

# **KAYAK**

## **MAGAZINE**



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**February**  
**1978**

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**A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION**

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EDITORIAL  
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I am sure all those who took part must have enjoyed the Bat Polo Tournament held in the Commonwealth Pool on Saturday 14th January. Unfortunately my own pleasure sitting watching it all, was marred by such mercenary thoughts as - where are we going to get the money to repair the canoes and replace the broken paddles? It hurt to hear those crunching collisions at the start of play.

This was a popular tournament with 18 teams. There might have been more if entries just before the start had been accepted. Is it not time that canoeists got it into their heads that events, such as this, require some preliminary organisation, and to turn up half an hour before the start and expect to participate is almost an impertinence; and that goes for all official canoeing events. However, to return to my mercenary worries - there are one or two things I suggest we must do:-

1. More clubs will have to supply their own Bats and equipment, or maybe the S.C.A. could invest in 10 Bats. The clubs keeping them would be responsible for repairs.
2. An alternative method of starting a game must be devised. This Kamakazi dash for the ball at the start is too damaging on Bats and paddles.
3. The standard of refereeing must be improved. It was obvious that some of those officiating were not as familiar with the rules as they ought to have been (see page 16)
4. It would help the referees if all teams wore team bibs with numbers.
5. We must try to find sponsors. This might lead to the provision of more canoes.
6. We need a Scottish Cup to play for. The holders would also get a trip to the Crystal Palace.
7. This latest Bat Polo event must have aroused some interest, but if it is to be maintained, a league of some sort will have to be devised with home and away games being played.

All players should be bona fide members of the club they play for and Scratch teams be barred.

No doubt the new S.C.A. Bat Polo Committee will sort out these and other suggestions.

J.C.



It is my desire to generate discussion amongst S.C.A. members on two issues, and invite comment.

Should we, as an Association, decide the views have some merit, then implementation of them would ideally be at the time our Constitution was undergoing alteration in conjunction with Federalisation which, I believe, is coming whether we as an association want it or not.

### 1. FORMATION OF S.C.A. COUNCIL

I feel it is time we circulated, well in advance of the A.G.M., a list of the Office Bearers willing to consider re-election, and those who have decided not to stand for a further term of office. We should also consider electing a much larger Council than at present. To have only 4 elected officers at Council Meetings, plus whoever turns up on the day, seems a less than satisfactory way of conducting our affairs.

For instance, it leaves Council very vulnerable in the event of resignations during the year (witness last year, when we had only two elected Officials left to conduct our business).

Also, anyone attempting to persuade members to a particular point of view, at present can find themselves addressing an entirely different audience at each meeting, depending, to a degree, on venue.

What size then, do I think Council should be? Well, let's say, our present 4 Officers, plus a delegate from Technical Committees as follows:-

Touring	1.	Coaching	1.	Access	1.	Surfing	1.
Polo	1.	Slalom/RR.	1.	Marathon/Sprint	1.		

7 + 4 = 11. I would now elect a further 4 members at the A.G.M., to give a total of 15 elected members.

This could result in a larger turn-out at the A.G.M., since I am sure the various disciplines would be alive to the dangers of having (for instance) an overwhelming majority of Sprint enthusiasts elected to Council.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE S.C.A.

I am convinced that the most important facet of the total activity in any National Association is the involvement and endeavours of Clubs and Club Officials.

I think all will concede this point. Right then - are we going to continue to allow the present situation to exist?

At the moment, we have a situation whereby any individual who so chooses, can compete in any event they wish, can be selected for Scottish and/or British International Teams, have a great deal of money spent on them, through the outlay of S.C.A. + B.C.U. and various sponsors and Grant Aiding bodies, and yet play no part whatever in the most important part of our total activity, the essential, fundamental, back-bone of our organisation, the local Clubs.

Surely it is time we took steps to ensure that anyone wishing to take part in any of our organised activities, was first of all a Club Member.

This would make Clubs stronger, a little wealthier, and would ensure that everyone involved in Competition attended a minimum of, say, four Club Meetings in each year, to assist, in some degree, with the running of same.

It would be no problem, or should be no problem, for any Club Secretary or Treasurer, to forward to H.Q. a list of those desiring SCA/BCU Membership, with a cheque to cover the total and to distribute Membership cards when they came through.

If the foregoing excites some comment, causes others to take a fresh look at our conduct of affairs, and even put pen to paper, I shall be well pleased.



We were paddling for our lives! With the wind increasing in strength and the tide sweeping across our direction of travel, we were being rapidly moved away from that point of land which had, just a few minutes earlier, been an easy 20 minute paddle away.

Our position was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles off the Mull of Kintyre, near Southend. We were on our way back from Northern Ireland after crossing the North Channel on Sunday 26th June, and this was to be our last training paddle prior to our major kayak trip for 1977.

Planning - As a training trip we planned this event in the usual manner. Chart 2199 - Irish Coast Pilot - West Coast of Scotland Pilot - BCU Coastal Advisory Service - Northern Ireland Tourist Board - Coast Guard Service - Irish Yacht Club - were all involved, plus local sources of information were consulted prior to the trip.

We had decided to launch from Carskey Bay near Southend due to a number of factors. The main points in favour were 1. Easy access to beach from the road. 2. Good sandy beach for departure/landing. 3. Good camping ground and parking available.

The crossing was undertaken by two club members: Colin Campbell and Robert Todd. We had hoped to have a few English paddlers along with us, but alas, they were unable to come at the last minute. However, Scottish paddlers are renowned for their ability to get along without English support, and so, on Saturday 25th June, Colin and I stood on the beach in the bright morning sun, ready to set off. ( see map overleaf )

Scotland to Ireland The wind was from the North West, Force 5, and, with the tide against it, the sea didn't look too friendly outside Carskey Bay. We decided that the trip was still 'on' as the forecast indicated signs of improvement and we felt we could always adjust our plans if conditions proved too rough for a complete crossing to Northern Ireland.

The tides can be very strong off the Mull of Kintyre and even though we had selected a weekend close to neap tides there would still be strong fast tidal movement. (4kn in places)

Two other club members, Robert Stevenson and John Dalgleish had come along to see us on our way and do a bit of coastline paddling at the same time.

We could see the Irish coastline from the beach before we set off and, as we stood looking out across the sea, the local coastguard from Southend arrived in his Land Rover. He thought we would have called off the trip due to the weather situation but after showing him the precautions and safety procedures we adopt he seemed satisfied that our confidence was well founded.

The crossing took five hours and five minutes. A wet and windy 20 miles but the sun shone through for the first hour and came out again just as we reached the Irish Coast.

Only one merchant ship passed through the North Channel as we crossed the traffic separation zone, which is a two mile wide stretch of water between the designated shipping lanes.

We adhered strictly to the schedule planned for the trip, making a 15 minute raft up for lunch (and to meet the needs of nature). Our only other stop was about 3 miles off the Irish Coast, when we rafted up to check through a monocular, the precise location of Cushendun Bay (our primary objective). We were happy to see that we had made an accurate assessment in allowing for wind strength.

One thing which surprised us on the approach to the Irish Coast was the lack of bird life. As we were close to the protected nature reserve at Rathlin Island we expected to see some activity, but the skies and coast line were deserted.

As our Nordkapps nosed their way forward toward Cushendun Bay, the strong tides off the Irish Coast started to push us south, but after a protracted ferry glide we were soon exercising our legs on the slipway of Cushendun Bay Hotel.

