

KAYAK

MAGAZINE



February 1979

A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION

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E D I T O R I A L

"Commodore's Comment" on page 13 will henceforth be written by another. At the Forth Canoe Club's Annual Meeting last December, I took the opportunity to retire from the high office of Commodore after a period of 40 years guiding the fortunes of the Club in some capacity or other. It does not feel all that long ago since a pal and I joined the F.C.C. and bought a Granta Folbot double seater for £5. For our first time in a canoe we paddled out to Inchmickery to explore this rocky islet. We did our first tour in 1937 when we went from Balloch to Inverness. The portage from Ardlui to Taynuilt was done by train in those days. In January 1938 I was the Club Librarian and committee member - the start of an era which has brought me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction.

Kelso Riddell has been appointed to succeed me as Commodore - Vive le Commodore - and the meeting was kind enough to elect me to the position of Hon. Commodore.

A good permanent Slalom site that we could call our own has always loomed large in the dreams of slalomists up and down the country. Serious thoughts are being given at the present time to the possibility of acquiring the Grandtully slalom site for the S.C.A. but I wonder if our organisation could cope with the liability of becoming landowners.

I would like to suggest another place worthy of our inspection. Many will have read that the valley of the Megget Water is to be dammed to create a new reservoir. The barrage will be about 2 miles up the road from St. Mary's Loch and will be the highest in Britain. The overflow will come down the Megget Water into the loch. I can see no great difficulty in creating a slalom course on the Megget Water in front of one of the sluices. At present, building is in progress. All the necessary plant for moving earth and boulders is there. If the S.C.A. Slalom Committee and Developers were to visit this site, and have a chat with the engineer in charge, of how best the situation could be adapted for slalom, I feel sure we would be successful. It would not of course be an immediate solution as it will take some time for the valley to fill up after the dam is completed but don't let us be biting our nails later for letting the chance slip now.

I am sorry to see that the S.C.A. have inveigled the Scottish Scout/Guide Slalom and the Sprint Regatta into the official canoeing calendar. When I started these events a number of years ago in my capacity of Assistant Commissioner at S.H.Q., the intention was to give the scouts and guides a taste of canoeing without getting them committed to the sport. There is a danger now that a number of them will be attracted to official canoe competition and have no time to spare for their scout and guide activities. Surely the S.C.A. can recruit from the vast army of unattached young people and not poach on those Youth Movements.

J.C.

BEGINNER'S LUCK ... The adventures of my first year's canoeing.

W. Alastair M. Williamson.

It was late Spring 1978 when I telephoned the S.C.A. Offices in order to find a canoe club in Edinburgh which I could visit ... as I knew nothing about boats, places to learn paddling and so on. Scott Balfour's address was closest to where I live, so I soon was at his door and given an invitation to come to Craiglockhart Pond (first reaction ... ugh!) for a "wee shot". Scott mentioned the existence of a game played by members called Bat Polo - which sounded mystifying and not altogether attractive. (see on for my subsequent impressions of b.p.)

I arrived at Craiglockhart for my first visit in good time - to discover a bewildering array of Sports Centre kayaks and what proved to be "bats" laid out beside the water.

"Take a boat and have a paddle around," advised Scott at the gate and from there on it was all new to me (my only prior experience being a one day canoeing activity on Loch Morlich when a mere youth, twelve years ago). I asked someone how it was possible for me to (a) carry a canoe without breaking it or me, and (b) launch it, get into it and avoid immediate ejection into the as yet unknown quantity of the pond.

Apart from the perpetual veering caused by my inept paddling, the close encounter with canoeing afforded by this first evening was enjoyable and exciting. The remarkable sensation of gliding silently and smoothly over the surface, propelled by even my awful paddle strokes, was new and delightful. I was also impressed by the camaraderie of the club members and their willingness to spare time to explain how I could improve my paddling, go in a straighter line and so on. This impression persists as I continue to receive hints and tips about all aspects of the sport.

The inevitable capsize began after some weeks, when I began to take part in the astonishing game of "bat polo", which involved the division of my concentration between staying upright and attempting to catch a wet ball which normally landed in the water out of my reach, but nonetheless splashing me thoroughly. Sometimes in rapid succession, I would find myself upside down amongst the pond weed. The speed at which a capsize occurs meant that full realisation of the fact did not take place until I had made my "panic" departures from the canoe under water. Deep sea rescue practice, which often followed such debacles, was an entertaining way of gaining experience in the rescue techniques. It was all the more realistic when I discovered that although the pond is (say) four feet (sorry, 1.3 metres) deep at most, it was advisable to swim rather than attempt to stand in the one metre of mud on the bottom. An intriguing aspect of these rescues was when the rescuers in canoes took the bow of the capsized boat over theirs and then said to me (swimming rather ineffectually in my buoyancy aid) "Now, lift your end!" - the result is obvious.

Later in the summer, Richard McCurdie and David Wolfe organised an informal Sunday trip to the river Tay at Stanley and kindly offered to take me (amongst others) on the 'easier parts' of the river there.

The drive up the M90 was an opener to a day of real excitement, as well as exhaustion, Richard having almost as exuberant an approach to his driving as to his canoeing. We arrived in rain and although the weather never really improved, I became almost totally oblivious to it. This was the first time I had ever canoed on moving water and at first everything was quiet...we hadn't left the large slow-moving pool near the local campsite.

Richard launched and took a small group of us to the first section of what apparently was "easy white water" - a section of the enormous river (for so it seemed from water level) that threw itself furiously over a stony staircase about 100 metres long (my novice's view). The "ferry glide" had been explained to me, as had the basic rule about not leaning upstream, but nonetheless my first crossing of the river proved to be a muscle-stretching fight against the inexorable current. Half way across it seemed as if my arms would give out, the bow turned downstream and I lost way (nautical expression) /

expression). I paddled harder and then forgot all the warnings, leant too far upstream and found myself underneath the boat. It was an undignified though harmless descent of the rapids from there - the boat upside down - with my head looking over the hull at my feet held up to avoid the stones. That had been frightening.

We next tried "turning in", an exercise where the canoe is turned from an upstream position, in slack water, into a fast current downstream. This was done at the head of a large and apparently deep pool, into which the river flowed smooth and fast over a "linn". Despite the lesson that I should have learned earlier - not to lean into the current - I leant the wrong way on "turning in" and again was in an inverted position. As was always the case on this outing, experienced canoeists were at hand to assist, but I had more difficulty in rescuing the boat this time. Swimming beside it I was alarmed to note that instead of wallowing just on the surface, the boat was sinking fast - its buoyancy had come adrift. We finally got her emptied again, but it had been quite tricky emptying gradually for fear of breaking the hull with the weight of water inside. On the bank once more, I remembered being upside down and forgetting that to get out of the canoe it was necessary to roll forward and out....I had seen rather more of the Tay than was strictly desirable before I managed to roll out of the cockpit.

What I suppose could be called "shooting the linn" proved to be extremely exhilarating. We carried our canoes up to the pool beyond the linn, where all was very peaceful - trees growing to the water's edge and framing the sky, and edged the canoes one by one down the chute formed by the flowing of the wide river between smooth narrow rock walls and over a submerged shelf. This was one of the most alarming experiences of my young canoeing life... I paddled to the edge of the pool where it entered the linn, but due to the descent of the river from the upper to the lower pools, the linn wasn't visible until I was on the very brink ... someone on the lower pool shouted "Paddle like blazes!" ... then I was on a rapidly accelerating descent which began so slowly at the top but ended very fast amongst turbulent waves in the lower pool. The combination of fear and exhilaration was formidable.

