 3, Diana Vernon Court, Helensburgh,
 G84 7TA
 Telephone 0436-5786

Small Adverts

In the last issue we carried 6 different advertisements for second hand canoes, the understanding being that if a successful sale was made we would benefit by £1. Is it really true then that not one of our advertisers had any success?

F.C.C. SECRETARY

Please note that the new Forth Canoe Club Secretary is:-

Scott Balfour, Tel.No. 445 3966
 23 Buckstone Loan,
 EDINBURGH, EH10 6UD.

We regret that it has been found necessary to increase the annual subscription to "KAYAK" because of increased cost of production. This will now be £1.50p per annum.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

PART-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

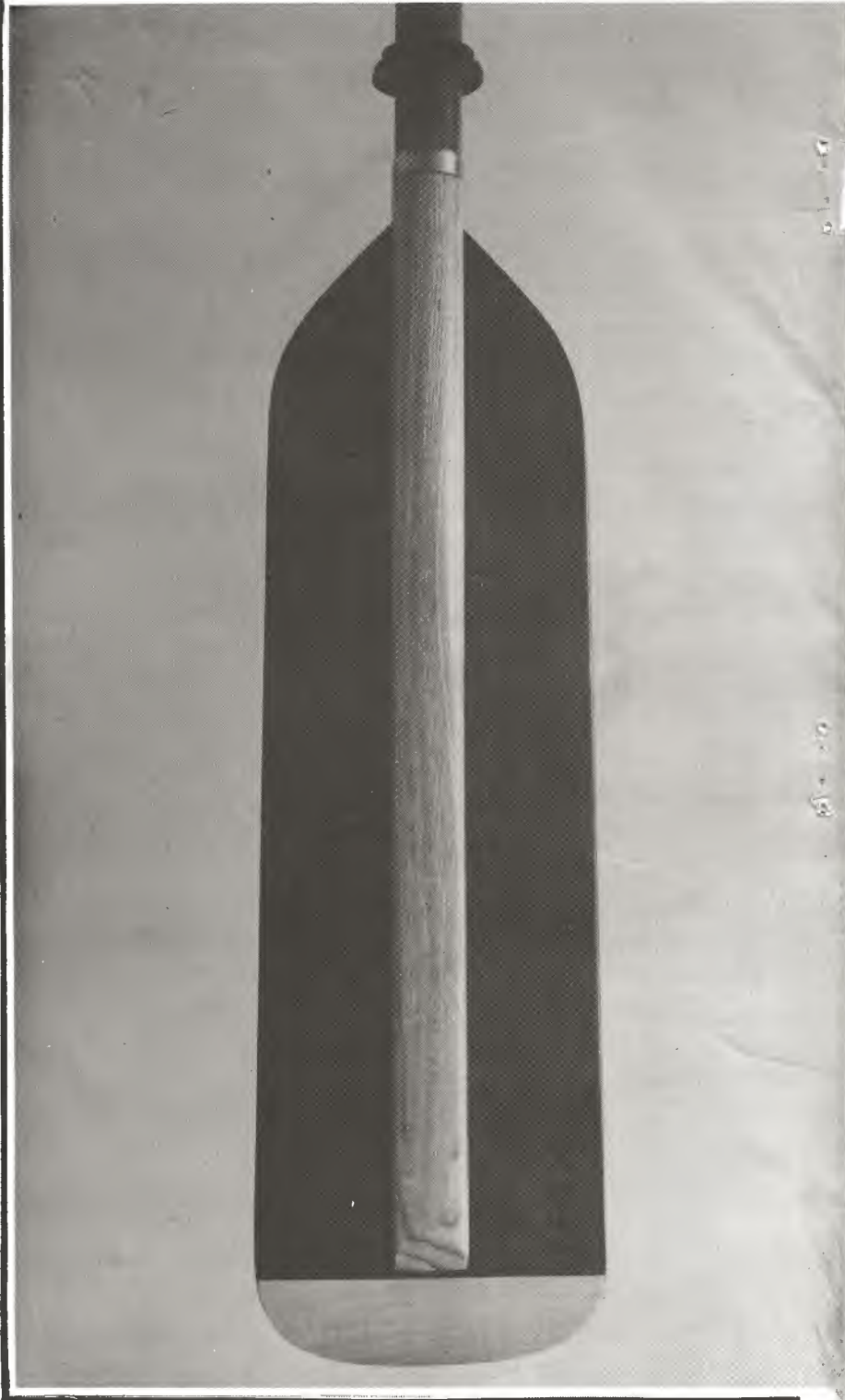
Applications with the names and addresses of two referees should be made in writing to the General Secretary of the S.C.A. at 8 Frederick Street, EDINBURGH.

CLOSING DATE Saturday 14th January 1978.

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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or send off this coupon
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Dear Sir,
Please rush me details of the large range of LENDAL products as advertised in "KAYAK" magazine.

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