

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



May 1978

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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EDITORIAL

As some of you will know, the Long Distance Racing Committee have set up a new Ranking system for L.D.s held in Scotland. Briefly, there are to be four classes or divisions, rather similar to those in Slalom. Within each division the paddlers may paddle any design of Kayak they wish and there are no requirements for the organisers to give prizes for particular classes; simply first, second, third etc. for each division.

Paddlers are promoted by being the winner of two events, or by being in the first three places in three events within one year. As yet there has been no indication of how demotion is to come about except that it will be at the end of the season.

A Ranking List has been compiled to start the season, but it does not bear much scrutiny. The 1976 Scottish L.D. Champion and current holder of the Cross Channel record appeared mysteriously in Division two, but I am happy to say this has now been rectified! There are also a number of paddlers in Division one who I cannot remember seeing at any L.D. race in 1977. Hopefully, the lists will become a little more accurate as the year goes on.

The Sprint Committee introduced a similar system two years ago, but I wonder whether either of these changes will alter the dismal Racing Scene in Scotland. Both systems have their merits and are better than previous systems, as they distribute prizes to a wider range of competitors. But Racing needs a more radical change and I believe the Committees have to think a lot harder about this.

Youngsters are charged 40p per race at Regattas in the South though I believe that is now changed to 50p to enter the regatta. With so many entries at these regattas there are plans to restrict the number of competitors, but even so, the events are less costly to run than ours.

At our first Scottish Regatta this year there were just over 20 competitors. It cost £70 to run the event, not including the purchase and storing of sprint canoes at Strathclyde Park - (£400 this year). How can we encourage youngsters if we charge an economic entry fee? Can we expect senior competitors to pay £2.50 for a day's racing?

Do any of you remember the old Rowardennan Regattas? What could we have done with a hundred pounds in those days!

A.M.

Plenty of sun, sleep, food and drink with no rain, sleet or snow: just a few of the requirements for Easter Sprint Training. I was fortunate enough to find most of these with the Olympic Training Squad in Hungary. Spring was well established when the twenty paddlers with three coaches arrived in Budapest for a fortnight's training.

We were quickly put on our guard when Willie Reichenstein was stopped at customs. The corner of his passport photograph had come adrift. Alsations, armed soldiers and threats of jail, prevented him from bluffing his way through and he underwent a rigorous two days of questioning and form filling.

Our hosts were Honved Sports Club, the canoeing section of which was situated on Margitsziget or Margarethe's Island in the middle of the Danube. The girls and a few selected boys, along with the Coaches were housed in the clubhouse, while the rest were relegated to the "Pit", a large room on the Barge where the kayaks and canoes were stored.

Our hopes were raised with our first meal out, where each course was better than the previous; local wine flowed in abundance (despite Ron Emes' warning that it was lethal) and the band playing "Auld Lang Syne". This, unfortunately, was the exception rather than the rule for dining. Food, however, was very cheap and one could easily buy extra meals. We had been given six hundred florints (about £15.00) pocket money. As both food and clothes were very cheap we were to find it difficult to spend this sum. Luxury goods and top quality clothes were expensive. Most people had passes for public transport and few seemed to stamp their tickets. Needless to say while travelling "free" one day on a tram, we were challenged by an inspector and only avoided arrest by acting as dumb British tourists.

The first day, as all others, started with the pigeons cooing and peacocks screeching. Sleep after 5 a.m. became very difficult as the whole of the island seemed to come to life at that time. For the locals, the day began with a run or jog, round the island, and after a day or two a few "foreigners" were to be seen staggering out at 7 a.m. to keep up the tradition.

Our first trip to the river was purely exploratory. Tales of ten foot walls of water and being carried twenty feet on to dry land by washes, made us all slightly wary. Fortunately we didn't encounter any of these fates, but did find the fast flowing Danube, with the wind blowing against the flow, and the constant disturbance caused by the river traffic, slightly difficult. The island was almost entirely devoted to sport, with facilities for swimming, rowing, running, football, fishing, basketball and even clay pigeon shooting. All sports seemed to exist happily together, although the clay pigeon shooting did prove a hazard to canoeists. If one survived the shock of the report of the gun, one still had to survive the shock of targets, cartridges and shot ricocheting off one's canoe. Inevitably the girls found the quietest stretch of water behind the next island upstream and eagerly did an extra four kilometres to take advantage of the easier water.

Our programme built up to one session of twelve to sixteen kilometres including interval work in the morning, with about ten to fourteen kilometres of steady state or Fartlek paddling in the afternoon. The men claimed doing double these distances by the end of the fortnight. It wasn't long before the Coaches discovered the running track and that there was sufficient time after breakfast for us all to fit in a few circuits. Every other day we ran round the island. Here we had plenty of company as young and old alike donned tracksuits to sprint or jog at all times of day. After each paddling session some of us retired to the "Snogging Pool", - a name derived by Ron as a result of the previous squad's visit ??? In reality, this was a small swimming pool which was filled to a depth of about three feet with hot spring water. As one lazed there, feeling the minerals soothing one's aches and pains, the water cooled /

Training in Hungary (contd.)

cooled and slowly drained away. Adjoining this was a full international size pool, where those with sufficient energy could go swimming.

Lunch was the main meal of the day, starting with soup, followed by meat usually covered in batter and served with rice or noodles and stovies. We always had gherkins and, due to Martin Harvey's (of White Water fame), excessive consumption of these, he was henceforth known as "Gherkin". The sweet was usually fruit. Both lunch and dinner were washed down by excessive quantities of Pepsi. Siesta time was a necessity and most of us slept for an hour or two. (In the evening we were chased off to bed at about 10.00 p.m. "Sportsmen and women required plenty of sleep"). They held disco's on two of the evenings we were there and unlike those in Britain, they started before dinner at about 6.30 p.m. and stopped promptly at 9.30 p.m.

By Saturday, 1st April, the wind had changed to go with the flow of the river. We had been promised time trials twelve kilometres downstream. No, it wasn't an April Fool. We were meant to paddle down twelve kilometres, perform two by two thousand metre time trials and then struggle back the twelve kilometres upstream. Since the river was very wide for this stretch and the river traffic excessive it was decided that the girls would only manage in K2s. Fortunately for us the Hungarian Coach didn't turn up in time to escort us to the venue. We, therefore, happily paddled five kilometres upstream and did our time trials in the relative safety of a harbour. Apparently some of the girls did not spend all their energy in their time trials and felt deflated at not playing an April Fool on their Coach, Bill Machin. After having hidden Bill's sheets, blankets and pyjamas, three females were seen running downstairs with Bill (fully clothed) in hot pursuit. This is the true unabridged version of how I came to land at the foot of the stairs with a sprained ankle. Pay no attention to the current fairy tales being circulated around the S.C.A. Apart from avoiding running and enjoying a few extra rest days, I paid dearly for my exploits.

The Squad went out to the Cinema on Sunday night leaving me confined to bed with my foot suspended in mid air. This might not have been too bad, but a wedding was being held in the Club House. This seemed like a typical British wedding with plenty of food, drink and music. With no food and no booze, and not even being able to wiggle my toes in time with the music, I did not appreciate the band thumping out lively Hungarian tunes till 3 a.m. the next morning. By Monday afternoon, I was allowed out and managed to hop and hobble to the barge and watch the squad take to the water.

