

# **KAYAK**

## **MAGAZINE**



***November 1979***

**A FORTH CANOE CLUB PUBLICATION**

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Scottish Slalom Championship at Grandtully in September.  
Photo by Gordon Cuthill.

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EDITORIAL

\*\*\*\*\*

November 1979 will be remembered as the month the S.C.A. became masters of canoeing in Scotland.

Not completely independent in the International sense but free to manage our own affairs. No longer can we sit back and blame the B.C.U. when things are not to our liking: we get busy and put things right ourselves.

We are now property owners with the acquisition of Grandtully. This will mean a great boost to our slalom activities. Added to the racing facilities available at Strathclyde Park, our competitors can have no excuse for poor performances. No longer can we accept team managers' reports praising the performance of their charges who "Also ran" in some English or Continental event. We have to accept that at present we are only 3rd class performers on the International scene but that is a situation which must be changed. We have the facilities; let's find the "Natural" performers prepared to train hard, and coach them to their limits.

So much for competition, but let us not forget that the majority of canoeists are not so orientated. The touring and purely recreational canoeists require help with the growing campaign against us by the fishing interests.

We have to increase our membership so that we can truly claim to be the voice of canoeing in Scotland. It must be the responsibility of every present member to persuade, cajole or pressgang every canoeist known to them to join the S.C.A. It must be the responsibility of the S.C.A. Council that all who join get something for their money.

Our administration is at present in good hands but they will be tested to the full in the coming months with such problems as access, coaching, publicity, property management and development, not to mention money raising.

It is my belief that if we are to fulfil all our duties and aspirations as a National Canoeing Body it will require a professional in charge of development. Somewhere in Scotland there must be a livewire, intelligent and knowledgeable enough in canoeing matters to get things done. He must have sufficient drive, initiative, tact, and diplomacy to represent us favourably in the corridors of power whether it be those of government, would-be sponsors, or the big business of fishing. He need not be a star canoeist. A National Coach is the next step and we all know the qualities required for that.

Full-time officials of that calibre are not cheap, but we must find a way of affording them.

We shouted loud and long enough to get our own way. Let's show the world we meant it, and why.

J.C.

In the last issue, Jack Cuthill argued that slalom has deteriorated. Let me say now - I cannot challenge that, for in this argument I'm on his side. In writing on it, however, the trouble is that there are so many facets to the problem that to write of all would be boring, yet to write of one would be to exaggerate its importance. Let me, then, touch on some.....

It is said that the developments have made slalom more interesting, more of a spectator sport. I cannot agree. At one time one could explain to an onlooker that forward gates were meant to be done forward, reverse gates done backwards, etc. It is much harder to watch, say at Grandtully, a top class paddler sweep broadside under a forward, a reverse and a forward gate - and convince the onlooker that here is high skill. It merely looks incompetent.

It is said that the developments are bringing paddlers into the sport. My belief is that this effect is only marginal. Let me digress for a moment. In England, access for inland touring has been steadily reducing inversely as our members increased over the decades. I have declared, at A.G.Ms etc., that it was improper for the B.C.U. to spend so much time and money on introducing/coaching newcomers while not willing to invest as much on improving access. Am I cynical? As I see it, they dare not fall out with their biggest single source of income. The Sports Council wants us to have a formal coaching scheme. They do not want any unpleasantness such as us confronting the anglers on access rights. Thus, the B.C.U. activities have been to the detriment of their individually subscribing members (and in 15-20 years, Scottish paddlers will be in the same position as English paddlers today). In brief - and to get back to the point - the increasing numbers in slalom may be due less to developments in slalom than to the recruiting drive of the coaching committees.

Incidentally, it's all a con job. Slalom is really for the unadventurous. In touring, one is always faced with the unknown. In slalom, one sees rough water with poles over it, and - for all the excitement and apparent risk - there is a justified assumption that the course must be safe or they wouldn't run a slalom there. And if you capsize and simply float down the river, somebody will fetch you out! Don't misunderstand. I enjoy the quick excitement of slalom - as I do the longer pleasure of touring. (One can enjoy the two-minute song "Argentina" yet look forward to the full opera "Evita".)