Northern Ireland /



## Northern Ireland

Cushendun Bay Hotel, which was chosen for us by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, is built right next to the beach. Normally, when sea canoeing, we usually camp, bivi or spend the night in a cave. However, not being familiar with the Irish Coast and as we were unaware of the political situation at that particular spot, we decided that it would be a better proposition to spend the night in a hotel bed. (Ah! Any excuse for an easier life' - I hear some of you say!)

Our arrival caused quite a few comments, as we trekked into the hotel where a local wedding reception was in full swing. It must have been an unusual spectacle - two wet bedraggled looking tramps mingling in the hotel reception area along with the wedding guests.

After a hot bath, shave and a fresh set of clothes we made our way into the village to have a look around. This was the first time either of us had been in Ireland and no doubt this was an unusual way to set foot into a new country.

The village of Cushendun has apparently been free from any of the troubles which we normally associate with Belfast etc. In the village Post Office we sent off a few postcards as a record of our visit then headed back to our hotel to enjoy a nightcap etc.!

## Ireland to Scotland

After a pleasant and comfortable night in hospitable surroundings the next day brought with it a reasonable weather forecast. Collecting our kayaks from the hotel garage we set out from Cushendun at 11.00 as scheduled. The wind was North West again, about Force 4 to 5. This meant a rough and wet crossing with a quartering sea but the kayaks performed well and there was no danger of a capsize. In fact it made the journey more interesting and exhilarating. We surfed for a good part of the way, although in order to adjust our true course toward Southend we had to change tack frequently. We rafted up about 10 miles out (approx. half way) in order to have some lunch and a hot drink, which as many of you will know, is no easy task when you're being tossed about like a cork in a boiling sea.

Soon we could see Mull of Kintyre lighthouse stand out clearly in the brilliant sunshine which suddenly broke through the clouded skies. The local coastguard from Campbeltown was apparently standing at the lighthouse at this time, watching us through his binoculars. He had been advised by the Irish Coastguard of our ETA at Southend on Mull of Kintyre and he very kindly decided to turn out and drive the 15 miles to the lighthouse just to see we arrived safely.

About 4 miles away from our final destination the wind dropped very quickly and within 15 minutes no wind broke the surface of the water. Only the pattern of tidal movement showed and, as we looked at the chart we noted that we were approaching an area of overfalls. Even though the tide was just starting to flood once again, there was turbulent water visible not far ahead but our kayaks eased through with little difficulty. After about 20 minutes without any wind, the scene suddenly changed. The wind started to build up from a westerly direction and within a matter of minutes it had become quite violent.

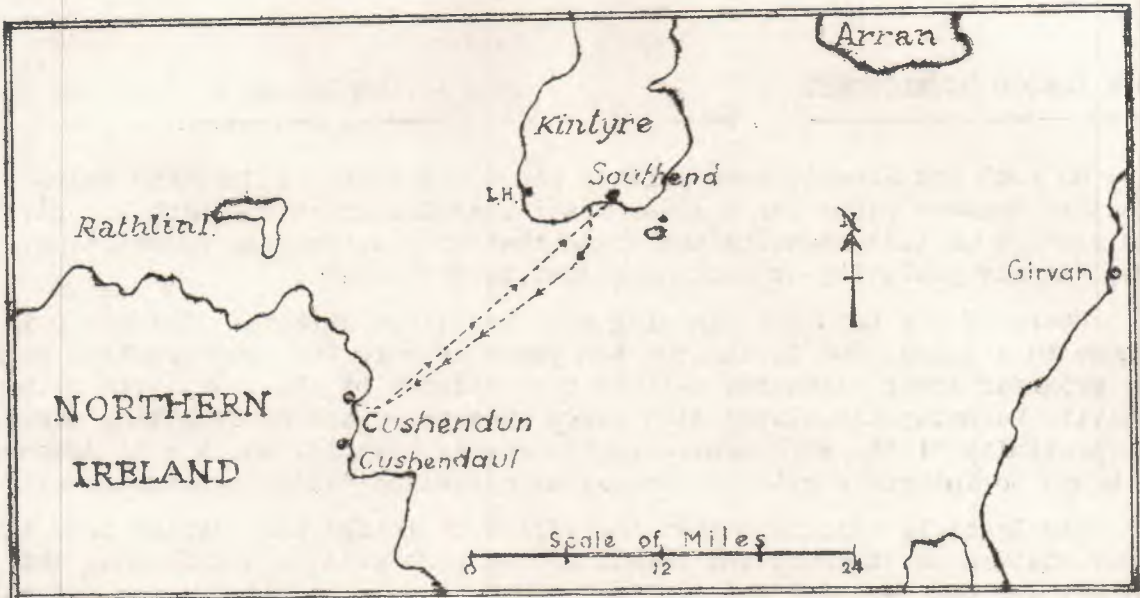
Quite suddenly we realized that we were no longer getting closer to the land and that we were travelling parallel to the coastline. Very soon tide and wind would sweep us out and away from the land.

We changed direction and paddled with every ounce of strength we could muster, with the wind and tide broadside on to us. Eventually we reached the landing point at Carskey Bay where we had set out from the previous day, but the wind fought against us right up to the moment we grounded our canoes on the beach. We had only overrun our proposed landing spot by 200 yards, which was not a great error considering the tough paddle we had over the last 1½ miles.

At the end of the trip we were happy to see the cheerful face of the Campbeltown Coastguard along with Robert Stevenson and John Dalgleish who had waited to help us up to the cars with all our gear. Even the sun blazed down on us as we unpacked after an exciting and exhilarating trip.

This is just one of many such trips which the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club have undertaken during 1977. We look forward to many more trips during 1978.





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SEA CANOEING 1978

R.W.S.A.B.C.

FEBRUARY 11	Day trip: Gareloch	Grade A
25	Day trip: Loch Long	A
MARCH 11	Day trip: Round Cumbrae	A
25	Day trip: Glasgow to Greenock	B
APRIL 8/10	Firth of Lorne/Loch Linnhe	A
22/23	Surfing: Machrihanish	A
MAY 6/8	Three Day - 120 ml Trip	C
13/14	Scotland/Isle of Man	C
20/21	Non-Stop Overnight Paddle - 60 ml	C
27/5 June	Advanced Hebridean Trip	C
JUNE 24/25	The Garvellachs: SCA Trip organised by RWSABC	A
JULY 1/16	Hebridean Trip: To Butt of Lewis (incl. Minch Crossing)	B
29/30	Gulf of Corryvreckan	B
AUGUST 5/13	Staffa & Iona	B
26/27 *	Kyles of Bute (* Provisional Date)	A
SEPTEMBER 9/11	Isle of Arran	B
23/24	Loch Goil	A

The above is a primary list of sea trips being organized by RWSABC in 1978. There will certainly be additional day trips and possibly other extended trips which will be announced on a local basis nearer the time. Details of all trips can be obtained from The Canoe Section, RWSABC, Clubhouse, Esplanade, Greenock.

**GRADE**

- A Proficiency Standard
- B Proficiency Standard Plus
- C Advanced Standard

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REMEMBER TO MENTION 'KAYAK MAGAZINE' WHEN REPLYING TO OUR ADVERTISEMENTS



So much has already been written about the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board's plans for a power station at Craigroyston, Loch Lomond, that the readers of this magazine may think that this article is superfluous. But, can any publicity on such a project be too much?

Users of the Loch for canoeing will be little affected ultimately if the scheme goes ahead, but during the ten years or more that construction work is in progress their pleasures will be much reduced by the inevitable noise and activity normally associated with large excavation and construction works. The proximity of the work centre to the Ferris Memorial Shelter at Rowchoish is bound to interfere with its use as an overnight "doss" by canoeists.