Stanley Weir was also a source of new thrills, the shooting over the top and going aground the next minute proved a problem for several - the result being that the river below the weir was dotted with canoeists either rescuing or being rescued from capsizing or grounding.

In between, there were rapids of varying lengths with miniature "stoppers", which didn't actually stop the boats but threw water over the bows and around our waists. To keep steerage way I was told to paddle as fast as possible and follow the lead of Richard. At the Stanley Mill rapids, after about three hours on the water and several swims, I doubted whether I had enough energy left to make my arms work the paddles. We rushed downstream finally reaching a bend where the water curled and boiled over itself, I thought that my last moment had come and I had no strength left ... but miraculously I swept round into comparatively quiet water beyond. That was thrilling.

Also that summer I was fortunate to have my first shot at coastal sea canoeing under the watchful eye of the skilled exponent of that art, Andrew Boath. Strange to relate, it was a stormy evening when we ran along Lower Granton Road (yes... ran ... it nearly finished me) to Wardie Bay. Fortunately it was an onshore wind, so a group of youngsters and I launched into the surf, after being shown how it should be done by Andrew. Again, from water level, the waves looked really alarming and the prospect of swimming just at that area of the Forth was unattractive. Once out on the smoother water beyond the surf things sorted themselves out, heart going back to its usual place if not its usual pace. We practised gently surfing runs, followed by back-paddling to reach deeper water again. I was thoroughly enjoying the new experience, busily leaning on the waves as they approached, until I became too confident on a last run to shore and found the canoe on top in a maelstrom of surf. Staggering to my feet, another wave pushed the boat at me and I had another swim ... the sea's power simply shouldn't be underestimated.

I finally bought myself a boat in August, through an advert in the paper. It's a touring boat, with a rudder operated by the feet, and weighs about /

THE LONG DISTANCE RACING SCENE

The Irvine Regatta and L.D., although not appearing in the Calendar for 1979, may nevertheless be run as usual. Provisional dates are Sunday 15th April for the L.D., and Sunday 26th August for the Regatta. It is not known yet whether the L.D. will be a ranking event. Normally events not appearing in the Calendar are not ranked.

Those attending the A.G.M. at Greenock in December should note that the dates of the May Regatta and the L.D. on the Forth and Clyde Canal are now reversed. i.e. the L.D. is on the 20th and the Regatta the 19th May.

Having completed its inaugural run, the L.D. Ranking list seems to be worth while. There have been a fair number of deserved promotions and the dead wood (or should it be fibreglass?) has been removed from each division. Now we have a ranking list which is more accurate and hopefully it will encourage some keen competition for promotion, or at least a good place by the end of the season.

Congratulations to A. Morton for gaining maximum points in Div.1; to Bruce Beeley for holding first position in Div.2 at the ripe old age of well it must be over 50!!!!; to Munro and Denny for a first class season in K2 (the occasional paddle in a Slalom K1 must have helped a bit!)

Forth Canoe Club, although third in the Club Ranking list is well behind the leaders. Let us hope that some of our younger paddlers can attend a few more events in 1979 and push us up to first place.

RANKING LIST - Top five places in each division

DIV.1.

1. A. Morton (Forth)
2. A. Samuel (Trossachs)
3. C. Tannock (Strathclyde Univ)
4. I. Speirs (Irvine)
5. G. Speirs (Irvine)

DIV.2.

1. B. Beeley (Irvine)
2. F. Nelson (E.W.W.C.)
3. G. Kerr (Garnock)
4. I. Linn (E.W.W.C.)
5. D. McKenzie (Strathclyde Univ)

DIV.3.

* promoted

1. D. Thomson (R.W.S.A.B.C.)*
2. H. Kerr (R.W.S.A.B.C.)*
3. A. Murray (R.W.S.A.B.C.)*
4. A. Manzie (Strathclyde Univ)
5. J. Turcan (Strathkelvin)

DIV.5

(Ladies)

1. M. McClure (Trossachs)
2. Y. Allison (Irvine)
3. M. Murray (Garnock)
4. L. Morrison (Kilmarnock)
5. K. Trapp (Grangemouth)

DIV.6.

(K2)

1. Munro/Denny (R.W.S.A.B.C.)
- = 2. Duffus/Douglas (Irvine)
- = 2. Riddle/Wilson (Strathclyde Univ)
- = 2. Speirs/Montgomery (Irvine)
5. Batchelor/Dunlop (Irvine)

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Top Twenty)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| 1. Irvine | 211 | 7. Glasgow Univ. | 63 | 14. Renfrew | 23 |
| 2. R.W.S.A.B.C. | 139 | 8. Strathclyde | 59 | 15. Kilmarnock | 20 |
| 3. Forth | 92 | = 9. Perth | 37 | 16. Grangemouth | 17 |
| 4. Trossachs | 83 | = 9. Strathkelvin | 37 | 17. Edin.Univ. | 12 |
| 5. Garnock | 70 | 11. Selkirk | 33 | 18. Kirkcaldy | 11 |
| 6. E.W.W.C. | 67 | 12. Paisley | 28 | 19. Gracemount | 8 |
| | | 13. Falkirk High | 24 | 20. Clyde Valley | 7 |

The full ranking list may be obtained from 8 Frederick Street, Please send S.A.E. to Scottish Sports Council, 8, Frederick Street, EDINBURGH EH2 2HB.

The Canoe Polo Championships moved this year from the luxury of the Royal Commonwealth Pool to the smaller but cosier pool at Infirmary Street, Edinburgh. Despite extreme freezing weather and a lack of fuel oil (they received some the night before the event after being closed for four weeks), the event was as popular as usual and there were teams who had to be turned away.

The organisers had obviously learned a lot from last year, and the whole event was timetabled so that teams could check their event time and disappear to the pub. Refereeing was of a high standard and consistent, with John Young shouldering much of the burden. Results from last year were also used to seed the teams, and this worked very well in the seniors, although somebody forgot about all the canoe training Wallace High School have been doing over the summer, and they were matched against the other Junior favourites in the first round.

In the quarter finals of the seniors, the major upset was when strongly favoured Royal West, with the recent transfer of David Cuthill from Forth, were beaten 2-1 by Edinburgh University 'A', and Aberdeen University, winners last year but this time without Angus Florence, were beaten 3-2 by Forth 'B'. The months of summer practice at Craiglockhart paid off for Forth in the semi-finals, with Forth 'A' soundly trouncing Strathkelvin 'A' 5-1 and Forth 'B' dispatching Edinburgh University 'A' by 5-3. So Forth met Forth in the final, but there was little doubt of the result at half time with the score 5-0 for Forth 'A'. They were not so dominant in the second half, but the final score of 7-1 left no doubt who was going to Crystal Palace this year. Forth 'A' will get their long-awaited chance to have a go at the English.

Although there is still a wide variation in the abilities of the Junior teams, the match of the day was in the first round where Forth met Wallace High School from Stirling. With outstanding performances from both sides, these two teams should not have met until the final. Wallace beat Forth 2-1, and from there they were well on their way to collecting the Trophies. We hear they may bring along a ladies team to take up the challenge from the Forth Ladies who were given a hard time by Selkirk High School in the semi-finals (5-1). Wallace High School overpowered Selkirk in the final to win 5-1 with little difficulty.

Paisley were conspicuous by their absence this year, and their two entries had to be scratched although time had been reserved for them. Perhaps the weather was too severe for them to come across, although Royal West managed to arrive from Greenock.