Likewise, touring is essentially an individual activity but slalom is a group (even family) thing. There's many parents who once watched their child play on the beach with bucket and spade, who now watch him paddle slalom. Bigger lad, rougher water, but the same indulgent parental attitude (even if some use the clubs as surrogates).

I mustn't forget - the subject is an alleged deterioration in slalom. May I approach my next point thus: does the national slalom structure exist to provide pleasure for all who compete, or to provide a base (and fresh talent) for the national team? Earlier I referred to the financial weight of the Sports Council. Similarly, the voice of a team official is listened to with much more respect than that of an unambitious Div.3 paddler - no matter what the subject. Nationally, we should balance the two views expressed but ... inevitably team considerations prevail.

Access, even at a slalom, is limited. At most events there is Free Practice. A few years ago, however, it was decided that at Div.1 events paddlers should have only the one Official Practice run. Reason? So that the few who would go to Internationals got practice at sizing up the course from the bank. Rather than give special training in this to the Training Group, they stopped free practice for all. Minority interests prevailed.

Talking /

Talking of minorities, who likes the present slalom rules? These are based on I.C.F. Rules for the conduct of World Championships and Internationals. Fair enough to use these when out of 40-50 paddlers we are to provide a British team. But when there are something like 3,000 paddlers in British slalom, any such argument falls down. Fair enough, the selected Internationalists should practice to International rules, but why insist that the 3,000th paddler do likewise on water which is so very very different.

Incidentally, those who like the rules, like only those they like! For instance, there is a clear rule that the entry to (and, by implication, the running of) a ranking event must not be restricted (or prejudiced) by the inclusion of a non-ranking event. Brought in, to the frustration of those small clubs who wanted to run events in conjunction with local festivals, etc. But consider a scheduled Premier/Div.1 event. Organisers believe the site to have international potential. Actively they seek many foreign entries. They obtain sponsorship. (Which of the two came first, I don't know). Then sponsors demand that a non-ranking but newsworthy Grand Prix be included. There's barely time for a Judges Event but no sweat, by now the Slalom Executive have accepted responsibility for providing judges there. And - though I write before the event - there is talk among paddlers that there will be time only for Premier - no Div.1 event \*\*\*. You may have gathered I'm referring to Llangollen Town. Is this truly the development we seek?

Jack, in his article, facetiously described a future slalom. He was very close to defining a Grand Prix, which some reckon should be the new form of slalom after January '81 (when the I.C.F. Rules are changed. Jack, have you - correction - you have had your ear to the ground!

Much of Jack's article related to poles and penalties. Let me end an unwieldy epistle by making what might be considered a constructive suggestion... Might be - if you didn't know that an I.C.F. official rejected it as being contrary to current developments.....The suggestion was - very simply - that being broadside on to a gate should be penalised (by 20 points?) as being Wrong Presentation. No joy on that - so, given the difficulty of judging, how do you explain to a visitor, pausing on the bridge at Grandtully, that a forward gate can be tackled any way but backwards?

Let's try another angle. Accepting (for an argument) that the current development allegedly based on ski slalom is unacceptable, why not run our slaloms like canoe surf (or high diving) competitions? No messy poles over water. Competitors tell the judges which manoeuvres they intend to perform - and they get judged on those.

Stop, you fool, stop.....

Ian.P.

\*\*\* It may have been the talk of the 'Town' this year but fortunately it turned out to be no more than idle gossip. Editor.

#### IAN PENDLETON

The present generation of Scottish Canoeists may not know that Ian Pendleton was a keen F.C.C. member and secretary 25 years ago. He also succeeded Jack Cuthill as S.C.A. Secretary in 1960. Ian is now a Manchester C.C. member, an International Slalom Judge and Editor of the B.C.U. Slalom Year Book. In fact still a power in the canoeing world.