The Board is confident that the effect of intake and outflow from the power station on currents and levels of the Loch will be negligible, and anybody who has recorded the fluctuations in levels resulting from natural causes and the existing man-made controls, as the writer has done, will be in agreement with them. Users of the Loch who stick to its surface are not likely to be much affected by the scheme, but is Loch Lomond to be regarded as just a sheet of water? Its banks and braes are so much a part of the Loch that the impact of the scheme on all those who love its peace and solitude will be a sad one.

Improved road access, unless restricted (an unlikely development) will bring cars, and users of the west bank of the Loch know what that means. There is little doubt in my mind that even if roads are not thrown open to the public the Board will try to make their installation a show piece, with conducted tours to the reservoir in Shady Glen, now the almost exclusive haunt of sheep, deer, goats and other wild life. The reduced climbing distance afforded by the service road is likely to make the ascent of the Ben by the rather more demanding north ridge as easy and over-used as the existing public path, already a conservation problem.

Over the years the natural beauty of Loch Lomond has slowly been eaten into by exploiters whose interests are at least influenced by personal gain. Is the Craigroyston scheme an intrusion by a Nationalised Industry into this field with a different motive, namely to permit those remote from Loch Lomond's beauties to squander power earned at the expense of those who love them? You are the judges.

-----oOo-----

#### S.C.A. SLALOM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT RANKING SLALOMS

For the coming season one member of the slalom committee will attend each ranking slalom in an official capacity, in order to deal with any minor problems as they arise.

Where possible the person nominated will not be a member of the competing division(s) and he will automatically become a member of the protest committee.

Organisers of events will be notified who has been allocated to their events beforehand.

It should be emphasised that this is not an attempt to limit the freedom of organisers, but a scheme to improve the general standard of slaloms in Scotland and to defuse problems as they occur.

-----oOo-----



On Sunday, 9th April, 1978, a sponsored Canoe event will be held to raise funds for Leukaemia research. All money raised will go to the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

The event, which will be run by the Edinburgh White Water Club, will be divided into three parts and will be held on the River Tay from Stanley to Perth; a distance of ten miles on grade three water.

The groups will be divided as follows:-

1. Sponsored paddlers paddling purely for pleasure with the incentive of a new canoe as a prize for the paddler who raises and deposits the largest sum raised through their sponsorship.
2. Sponsored School groups paddling for pleasure with a presentation to the school group raising and depositing the largest sum raised through their sponsorship. The presentation item will be duly inscribed for permanent display at the school. A group shall consist of not less than four and not more than eight paddlers.
3. The David Marshall Memorial Trophy - a race for the competitive paddler with the trophy as 1st prize (to be held for one year) and prizes for the runners-up. This event will be a ranking event counting for the Scottish L.D. points system. Entrants for this event must have a sponsor form.

Groups 1 and 2 will start between 10 a.m. and noon and rescue boats will be in position at Stanley Weir and Thistle Brig.

Group 3 will start at 1 p.m.

All paddlers must have a life jacket/Harishok, Spray deck and helmet and travel in groups of not less than three.

I hope you will enter paddlers for this event and assist in raising funds for a worthwhile cause as well as promoting a greater interest in the sport of canoeing.

Please write to me, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope if you wish sponsor forms, -

Mr. R. Day,  
Police Community Involvement Officer  
c/o Clovenstone Community,  
54, Clovenstone Park,  
EDINBURGH.

Tel.No. 031-441-5961

---oOo---

26th November

A SATURDAY

Craig Samuel  
Aged 11

It's Saturday Morning, no school today  
and suddenly my Dad says: "we're going away!"  
Canoes on top, paddles inside  
Jump in the car and we're off for a ride  
to Strathclyde Park for a training day  
with lots of others from the Tweed to the Spey.

First there's a talk, a film and more  
then into the crewboat, the longest K4  
Up with these arms high and long,  
suddenly the boat is really racing along!  
Thrill of the speed the splash of the water,  
although it's quite cold and I'd like it much hotter.

I'm glad I braved the frost and the snow,  
I'm a better canoeist I accept and I know  
At the end of the day, tired and half-dead  
I'm pleased to be home and off to my bed.

--oOo--



BAT POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH POOL, EDINBURGH.

The response of canoeists to this first real Scottish Championship was most unexpected, with eighteen teams entering for the competition, when the organizers had expected about half a dozen. There were even two teams who arrived on the day, asking for an entry. Needless to say, these were regretfully turned away - perhaps they will look ahead further than 24 hours next year.

In the Junior event, Forth Canoe Club clearly dominated the games, despite spirited opposition from the teams of Selkirk High School. The teamwork and many hours of experience gained under Scott 'Big Boy' Balfour's eagle eye on the training ground of Craiglockhart Sports Centre over the summer, had paid dividends, and the enthusiasm of the lads from Selkirk was no match for organised co-operation of Forth. It was not surprising that both Forth 'B' and Forth 'C' won through to the final, where the greater power and abilities of Forth 'B' showed up, although the younger side still managed to snatch two goals against the better side's 5. Congratulations to 'Ged' Dryburgh, 'Jed' Fraser, Paul Buchanan, Peter Buchanan, and Harry Fettes. If they remember that it is teamwork and positioning that is all important, they stand a good chance at the British Championships at Crystal Palace later this month.

It had been hoped to give poorer teams the chance of some useful practice by having the competition in the form of a league in the early stages, but the number of entries and the lack of time for such a number of games made a straight knock-out necessary for the whole competition. The quarters were dominated by Edinburgh White Water Club, Aberdeen University, Forth 'A' and Strathclyde University, as the final score chart shows. In the semi-finals, Aberdeen University and E.W.W.C. had quite a close tussle, while Forth left Strathclyde in no doubt who were the masters and made short work of them with a score of 7-0.

The senior final was full of excitement with both Aberdeen University and Forth 'A' well aware of each others determination to win. The sheer force of Aberdeen contrasted sharply with the determined precision of the Forth moves, particularly evident to those sitting at the top of the Commonwealth Pool's grandstand seating. Despite having greater possession of the ball throughout the game, and many excellent moves to a shooting position, Forth were rushed into making hasty shots at the Aberdeen goal, missing at least five easy scores, and at full time the score stood at 1-1. In the 'sudden-death' play-off, Aberdeen snatched up the ball from the start, and had scored before anyone was aware of it happening, and it was all over.

It remains to be seen how Aberdeen University will fare at the Crystal Palace British Championship. I feel quite sure that they will have to revise their tactics if they are not all to be sent off by the rather more **strict** referees in the South. But with good teamwork and calling to each other, we can look forward to a reasonable chance of bringing some English silver over the Border at the end of the month.

Forth Canoe Club have made the effort, in conjunction with Paisley Kayak Club, to get this corner of Canoeing out of the realm of just a silly game, and it is to be hoped that some other clubs will take the hint and obtain their own chariots. For those with low funds, Forth and Paisley each have a mould which could be made available. Get the message - bash your own canoe...

Kelso Riddell.

APOLOGY.....

KAYAK EDITORS apologise for an error on page 9 "RAVES FROM THE GRAVES" looking back 10 years, in which it was stated that Alistair Wilson was 2nd in the 1,000m British Championships. This was wrong. In fact, Alistair was British Champion in all the Championship events that year. (1967)



SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION - BAT POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS (JUNIOR)

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH POOL, 14.1.78.

FORTH 'B' } 3	FORTH 'B' } 6	FORTH 'B' 5	} <u>FORTH 'B'</u>
SELKIRK H.S. 'B' } 0	SELKIRK H.S. 'C' } 0		
	FORTH 'C' } 3		
PAISLEY 'B' } 0	SELKIRK H.S. 'A' } 2	FORTH 'C' 2	
SELKIRK H.S. 'A' } 1			

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION - BAT POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS (SENIOR)

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH POOL, 14.1.78.