At the time of writing, we have just heard that the B.C.U. have again disappointed our junior champions by not making space for them to enter the Championship at Crystal Palace. It seems that England divides neatly into four for semi-finals. Sad that our plans and bookings have again to be thrown on the rubbish heap. We can only hope that our Club Champions (Forth A) and the Scottish Team can thrash some sense into the bureaucracy in the deep South. Or perhaps we should organise the British Championships in Scotland for next year.

*** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** ***

MAKERSTOUN W.W. RACE

Roxburgh Canoe Club are again running the Makerstoun W.W. Race (BCU Div C) on SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 1979. This race is sponsored by Barries (knitwear) Ltd. Hawick. The course will be from Rutherford to Makerstoun (3 miles). Grade 3 in normal winter conditions. Entries accepted until 11 a.m. on the day or to Mr. K. Fraser (Rutherford Boathouse - 05649319) 6 Mansfield Sq. Hawick. Men/Ladies 80p. Youth 60p Teams 90p.

S.C.A. TROPHIES

Some of our younger competitors, and even some of our more aged paddlers may like to know a little more about the silverware available for plunder during the year.

The S.C.A. adds to its trophies each year and now owns around 25 cups and shields. Have a read through the list below and see what you fancy for the mantelpiece!

SLALOM

John Mears Trophy	...	1st Open Team at Championships
Tay Shield	...	Highest placed paddler in 1st Div. Men.
Florence Cup	...	1st Senior Men at Championship
Elphinston Trophy	...	1st Youth at Championship.

RIVER RACING

Championship Trophy	...	1st Senior Men at Championship (awarded at event)
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1st place in Scottish Ranking List is presented with a small permanent trophy each year at the A.G.M.

SPRINT

Youth Championship	...	500m Youth
Peter Burton Trophy	...	1,000m Open
Young Salver	...	500m Ladies Open
Doubles Championships	..	1,000m Open K2
Jim Gilmour Cup (+ replica)		Espada C 6,000m or equivalent
Royal Burgh of Irvine	..	10,000m Senior Men
Hamilton Precinct Traders		1st National Team at Commonwealth Regatta
Bobby Jones Trophy	...	500m Senior Men
Drybrough Cup	...	Open 1,000m between England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, at Home International.

LONG DISTANCE

Ayrshire Cup	...	Points awarded from Ranking Races in Class A (best six)
Cruising Shield	...	Not awarded at present - any ideas?
Loch Lomond Cup	...	1st Open Loch Lomond L.D.
Inter Club Trophy	...	Points for all classes at Ranking Races
Two Thistle Trophies	...	1st Senior Men and 1st Youth at Tay Marathon (any Nationality)
Junior Trophy	...	1st Youth from Points at Ranking Races (best 3)
Canoeist of the Year	...	Points awarded on 10,9,8,7 etc. basis for the four Championship events: Slalom Open Sprint 1,000m Open L.D. Open River Racing Open

(Youths are those who are 18 years or under on the 1st January of current year)

MORE MONEY FOR COMPETITORS

Keen Scottish competitors will be interested to know of a new scheme whereby they may receive travel grant to competitions south of the Border.

To be eligible for this grant one must be a member of the S.C.A. (i.e. the B.C.U. for 1979) and be a member of one of the National Training Squads (or recommended by one of the appropriate Technical Committees).

Travel grant is paid at the following rates:

20 years or under on the 1st January 1979	...	1½p per mile
30 " " " "	...	1p per mile
40 " " " "	...	½p per mile
41 " over -		no grant.

The grant is only available to paddlers attending the following events:

- All 1st Div. Slaloms and River Races in England and Wales
- All G.B. Team selection events
- All National Championship events (including Bat Polo and Surf).

Application forms are available from The Scottish Sports Council, 8, Frederick Street Edinburgh, and should be returned there when complete within one month of the event.

There is not an infinite supply of money of course, but it is probable that sufficient resources have been laid aside for the scheme.

BAT POLO

Once again Scotland cannot send a Junior Team to the finals at Crystal Palace at the end of February. Last year we were debarred because there had already been four Regional finals in England - where else - and of course that makes a cosy four teams for the semi-finals.

Last year Kelso Riddell (Bat Polo Organiser for the S.C.A.) accepted this fait accompli with the comment to the B.C.U. that we should have been informed of these so called "Regional" finals. He left his name and address with the B.C.U. and asked that the minutes of their meetings be sent to him. During 1978 he heard nothing, predictably, until November when we were invited to send teams to the Finals - how nice. Unfortunately (yes, you've guessed), England had once again been divided up into four regions for Junior Competition and the four semi-finalist teams had already won their way through. It would not be possible to fit in a Scottish Junior team.....

Is it surprising that we B.C.U. Members residing in Scotland get a little upset at times?

SPRINT NEWS

Scottish paddlers have always found it difficult to obtain cheap racing craft because there are so few about and they last such a long time that it is rare to find a second hand one for sale.

The Sprint Committee have been considering the purchase of some good second hand craft south of the Border for re-sale in Scotland, but a lot depends on whether the cash is forthcoming from the Scottish Sports Council.

Keep your ears and eyes open for the next few months and you may be able to buy or hire a glass Ranger or Sandwich Javelin, or even a Makker HL. (Technical terms used to confuse the uninitiated!)

SCOTTISH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

Many readers will have seen reports in the Press of the new Edinburgh ring road which will cut the Union Canal just west of Wester Hailes, if it goes ahead as planned.

There have been letters to the press, protest meetings and much background activity by the Scottish Inland Waterways Association, but more agitation against the proposal is required.

This is a valuable waterway for canoeists and the proposed blockage must be stopped. Will all canoeists in the Lothian Region please contact or write to their local councillors and make known to them in no uncertain manner that the new road must cross the Canal by a bridge not less than 8 feet above water level and so leave a clear water passage for boats and canoes. It is an act of vandalism to block the Canal.

— oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo —

SKYE TOURING

I see in a press report that a certain Malcolm Berry is planning to make the first ever solo canoe trip round the Isle of Skye this summer. He is a teacher of Geography in Manchester and has taken an outdoors course at Ambleside. Unless he is lucky, the 10 days he is allowing himself may not be enough. I remember vividly, on my way to Portree on one occasion, being stuck on the same campsite for 6 days because of the weather.

I was interested in the claim of "The first ever solo canoe trip round Skye" Is this true? Have none of our intrepid Scottish canoeists done such a trip? Of course they have maybe got more sense than do such a trip solo.

J.C.

— oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo — oOo —

INTO THE EIGHTIES WITH "KAYAK"

With the collection of S.C.A. subscriptions at Frederick Street and the possibility that "Canoe Focus" will no longer be provided as part of the service, readers should ponder a while and consider how best they should be served by the S.C.A.

Would you wish to continue to receive "Focus"? Would you rather choose to have either "Focus" or "Kayak" and pay extra for them? Or should the S.C.A. produce its own Newsletter? Would "Kayak" have enough appeal to make it worthwhile sending to all S.C.A. members?

We really do want to know what you think. Please write to me with your ideas, suggestions or criticisms.

Andy Morton.