CATRIONA'S FIRST "TRIP" or"I AM STILL GLAD YOU BROUGHT ME DAD!"John Young (Sen.)

Sunday 22nd July was reasonable when we started out, with car and trailer, for Carsaig, Kintyre, where we hoped to camp before setting out for a round trip of Jura? Islay? or wherever the mood and/or the weather dictated.

We were very well equipped with two resin/glass hulled plywood decked kayaks and one cadet for the three boys, Stephen, Alistair and Robert, and a twenty foot six inch long touring double for Catriona and me, with the party split into two groups for tents and cooking.

Carsaig was dull with showers and camp sites and inhabitants were hard to find, so we decided to look back at Crinan, but this also proved difficult so I selected a roadside pitch, which proved quite good for one night, or at least for Catriona and me sleeping in the car; the other members of the party, thinking about secluded beaches fringed by bowling greens, were not so keen.

A quick breakfast next morning with a trip back to Lochgilphead in an attempt to get tide tables. This caused by my failure to check a tidal diary which did not have Dover or any port related to my tidal atlas or the pilot book. No tide tables were available, however, so back to Crinan to re-check the yacht chandlers before getting pencilled notes from the lock-keeper's diary. Load up, then off to the other side of Loch Crinan to a camp site with a view, used on a previous trip but the view was missing, with the Paps of Jura hidden in cloud, although the north end of Jura, Corryvreckan and Scarba, could be seen.

Then followed five days of swimming, diving, beach combing, visits to Crinan, the canal, Lochgilphead, a meeting with a jackdaw, even a little canoeing, and time and time again listening in to bad weather forecasts which never seemed to live up to their threats. Have satellites made reports inaccurate? What is the worth of this alarm clock radio, which switches on by itself to produce a disembodied voice from the depth of a jacket, kitbag or kayak, when it only predicts high winds which don't materialise and thus keep a group of mixed ability tied to a small area?

The jackdaw was found wounded on the beach and an attempt was made to feed it in the hope that it would recover, but alas it died during the night in a small sheltered hollow, covered with bracken and surrounded by food. Catriona, the provider of this shelter and food supply, was a bit upset because she had been able to stroke its head and put it back on its feet when, because of its injury, it fell over.

The canal and its locks and bridges proved interesting, and picturesque when the sun was shining. During its examination we learned that the operators of such luxury vessels as yachts can have a fairly hard time working their craft through the canal. On one of the visits to Crinan we met a group from Telford, in Shropshire, returning via Corryvreckan from a visit to the west side of Jura. Despite the white faces and tales of wild and difficult seas, this made our party restless and pressurised me into a change of route in order to get some action.

We left Crinan on a very misty Saturday, after hearing a bad weather report, in time to catch Dorus Mor near low water slack to give us the flood tide northward from Craignish point. The compass seemed a bit erratic so I almost made the mistake of rounding Garbh Reisa instead of the headland. After an easy trip through Dorus Mor it was very depressing for me not to see the magnificent scenery looking towards Mull, but the others seemed unconcerned by this and made the most of watching a colony of seals and a number of geological features like trap dykes, which could be seen closer /

closer at hand. The variety of shapes of the dykes was fascinating.

Still on a compass course to find Shuna Sound we listened to yet another bad weather report on the radio while pressing on to Toberonochy, where we stopped in pouring rain for a meal and a rest. We were greeted by a question, from an inhabitant, which surprised us greatly. "Have you come to compete in the Canoe Regatta"? We declined to stay however because I did not relish unpacking and, probably, repacking because of the uncertainty of obtaining a camp-site near at hand.

We pushed on to the north end of Torsa to find a little bay with a beautiful view towards the north, or so it appeared next afternoon when the sun shone. Sunday's afternoon sunshine was too good to miss so we set out late afternoon when the flood started, to head up the Sound of Seil and under Clachan Bridge. "The Bridge that crosses the Atlantic" proved to be a fascination for the group and it was interesting to remember that it was one of Telford's bridges. The constricting channel, which was difficult to see approaching from the south, contrasted with the widening scene north of the bridge which gave views of Mull, Kerrera and the distant mountains of Morvern enhanced by the light from an evening sun which increased the contrasts between light and shade.