E W W C 3 } BORDERS 1 }	W.LOTHIAN 'B' 0 } E W W C 4 }	E W W C 1	} <u>ABERDEEN UNIV.</u>
A U C C 6 } G U C C 0 }	COMPASS 'B' 1 } A U C C 3 }	A U C C 2	
	W.LOTHIAN 'A' 0 } F C C 'A' 4 } E U C C 0 }	F C C 'A' 7	
	COMPASS 'A' 0 } STRATH. UN. 1 } PAISLEY 'A' 0 }	F C C 'A' 1	
	STRATH. UN. 5 }	STRATH. UNIV. 0	

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For attention of Club Secretaries:

BRITISH JUNIOR W.W. RIVER RACING INTERNATIONAL TEAM (Under 16)

The selection event for LERIDA W.W. FESTIVAL in SPAIN, JULY 1978 is to be the Trewerwyn on 13th May. The course is between upper and lower Trewerwyn slalom sites.

BRITISH YOUTH W.W. RIVER RACING TEAM (Under 18)

The selection event for SPITTAL and LOFER, JULY/AUGUST 1978 is Trewerwyn, 14th May (Full course).

Club Secretaries should send names and dates of birth of potential candidates to Iain Linn, S.C.A. Slalom and W.W. Chairman, 50 King's Road, Edinburgh, 15.

WRITE ....right now !



Dear Editor,

As an avid reader of your magazine! I was dismayed to read that it is now intended to give awards for touring based on mileage. Why all this avaricious collecting of gongs? Has canoe touring so lost its joy that the present S.C.A. members have to be bribed to go?

Certainly I can see little pleasure in the modern performances written up in this and other magazines which could be more accurately described as Long Distance Sea Races. They might provide an egotistical sense of achievement and material for line shooting so beloved of the male.

Canoe Touring was one of the joys of my life for years and I can still feel the exhilaration of the first launch - that moment when you cast off from the shore, with your tent and paraphernalia packed in around you; with enough food for 3 or 4 days, completely self sufficient and independent for as long as the food lasts - ready for adventure. Perhaps during the first two days there was the odd blister or stiffness in the arms, or both, but these soon passed as we worked ourselves fit. Lunch stops and camps provided opportunities for beachcombing, climbing hills, taking photographs, bird watching and sketching. Often we would discover ancient hill-top forts combining map-reading with a knowledgeable eye for such places. Often whilst looking down into clear water from our canoes, sea urchins could be seen rising and falling and everywhere the colours and beauty of the scenery above and below water. So long as we managed around 10-15 miles average per day it was all there to be enjoyed and written about. Our log books re-live for us the experience - even today.

Is the S.C.A. wise in making awards for mileage in canoe touring? I suggest they should think again and leave touring out of the rat race for gongs. It is too big an experience to be assessed on mileage.

Yours sincerely,  
Betty Cuthill.

\*\*\*oOo\*\*\*

2(B) High Road,  
Castlehead,  
Paisley.

Dear Editor,

In A. Morton's November Issue Editorial, he makes reference to the "fruits of the efforts of people like Drew Manzie.....", in his paragraph on slalom. I would like to point out to your readers that this was an error and the credit should have been given to Drew Michie for his work with his pupils at Wallace High School.

On page 3 of the November issue, News in Brief, mention was made of their success in Spain during the summer. This deserved much fuller coverage along with the background of what was a year's work.

On the home scene, the results of the Scottish Slalom Championships at Grandtully show that Div.I is well within the scope of a few of them, given the necessary advice and encouragement. In the Junior event, placings 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10 show strength in depth. I. McDonald, 1st with 10 penalties, would have been placed 9th in the Senior event; I. Phillip, 2nd, had the only clear run of the Championships and D. Bruce, 4th, with 20 penalties, showed that their gate work is of a high quality.

So, credit where credit is due please, and I hope that A. Morton's hopes for their breakthrough this coming season are realised.

Yours sincerely,  
Drew Manzie.



Belrorie, Dinnet,  
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.

Dear Editor,

In reply to Ian McAusland's letter in the last edition of "Kayak" concerning the charging of campsite fees at the Scottish Slalom Championships, I am glad that Ian enjoyed the weekend and I would have thought that, at today's prices, 50p for two day's entertainment was a bargain.

Ian obviously does not realise that with a total entry of around sixty competitors, it is impossible to run a slalom without making a loss, unless one charges campsite fees. I have never attended a slalom, or even heard of one, where campsite fees were not charged, so it can hardly have come as a surprise when we followed the same procedure at Grandtully. The site we use is not a piece of waste ground. It is an area of rough grazing where horses are normally kept and we have to make some recompense to the owner for the inconvenience we cause him. There are, I agree, no facilities in the field, but water is available just at the foot of the hill and campers are unlikely to use a "bog tent" when there are public toilets at the bridge nearby.

Ian asks where and to whom the money goes. Well, what is left after we have paid all the running expenses goes to the S.C.A. Treasurer (in contrast to other championship events which are a drain on S.C.A. funds). It then goes to whatever use the Slalom committee thinks best. This year it is helping to pay for the new Slalom Timing Equipment which will be S.C.A. property and available for use at all Scottish Slaloms in the coming seasons. The people who benefit from this money therefore will be the Scottish Competitors and organising clubs. It does not seem like "daylight robbery" to me to collect small sums of money from slalom enthusiasts when that money is going to help improve the facilities for the sport.

We shall most certainly be charging campsite fees this year again, so Ian can choose whether to contribute to S.C.A. funds or to the profits of the Aberfeldy Campsite.

Yours sincerely,

Irvine Ross,  
Slalom & White Water Racing Committee.

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FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Tesco have kindly agreed to sponsor the Irvine Canoe Club's 500m Regatta and two Irvine L.D. River Races in 1978.

---oOo---

We hear that a new canoe club has been set up in Ayr with the encouragement of the Ayr Region Development Officer.

---oOo---

LOST PADDLE    A racing paddle was found after the Grandtully Down River Championships on Sunday 5th February.    Claims to David Cuthill.

---oOo---

It was interesting to hear on the radio programme "All Things Considered" that, when asked the question "Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions no matter how bizarre" Chris Bonnington replied that he has always admired the white water canoeist and, after seeing the Everest Expedition film on Independent Television recently, his unfulfilled ambition would be to become a white water canoeist, but he didn't think he would have the nerve.

---oOo---



S.C.A. CANADIAN SLALOM RANKING LISTS

During 1977 points were awarded to all Canadian paddlers, regardless of their ranking status at six slaloms, namely:- Fairnielee, Comrie I, Leny, Awe, Comrie II and Potarch. Points gained were: 10 for a win, 9 for second and so on. Up to 4 results counted for the ranking list.

During 1978 the same system will operate and the qualifying events will be:-

Fairnielee	- 1st - 2nd April	- Edinburgh University	(3-4-N)
Comrie I	- 15th-16th April	- Ancrum C.C.	(4-N)
Leny	- 27th-28th May	- Dundee W.W.C.	(4-N)
Awe	- 19th-20th August	- Edinburgh W.W.C.	(2-3)
Cairnton	- 30 Sept.-1st Oct.	- Aberdeen K.C.	(2-3)
Potarch	- 14th-15th Oct.	- Aberdeen Univ.C.C.	(3-4-N)

Organisers of these events are requested to give runs to all Canadian paddlers who wish to enter, whether or not they are qualified for the divisions catered for in that particular slalom.