SCOTTISH CANOE ASSOCIATIONC1 RANKING LIST 1978

Top 10

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Geoff Hatfield	Aberdeen Kayak	39
2	David Brown	Glenrothes	32
3	Peter Brown	Glenrothes	25
4	George Cleland	Glasgow University	21
5	Hugh Gray	Kilmarnock	18
6	Graham Simmons	Paisley Kayak	17
7	Colin Tannock	Strathclyde University	16
8	Richard Rogers	Allanforth Venture Scouts	15
9	Martin Shearer (J)	Brechin High School	14
10	Keneth Yeoh	Glasgow University	12

C2 RANKING LIST 1978

1	Hatfield/Hatfield	Aberdeen Kayak	30
2	McMorris/Hamilton	Uddingston Venture Scouts	26
3	Jackson/Bowe	Inverurie Surf Kayak	26
4	Shaw/Simmons	Paisley Kayak	21
5	Brown/McLean	Glenrothes	17
6	McPherson/Torrance	Selkirk High School	12
7=	Munro/Young	R.W.S.A.B.C.	10
7=	Millar/Gray	Ancrum	10
9=	Tannock/Riddle	Strathclyde University	9
9=	Millar/Lingard	Ancrum	9
9=	Tough/Mowat	Dundee University	9

COMPASS CENTRESLALOM JUDGES COURSE - 7th FEBRUARY 1979

There was a good turnout for the Course with members from other Clubs outnumbering the host Club. Eight canoeists passed the judging exam after Scott Balfour had given a run down of the rules using both display and a slalom course set up in the Compass Centre. The test was similar in standard to the I.C.F. test with 30 K1 questions and 20 C2 questions. A "pass" was considered as 48/50 or above.

Judging Certificates were awarded to the following:-

Scott Ramage	Forth C.C.	K. Valentine	Linlithgow O.C.C.C.
Kelso Riddell	Forth C.C.	J. Kelly	"
Robert McIntosh	Heriot Watt U.C.C.	A. Meikle	"
Paul McKellar	Edin.U.C.C.	D. Isles	"

A further seven were close behind and a couple of folk failed to hand in their exam paper for checking.

This year's puzzle - no answers given! Uses same notation as rules.

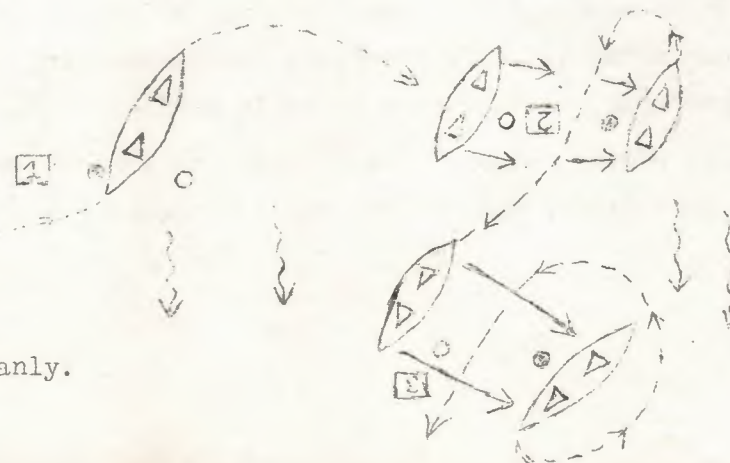
Gate 1 is forward upstream. Stern hits red pole.

Gate 2 is slipped under without hitting or body going through the gateline.

C2 then goes above gate and is done cleanly.

Gate 3 Only body of front person goes through then

C2 goes round and does cleanly.



This year's A.G.M. turned out to be a much quieter, pleasanter and more constructive meeting than that of a year ago. Because the new agreement between the S.C.A. and the B.C.U. was ratified by the B.C.U. Council at a special meeting held before the A.G.M., the S.C.A. representatives decided to withdraw the two motions relating to Federalisation. The long term objective of a federal structure for canoeing in Britain remains unchanged but it was felt that we should concentrate for the time being on working out the new arrangements before pursuing the federal objective.

The new agreement has been described briefly by George Cleland in his circular to members. Those who want a full copy of the agreement may get one from the Edinburgh Office.

The lack of pen portraits for the three Scottish candidates for the B.C.U. Council aroused some comment both north and south of the Border. This lack of information, which must have had an effect on the votes cast, was in no way the fault of George, Iain or Elwyn. At the A.G.M. there was an unqualified apology from Gordon Richards for a serious administrative failure at H.Q. Despite the lack of pen portraits, the number of votes cast for George, Iain and Elwyn was not far short of the number required for election. Voting for the post of B.C.U. President could not have been much closer as David Wain was re-elected by a margin of two votes.*

During the discussion of the various motions before the meeting I received a very large number of proxy votes (285) on behalf of Scottish members. When you see - eventually - a report in Canoe Focus, you may be puzzled by the large number of abstentions on the motion to introduce regions in England. I regarded this motion as largely a matter for English members and though I personally considered it to be a rather ill conceived proposal unlikely to improve the management of the Union, I took the view that it would be improper to cast our proxy votes against it, so you will see that the number of abstentions is larger than the total voting for and against the motion.

There was a fairly lengthy discussion of Roger Annan's Motion 5 which was eventually passed after being shortened and amended to cover the management as well as the financial structure of the Union. Many speakers expressed concern at the level of efficiency of the overall administration of the Union and the poor financial state revealed by the accounts.

* Editor's P.S.

Will any three S.C.A. members who failed to send in their proxy-vote card, consider themselves appropriately reprimanded. We could have had the B.C.U. President in our midst.

COMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Organiser</u>
<u>February</u>			
25th	Mackerstoun WW Race	Roxburgh C.C.	5
<u>March</u>			
4th	Nith WW Race	R.W.S.A.B.C.	6
10th	Strathclyde Park, Sprint/LD Training day	Trossachs CBC	2
10/11th	Slalom & White Water Racing Training	Aberdeen CC	1
18th	Grandtully WW Race (Ranking B) Scottish Championships	Forth CC	7
24/25th	Netherton Bridge Slalom 2,3,J.	Dundee WWC	8
<u>April</u>			
31/1st	Comrie Slalom 4,N,J.	Strathearn WWC	9
7th	Strathclyde Park, Sprint/LD Training day	Trossachs CBC	2
7/8th	Fairnilee Slalom 2,3,J.	Edin.Univ.C.C.	3
14/15th	Grandtully Slalom, 1,J.	S.C.A.	10
21st	Loch Awe LD	Glasgow Univ.C.C.	4
22nd	Awe WW Race (Ranking A & B)	Glasgow Univ.C.C.	4
28/29th	Slalom/WW Training	Aberdeen CC	1
<u>May</u>			
5/6th	Teith Slalom 4,N,J	Heriot Watt CC	11
12/13th	Training Youth Slalom & WW	Aberdeen CC	1
13th	Tweed LD	Forth CC	20
19th	Strathclyde Park Sprint Championships	Trossachs CBC	2
20th	Forth and Clyde Canal LD	F.D.C.	21
---	Tay LD - Leukaemia (Sponsored Event) NOW TO BE HELD ON 24 JUNE		
26/27th	Leny Slalom, 4,N,J.	Dundee WWC	8

Organisers

1. N. Spinks, Butchart Recreation Centre, University Road, Aberdeen.
2. Trossachs: A. Samuel, Auchengillan, Blanefield, Glasgow, G63 9AU.
3. E.U.C.C.: S. Harris, Kirtle House, 8 Minto Street, Edinburgh.
4. G.U.C.C.: Competition Secretary, Stevenson Bldg.,
77, Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow.
5. Roxburgh CC: K. Fraser, 2, Mansfield Square, Hawick, Roxburgh.
6. RWSABC: Canoe Convener, Clubhouse, Esplanade, Greenock.
7. Forth CC: D.Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Ave. Edinburgh, EH10 5ED.
8. Dundee WWC: Miss M. Souter, 76 Forth Crescent, Dundee.
9. Strathearn WWC: S. Willing, Summerlea, Ferntower Road, Crieff.
10. SCA: G.Cleland, Kelvin Lab, Glasgow Univ.National Eng.Lab,East Kilbride.
11. Heriot-Watt CC: R.D.MacIntosh, Sports Centre, Riccarton, Currie.
20. F.C.C.: Scott Salfour, 23, Buckstone Loan, EDINBURGH, EH10 6UD.
21. J.Dempsey, F.D.C., Kilns House, Kilns Road, Falkirk. FK1 55A

COMMODORE'S COMMENT

I am not very certain of the exact history of FORTH CANOE CLUB, which is shrouded in the mists of time and the previous Commodore's brain, but I am quite sure that all members of the Club will be pleased to join me in paying tribute to Jack Cuthill, who has been the guiding light of the Club for over 40 years. Who else has seen the birth of the Scottish Canoe Association in 1939, the introduction of canoe slalom to Scotland in 1947 and, having brought several generations of paddlers past their teething stages and retired himself, could still be seen enjoying a surreptitious paddle at a canal regatta last summer? Jack Cuthill, we salute you.