As all of Hungary came to a stop on 4th April, to commemorate the founding of the country, we too were allowed a rest (?) day. On a breakfast of one cold sausage and one very sour yoghurt, issued the previous evening and, therefore, considerably matured, we set forth to see the sights of Hungary. First stop, - Hero Square and Millenial Monument with which we were suitably impressed. Second stop, - a cafe serving hot toasted cheese and the inevitable pepsi, which impressed us a great deal more. The castle and the Hungarian Hilton with views over the river and the Pest side of the town were next on the itinerary - I sat this walkabout out in the coach. After a drive through Budapest and the Hungarian countryside we arrived at a National Sports Centre for school children. This was a residential centre for about 200 children with facilities for all sports. It was situated beside a lake where it is proposed to hold the 1983 World Championships. It was built by the state and the local community, the latter of which takes a keen active interest in all projects. The children from primary schools are brought to the centre where they try all sports. From the results of their efforts they are channelled into the sport in which they show promise. In the case of canoeing, they begin in simulated kayaks and canoes in indoor tanks and proceed to the open waters of the lake. If particular promise is shown in a sport they are then directed to the canoe schools or clubs. As day school is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., they have plenty of time to devote to sport. Every afternoon and evening, little groups could /

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could be seen paddling up and down. They seem to start in open Canadians for four people and once they win a number of races they proceed to a more difficult craft. Very few young paddlers were allowed out in Rangers or Lancers and it seemed that one had to be a World Champion to be allowed a wood veneer boat. In all sports the young people were very eager to succeed and this was apparent in their dedicated approach.

For us - another highlight - lunch! We then visited another lake where some of the training camps were held. We didn't see many canoeists, but some of the group did find a wine cellar. Again I lost out - I couldn't hop that far! On the return journey to Budapest we saw a lot of the poverty of the country; whole villages of old broken down houses and little in the way of modern comforts.

Having had a rest (?) day, we were ready for some competition. A twelve kilometre race for the men with a six kilometre for the ladies and Canadian paddlers. Canoes, in Hungary, were equally as popular as kayaks. We had only three canoe paddlers and even they were having second thoughts when they saw the World Champion "swimming" just beside the barge. The race was a sign for all the traffic of the Danube to converge on the start line. The White Water Racers really came to the fore in the difficult water, with Martin Harvey and Chris Ballard requiring to do the least slap supports and, therefore, making the turn round the island in front. It was most nerve racking for the females and Canadian paddlers to watch the Senior British and Hungarian squad slap supporting their way round this first turn. Fortunately the washes had subsided a little by the time they had to take to the water, but I was still glad to be confined to dry land. Alan Williams, with Martin on his wash, was first over the finish line, while Lucy Perrett won the ladies on time, having broken her foot rest just before the start. I daringly went out in a canoe after the race, to test my ankle. As the steering on their canoes was difficult at the best of times and the washes made it imperative to be able to manoeuvre the canoe, I found that, with the weakness in my ankle, it was difficult to go very far. I did manage not too badly on the Thursday and Friday but found that I couldn't put the extra pressure on for interval work.

To mark the end of our visit we had the inevitable banquet on Thursday evening. This was attended by the high heid yins and some members of Honved Canoe Club as well as the General of the Army. After numerous speeches, expressing the advantages of such visits and hopes for the future of canoeing in both countries - gifts of vests, towels, whisky, commemorative plates, badges, pennants and medals were exchanged.

The journey back was uneventful apart from being a few hours late. Our welcome home - cold grey mist, wind and rain. Under these conditions the good intentions of training at least twice a day seemed to lose some of its appeal.

SCOTTISH RACING TEAM SELECTION FOR ZAANDAM

Manager: Drew Samuel

Maureen McClure

Duncan McKenzie

Yvonne Alison

Robert Montgomery

Willie Reichenstein

Colin Fraser

Drew Batchelor

Neil Baxter

Iain Speirs

David Tuttle

Gilbert Speirs

IRISH OPEN SLALOMHugh Gray

On 24th February a party of three set out for Benburb to compete in the Irish Open Slalom Championships. They were D. Buick (Junior Div.2) from Stirling and H.Gray/G.Robertson (C2) 9th Kilmarnock B.B.

It had been planned to take a larger party but I think there were a few cold feet.

On arrival at Larne we were picked up by two canoeists from Belfast and driven to Benburb, 7 miles south of Armagh.

The slalom site was excellent and up to Scottish standards, and a great feeling of friendliness from the Irish.

Douglas did well by being first in the Div 2, and Hugh and George equally well by winning the C2 Class, unfortunately falling in on their second run.

Conclusions - a really good slalom worthy of taking a Junior Team to.

PROGRESS TOWARDS FEDERALISATION.J.R. Turcan

On September 30th there will be a Special General Meeting of the B.C.U. This meeting will be asked by the B.C.U. Council to approve

a) a federal constitution (very similar to the one partially approved at the January A.G.M.)

and

b) a constitution for the new English Canoe Association.

Since the A.G.M. in January, the Council has been working on the detailed implications of the move towards a federal union and if its work is approved on September 30th the new form of the Union will take effect from 1st November 1978. Special attention has been paid to the organisational requirements at federal level for the different aspects of competition and a practical scheme developed.

Here, in Scotland, a Working Party is currently at work on the preparation of a draft constitution for the S.C.A. This will be considered by the S.C.A. Council in June and will be put to members at a special meeting which will probably be held in mid September. If you have any suggestions that you would like to be considered write to, or speak to a member of the Working Party :

Andrew Manwell

Drew Samuel

George Clelland

Preparations are also being made to deal with the administrative implications for the S.C.A. office in Edinburgh of the change of status. These include, for example, the need to collect subscriptions and maintain membership records.

Some B.C.U. members still have misgivings about the planned federal structure - it would be surprising if this was not the case - but the widespread support for the resolution passed in January augurs well for the future.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATION

1978 SCOTTISH TEAM TOUR

For some time now the Slalom and W.W. Racing Committee have been concerned about the lack of promising young paddlers in the 1st and 2nd Slalom Divisions. Accordingly it was decided that a youth team should go abroad this year to provide an incentive and an opportunity to do some high level training with our young paddlers. It was originally planned that for financial reasons the juniors would accompany the senior team on their tour, but this ran into several difficulties.

The first problem was trying to put a series of events together to make up a tour (especially when the Austrian domestic calendar is only published in mid April.) With the Europa Cup events taking up a fair slice of the summer it was obvious that any tour would have to be based around Lofer. Unfortunately it is stipulated that entrants for such events should be of first division standard and none of our juniors are in the first division.

The second problem was putting our senior team together. At the Grandtully selection event three Scottish paddlers put up a reasonable performance, the next one coming almost 50 seconds behind the others in 86th position in the Mens K1 event (taking 1st and Premier Divisions together). Out of our three potential team members only Alan Eastwood and Alastair Munro were available. In White Water Racing, four paddlers, Robin Lang, Peter Turcan, Kenny Fraser and Andrew Morton, have dominated the scene all winter with the next fastest paddlers about one minute behind them. When Robin and Kenny announced that they would not be available this summer we realised that we could not justify the financial expenditure on what was left of a team. We therefore scrapped the plans for the senior team tour and decided to invest our efforts and finances in the juniors.

We decided that the best way to use our resources would be to take the junior squad to a situation where we could do some concentrated training, introduce them to continental style water and take part in a level of competition that would stretch but not overtax their abilities. To this end the Scottish Junior team will go to train at the slalom course at Vichy in Southern France, and then go on to compete at the International Rally at Sort in Northern Spain. Two Senior slalomists will accompany the team to help train the junior squad, take part in the competitions in Spain and go on to compete at the Slalom at Lofer. I.Ross.