1977 RESULTS - C1

<u>Posn.</u>	<u>Name.</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>(SCA) Points</u>	<u>Div.</u>	<u>BCU Rnkg.</u>
1.	G. Hatfield	Aberdeen K.C.	38	A	5=
2.	D. Brown	Glenrothes	32	A	29=
3.	P. Brown	Glenrothes	31	-	-
4.	A. Eastwood	G.U.C.C.	28	A	33
5.	C. Tannock	Strath.U.C.C.	16	A	29=
6.=	G. Lennox	E.U.C.C.	13	B	19=
6.=	I. McLean	Paisley K.C.	13	A	31
8.	R. Rogers	Allanforth V.S.	12	-	-
9.	G. Cleland	G.U.C.C.	10	-	-
10.	K. Yeoh	G.U.C.C.	9	B	29
11.	L. Berrow	Benmore	8	-	-
12.=	G. Thom	Aberdeen K.C.	7	B	7
12.=	A. Munro	R.W.S.A.B.C.	7	-	-
14.	M. Shearer	Brechin H.S.	6	B	6
15.	R. Popham	Aviemore	5	-	-
16.=	S. Crymble	Aviemore	4	B	12=
16.=	A. Bell	Brechin H.S.	4	B	5
18.=	M. McDonald	Benmore	3	-	-
18.=	A. Waterston	Ancrum	3	B	35
20.	J. Thomson	Paisley K.C.	1	B	38

1977 RESULTS - C2

1.	Robertson/Gray	9th Kilmarnock BB	40	A	3
2.	Hatfield/Hatfield	Aberdeen K.C.	36	-	-
3.	Brown/McLean	Glenrothes	34	A	24
4.	Miller/Lingard	Ancrum	26	B	11
5.	Shaw/Simmons	Paisley K.C.	19	-	-
6.	Willing/Houston	Strathearn WWC	14	B	24
7.	Eastwood/Cleland	G.U.C.C.	13	-	-
8.	Bell/Douglas	Brechin H.S.	11	B	13=
9.	Ramage/Kennedy	Forth	9	-	-
10.	Tough/Bell	Brechin H.S.	8	B	19
11.=	Willing/Brown	Strathearn WWC	7	B	24=
11.=	McLean/Meill	Paisley K.C.	7	-	-
11.=	Guthrie/McEwen	E.U.C.C.	7	B	85
14.=	Donaldson/McLeod	G.U.C.C.	6	B	53
14.=	Rogers/Rogers	Trossachs CBC	6	-	-
14.=	Jackson/Allen	Inverurie SKC	6	B	5=
17.=	Russell/McLean	D.W.W.C.	5	B	42
17.=	Crymble/Fyfe	Aviemore	5	-	-
17.=	Mackie/Bowe	Inverurie SKC	5	B	58=
20.	Shearer/McMillan	Brechin H.S.	4	-	-
21.=	McDonald/Main	Benmore	3	-	-
21.=	Yeoh/Gardiner	G.U.C.C.	3	B	58=
23.=	Gardiner/Pattinson	G.U.C.C.	2	B	58=
23.=	Tannock/Munro	Strath.U.C.C.	2	-	-
23.=	Mallet/Gill	D.U.C.C.	2	B	13=
26.	Gill/Brownhill	D.U.C.C.	1	B	75=



COMMODORE'S COMMENT

It occurred to me that if Clubs like the Canoe Section of the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club include such "trips" as 120 miles in 3 days and 60 miles on an overnight paddle in their club outings, we are bound to have a highly successful Scottish entry for the Tay Marathon?

In this connection I would like to suggest that their grading for the Corryvreckan trip should be upped to 'C' based on the experience of our Forth C.C. paddle round Scarba.

Sometimes I doubt the wisdom of this come one come all cry we constantly hear being made to young folks to try canoeing.

Not everyone can be a canoeist. There are people who lack co-ordination and a sense of balance who are a positive danger to themselves and others because of the frequency with which they coup over. Sometimes, too, it can be a need of confidence in their canoes.

This is often the fault of their original coaching which teaches them to fall out in the first lesson.

I have always told beginners that only an idiot falls out of a canoe and only once they have gained in confidence and technique are they shown capsize drill - in case of accidents; not as a matter of course.

Not long ago I was asked, "Why don't you write the story of the S.C.A.?" As I did not think there would be sufficient interest among Scottish canoeists to justify the time it would take to research it, I declined. However, next time I saw Michael Carmichael I tried to jog his memory, but we could not agree on one or two points, so the next step will be to find the first Minute Book. After the Stevenson coup in 1959 I turned over all my files and records including that first Minutes Book. Any clue as to its whereabouts would be very welcome. Any ideas?

I got myself involved in a discussion the other day about how many times the North Channel between Kintyre and Northern Ireland had been crossed by canoe. So far as my recollection goes, it is twice, but I am assured that it has been done at least three times. Can anyone remember when it was done last, prior to the recent crossing by Todd and Campbell?



On Wednesday 1st February a confident throng of old and new gathered to review the "new rules" and sit a new style exam based on the New Zealand Exam which uses 4 colour diagrams rather than words to describe the basic canoeists situation.

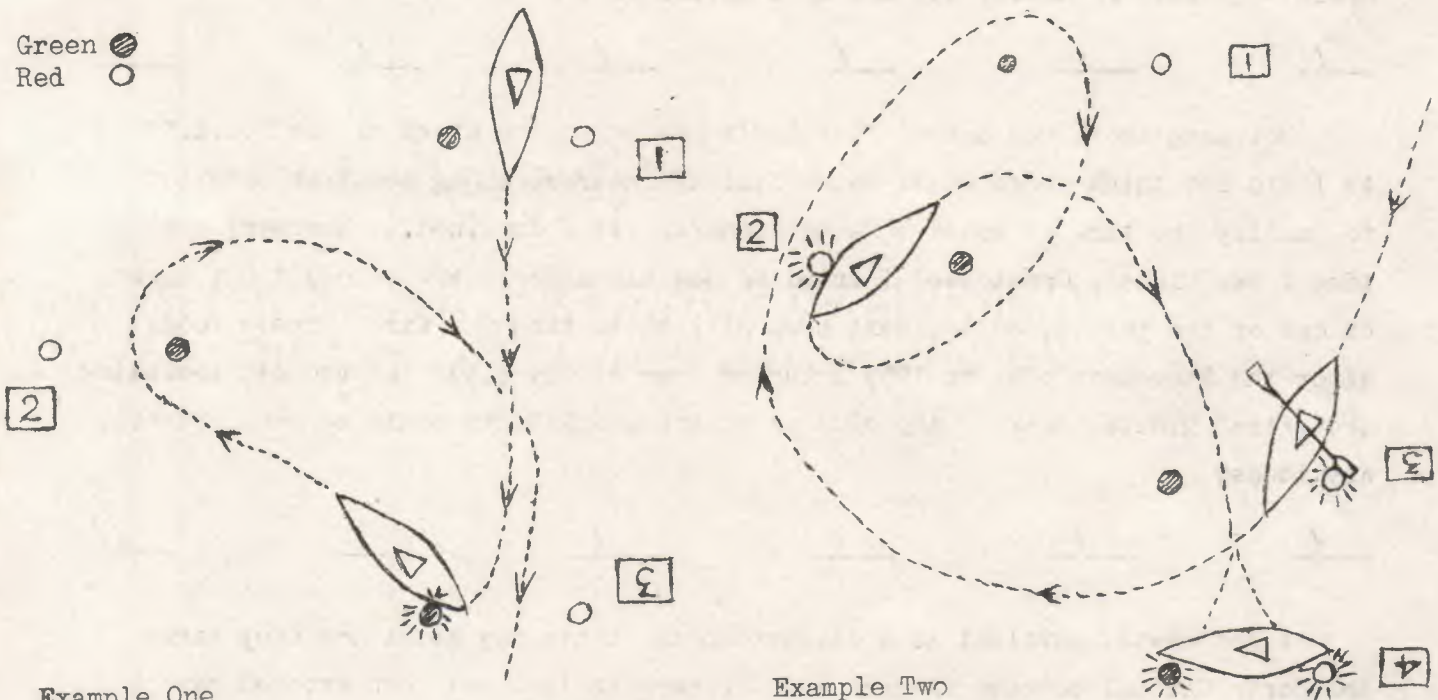
The preliminary discussions did much to clear the air - several misconceptions about the I.C.F. rules adopted in 1977 were highlighted in a humorous mock-slalom down the centre of the Compass Centre Hall. Following a cup of tea, the experienced canoeists sat the judging test which contained 30 gates for K1 slalom and 20 gates for C2.