_ / _ / _ / _ / _ / _ /

The Scottish Canoe Association is forty years old this year. Is there nobody in the Association interested in making this a year with a special event to commemorate the fact? Perhaps we are all too busy with training schedules and chasing around the country to events to notice and record the passage of time. Or should we all wait for the A.G.M. at Aberdeen in December to raise a jar of congratulation to what is after all our own selves.

_ / _ / _ / _ / _ / _ /

With the above two comments under my belt, a quick review of the Club seems in order. From a low of 34 members two years ago we are now a full hundred strong. We have the Canoeist of the Year, the Surf Champion, and both Senior and Juniors representing Scotland. We have premises right beside water, which have been in good use while that water was not frozen over. We are the Canoe Polo Champions and are active in organising events in Long Distance and white water racing, and Canoe Polo, and while we do not run any slalom events in our own name, we supply and maintain the equipment and those of us attending slalom events are invariably roped in to help with the organisation. Have a pat on the back, Forth Canoe Club.

In the near future, we expect to improve our facilities at Lower Gilmore Place, with a second storage facility and workshop/changing area with showers and toilets. So if Craiglockhart Centre is too far out of town for most of us, there will be no excuse for not coming to play canoe polo, slalom gate practice, serious training along the canal, or just to muck about. I look forward to seeing you during the rest of the year.

P.S. It is interesting to note that of our roll of a hundred members, by my own count, 65% of these are active in canoeing, while many of the rest are involved in the services which the club provides for its members.

K.R.

S.C.A. COUNCIL

All canoeists will be interested to know that the S.C.A. Council is now composed of around twenty elected members. In the past there were only half a dozen elected members plus any representatives whom Clubs wished to send. Included in this new assembly are a number of Regional representatives and we asked them to write some pen portraits for your information. Here are their names, addresses and aspirations:-

JOHN TURCAN : PRESIDENT 7, Fern Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow.

Senior Lecturer, Management Studies, Glasgow University. Aged 50. Four children - all canoeists. Started canoeing about 10 years ago after many years of small boat sailing. Founder member and for three years Secretary of Strathkelvin Kayak Club. Senior Instructor (sea); instructs regularly at local swimming pool on canoe handling, safety and rolling. Canoes on rivers and lochs of Scotland and enjoys sea cruising. :Race organiser and official for Marathon, Down River and Sprint competitions Team Manager for Scottish Team at Gudena Marathon 1977. :Elected President of the SCA in 1975 and acts as SCA representative on BCU Council.

GEORGE CLELAND : SECRETARY 23, Sycamore Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow. G66 4PA

Studying for a Ph.D in Nuclear Structure Physics at Glasgow University Started canoeing 9 years ago at school and since then has canoed with Strathkelvin Kayak Club and Glasgow University. Is now involved with setting up Glasgow Kayak Club.

:Paddles mainly C1 but has been known to 'kayak' occasionally. Spends about 50% of his canoeing time on slalom and white water racing and the other 50% on rough and open water canoeing and coaching: Always meant to take up competition more seriously but never quite had the dedication and since taking on the secretaryship of the S.C.A. any such fantasies have completely disappeared: Is involved with organisation, to a greater or lesser extent, in most branches of the sport (especially slalom and white water): Believes that the S.C.A. must, with its increased independence from the B.C.U. offer a service which is more geared towards the general canoeists rather than the competitors and coaches who are represented at the moment.

IAN ANDERSON : CENTRAL SCOTLAND REPRESENTATIVE. 89, Main Street, Fintry, Stirlingshire.

Commonly known as Sunny Jim. Aged 22 years. Is a teacher of Mathematics: Inclined towards slalom and whitewater for both recreation and competition: Is very interested in teaching canoeing to a high standard to as many children as possible: Started canoeing at the tender age of 15 at Keith Grammar School under Jim Gilchrist and then went on to Aberdeen University. Study almost always took the back seat where canoeing was concerned: His view of the constitutional change and future of the S.C.A. is coloured by his opinion of a bureaucratic and inefficient B.C.U. His biggest hope is that there will be much more incentive for Scottish canoeists to promote membership of their parent body.

SUE EDWARDS : COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER. 21/3 Clovenstone Park, Edinburgh.

Tutor in Outdoor Education, Lothian Outdoor Education Centre, McDonald Road, Edinburgh: Aged 29: Interested in all aspects of canoeing but mainly of a recreational kind both on the sea and inland: First canoed at the age of 7 and then started again at 15. Canoed on the sea all around the coast of Britain and on rivers in Wales and Scotland. Has entered slaloms, sprint and L.D. events and river raced regularly during seasons 73/74 and 74/75. Became Sea Coach in 1976 and holds advanced Inland Proficiency as well. Was appointed C & D Officer in February 1978. /

AMERICAN CANOE SAFARI We hear that Alistair Denny, Eric Milne and Neil Baxter are going over to America sometime in April to try their luck at white water canoeing in and around Boston. They are looking about for sponsors at the moment and for any financial help they can find. We cannot tell you where they will be competing but they have received a list of events from which to compile an itinerary. We wish them every success in their venture.

ANOTHER AMERICAN VISIT Iain Linn seems to have started something because, in addition to the safari above, we learn that Scott Ramage and his wife Sylvia are also going over to America to visit Dave Mitchell who once employed Scott in this country as a paddle maker. Dave emigrated a year or two ago and started up a canoe business in the States. Good Luck Scott and Sylvia.

STOP PRESS BAT POLO

Our Junior Bat Polo Team is away to Crystal Palace after all! They are competing as "Scotland" in a Junior Bat Polo International against England. We are told that in the change-over between the old and new B.C.U. Bat Polo Secretaries, the name of Kelso Riddell, Scotland's B.P. Representative, was inadvertently overlooked. However, the B.C.U. Bat Polo Committee now know that they ignore Kelso at their peril. It is thanks to his intervention and persistence that this compromise has been reached. Our best wishes to Wallace High School who will represent Scotland in the Junior Bat Polo International.

STOP PRESS - LATEST A 'phone call just received from Kelso from Keele Service Station - Sunday 8 p.m. They've all had a good weekend and had some good games. It was obvious that the English teams were highly trained and it seems that they do more canoe polo than any other kind of canoeing. In fact he likened their play to that of a 1st Division football team.

RESULTS:	<u>Seniors</u>	Scotland	0	England	3
	<u>Juniors</u>	Scotland	0	England	5
	<u>Club</u>				
	<u>Championship</u>	Forth	0	Bere Forest B	4

STOP PRESS - LATEST FROM THE TWEED

Sunday 25th February

MAKERSTOUN W.W. RACE This Roxburgh Club event was run today in excellent conditions on a good winter level of water and was enjoyed by all who took part.