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JUNIOR SQUAD 1978

Dave Buick	...	Wallace High School
Tom Turcan	...	Strathkelvin C.C.
Ian Philip	...	Wallace High School
Neil Baxter	...	Edinburgh W.W.C.
Ian McDonald	...	Wallace High School
Graham Willing	...	Strathearn W.W.C.
Alistair Bell	...	Brechin High School
Margaret Elliot	...	Boroughmuir High School.

Senior slalomists

Alan Eastwood	...	Glasgow University
Alistair Munro	...	R.W.S.A.B.C.

MANAGER Neil Spinks

COACH Irvine Ross

HOW HARD DID YOU TRAIN FOR THE GRANDTULLY RIVER RACE?

TIME SPENT TRAINING IN MINUTES IN TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT

KEY

Canoe Training



Other Training

Position in Scottish Champs

(TWO WEEKS) DAYS

	1. R.Lang	2. P.Turcan	3. A.Morton	5. A.Eastwood	9 D.Tottle	12. A.Munro	1st C1 C.Tannock.
14	- / 75	90 / -	50 / -	45 / -	30 / -	180 / -	120 / -
13	- / 30	55 / -	45 / -	- / -	- / -	- / 150	90 / -
12	- / -	50 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	90 / -	- / -
11	45 / 20	100 / -	- / -	- / -	60 / -	90 / -	100 / -
10	20 / -	45 / -	45 / -	15 / -	- / -	- / 150	60 / -
9	- / -	100 / -	- / -	40 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
8	60 / -	70 / -	45 / -	- / -	60 / -	180 / -	75 / 10
7	20 / -	35 / -	20 / -	- / -	40 / -	90 / -	45 / 15
6	20 / 30	100 / -	50 / -	40 / -	- / -	90 / 150	90 / -
5	45 / -	50 / -	50 / -	60 / -	45 / -	- / -	75 / -
4	45 / 15	85 / 15	55 / -	40 / -	40 / 15	- / -	90 / -
3	45 / -	45 / -	- / -	30 / 20	- / 25	- / -	- / -
2	20 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
1	30 / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -	- / -
Scottish Champs	0	1	32	39	99	120	384

Thistle Brig Race

Time in Seconds behind R.Lang

No return from K.Fraser, AG.Smith or J.Knox

A.M.

12 Melrose Road,
PORT-GLASGOW.

24.2.78.

Dear Editor,

As a second ice age draws nearer, surely we must consider a change to our Down River Racing Season.

Take the bitter cold weather we have had since Christmas, not much fun to be out canoeing - any normal person would think we are all half-daft. The Clyde Race had the added hazard of icebergs to contend with, that is, for those who were fortunate enough to beat the dreadful road conditions.

The advantages of pushing the season back are -

1. Benefit of reasonable weather.
2. A shorter season to offset boredom.
3. Training can be concentrated and elevated towards the continental tours.
4. Better conditions to suit beginners and swell the entry.

My proposed season is to have the Nith Race at the end of February; Teith, Tweed and Clyde in March; Two Thistlebrigs, Two Grandtullys and an Awe Race during April/May, and the second Awe race in June.

Finally, the seeding of W.W. Races in Scotland seems confused and inconsistent. I would like to see a system adopted whereby the top ten paddlers are reverse seeded, with the No.1 man off being roughly the tenth fastest and No. 10 the top seed, thus ensuring a fair starting position for most of the top competitors.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Lang.

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12a Calside,
PAISLEY.

12.3.78.

Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to two points in the February issue of "KAYAK", both co-incidentally concerning the Cuthill family.

Firstly, Betty Cuthill's letter re the Touring Award Scheme of the S.C.A. The criticism she makes is certainly fair comment (I have to say that! It was my view when the scheme was first mooted). However, the scheme is not intended as a bribe to get people touring. If it were, it would not work, since I do not expect to see the first Gold Award being made for at least 5 years; that's a constant 500 miles per year for 5 years, 75% of it in Scotland. The scheme is basically a means of recognising Achievement, surely no bad thing. I don't believe there are many pot-hunters around with that sort of stamina, and if there are, I think we can stop calling them pot-hunters after the first 1,000 miles or so.

My second point concerns Jack Cuthill's mention of the writing of the S.C.A. History. In short "yes please Jack". Apart from its popularity, it would help the S.C.A. to go forward more surely if it knew from where it came and, perhaps, prevent repeating some of the errors it no doubt made in the past. It would also help dispel the myth amongst many of our English Sea Touring friends that sea touring is a recent, and English invention, spurred on by the present exodus from the rivers.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Moore.

20, Weir Crescent,
Milton, Wick,
Caithness. 7.3.78.

Dear Editor,

In the last year or two there has been an encouraging growth of interest in Canoeing in some of our island groups. There are now active bands of canoeists in the Uists, in Lewis and in the Shetlands. Although ideally placed for sea and surf canoeing, problems arise when testing is required, and also simply when contact is desired with other canoeists.

My request is for Senior Instructors who may be touring this summer in these exotic places to consider carrying out proficiency tests, or just to make contact with local paddlers. I will be pleased to supply names and addresses of those people who would appreciate contacts.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Bruce, (A.C.O. NW.Scotland)

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1, Salt Hill Avenue,
Slough, Berkshire.
2.4.78.

Dear Editor,

I wrote to you some weeks ago asking for information on the river Tay around Grandtully and nearby rivers.

Thank you very much for the very useful information you returned to me.

We completed a very enjoyable 6 days in the area paddling the Tay, Aberfeldy - Grandtully, Dochart, Lyon and one trip to the Awe and Falls of Lora.

On your suggestion I contacted the factor of Grandtully Estates, who was very helpful.

We encountered very few problems and we were all very impressed with the help and advice we received from locals - especially fishermen. We did our best to preserve the obviously very good relationship Scottish canoeists and fishermen have established.

In short, we had a darned good time, thanks again for your help.

Yours sincerely,

C.G. Kevone.

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(A letter addressed to Scott Balfour from Einar Kjerschow, Oslo. Some of you may remember him as an L.D. paddler a couple of years ago.)

OSLO, 5th March 1978.

Dear Scott,

Thank you for sending me the Kayak Magazine. It's very satisfying still to be in good touch with the Scottish canoeing, especially since I'm now sitting in the committee for river canoeing in the Norwegian Canoe Union. As you may know, river canoeing is a fairly new branch in Norway yet, and only this year we have a N. Cup and N. Champs for the first time.

I'm hoping that soon some Scottish paddlers will be able to come over and show us the standards on our tremendous rivers. Colin Tannock is planning to take Strathclyde canoe club over next summer.

I hope to have an article for your next issue.....
.....Send my regards to Andy and others, Yours, Einar.

22, Brisbane Glen Road,
Largs, Ayrshire.

10.5.78.

Dear Jack,

Looking over the February issue of "Kayak" magazine I see a couple of points in your "Commodore's Comment" that require "comment".

1. Crossings between Kintyre and Northern Ireland.
Joe Reid and another lad, whose name I forget for the moment, made a double crossing about 1957. Also Dougie Gilchrist, I think it was, has crossed from Portpatrick. I am positive that there have been other crossings involving S.H.C.C. members and enquiries there might be rewarding.
2. The first minute book of the S.C.A. This book was kept up to date until full, and was looked after well, at least up until the A.G.M. in 1971 in Edinburgh. What happened to it thereafter I do not know. However, I do have photo copies of a lot of the early minutes. These were extracted as evidence in my case regarding previous S.C.A./B.C.U. agreements and relationships. Should you fail to locate the minute book I can perhaps check some details for you.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Winning.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

These small adverts are inserted free of charge but if, as a result of their display in Kayak, a sale is made, we rely on the honesty and co-operation of the seller to send Scott Balfour our Treasurer a £1.