The results give a mark out of 50; 46 or over was considered satisfactory and certificates were issued:

Jerrold Fraser	49	Richard McCurdie	43
Jackie McCurdie	48	Jane Ambler	41
Ged Dryburgh	47	David Cuthill	41
Jock Young	46	Scott Ramage	40
Anne Ambler	46	The following did not finish in	
Tina Mitchell	45	the time given	
Paul Jarvis	44	Peter Buchanan	41/41
Sylvia Greenhorn	44	Stephen Russell	30/30
		Eric Jarvis	32/42

The surprising results of Richard, David and Scott are due to these three missing the initial discussions and only sitting the test. It emphasises the importance for even competent canoeists to keep up with changes in the rules.

The B.C.U. Slalom Committee have prepared sheets which give the new rules in pictorial form - the 66 diagrams give clear instructions on the interpretation of the rules. A couple of examples are given below to encourage discussion.





40 YEARS AGO Quote from the Oban Times of 14th August 1937.

" Twenty University students, including six women, arrived at Camusnagael, opposite Fort William, at 9 p.m. on Monday night, in a fleet of 11 canoes. The students are taking part in a cruise which started at Balloch and will finish at Inverness.

Students from America, Greece, France, Germany and South Africa as well as England and Scotland, make up the party which is led by Michael Carmichael of the Forth Canoe Club, assisted by some of its student members. They will climb Ben Nevis tomorrow before starting to go through the Caledonian Canal on their way to Inverness."

Note: The portage from Ardlui to Taynuilt was done by train. This was the first of the F.C.C. organised West Coast Tours which have continued to the present time. The 1939 tour ended in a bit of a panic at the end of August. With a number of German and French students the problem was to get them home before the Declaration of War.

30 YEARS AGO Quote from Spring issue of "Spray-sheet" which has now developed into the present "Kayak".

" The season opened with the Annual New Year's Day Race for the Carmichael Cup on Threipmuir Reservoir, with ice forming at the edges! The cup was won by Jack Cuthill and Kit Crawford and was presented at the Club dinner two days later. "

West Coast Tour from Oban, round Mull, to Oban.

20 YEARS AGO Quote from the S.C.A. Annual Report prepared by Jack Cuthill Hon.Secretary and Treasurer.

" LONG DISTANCE RACING

This type of racing on both sea and river has aroused a greater measure of interest than plain racing and it is a pleasure to report that activity is increasing and support spreading.

The Forth Canoe Club's Challenge Cup raced on the sea from Granton to Cramond Island was probably the first official long distance race in Scotland. The Scottish Hostellers' Challenge Race is also of long standing but few have attempted the gruelling test of canoeing from Rowardennan to Rowardennan via the Leven, Clyde, Loch Long with the portage from Arrochar to Tarbet all inside 24 hours.

So far no official S.C.A. L.D. Race has been discussed but the present activities of the Forth and Irvine Clubs in this connection are to be commended as is also the River Race instituted by the Tay C.C.

There could be a future for this type of racing in Scotland. "  
West Coast Tour from Knock Castle near Largs to Glenfinnan at the head of Loch Sheil.

10 YEARS AGO Quote from S.C.A. Annual Report

" Scottish Hostellers Racing Weekend - Rowardennan

- |                 |     |                         |                            |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| K1              | 1.  | Alistair Wilson         | Ayrshire Kayak Racing Club |
|                 |     | W. Reichenstein         | do.                        |
|                 | 2.= | D. Bachelor             | do.                        |
|                 |     | J. Gilmore              | do.                        |
| <u>CLASS A.</u> | 1.  | A. Morton               | Glasgow University         |
|                 | 2.  | D. McLean               | Scottish Hostellers C.C.   |
|                 | 3.  | J. Young                | Forth C.C.                 |
| <u>K2 Sen.</u>  | 1.  | Reichenstein & Bachelor | A.K.R.C.                   |
|                 | 2.  | Patterson & Gilmore     | A.K.R.C.                   |
|                 | 3.  | D.Cuthill & K.Riddell   | F.C.C.                     |
| <u>K2 Jun.</u>  | 1.  | D.Cuthill & G.Cuthill   | F.C.C.                     |
|                 | 2.  | J.Young & H.Riddell     | F.C.C.                     |



# BAT POLO - the game with the goal in it!

## B.C.U. COMPETITION RULES

1. **Area of Play:** Any shape and size of water, but goals will face each other and be between 20 metres and 30 metres apart. Goals will consist of a metre square supported vertically with the lower edge 2 metres above the water surface. 'Out of play' areas will be defined on each pitch.
2. **Ball:** Size 5 plastic football 27" - 28" circumference.
3. **Number of players:** five each side. Substitutes are only allowed for injury and may not assist the players.
4. **Two referees and one time keeper:** the time keeper to keep the score and blow for half time and full time.
5. **Boats:**

Length - not less than 2 metres and not more than 3 metres.  
 Beam - not less than 50 cm. and not more than 60 cm.  
 Ends - Plan - a curve at any point not less than 10 cm. radius.  
 Profile- A curve at any point not less than 5 cm radius.  
 Buoyancy - at least 22 lb (20 kg) must be fitted.
6. **Propulsion by paddle or hand, single bladed or double bladed.**
7. **Blades must not be metal tipped, and no part of the blade may have a radius of less than 3 cm in plan. Thin section GRP or ABS blades are not acceptable. Padding or metal tips is not allowed. Referees will disallow the use of blades that are considered to be dangerous.**
8. **Play will be not more than seven and not less than four minutes each way. Injury time will be allowed.**
9. **Tie.** In this event, decision will be reached by taking the following steps in order:-
  - a) A one minute interval and change of ends followed by play to the first goal with no break. In the event of insufficient time to obtain a goal -
  - b) Goal average.
  - c) Goals conceded.
  - d) Toss up (it is hoped that this should never be necessary).
10. **Players will wear team bibs or some easily identified team marking.**
11.
  - a) Players will wear suitable helmets.
  - b) Buoyancy aids or padded or pneumatic belts which afford protection to the lower lumbar region must be worn.
12. **All teams must be ready to enter the water as the referee requests.**
13. **At the commencement of play, players will line up with their teams on their own goal line. The ball will be placed in the middle of the playing area. Play commences when the whistle is blown.**
14. **At the commencement of play, after half time, and after a goal is scored, the positions described above will be taken.**
15.
  - a) When the ball is put out of play over the side-line the non-offending team throws it in from the point of exit, but may not throw it in the direction of attack.
  - b) When the ball is put out of play over a goal line by an attacker, the defending team has a goal throw from under the goal-board. When the ball is put out of play over a goal line by a defender, the attacking team has a corner throw.
  - c) No goal can be scored from a penalty throw, goal throw or corner before the ball touches some other object.
  - d) /



BAT POLO RULES (contd.)