The only incident of note was in the ladies event when two of them capsized within sight of the finish, giving an unexpected win to Margaret Elliot of E.W.W.C.

RESULTS

<u>SENIOR W.W.</u>	1. Robin Lang	Port Glasgow	17 min. 18 secs
	2. Kenny Fraser	Roxburgh	17 28
	3. Jim Knox	Roxburgh	18 07
<u>YOUTH W.W.</u>	1. I. Bownes	R.W.S.A.B.C.	20 46
<u>LADIES</u>	1. Margaret Elliot	E.W.W.C.	21 57
<u>SLALOM</u>	1. G. Low	Fife	22 51
<u>TEAM</u> (Scratch)	1. Knox/Robertson/Bell		

SCOTTISH DOWN RIVER RACING KAYAK/CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1979 (B.C.U. Ranking 'B')

FORTH CANOE CLUB

18th MARCH 1979

GRANDTULLY

Start: 11 a.m.

Distance: 5 km

Grade: 4

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

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

ENTRIES: To D. Cuthill, 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, Edinburgh EH10 5ED.
£1 Senior : 80p Youth : £2 C2 : Team 30p (10p per paddle)
(£1.50 B.C.U.) These should arrive no later than FRIDAY
10th MARCH for compilation of the Start List which will be sent to those sending two envelopes. Individuals (not teams) entering on the day of the event will be charged an extra 50p.

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

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

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

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

MEDALS

1 - 2 - 3 Senior K1
1 - 2 Youth K1 (under 18 on 1.1.79)
1 Ladies
1 Youth Ladies (under 18 on 1.1.79)
1 Team
1 C1 and 1 C2 (if 3 or more entries in class)

PRIZES: 1st K1, Senior, Junior, Ladies
1st Senior Slalom
1 - 2 - 3 Youth Slalom
1 Youth Lady Slalom
depending on entries - 2nd Team or 1st Youth Team.

ENQUIRIES: To D. Cuthill. Daytime 'phone 0475 33251

FORTH CANOE CLUBRIVER TWEED L.D. 1979 - F.C.C. CHALLENGE TROPHYSUNDAY, 13th MAY 1979

The event will be run on similar lines to previous years and will be ranking for S.C.A. L.D. Club Trophy and S.C.A. Singles L.D. Trophy.

SENIOR COURSE Walkerburn (A72 Peebles-Galashiels Road)
16 miles to Gattonside (Suspension Bridge at Melrose)
 Be at Walkerburn at 11.30 a.m. for 12 mid-day mass start.

JUNIOR & LADIES Fairnilee to Gattonside
8 miles Be at Fairnilee at 1 p.m. for 1.30 p.m. start.
 The event will be run to current S.C.A. L.D. Racing Rules

SAFETY You are recommended to wear a crash hat and you must wear a buoyancy aid.
 Boats will be checked for safety, end loops and buoyancy.
 Any considered unsatisfactory will not be allowed to start.

RACE NUMBERS The bib race numbers must be worn throughout the race to avoid confusion with other canoeists on the river at the same time. It is also another safety precaution as numbers are checked at various points on the course during the race.

FEES

Senior K1 WW	...	£1
Senior Touring/Slalom.		60p
Youth	...	60p
Junior	...	40p

ENTRIES will be taken at the start up to 15 minutes before the "off"

All classes of canoe may enter provided there are at least 3 of the one class. There will be prizes for Senior K1, R.R., Youth Open (under 18 on 1.1.79), Junior Open (under 16 on 1.1.79), Junior Ladies Slalom, Youth and Juvenile Slalom, Touring, Veteran. Others if numbers warrant.

All canoeists compete at their own risk. The Forth Canoe Club do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by a competitor.

"YOUNGER'S SPECIAL"

As those who know him are well aware, John Young's interests run to more than Bat Polo refereeing. Apart from his first love of canoe touring he has something of a reputation in canoe building and design as well. The front cover of Kayak illustrates one of his touring double designs. This is a development of his Younger Special Touring Single of which there is a mould at the Compass Adventure Centre at Granton.

The double is 20½ feet long, very stable and can carry all the gear any touring man might need.

The hull is of fibreglass with a marine ply deck and two single cockpits. John has the mould of the hull.

Both boats have proved themselves on numerous occasions including a double crossing of the Minch last year.

SCOTTISH BAT POLO CHAMPIONSHIPSFrom a referee's point of ViewJohn S. Young (Sen.)

May I first congratulate Kelso Riddell on the organisation of a very successful event on Saturday 13th January.

I think the rules are not explicit enough as far as behaviour is concerned and things like "head-on" clashes of Bat and Bats, or Bats and the pool side should be specifically prohibited if for no other reason than the preservation of the Bats and the pool.

Competitors must KNOW the rules, and better still UNDERSTAND them, particularly rules which are designed for the safety of each individual, buoyancy aids being the first example that came to my attention. Rule II states that players will wear suitable helmets and buoyancy aids OR belts which afford protection to the lower lumbar region (how many buoyancy aids were too short or rolled up?) There seemed to be a misunderstanding, by a few competitors, of Rule 7 which makes it clear, to me at least, that curvature of the tips and blade thickness are the critical features in the rule and not the material of manufacture.....

"Rule 7. Blades must not be metal tipped, and no part of the blade may have a radius of less than 3 cm. in plan." This is intended to prevent the removal of an eye ball when a paddle strikes an eye. I personally feel that this radius is too small as I know several people who have permanent eye injuries from squash rackets. Think of the problem of taking Jimmy or Jeannie home to mum along with a matchbox containing one or more eye balls. Someone did get struck on the mouth after all, but fortunately teeth are more resistant than eyes.

To put it mildly "it is unwise to argue with a referee about his application of the rules" especially if he has taken the trouble to study them for a whole evening before the event (It may also be difficult to persuade him to referee again).

As pool attendants and janitors are apt to use any excuse to prevent further use of premises, competitors and spectators must take away all litter or crumpled buoyancy from the pool or its surrounds.

My comments are intended to be constructive and not grouses and, finally, can I say how very impressed I was by the skill of a large proportion of the competitors, by the defensive skills of Dorothy Fairlie, and by everyone's enthusiasm.

--- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ --- @@@@@ ---

The above exhibition has been organised by me, not in a bid for instant glory, but rather through deep depression. I have felt for some time now that this sort of event could come to Scotland and survive and, in the year of our hoped for federalisation, what better time, but after many replies of "great idea, someone should do it but not us", or "go ahead but we can't back you but we agree." Thus inspired with the depressive enthusiasm of official help, I went it alone. With no financial help, defeat of federalisation, and the original premises being too small, it has not been easy to reach this stage, but - here we have the premises (Meadowbank Sports Centre), we are booked - the dates being SATURDAY 31st MARCH - SUNDAY 1st APRIL, 1979, and the times 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. are fixed.

EXHIBITORS COMING TO DATE ARE:

- Adventure Equipment
- Awoba Products
- Brookbank Canoes
- Glasgow Trailer Centre
- Lendal Products Ltd.
- Lothian Outdoor Education
- McNulty Seaglass Ltd.
- Niagara Therapy (U.K.) Ltd.
- Northern Kayaks
- Pyranha Mouldings Ltd.
- John Ramwell
- Scott Ramage
- Scottish Canoe Association
- Graham Tiso
- Trylon Ltd.
- Valley Canoe Products Ltd.

Barry Smith will also give a talk on his Cape venture and this type of support will add a pleasant interlude for many during the day.