INTERCEPTOR III
£85 o.n.o.
5 W/W Paddles
Jas. Oliver
5, Wallace Court
HAWICK
Tel: 0450-4164

K2 GLASS GLIDER - good condition £120
INTERCEPTOR IV, as new.. £105
Set of FREEBLADE PADDLES 218
80° Right hand feather ..£20
K. Fraser
Mansfield Square, HAWICK, TD9 8AH
Tel: 0450-2148

LOST

A racing paddle was found after the Grandtully River Race on 5th February last. Claims to David Cuthill.

STOLEN

Left-handed 210 GEES SLALOM PADDLE: marked "Paul McLellan, E.U.C.C." under varnish on both blades. These were taken from the canoe at the Comrie Slalom. Reward offered for their return to Paul McLellan, 64, Bonaly Grove, Edinburgh, 13.
Tel: 031-441-7920.

FOR SALE

CLYDE TOURING SINGLE
GOOD CONDITION

Complete with Spray Deck and Rudder. £40 o.n.o.
Apply: Jack Cuthill.

CANOE-SLALOM COMPETITION

C. Tannock.

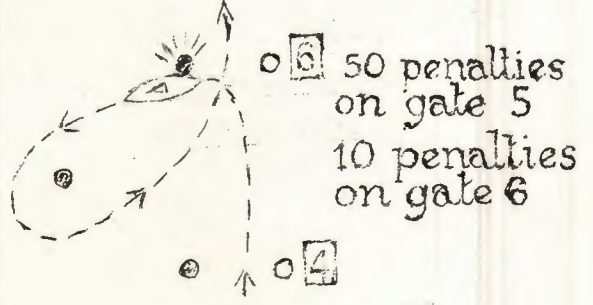
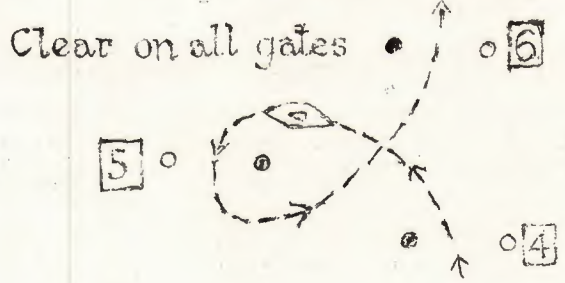
- 1. PRIOR TO THE EVENT - As in all other sides of the sport, keeping one's equipment in good condition is essential. Boat and Paddles must be repaired and checked before leaving for the event. Check for adequate buoyancy and clean off number discs and squares.
- 2. INITIAL COURSE CHECK - Most British Slaloms take place on a weekend and comprise a team event on Saturday afternoon and an individual event on Sunday, thus leaving Friday evening and Saturday morning for practice. Before going on the water, however, an initial visual check of the course should be made.

Attempt to memorise the course (in a competition run you have no time to check numbers!) and note more especially the following:-

- a. The position of the start relative to Gate (1) - always practice from the proper start, if it is not obvious then ask the organiser.
- b. The direction in which the current is flowing through each gate - this is critical for boat placement to be correct. For example:-



- c. The presence of tricky "Live" gates on the course. When attempting a gate, the next gate in numerical sequence is deemed live, thus when attempting Gate (5), then Gate (6) is the Live gate and if a competitor hits or enters Gate (6) while trying to reach Gate (5) then he is considered to have abandoned Gate (5) and is given 50 seconds penalty.



- d. Observe the depth of water below upstream gates - careful note should be made of large rocks just below the surface and paddling should be adapted to avoid them. A paddle hitting a rock can cause penalties or a capsize.
- e. The size of the eddy below the team gate or near to it - the team gate must be negotiated by all three team members in 15 seconds - so the leader may need a holding point while the last man catches up.
- f. Examine the approach to reverse gates - there may be an eddy to one side which will assist the paddler to turn his boat and thus save a few seconds.
- g. Determine the position of the finish and it's distance from the last gate.

- 3. THE PRACTICE SESSION - Practice on Saturday morning at a Division 4 and Novice Slalom is an awesome sight! There can be upward of 40 paddlers of very diverse standards on the course at any one time, which can lead to chaos. The solution is to arrive on Friday evening before anyone else, or to get up early in the morning. (Most of us are, however mortal). On one's first practice /

practice run the more testing gates will quickly become apparent. The second and third practice runs should include repeated attempts at these difficult gates until a correct sequence of strokes is established - now many course organisers will request complete runs only and threaten disqualification to those who do not comply - in this situation one must use one's own judgement - if you need the practice then try not to be too obvious. On the latter practice runs sequences of 5 -7 gates should be taken, i.e. the difficult gates together with two before and two after - this is to get an idea of the "Flow" of the course. Lastly, an attempt must be made to paddle the course at 90 -95% effort. This is most important and must be stressed! Practising at 50% effort produces a different stroke pattern from one at 100%, so a fast practice run will give a true idea of what strokes will be needed during the competition run. Such a run may be taken just before the course is closed for the team or individual event.

4. THE COMPETITION RUN Prior to one's own run, observe others on the course - note where penalties are common and bear this in mind for your own run. Immediately before taking to the water, check each Gate for "High-hanging" poles. An early turn out of a gate can save a few seconds - but do not attempt to "Duck" a pole with less than one inch clearance from the water.

Be at the start on time with a legible number on your boat. Observe the competitor in front of you - if they seem slow through the first six gates ask the Starter for more time before setting you off. Anticipate the start and get a stroke in on the word "GO". Paddle in a fluid manner and be thinking about positioning the boat correctly for the gates ahead. Paddle flat out on open sections which have no gates, but beware of turning fast in shallow water - you may be struck by your own wash when in the gate line - so be ready for it! Finally, as soon as you are clear of the last gate paddle flat out through - NOT TO - the finish.

5. AFTER THE RUN - Check your result as soon as possible after finishing - there is a limited time in which to raise a protest. Be aware of the protest procedure. Follow it properly when necessary and do not argue with the Protest Committee. At the very worst, apply what you have learnt from your mistakes in the second run or at the next Slalom.

SCOTTISH SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS
20th MAY, 1978

Irvine Canoe Club dominated the day's racing at Strathclyde Park with wins in all the major Senior events.

Gilbert Speirs won the main event of the day, the 1000m, and came second in the 500m., an excellent performance for one who has never had any great success in Scotland before. Gilbert now lives and trains at Nottingham and this is a salutary reminder that the right kind of training in the right environment, can make a great difference to results. His team mate, Robert Montgomery, took second and first place in these events and Robert must be well pleased with these results in his first season as a Senior competitor.

Many youngsters attended the Regatta and it was heartening to see the A, B and C classes filled by paddlers, many of whom had been taken to the Regatta by Forth Canoe Club members.

Now that the entry fee for youngsters is down to 50p per Regatta could we not perhaps have a reduced fee for the Senior paddlers? The majority are there for the fun of it and not for serious competition, and £2.40 per head still makes it the most expensive event in the calendar.

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

The S.C.A. Constitution is being revised to fit our new status under Federalisation. The fundamental change proposed is that membership of the S.C.A. will be based on the individual, and clubs will be relegated to Associate membership and have no vote. In 1939, the Clubs got together to form an association of clubs to improve communications between themselves and to speak to the B.C.U. with one voice. It would appear now that they have created a Frankenstein monster that is about to destroy them. Imagine Joe Gormley turning up at the Trade Union Congress and saying the N.U.M. had no vote.