It was interesting to look at a previous camp site, at the mouth of Loch Feochan, which I had left in very different weather conditions to follow the same route we were now travelling, and compare the sunny light-breezy conditions with the gale force wind which, on the previous occasion was able to lift and flip upside down and back again, the heavy rubber tender trailing behind a large yacht which was motoring up the Sound because it dare not hoist its sails. The camp-site used on previous visits to Kerrera was very wet so we pitched on slightly higher, but sloping ground, and made plans for a visit next day to the "bright lights" of Oban where Catriona and I would embark at 17.15 on a bus trip followed by a 5 mile walk in the rain to Crinan to pick up our transport.

On returning to Oban I had difficulty finding a parking place so it was about 23.00 hrs., very dark, wet and very windy before we could head back across to Kerrera and the "security"(?) of our tents. Conditions were so bad that in my usual bad weather mood I promised to go home next day if the weather did not improve. Constantly on my mind was the thought that this would frighten Catriona and put her off for life, but my worries were all swept away when she, at last dry and tucked into her sleeping bag, gave me a good night kiss and said "I'm still glad you brought me Dad". It transpired that she had found the bad conditions stimulating and enjoyable. With that kind of faith in her father, we could cross the Atlantic instead of just canoeing under the Atlantic bridge.

Next day dawned brilliantly bright and clear after the rain and restored my faith. It is very encouraging to get all one's clothes and tent dried and packed for the next leg of the voyage. The boys had a last trip into Oban and its swimming pool and Catriona and I climbed the nearest hill to see the beautiful scenes in all directions, have a chat with other sightseers and observe a very large group of canoes on their way from Loch Etive. We later discovered that the canoeists were from a Canoe Camping Club on Loch Etive. Diving and swimming from a small cliff by the others whilst being photographed by me, was the next item on the programme before packing up and heading for Loch Etive in fine sunny weather.

The passage up the Falls of Lora near low water slack, proved interesting but uneventful and stimulated Catriona to suggest a passage when it was faster. Then a passage through the narrows before looking for a camp site which we found on Rubh' a' Chairn Bhig.

Next day's weather was dull to start with but brightened later to become clear and sunny for our passage to the mouth of the Awe, at Bonawe, near Taynuilt where we spent the afternoon shopping, visiting the old iron furnace and having tea in the very popular and excellent tea room. The next leg from Bonawe up the loch was a search for a beach and campsite at Ardmaddy which /

which we had been advised to look out for. It proved to be an excellent spot with magnificent views north east to the mountains of Glen Coe and south to Cruachan. Such a beautiful spot in sunny weather called for a day of swimming, beach combing, exploring, and believe it or not, sunbathing.

A beautiful moon-rise over Cruachan set the scene for a quiet night which ended with a clear dawn next day, prompting Alistair and I to launch the double along with Stephen in the Cadet for a trip to the head of Loch Etive. Catriona and Robert spent the day sunbathing and waiting for our return, when we discovered evidence of great civil engineering projects at the mouth of the burn, so it had not all been sun-lounging.

We decided to pack up for a return to Taynuilt ready for home next day. The journey back to Bonawe proved to be hard work because a head wind sprang up making it impossible to stop because of the rapid drift back. It was now, I fully realised just how good 10 year old Catriona was at paddling because, when she stopped for necessary short rests, I was in trouble.

On arrival at Taynuilt I was generously offered a lift back to Oban by a member of the Canoe Camping Club who had to camp at the Awe because their main camp-site at Rubha nan Carn was full. No problems about picking up the car and trailer and, no charges, because the attendant had gone home so there was no need for my hesitancy about leaving the car there on that wild night before crossing to Kerrera.

Back to Bonawe and the camp-site at the ferry slip for a good night's rest in preparation for the drive home.