- d) For any of the above throws there must be a space of at least three metres between the thrower and his nearest opponent.
- 16. a) The paddle may be used for propulsion of the canoe, to stop the ball in the air or to draw the ball on the surface of the water. It may not be used to strike the ball either in the air or on the water.
  - b) Deliberate misuse or dangerous use of the paddles will be severely penalized.
- 17. If a player leaves his canoe he will be out of play until he is properly back in his canoe again.
- 18. If a player goes out of the playing area he will be out of play until he returns to the area completely with no part of his craft over the boundary line.
- 19. A player may tackle only the man with the ball. When the player has lost the ball the tackle must cease.
- 20. Obstructive play, removal of spray deck, attempts at sinking or holding under or any other form of play judged to be dangerous or unwanted will be penalized.
- 21. A player must dispose of the ball within three seconds of having received it, whilst it is in play.
- 22. Penalties will be at the discretion of the referee, these being as follows:-
  - a) Free throw to other side (see 15, c and d).
  - b) Player sent off for two minutes.
  - c) Player sent off for rest of match.
  - d) Player referred to Polo Committee for decision.

\*\*\*\*\*

COMING EVENTS

Organiser

1/20	8th/9th March	- Sprint-L.D.-Slalom Training - Strathclyde Park
6	18th-19th "	- Netherton Bridge Slalom, 2-3-T-J
7	25-26th "	- Grandtully Slalom 1-T-J
8	1st-2nd April	- Fairnielee Slalom 3-4-N-T-J
10	" "	- Touring on Loch Lomond
11	9th "	- Tay L.D. (Leukaemia Race)
9	15th-16th "	- Comrie Slalom I 4-N-T-J
5	22nd "	- Etive L.D. (University Championships)
5	23rd "	- Awe R.R. ( " " )
12	29th-30th "	- Teith Slalom, 4-N-T-J
28	6th-7th May	- Touring on W.Coast
13	7th May	- Tweed L.D.
1	14th "	- Lubnaig L.D.
1	20th "	- 500m & 1,000m Scottish Championships
14	21st "	- Forth & Clyde Canal L.D.
6	27th-28th "	- Lerly Slalom, 4-N-T-J

Organisers

- 1. A. Samuel, Townhead of Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow.
- 5. Secretary, The Canoe Club, 76, Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow.
- 6. Miss M. Souter, 76, Forth Crescent, Dundee.
- 7. G. Cleland, Kelvin Lab., Glasgow Univ. Nat. Engr. Lab., East Kilbride.
- 8. A.E. Bryden, Top Flat, 5 Spittal Street, Edinburgh.
- 9. The Secretary, Ancrum C.C., 10, Ancrum Road, Dundee.
- 10. P. Moore, 12C, Calside, Paisley.
- 11. Mrs. C. Linn, 50, King's Road, Edinburgh, 15.
- 12. A. Dytch, Top Flat, 18 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh.
- 13. Jack Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh, EH10 5ED.
- 14. J. Dempsey, F.D.C. Kilns Ho., Kilns Road, Falkirk, FK1 55A.
- 20. I. Ross, Belrorie, Dinnet, Aboyne, ABERDEENSHIRE.
- 28. S. McKie, Ardmore Lodge, Ardmore, Cardross, G82 5HE.



SLALOM AND WHITE WATER RACING TEAM TOUR

Irvine Ross

The Slalom and White Water Racing Committee have been considering this year's team tour at their recent meetings, and the following charts the progress to date.

EVENTS: It looks like being very difficult with this year's international programme to find two or three competitions on consecutive weekends. It has been provisionally decided to attend Lofer on 5/6th August. We are still waiting to hear details of the German and Austrian domestic calendars to see if we can possibly attend any events held at about the same time as Lofer.

TRANSPORT: With the finances available we should be able to take four cars abroad this year. Counting on three paddlers per car, this allows for a team of 11 plus the team manager. We are currently approaching various firms in an attempt to obtain sponsorship in the form of the free use of a Mini Bus. If we could obtain two buses this would enable us to take a team of 18 plus two managers which would be much more satisfactory.

TEAM COMPOSITION: This obviously depends on our success in gaining sponsorship; however, assuming that we have to use cars, there will be at least 3 senior Kayak paddlers in Slalom and the same in W.W. Racing included.

SELECTION: Slalom Selection events - Netherton Bridge, Grandtully and Fairnielea.

Policy 1st and 2nd Men's Kayak at Grandtully plus others as places available selected from results of the above three events. It is hoped to include Canadians and Ladies if of sufficient standard and places available.

W.W.Racing Selection events: Grandtully Scottish Championships and Awe Race (23rd April).

Policy 1st, 2nd and 3rd at Awe, plus others selected from results of above two events as places available. Again it is hoped to include Canadians and Ladies and Juniors if of sufficient standard and places available.

SELECTION COMMITTEE: Ian Linn, Graham Smith, plus the Team Manager.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOME USEFUL DATES FOR THE CONTINENTALS (Just received)Herr Balfour

30th June - 8th July	International Tour on the Danube	BRD
9th July - 16th July	Tour on Enns, Salza, Steyer, Lassing, Erybach	BRD
29th July - 5th August	International Wildwater week - Obervellach	Austria
24th July - 30th July	Tourist Rally - Rio Noguera Palleresa	Spain
16th July - 22nd July	Wildwater week - Trun/Graubunden	Switzerland
<u>Weekends:</u>		
1/2 July	Lauingen Slalom,	Bavaria
15/16 July	Europa Cup Slalom,	Augsburg
	W.W. Race Mittenwald	Bavaria
22/23 July	Slalom Plattling (Youth & Schoolchildren)	Bavaria
22/23 July	Europa Cup - Bourg St. Maurice	France
29/30 July	Slalom & W.W., Spittal,	Austria
5/6th August	Slalom & W.W., Lofer	Austria



SCOTTISH DOWN RIVER RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

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

Results:

Senior K1 River Racing Class

1.	R.Lang	Port Glasgow	18.00.0
2.	P.Turcan	Edinburgh University	18.01.0
3.	A.Morton	Forth	18.32.2
4.	K.Fraser	Roxburgh	18.37.0
5.	A.Eastwood	Glasgow University	18.38.6
6.	D.Tuttle	Edinburgh University	18.39.0
7.	J.Knox	Roxburgh	19.26.2
8.	A.G.Smith	Edinburgh W.W.	19.33.8
9.	I.Linn	Edinburgh W.W.	19.44.0
10.	P.Sutcliffe	Edinburgh W.W.	19.47.2
11.	F.Nelson	Edinburgh W.W.	19.57.6
12.	A.Munro	Royal West Boat Club	20.02.4
13.	J.Oliver	Roxburgh	20.02.8
14.	C.Pattinson	Glasgow University	20.05.0
15.	I.Duncan	Glasgow University	20.09.0
16.	E.Milne	Aberdeen University	20.15.2
17.	N.Spinks	Aberdeen University	20.18.0
18.	J.Sharpe	Edinburgh W.W.	20.23.8
19.	D.Shearer	Aberdeen University	20.28.2
20.	T.Liddon	Aberdeen University	20.33.2
21.	A.Samuel	Trossachs	20.35.0
22.	G.Watt	Glasgow University	20.38.0
23.	P.Gardner	Glasgow University	21.16.0
24.	J.Costello	Glasgow University	21.26.4
25.	W.Dingwall	Aberdeen University	22.04.2
26.	G.Reid	Aberdeen University	22.15.4
27.	D.Bean	Strathclyde University	22.42.4
28.	I.Parkhill	Glasgow University	23.32.6