I am aware that the main consideration behind this proposal is financial. More money will accrue to the S.C.A. through individual membership than by club affiliation fees. I would say that canoeists can register as competitors with the S.C.A. provided they are members of a recognised club. Clubs are the backbone of the S.C.A. They organise and run all the Scottish events. Their activities and facilities encourage the interest which brings new members. If the S.C.A. disappeared tomorrow it would be no great disaster; canoeing would continue through the clubs. I hope much more serious consideration will be given to this new constitution.

This issue is the first of our 6th year of publication. For the first 5 issues the name was "FORTH Newsletter", then the change was made to "KAYAK" because the demand had grown far beyond the membership of the Forth Canoe Club. At the moment the Editorial Department is only firing on two cylinders as David is away on one of his all-too-frequent expeditions. We hope that this is not a sign of a break in the production team which has worked so enthusiastically and harmoniously throughout the last 5 years.

I was grateful to get Duncan Winning's replies to two of the queries made in my Comment of the last issue. They were most helpful. The first recorded crossing from the Mull of Kintyre to N.Ireland, according to my records is that of Douglas Bowie of F.C.C. in 1936. Before setting out he went round to the lighthouse to get a weather report. The Keeper was strongly against making the crossing "in that thing". However, the intrepid Douglas set off with the angry sounding blasts of the lighthouse horn in his ears.

Perhaps one day I may get round to writing a Short Chronicle About our canoe association but it may disappoint Peter Moore. The gory details of 20 years ago are best forgotten. My search for the original Minutes Book is still on. Any help will be welcome.

The B.C.U. Slalom Year Book makes sad reading. Just two Scottish paddlers in the Premier Division and only 7 in Division I. Of these 7 only three have done sufficient slalom canoeing to merit a place among the lowest ratings; the other 4 have just made it.

Two issues ago I expressed the thought we would be looking around for more Division I paddlers and it appears that the S.C.A. Slalom Committee are now doing something to improve the situation. The idea to take a youth squad to the Continent is a good one but I can't help feeling that the money would have been better spent subsidising these young paddlers to attend more events in the South and in Coaching Weekends, say at Grandtully. It would be a quicker way to make them Div.I paddlers.

FORTH CANOE CLUB - TWEED L.D. - SUNDAY, 7th MAY, 1978

R E S U L T S

Y = u-18

J = u-16

DIVISION 1

					Indiv. Points	Club Points
1.	R. Marshall	Gateshead	1-42-04	WW	-	-
2.	D. Taylor	Gateshead	1-45-01	WW	-	-
3.	K. Fraser	Roxburgh	1-45-06	WW	20	1
4.	A. Morton	Forth	1-47-58	WW	19	1
5.	K. Charleton	Gateshead	1-50-11	WW	-	-

DIVISION 2

1.	F. Nelson	E.W.W.C.	1-57-43	K1	20	10
2.	N. Baxter Y	E.W.W.C.	1-58-48	WW	19	7
3.	J. Knox	Roxburgh	2-00-25	WW	18	5
4.	L. Berrow	Stirling U.	2-13-40	WW	17	3

DIVISION 4

1.	D. Wolfe	Forth	2-16-24*	WW	20	10
2.	J. Fraser	Forth	2-19-34*	WW	19	7
3.	G. Dryburgh Y	Forth	55-45	K1	18	5
4.	G. Davies Y	Selkirk	1-01-19	S1	17	3
5.	N. Richardson Y	Selkirk	1-01-20	S1	16	2
6.	K. Riddell Y	Selkirk	1-05-12	S1	15	2
7.	M. Crawford Y	Forth	1-05-30	S1	14	2
8.	N. Whyte J	Selkirk	1-05-58	S1	13	2
9.	R. Gray J	Selkirk	1-06-44	S1	12	2
10.	G. Wilson J	Forth	1-07-00	S1	11	2
11.	I. Glover J	Selkirk	1-07-27	S1	10	2
12.	E. Jarvis J	Forth	1-08-05	S1	9	2
13.	F. Brodie J	Forth	1-14-52	S1	8	2
14.	C. Stewart J	Selkirk	1-16-48	S1	7	2
15.	A. Anderson J	Selkirk	1-17-09	S1	6	2

*D. Wolfe and J. Fraser paddled from Walkerburn.

DIVISION 5 (Ladies)

1.	L. Morrison	Kilmarnock	58-09	WW	20	10
2.	D. Wood J	Selkirk	1-06-10	S1	19	7
3.	J. Wilson J	Selkirk	1-07-14	S1	18	5
4.	L. Williamson	Forth	1-07-45	S1	17	3
5.	A. Ambler J	Forth	1-09-32	S1	16	2
6.	J. Ambler J	Forth	1-16-28	S1	15	2
7.	S. White J	Selkirk	1-18-56	S1	14	2
8.	J. Acton	Selkirk	1-39-14	S1	13	2

OTHERS PADDLING not in above divisional categories

A. Torrance/J. McPherson	Selkirk	1-07-0	C2	-	-
G. Marley/S. Hay Y	Selkirk	1-24-86	C2	-	-

CLUB TROPHY POINTS

<u>CLUB TROPHY POINTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Forth C.C.	38
Selkirk H.S.	33
E.W.W.C.	17
Kilmarnock CC	10
Roxburgh CC	6
Stirling U. CC	3

There were 37 entries for the event.

FORTH C.C. is grateful to the parents and friends who assisted in the running of this race. Once again we were lucky with the weather and we wish to thank all those competitors who turned up to make it such an enjoyable event.

Little did Keith Bootland realise the consequences and complications resulting from the disagreement between his motor bike and another vehicle. Leaving the technicalities of legal charges and dangerous driving to the proper authorities, we persuaded him that such superficial injuries as two cracked ribs and a bruised leg, though sufficient to keep him from his proper work, were no handicap to some good honest bricklaying. Whereupon we persuaded him to make a start to the end wall of the canal hut. This he agreed to do on condition we did not crack any rib-ald jokes.

Our first visit to collect a supply of bricks nearly ended in disaster when the trailer jack-knifed and in the space of an exciting few seconds neatly re-styled the rear offside of Kelso's Cavalier. Exit Cavalier from active service, and enter from semi-retirement David Cuthill's well known brown van. Did you know that you can carry two hundred and thirty common brick in an HAV van?

Keith dug out the foundations while the bricks accumulated, and laid the first course by the light of the nearby street lamp. We called it a day, repaired to Kelso's house to advise his wife of the re-styling of his car and suitable commiserations were forthcoming together with the requisite refreshment.

After a couple of days, when the bricks were shoulder high, David Cuthill came back from sea to inspect progress during the evening. He put a hand on the top brick of the wall to climb round, found that particular brick was unattached, and found himself inspecting the mud at the bottom of the canal. The chalked "Dave's Dive" on the wall commemorates this wet incident and is not a prophecy of what the hut is destined to become.

As the end wall went up, the word went out and members of the club appeared on Wednesday evenings to help with placing the floor, repairing and placing the side sections, creosoting Morag Eaton, Jacki McCurdie and Kevin the darkie. The roof sections were hoisted into place and we began to see some real progress. About this time, Keith developed a taste for garlic sausage, but was pronounced fit for work back at Loch Awe before the full implications of the sausage hit the rest of the squad.