Well! That's it to date, so PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY and make sure you come along with a friend! Let us show the trade that it is good business to come north of the Border and to our English counterparts that canoeing does not need to revolve round London!

The venture is entirely self supporting and I hope it will keep its head above water - any profits will go to charity.

FOR SALE

EX-SCOTTISH CHAMPION DRR C2

£ 60

'phone Richard McCurdie at
PENICUIK 77319

FORTH CANOE CLUB NOTES

THE SPRING GENERAL MEETING will be held in the SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL*
on TUESDAY, 27th MARCH, 1979 at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Acceptance of revised Constitution
2. Summer activities
3. Any other competent business

* Please check with Scott Balfour before you go in case of difficulties with the venue.
Will be followed by pool session.

SPRING The arrangements for pool and training sessions remain frozen until the work to rule by the janitors is over. At present pool sessions stop on 22nd March 1979* Fuller information was given in November '78 FCC Notes.

TUESDAYS 8 - 9 Sciennes Primary School Pool. Scott Balfour i/c
 WEDNESDAYS 7.30 - 9.00 Compass Centre - unaffected by strike -
 Boat repair sessions, glass fibre work.
 THURSDAYS 6.30 - 9.00 Training & Indoor Games at Liberton High School.
 Scott Balfour i/c
 8.30 - 9.30 James Gillespies High School Pool
 Scott Ramage i/c

*Pool sessions may be extended into May to make up for the long closure due to Industrial Action. Details of this given to people who turn up once they re-open, or contact particular organiser. In any case, pools are NOT available during the school Easter Holidays 7th to 22nd April.

SUMMER Owing to the poor response at Craiglockhart last year, no outside club activities will be organised in April. Negotiations are proceeding with Craiglockhart Sports Centre about their intention to charge the Club four times as much as last year. If the Centre stick to their price, we will not hold weekly meetings there but perhaps monthly ones. Activities will be held at the club hut at the Canal Basin in May, on Thursday evenings starting around 6 p.m. This will be phased in once pool sessions are finalised.

RACES The Club organises several big events. The organisers will be glad of any volunteers to help on the day.

MARCH 18th	Grandtully WW Race	David Cuthill
MAY 13th	Tweed L.D.	Scott Ramage
JUNE 17th	Awe WW Race	Jock Young

CANAL HUT There are four keys left. The present charge is £1 deposit on the key plus £2 per annum for storing at most two canoes. Canoes stored there must be marked with the owner's name. Extra canoes appearing there will be left outside if the owner cannot be contacted.

SALES YOU HAVE UNTIL FEBRUARY 28th TO PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR
 T-Shirts
 Sweat Sirts
 Hooded Tops.

The ORDER IS BEING SENT OFF ON 1st MARCH.
 Club Pennants (£1) and Ski Hats (£3) can be obtained from Scott

B.C.U. TESTS Members of the B.C.U. will already have received their personal copy of the
(i) Training and Competitive Events in 1979.
(ii) Coaching Courses and Assessments in 1979
(iii) S.C.A. Tours 1979

While the list is too long to reproduce in full, the following dates may be useful. Direct further enquiries to Scott Balfour.

<u>Inland Proficiency</u>	11 March	Crossford	R.Clyde
	24/25 March	Caldercruix	
	28/30 April	Tayside	
	5/6 May	Helensburgh	
<u>Sea Proficiency</u>	18/20 May	Borders	
<u>Advanced Inland</u>	2/4 March	Borders	
	19/20 May	River Tay.	

Senior Instructor Tests and Training Weekends are also available.

Star Tests will be available and organised by the Club in May and June.
See the May Kayak or Notice Board.

Summer Trips Each month there will be at least one trip. The overall co-ordinator will be Lilian Williamson who will ask/cajole/blackmail senior members to be a Meet Secretary for one trip.

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES of the 45th AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING of the Club, held at 2, Merchiston Bank Avenue, on the 18th December 1978 at 7.30 p.m.
17 members attended with Jack Cuthill in the Chair. 7 apologies for absence were received.

Commodore's Report Welcomed those present at the second attempt to hold this important meeting. He queried the value of having a membership of 100 if only 7 attended official meetings after proper notification in Kayak. Since Kayak Magazine is issued free to all members it was superfluous for him to make a general report at this meeting. Tonight at this meeting he felt it was appropriate to announce his retirement from the post of Commodore. Over the last 40 years he had held every administrative post in the Club. He was grateful for the very many friendships he had made in canoeing and wished the club continuing success in the future. Andy Morton said this was an historic moment in the life of the Club and acknowledged the great work done by Jack for canoeing, not only for the Club but for Scottish canoeing as well.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report Scott recalled the excellent team work which had resulted in a great expansion of the club's membership and assets. Membership had risen from 40 (19) to 100 at the close of the year. Kelso Riddell had initiated and completed the Canal Boat House, ably assisted by David Cuthill, Keith Bootland, the John Youngs and others. The official opening last September was an occasion for us to hold a mini-slalom in the canal basin. Weekly activities from October to March included bath sessions twice weekly and boat repair sessions at Granton. During the summer months weekly sessions were held at Craiglockhart, bat polo being a major interest.

Finance At the end of the year we had about £300 available in our account. It was agreed that a list of the club assets should be compiled i.e. slalom equipment, canoes, bat polo goals and ball, banner, notices etc.

"T" shirts etc. Payment for these was slow in coming in and the £90 cost would probably have to be paid before the money was received from members.

Election of Office Bearers The following were elected:

Hon. Commodore	...	Jack Cuthill
Commodore	...	Kelso Riddell
Secretary/Treasurer	...	Scott Balfour
Slalom Equipment Officer	...	David Cuthill
Meets Secretary	...	Lilian Williamson
Auditor	...	Andrew Morton

IMPORTANT

READ THIS CAREFULLY

CRAIGLOCKHART CENTRE - MONDAY EVENING POND SESSIONS

The Bat Polo, Beginners session, and the chance to try specialist sprint kayak, will resume on

MONDAY, 30th APRIL at 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (1½ hours)

The starting times will gradually move to 6.30 as the light nights work their way in. The last session will be Monday 10th September. Twenty sessions altogether. The cost is 25p.

THE MANAGER HAS ASKED ME TO BRING THE FOLLOWING RULES TO YOUR ATTENTION

1. All members must carry their Forth Canoe Club Cards and show this on request. (This is to help the Centre out down on petty thefts. Seal your card in a polybag or use transpaseal).
2. Non members may come and try one session, but they must join when they come a second time.
3. Canoeing clothes which are soaking wet and particularly spraydecks/buoyancy aids, socks and shoes which are the worse for dragging in the muddy bottom of the pond, should be removed outside. (The need for this became obvious last year when people who had capsized trailed mud and dripped water in the corridors).
4. The club members must behave responsibly in and around the premises. In particular, skylarking and inconsiderate use of the changing rooms will result in the club being banned from the Centre.
5. Parking arrangements are as last year. Canoeists may drive down, put their canoes into the pond area, then take their car up to the Patrons Car Park.

"Visitors" should only use the Patrons Car Park, or park in Lockharton Crescent and enter the area through the fence.

At present, Kelso Riddell and Scott Balfour have permits which allow them to park outside the pond area.

The Manager will remove this privilege if members continue to abuse this access area.

(The use of Craiglockhart will then be stopped and steps will be taken to have the person removed from the club and disciplined by the S.C.A.)

It is expected that all our members will put these rules into practice with good will and co-operation.

If everyone helps each other by putting the equipment out and returning it to its proper place, then the sessions will be kept enjoyable for all.

It is obvious to everyone that the Club gets value for its money for the use of the Centre so we must not abuse this privilege.