Senior C1

1.	C.Tannock	Strathclyde University	24.24.0
2.	A.Samuel	Trossachs	26.32.0

Senior C2

1.	McCurdie/Ramage	Forth	21.32.8
2.	Robertson/Gray	Kilmarnock	21.51.2
3.	Durant/Alcock	Independent	21.51.4
4.	Simmons/Shaw	Paisley	22.44.6



## Junior K1 River Racing

1.	N.Baxter	Edinburgh White Water	20.09.0
2.	T.Turcan	Strathkelvin	20.20.6
3.	A.Lyall	Port Glasgow	20.31.2
4.	A.Bell	Brechin High School	21.24.8
5.	I.Bownes	Royal West Boat Club	21.49.8
6.	M.Shearer	Brechin High School	22.27.2
7.	K.Lister	Port Glasgow	22.35.0
8.	J.Ritchie	C.W.W.C.	22.36.8
9.	G.McMillan	Brechin High School	22.58.0
10.	J.Farrell	Royal West Boat Club	23.40.0

## Senior Ladies K1 River Racing

1.	K.McLeod	Glasgow University	21.26.2
2.	M.Boyd	Brechin High School	24.09.0
3.	K.Patterson	Aberdeen University	24.44.8
4.	L.Brown	Aberdeen University	25.32.8
5.	J.Walker	Fife C.A.	26.20.0
6.	A.Downie	Fife C.A.	28.09.8
7.	A.Airey	Fife C.A.	28.39.8
8.	A.Downie	Glasgow University	40.11.4

## Senior Slalom

1.	C.Dair	Fife C.A.	23.41
2.	C.Eydeman	Fife C.A.	23.51
3.	G.Low	Fife C.A.	24.21
4.	T.Casserly	E.W.W.C.	24.41
5.	I.Twistleton	D.U.C.C.	25.06
6.	B.Chapman	L.U.C.C.	25.15

## Junior Slalom

1.	B.Moore	Fife C.A.	22.54
2.	D.Trotter	Wallace S.	23.00
3.	H.Grant	Kilmck.	24.14
4.	W.Wilson	Paisley	25.01

## Junior Ladies

1.	M.Elliot	Bor'muir	23.09
2.	S.Ward	Fife C.A.	32.51

## Team (Relay)

1.	Roxburgh	Fraser/Knox/Oliver	36.09
2.	Edinburgh Univ.	Turcan/Tuttle/Turcan	36.15
3.	Glasgow Univ.	Eastwood/Pattinson/Watt	38.06
4.	Port Glasgow	Lang/Lister/Lyall	39.24
5.	Glasgow Univ.	Gardner/Costello/Parkhill	41.12
6.	Edinburgh W.W.	Baxter/Sharpe/Sutcliffe	41.20
7.	Canadian Class	Tannock/Durant/Alcock/Cuthill /McCurdie	41.43



## SCOTTISH RIVER RACING SCENE

The winter season is over now and Scotland has a new River Racing Champion - Robin Lang, from Port Glasgow. For the second year running, Robin and Peter Turcan were well ahead of the others on time in the main event at Grandtully on the Tay. Last year Peter beat Robin by 6 seconds, this year the tables were turned and the margin narrowed to one second, gained only in the last three hundred yards, according to split times taken at Grandtully Bridge.

Robin must be well pleased with this win, because, by taking first place at the Clyde race on the following weekend, he clinched top place in the Ranking List.

Early in the season Kenny Fraser and Andy Morton took turns in winning events and it was not until the new year that Peter and Robin took over the top placings. By the time of the last race, any of these four paddlers had only to win to take top place in the Ranking List.

In the Ladies events we have seen a big increase in numbers and Kath McLeod won most of the events this winter - apparently with a minimum of training.

Tommy Turcan and Neil Baxter battled it out in the Youth events and although Neil won the Grandtully race, Tommy came out top in the Ranking List. Despite consistent performances from these boys we have yet to see them match the fast times put in by our Youth paddlers of previous years.

In the Canadian classes we have had some interest and excitement for the first time. The doubles paddlers Robertson and Gray, despite experience south of the border and abroad, were well beaten by Forth Canoe Club paddlers Ramage and McCurdie. Asked whether they would be competing for a place in the British or Scottish Teams, Scott Ramage replied that they could not afford it. So it seems, unfortunately, that amateur representation in Canoe Sport is still influenced by the Bank balances of the competitors themselves.

In the C1 class we saw some good Kayak paddlers take up the challenge and Colin Tannock's wins deserve mention. Perhaps we may see more of him in this class next year.

All in all then, a good season, with big entries at most events.

It will be very interesting to see how our top paddlers fare at the two Awe events this summer, when they will be up against some of the top English paddlers.

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After discussions with several people involved in the selection and training of Scottish Teams, I thought that it might be worth trying a few of my own ideas on the Scottish competitive paddlers, hoping to receive some valuable feedback.

An examination of the 1977 Scottish White-Water and Slalom Team is in order. On the slalom front two top class events were contested by our trio - but had we wished to send any other slalomists, those of sufficient standard would have been hard to find. On the white-water side, only one relatively poor event was contested and the highlight of the tour, for our very capable white-water paddlers, was a week spent at Landeck paddling rivers in near-flood condition.

In all fairness, the loss of the Mittenwald W.W. Race could not have been foreseen by our Managers, but what we can gain from the above examination is important:

Firstly, if we are going to contest roughly the same events each year then the regular members become bored with repetition, so we must either seek to vary the team membership when returning to the same events, or look for new venues when taking a group of established Scottish Team paddlers. Now, I will be the first to admit the difficulty of the latter course as the International Calendar is limited and suitable dates are hard to find, but this is an avenue we must explore.

The alternative is to vary our team composition and the most logical place to look for new blood is amongst our Youth paddlers. For some time now I have been an advocate of increasing the number of Youth paddlers in the Scottish Teams, but have met with arguments such as "none of them are good enough!" or "The water is too difficult". My response to this is that we will have to develop them to a sufficient standard in Scotland. - It can be done. One only has to look at Jas. Oliver's success as a Youth paddler in the past.

To this end I call for the setting up of two Youth Training Squads (W.W.- Slalom and Sprint - L.D.) within Scotland. These squads should be operated with a three to five year Development Plan. The first year, or possibly two, should see the squads develop as a unit and the members should be exposed to the most demanding competition and water conditions available within Britain. Following this, the move to the Continental Competitive area should be made - perhaps at first to the more local Austrian and German events, or even to Spain, but with the final aim of competing in the major European Internationals.

Lastly, the importance of belonging to such a squad should be stressed to the selected paddlers. It should be obvious that they are being groomed for International Competition and they must be given targets to aim for on a regular basis. They must not become disenchanted by selectors changing published selection policies at the last minute.

I invite comments.

#### STOP PRESS .....BAT POLO FINALS - CRYSTAL PALACE

Imagine my disappointment, Kelso's despair and the F.C.C.'s Junior Bat Polo Team's despondency at the news just received from the B.C.U. that they have no place for us in the National Junior Bat Polo Championships on Saturday 25th February 1978.

Though Kelso, in his usual efficient way, had contacted the B.C.U. at the beginning of December and booked places for the Senior and Junior Teams and also arranged transport and accommodation in London, all his work has come to nought. Apparently because we did not write confirming the 'phone call it was assumed we were not coming! However the Senior Team (Aberdeen University) will still play and the Junior side are promised a place in the 1979 competition.

Jack Cuthill.



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