From a wooden shell to a completed hut is a long way when you remember all the little details of roofing felt and more creosote and rones which seem to take rather longer to fit than to say. The whole project started at Easter, and has been complete for some time, including racking for canoes. Many thanks to those who helped with this first phase, including Keith Bootland, Paul Buchanan, Jed Dryborough, Kevin Caulfield (the darkie), Morag Eaton, Richard and Jackie McCurdie, Scott Ramage, John Young, Jock, Scott Balfour, David Wolfe and David Cuthill.

The committee have set charges for canoe storage and use of this boathouse, details of which are available from Scott Balfour. This is the realisation of a dream for many of us, to be realised fully when they put the water back in the canal! We must emphasise that it is only the first phase of a scheme. We intend in the next stage to double the size of the hut and to install a small changing area with a hot shower and a toilet. Club funds have been grossly depleted by this first phase, despite a grant of £250 from Lothian Region.

Be warned that the next phase will take effect as soon as suitable finance is "Forth-coming", and we will be calling on everyone for another stint.

BAT POLO COMPETITION

DATE: SATURDAY, 17th JUNE, 1978.

VENUE: Craiglockhart Sports Centre, Colinton Road, Edinburgh.
(Telephone: 031-444-2252)

START: First kick-off at 1 p.m. prompt.

ENTRIES: To: R.Kelso Riddell, 84, Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh,
EH9 1ET (Tel.No. 031-229-9586)

Entry fees are £2.50 per team of five seniors
£1.50 per junior team (under 18 on 1.1.78)

Please send entries to arrive by Thursday 15th June.

PADDLES: Please supply your own paddles. No metal tips,
No sharp edges.

"BATS" Will be available, but bring your own if you have any.

GENERAL The whole pond will be available, together with canoes from
the Sports Centre. So if you have any beginners, this is
an ideal opportunity to make an outing.

PAISLEY KAYAK CLUB - ROUND CUMBRAE L.D.
SUNDAY, 4th JUNE, 1978

VENUE: ASSEMBLE at the PENCIL MONUMENT, LARGS, in time for

START: a 12 noon start. Entries to D.J. Shaw, 27d High Street

ENTRIES: Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, by 1st June.
Late entries accepted up to 11.30 a.m. with 20p surcharge.

CLASSES will be raced according to the new S.C.A. L.D. Divisions.

CAMPING Free camping available overnight at edge of football pitch
beside Pencil Car Park.

<u>FOR SALE:</u>	One slightly used UNICORN SLALOM KAYAK in good condition ... £70
<u>APPLY:</u>	Scott Ramage, 61, Watson Crescent, EDINBURGH 11.
<u>FOR SALE:</u>	VEDEL S.S. SLALOM CANOE - Hardly Used ... £55 'Phone David Wolfe at 031-449-2456
<u>FOR SALE:</u>	IRISH PRECISION MOULDINGS COMPETITION SLALOM KAYAK LAWRENCE "SPECTRE" as new. Lowline Ends Suit small adult or youth ... £100 With glass fibre repair kit.
<u>APPLY:</u>	Dr. Julian Kennedy, 28, Clarence Gardens, Hyndland, GLASGOW. G11 7JN.

COMING EVENTS

MAY 1978

- 27th Wedding of Scott Ramage and Sylvia Greenhorn.
- 27-28th Leny Slalom 4 N-T-J

JUNE

- 3-4th N.E. Scotland Surfing Championships
- 4th Round Cumbrae - Marathon (P.K.C.)
- 11th Awe R.R. (G.B. Ranking) (F.C.C.)
- Sat. 17th Bat Polo match - Craiglockhart (F.C.C.)
- 24-25th Tour to Garvellachs
- 25th Loch Lomond L.D. Championships (Strathclyde U.C.C.)

JULY

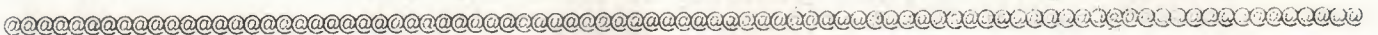
- 1-2nd Bat Polo match at Castle Semple (P.K.C.)
- 29-30th K2 10,000m British Championships - Strathclyde

AUGUST

- 19-20th Awe Slalom 2-3-T-J. (E.W.C.C.)
- 19-20th Irvine Sprint/L.D. Regatta
- 26-27th Scottish Surf Championships
- 26th Tail of the Bank L.D. (R.W.S.A.B.C.)

SEPTEMBER

- 2-3rd Tay Marathon (Home International) F.C.C.

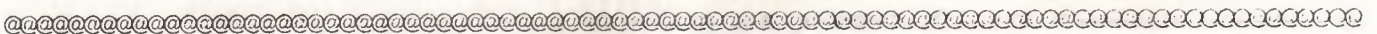


A SOCIETY OCCASION

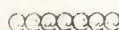
The big social occasion for the canoeing fraternity in Edinburgh was the wedding of Scott Ramage and Sylvia Greenhorn on 27th May. Everybody who was anybody in canoeing seemed to be there and, as Graham Smith was heard to remark: "It is just as well there is no major canoeing event on this weekend." Old Liberton Kirk was the setting and the weather was perfect for the principal characters, Scott resplendent in his highland regalia and Sylvia looked lovely in traditional white.

Leaving the church under an archway of paddles to face the usual battery of cameras the cavalcade, including a large number of the familiar canoeists' vehicles, complete with racks and canoes, set off for the reception in the King's Manor Hotel.

Who said there was no major canoeing event on this weekend?



There will again be a Scotland v. Combined Services event at the Scottish Slalom Championships at Grandtully on 16th-17th September. The team to represent Scotland will be chosen at the Awe Div.2 Slalom on 20th August.



Copy of letter from Jack Cuthill to Andrew Manwell on the proposals for a new S.C.A. Constitution. dated 14th May 1978.

Dear Andrew,

My apologies for the delay in replying to your invitation to give my comments on the S.C.A. draft Constitution.

I started off conscientiously to make my comments paragraph by paragraph until it dawned on me that the whole thing is based on the wrong principle.

When in 1938/1939 the Forth C.C. took the initiative to form a Scottish Canoe Association it was with the intention of improving communication between the clubs that then existed and also with the B.C.U. It was never our intention to set up any rival organisation which would entice away possible club recruits. Therefore I have always been totally opposed to individual membership of the B.C.U. or S.C.A. One could very easily reach the situation whereby a number of individuals could join the S.C.A., be non-participants in canoeing events, perhaps not even owning a canoe, yet be appointed to high places at the A.G.M. and run the show.

The basis of any Scottish Canoe Organisation should be based on canoe clubs and the S.C.A. should only recognise bona fide members of a club. Any individual applications received for membership by the S.C.A. should be referred to the secretary of the nearest club. If there is no club say within 25 miles of the applicant they may be accepted as Associate members with no vote. The National body should set standards for recognition of a canoe club. e.g. minimum number of members - proper constitution and set of club safety rules - which must be met before full recognition is given.

It is the canoe clubs which organise and run events in Scotland. They are basic to the whole organisation of canoeing.

To relegate the clubs to Associate membership and without a vote at that is an idea with which I can have no part. One might well ask "what is the purpose of running a canoe club if individuals can take part in canoeing and vote as individual members of the S.C.A.?"

The District Association is another intrusion into the clubs sphere of influence and is just another bureaucratic structure quite superfluous to requirements.

"Associate Groups" of all sorts are the main source of recruitment for recognised canoe clubs. In the main they will never be anything in themselves because of the fluid state of their membership. Apart from the odd one or two who can be coaxed into membership of a canoe club, the majority take no interest in canoeing after their schooling or course is finished. The groups in themselves do not merit any special status.

The strength of the S.C.A. lies in its organised clubs and anything which takes away their present influence and status can only be deplored.