At the Spring A.G.M. the question of a "Season" ticket (possibly £3) for unlimited use of the Centre for Monday sessions.

F.C.C. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subscriptions are still due from about half the club. So if your 1979 card is not with this magazine, then you'll need to do something about it won't you? If you don't pay, you'll miss your May Kayak, the August Kayak, the November Kayak, the pool sessions, training sessions, Craiglockhart sessions, Hut slalom sessions.....

If you "think" you've paid, and you can't find your card 'phone Scott Balfour and he'll check).

ADDRESS LIST (additions and amendments to 1978 list)

Norman Cader	c/o Mike Smith, Lillybank House, Stoneycroft Road, S. Queensferry.
Michael Harrison	11, Steads Place, Leith, EH6 5DY. Tel.554-7773.
Lindsay McDonald	1, West Colinton House, 40, Woodhall Road, EDINBURGH EH13 ODU. Tel.441-7734
Ryan Orr	(as Mervyn)
Colin Wright	Room 51-34 Leith Nautical College Residences, 24, Milton Road East, EDINBURGH. EH15 2PP.

PERIODICALS

From time to time, the club receives details and magazines from a variety of sources and advertising material for several courses connected with canoeing.

These are usually carried by Scott Balfour to every club meeting and can be inspected/borrowed.

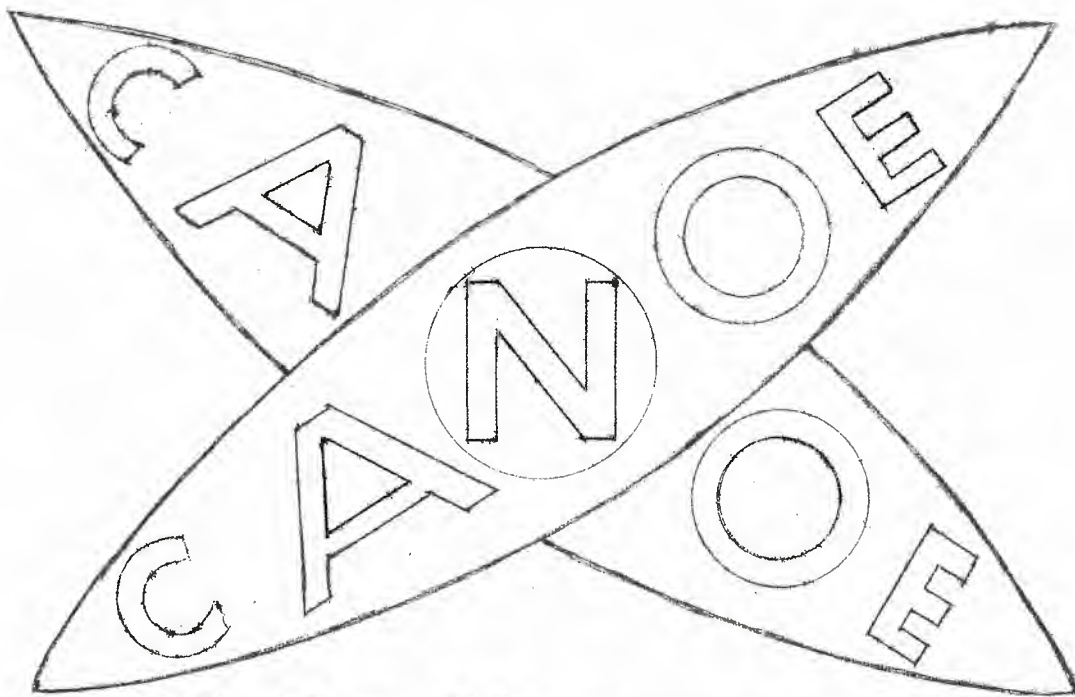
S.C.A. "Handbook"
B.C.U. Magazine Focus
Advertisement/Details Bowles Outdoor Pursuits
Centre and Alpine Courses
S.C.A. Committee and Council Minutes.

B.C.U. Log Books : Handbooks can be obtained direct from the B.C.U. The Secretary has details of these and membership application forms for anyone who is interested.

We hope to see an increase in the number of members taking part in competitive events. In fact we expect every paddling member to participate in the Tweed L.D. so that sufficient points can be gained to retain our Challenge Cup.

There are still some members who do not yet own a life jacket and/or paddle. Canoes too are in short supply amongst the membership.

Please contact the Secretary for information about second hand canoes and where to get the best buy for other equipment. Why not put an advert. in Kayak?



EXHIBITION

Saturday & Sunday

31ST March ~ 1ST April 1979

10am ~ 6pm

MEADOWBANK SPORTS CENTRE

Admission: Adults 50p
Children 30p

*Canoes ~ Canoe Accessories and
advice from experts on your canoeing.
Talk, with slides by Barry Smith of
his canoe expedition to Cape Horn.*



Shop and Office Address
LENDAL PRODUCTS LTD.,
18/20 BOYD STREET
PRESTWICK KA9 1LG, AYRSHIRE
SCOTLAND
Telephone
0292 78558

RACING

SPRINTMASTER, RIVER RACER, L/D MASTER, PACEMASTER.
Most models available with wood or fibreglass shafts.
Suitable for sprint, long distance and marathon racing.

SEA AND
EXPEDITION

SEAMASTER, NORDKAPP.
Both models constructed of heavy weight fibreglass shaft
and available with either one or two extended grips.
The SEAMASTER is also available with a centre joint.
These paddles have been used very successfully in every
major expedition including, Nordkapp, Spitsbergen, Greenland
and Iceland, John O'Groats/Lands End, Orinoco and Everest.

WHITEWATER

RIVER RACER, WHITEWATER, SLALOM
The RIVER RACER version is available with either one or two
grips or without grips.

SLALOM

A recent addition to the LENDAL range.
This paddle is constructed with a multi laminate blade
and fibreglass shaft and we can offer two types of blade,
one with an aluminium tip and the other with a rounded
wooden tip. An important feature of this paddle is
that damaged blades can be comparatively easily replaced
by the user.

GENERAL
PURPOSE

A number of LENDAL paddles fit into this category,
particularly the kit range of blades and tubes which can
be supplied separately or assembled.

TOURING

SUPERIOR and STANDARD kit paddles, L/D MASTER with or
without grip or any other model from our range.

JEWELLERY

A comprehensive range of canoeing jewellery available
in silvertone, goldtone, coppertone or precious metals.
These items are particularly useful as gifts or prizes
for club or school events.

CANOES

Canoe Centre, Wild Water Centre, Lawrence Canoes & Kayaks,
Trylon - CANOES ALWAYS IN STOCK.
We can obtain canoes from most manufacturers against a
customer's specific requirements.

N E W

FOOT PUMP

For years, paddlers have been trying to achieve a method
of getting rid of excess water which always accumulates
in the bottom of a kayak, no matter how efficient the
spraydeck. Water slopping about seriously affects the
performance of a kayak and particularly in the case of
racing class boats has on occasions accumulated to such
an extent that in many cases the craft has sunk. This
pump is not only an asset to the racing paddler but can
be of immense value to every aspect of kayak paddling.
Indeed, we at LENDAL feel that it could serve as a very
important role in the safety aspect of canoeing.
The most important feature is that it is activated by
the natural cycling action of the feet on the footrest
and can be operated along the entire length of the
footrest.

FIBREGLASS
RACING PADDLE

A lightweight all fibreglass paddle with asymmetric blade.

We carry a large stock of canoeing items at our showroom
in Prestwick which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days
a week. If these times are not convenient, alternative
arrangements can be made for people to visit us