I should hate to think that my 40 years of striving to make the Forth Canoe Club a power in the land has been in vain.

We gave slalom competition to Scotland and the Scottish Section of the B.C.U. Guide to Waterways was written from our club records.

The Club gave birth to the S.C.A. and all I seem to have done in my 20 years of building it up is to have created a monster which is about to devour us.

No, Andrew; I have to declare my total opposition to your proposals. They are quite foreign to my way of thinking. Canoeing is not a business to be run with soulless efficiency. The killing of the clubs can only result in the end of the social contact and camaraderie of Scottish canoeists.

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Jack Cuthill.

"To Jack Cuthill and the Editors of Kayak Magazine.

An open letter in reply to Jack Cuthill's comments on the Draft of proposals and alternatives prepared to allow a wide range of opinion to exercise its effect on the Scottish Canoe Association's new Constitution.

Dear Jack,

I was just about to write out an explanation of my draft proposals on the Constitution in response to the request from Andrew Morton that I should prepare a paper rather less complicated for the wider audience of Kayak magazine, but when I received your reply I had to stop and consider my position. I was very disappointed at the tone of your reply for it had been my intention as I set out to prepare the Draft, that above all things the people I wanted to take along with me in this exercise included those like yourself, who have been the backbone of canoeing in Scotland for so long. I have said this many times before, that we are worse than the Eskimos in the manner in which we dispose of our "old paddlers", and that now having the opportunity to re-vamp the Constitution we could take our time to set out a document that would allow all to play their part, embodying those features which rightly have historical importance from the growth of the Association, but at the same time to take into account those aspects which reflect the situation in the light of recent developments, particularly the growth of the Scottish Sports Council and the intention to set up a Federal structure for the British Canoe Union.

On the point of the importance of Clubs to the organization of canoeing in Scotland, I agree with you completely, and right from the start I endeavoured to build in components which emphasized their role in the decision making process of canoeing organization. BUT here is where I differ with you in that I must recognize the large body of canoeists, who do not operate within Clubs but have by tradition also, have had the right to join the B.C.U. as individual members. Now in the Federal proposals, the main components which have been accepted, there will be no individual members of the B.C.U., but only members through their national associations, and so as things stand at the moment we do have to embody these groups into our membership structure, Club members, individual members and those for whom we do not make adequate provision for at the moment, namely members of school groups, Scouts youth clubs, the products of the myriad courses under the coaching scheme, etc. who are taking to canoeing but in a pre-club stage, and I feel we should make some effort as an Association to encourage them into our ranks; hence my suggestion of creating an Associate category.

I would agree that we should encourage them into Clubs but surely on a voluntary basis rather than a system which cuts into the freedom of the individual in attaching himself to that involved in "paddling your own canoe." Therefore, in my proposals I was looking for a method to encourage membership through Clubs rather than as individuals i.e. it would be cheaper, and their voice in Association affairs would be more effective. Individual members can exercise their democratic rights only at the A.G.M. whereas Club members would influence affairs not only at the A.G.M. as individuals, but through the District Representative at Council. Now that, I consider, gives the Club member a very adequate representation of his views, and I might add too much weight in the view of some replies to my proposals, and I must repeat, Jack, part of my exercise was to draw contrasting opinions and in the end, attempt to blend constructive replies into a reasonably acceptable package.

Let me elaborate on my proposals for District Associations. As things stand at the moment the Council comprises the Officers of the Association, plus representatives from the Technical and Specialist Committees and representatives from all Affiliated Clubs, the latter having to pay their own expenses but still giving a potential Council of nearly 50 members entitled to attend and vote. Very democratic no doubt, but in practice it does not work out that way, for it usually ends up with the Officers of the Association, some Technical representatives and an infinitely variable floating attendance by Club representatives, which in my mind does not encourage consistency in the policies decided by the Council. Therefore, I suggest in my Draft, and they are only suggestions by the way, I have not been /

been given the job of drawing up the new Constitution, in the end that is for the members to decide, that Clubs should concentrate on the promotion of canoeing in their locality, to work with other Clubs in that area towards that end, having links with the Area Coaching Scheme organizer and the lesser groups of canoeists in the area, and from that group have the entitlement including expenses for a representative on Council. As I see it there is potential for five or six District Associations - the North, Tayside, the East, a Central, the West and a Borders group. These groupings are based upon Club distribution, cutting across the present divisions for the Area Coaching organizers who tend to work outwith the sphere of Clubs, but could still be involved in the District Association affairs to everyones benefit as far as I can see. Now Jack I cannot for the life of me see how such a system of encouraging local togetherness diminishes the power of the Clubs, they will still carry the weight of expertise, voting power and financial discount benefits to their members if my framework is adopted, and it would bring about a more effective form of the Council of the Association.

As I said earlier, we must take note of all the groups who make up the canoeing scene, and to this end I have proposed the Council to be formed in three ways. Firstly, the individual members and that includes Club members, but acting as individuals, will be able to elect the Officers of the Association, only four, at the Annual General Meeting, who then know their responsibility is towards the individuals rights and interests within the Association. Secondly, the Club representatives from the areas of sport that concern them would have the right to elect a Committee for the running of that branch of the sport and whose representative would hold a place on the Council - Slalom, Wild Water, Sprint, Coaching, Marathon, Polo, Surf, Touring (may I now suggest that the Access Committee should be a sub-committee of Council and set up by them from their ranks.) Then finally on Council would be the District Representatives, say six in number, which would give an effective and recognisable Council of eighteen having voting rights and their expenses paid. There would be the right of others to attend and to participate in the debates but without vote or expenses. Among the various replies I have had so far, including your own, there is some unease over the categories I have suggested to cover a limited attachment to the Association as Associate groups or Associate members. Some like yourself, suggest that we should have little or nothing to do with them, but as you say they are a source of recruitment for canoe clubs and even have potential as fully fledged clubs themselves, so if we were able to offer a category of group attachment appropriate to their stage of development and incidentally, a category which existed before I and other "bureaucrats" arrived on the Scottish canoeing scene. Why not allow such groups to take part in local affairs, receive Minutes and information from the Association, existing as a channel of communication for their members in our recognition of their potential as future full canoe participants.

At the moment they are excluded completely, only receiving such information that their leader receives as a member of the Coaching Scheme and that is possibly divorced from the mainstream of canoeing as organized by the Canoe Clubs. Are we really carrying out the role we undertake when we receive money - public money - from the Sports Council if we do not create avenues for as wide a range of canoeists and potential canoeists to become involved in the fabric of the Association.

In similar fashion I did suggest that a minor attachment could be made by individuals as Associate members, almost in the way that we now offer reduced terms to family members, the conditions of which are not very well set out at the moment, and could be better framed as Associated. In similar fashion, those who enter canoeing by the Coaching Scheme could effectively take up a form of membership for information and advice without competition and voting rights until they were ready to commit themselves to full individual or club membership. My point is that it provides a link, costing little with some advantage to the Association, and channels information, propaganda if you like, to a wider group than presently receive information at the moment. For we must remember that in addition to providing an avenue for the activities of present members and the clubs, we receive public money for the development of the sport and its promotion in the Scottish setting.

Finally /

Finally, Jack, your concluding paragraph gave me a reply of NO! but I work on the principle of never taking no for an answer and the last thing on earth I could be accused of is soulless efficiency, my creed and my life are devoted to the pursuit of "passionate inefficiency" - which in this context means the right to human failings and the right of the individual to feel involved and an avenue created for his views, and I would submit that the structure I have suggested in my Draft proposals does give real channels for individuals, groups and the Clubs themselves, real and effective ways to take the organization of canoeing into the new situation of increased receipt of public money and the framework of our place alongside the other National Canoe Associations of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in the New Federal Structure.

Thanks for your comments and you may rest assured that there is a lot of debate still to come.

Best Wishes

Andrew Manwell.

The defending Champion and British Marathon Team member Robin Belcher came North with the Director of the B.C.U. to take part in the Loch Lubnaig L.D. Robin won the event easily, taking 10 minutes off last year's time. Ian Speirs of Irvine was second and third was Andy Morton of Forth, two seconds behind Ian.

KAYAKS MADE TO ORDER

A.S. RAMAGE, 61, WATSON CRESCENT, EDINBURGH, 11

- UNICORN A semi-lowline slalom kayak. This boat is suitable for general purpose and slalom work. It is manoeuvrable and its lines lend to ducking. Price £85.
- PEGASUS An ultralowline, slimline slalom kayak, very fast but with the stability of a whitewater racer. It requires practice to handle. ... Price £85
- PANACHE An ultralowline slalom kayak designed in 1978 by one of Britain's top slalom paddlers, Martin Peters. It is very manoeuvrable with excellent ducking capabilities. It incorporates both the pointed snout and beaver tail of the modern slalom machine. Made under licence Price £95
- SPRINTER A stable white water racer suitable for the novice and average paddler. For white water and general purpose Price £90

NO VAT is applicable on these prices. Diolen comes as standard on all boats. £20 deposit with written orders. Delivery or collection at cost and by agreement.

Cheques should be crossed and made payable to A.S. Ramage.

Standard colours:- Translucent, Blue, Green, Red, Yellow and Magenta.

Flash:- Black, White, Yellow or Green.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING on 25th APRIL 1978

TWEED RACE Our initial fears of lack of officials were unfounded - on the day, there was a great turnout of all the experienced people in the club and an encouraging turnout of younger members who raced the course. (Perhaps next year we should have the A.G.M. at the Tweed race??)

AWE RACE 11th June. This is a ranking race co-ordinated by Andy Morton and he would be grateful for any help. There are no entries on the day so, if you intend going, write or 'phone Andy at once. Although you can have a good weekend and enjoy paddling on Loch Awe and the lower bit of the river by the sea, the race itself is not suitable for novices.

CANAL HUT Due to the initiative of Kelso and the back up work by Keith Bootland and David Cuthill (and a host of others), the club now has a hut at the Lochrin Basin where twenty canoes can be stored. Members can store one canoe there for £2 a year plus an initial £1 deposit on the keys. Keys are obtainable from Scott Balfour.

At present, this stretch of the canal is temporarily "dry". However, as soon as the clearing operations are completed, you can look forward to some slalom coaching and race training at this site.

MEMBERSHIP The following members have now rejoined: Peter L. Brown, David Close, David Cuthill, Ian Marshall, Scott Ramage, Lillian Williamson, and David Wolfe. Robin Dixon and Morag Eaton are still saving up. Helen Brodie has retired. The treasurer has assumed that Forbes Walker, Helen Duncan and A. & W. Wilson have also retired.

From the substantial number of enquiries, the club welcomes these new members:

Fiona and Fraser Brodie	(Jnr)	15, Park Road, Dalkeith	663-3390
Keith Bootland	(Sen)	13, Temple Park Crescent	--
Robert Clarkson	(Sen)	27 Wellview Dr. Motherwell	(0698)
		ML1 3ET	64330
Martin Crawford	(Jnr)	25 Moredun Park Dr., EH17.	664 3069
Ian Deane	(Jnr)	306, Gilmerton Road, EH17	664 4293
Dorothy Fairlie	(Jnr)	The Roundels, Bush, Penicuik	445 3408
Peter Jones	(Sen)	5, Alnwickhill Park, EH16 9UH	664 6996
Peter Martin	(Jnr)	3, Ravelston House Grove	EH4 3LT. 332 5810
Scott & Sylvia Ramage,	(Snr)	61, Watson Crescent, EH11	--
Thomas Scott	(Snr)	6, Park View West, Port Seton	--
David Stewart	(Jnr)	47, Ladysmith Road, EH9 3UY	667 5415
Grant Wilson	(Jnr)	24, South Grange Avenue, Prestonpans	
		(Father, Doug. Work 'phone 667 5131)	

COMING EVENTS - FORTH CC

Wednesday 7th June Forth Selection Event for the A team Bat Polo - Craiglockhart 7.15. Spectators welcome. Players by invitation, Scott Balfour.

Saturday 17th June the Bat Polo tournament of the year - Craiglockhart Kelso Riddell.

Monday 19th June Rag Regatta - novelty races evening for all members. No prizes, but we hope everyone has a laugh. E.O.D. Scott Balfour.

Saturday 24th June - Loch Lomond L.D. Scottish Championships. Hope most of the club make the effort to attend.

July and August - Craiglockhart continues each Monday. Repair sessions and building each Wednesday at Compass Centre, Granton.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES People asking for details of membership will be sent information about the club on receipt of a Stamped Addressed Envelope. Membership fees are £3 Senior and £2 Junior.

POOL SESSIONS Like last winter, we hope to continue these indoor sessions throughout the period from October to March. Details will be issued in the next Kayak, or make enquiries nearer the time to the secretary.

MONDAY EVENINGS - CRAIGLOCKHART - 6.30 - 8.30.

To avoid the poor turnout and subsequent financial loss, next year the Pond sessions will start in May rather than April. It seems that occasional snow showers, near freezing conditions, strong winds put people off canoeing!

Recent activities have been hampered by final adjustments to Bat Polo goals, but these are now complete.

Already we have had an informal match versus Stirling University, who were suitably whipped - however most nights we prefer to play games at various levels. Just ask and you will get a game. The beginners sessions have been destroyed by the irregularity in attendance - there seems to be different people attending each Monday. When numbers settle we will restart coaching people in

- (a) racing kayaks
- (b) basic canoe handling
- (c) rescue drill
- (d) advanced strokes.

Please remember that this canoe club is for people who are interested in canoeing and would like to meet and associate with similar people. The Monday evenings give an opportunity for regular contact - use these to arrange weekends and river trips.

Details of coming events etc. are all displayed on the wee notice-board which appears there each Monday.

COMPLAINTS Complain now to a Committee member who will report it to the Committee at our next meeting.

LENDAL PRODUCTS LIMITED

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MAY 1978

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11a	SILVER/GOLDTONE ...	0.72	0.78
12	SILVER/GOLD/COPPERTONE ...	1.80	1.95
	STERLING SILVER ...	13.80	15.53
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	STERLING SILVER ...	10.40	11.70
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	STERLING SILVER ...	11.09	12.48
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	PURE COPPER ...	4.90	5.51
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16	SILVER/GOLD/COPPERTONE ...	1.68	1.81
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	PRESENTATION RIBBON PER METRE	0.08	0.09
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THIS PRICE LIST IS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

LENDAL PRODUCTS have now added five pendants and a bracelet to their current range of canoeing jewellery. Three of these have a Kayak/Canadian motif and the bracelet and remaining two pendants have a Kayak motif. They can be supplied in a range from goldtone, silvertone and coppertone to hall marked gold and silver. An important feature of the above for clubs etc. is that they can be used as presentation medals for regattas and LENDAL can supply a red white and blue ribbon as well as a chain. The full range can be supplied in attractive presentation boxes at a small additional charge if required. For further details send for catalogue and price list.

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| 8 | Ring | 17 | Bracelet |
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