We brought back several pieces of rock, including pieces of iron ore, proving, to me at least, that iron was produced at Lorn Iron Furnace, Bonawe before 1753, the date indicated by the notices at the Furnace and suggesting that local ore was used before it was imported from Cumbria.

The trip was particularly rewarding for me because we successfully introduced two newcomers to canoe touring and the trip was constantly punctuated by, "I am glad you brought me dad", or at the worst times.... "I'm still glad you brought me dad."





R E S U L T S

LEVEN L.D. on 29th SEPTEMBER, 1979.

Div 1.	R. Montgomery	-	Irvine C.C.
Div 2.	J. Adair	-	Irvine C.C.
Div 3.	N. Davidson	-	Kirkcaldy C.C.
Div 4.	G. Richards	-	Irvine C.C.
Div 5.	L. Maureen Pennie	-	Forth C.C.
Div 6.	McGill and Blacklaws	-	Kirkcaldy CC.

CLYDE L.D. on 21st OCTOBER, 1979.

Div 1.	A. Morton	-	Forth C.C.	72.55
Div 2.	J. Adair	-	Irvine C.C.	79.31
Div 3.	S. Murphy	-	Irvine C.C.	80.00
Div 4.	A. Ashby	-	Strathclyde Univ.	
Div 5.	L. A. Millar	-	Kirkcaldy	

ROYAL DEESIDE W.W. RACE on 11th NOVEMBER, 1979.

<u>Open Class</u> (11)	1. A. Morton	-	Forth C.C.	23m 22s
	2. R. Lang	-	Port Glasgow	23 55
	3. D. Tuttle	-	E.U.C.C.	24 28
<u>Div. C.</u> (26)	1. I. McDonald	-	Stirling W.W.	26 3
	2. A. Denny	-	R.W.S.A.B.C.	26 5
	3. G. Gibson	-	D.U.C.C.	26 56
	4. A. Meikle	-	S.U.C.C.	27 6
	5. G. Anderson	-	D.U.C.C.	27 12
	6. D. Wolfe	-	Forth C.C.	27 14
(All six promoted)				
<u>Ladies</u> (8)	1. J. Wilson	-	E.U.C.C.	27 16
	2. V. Taylor	-	G.U.C.C.	27 55
(Both promoted)				
<u>Slalom</u> (8)	1. N. Baxter	-	Forth C.C.	28 50
<u>Team</u> (6)	1. Forth C.C.			26 46

THISTLEBRIG W.W. RACE on 25th NOVEMBER, 1979

<u>Open</u>	1. A.Morton	F.C.C.	12-54.4	<u>Open Ladies</u>	1. J.Wilson	EUCC	15-08.3	
	2. P.Turcan	Reading U.	13-15.7		<u>Div C. Ladies</u>	1. N.Coulthard	DUCC	15-44.3
	3. R.Lang	P.Glasgow	13-20.8			2. G.Robbie	FCC	15-45.5
<u>Div C</u>	1. G.Smith	EWWC	14-07.3	<u>Slalom Ladies</u>	1. L.Morrison		15-30	
	2. N.Spinks	A.K.C.	14-29.5		<u>u/18 "</u>	1. N.Adamson	Stirl.	17-25.6
	3. G.Anderson	DUCC.	14-30.6			<u>C1</u>	1. J.Young	FCC
<u>u/18</u>	1. K.McNair	P.K.C.	14-41.7	<u>Team</u>	1. Strathclyde Univ.			
<u>u/16</u>	1. J.Adair	Irvine	14-52.1		Ashby/Mackenzie/Meikle			
<u>Youth Slalom</u>								
<u>u/18</u>	1. T.Turcan	St.A.Un.	14-57.1					
<u>u/16</u>	1. G.Wilson	FCC	15-19					
<u>Senior Slalom</u>								
	1. G. Tough	DUCC	14-45.7					
	2. G. Duffin	EUCC	14-55.2					

The river was at a relatively high level. There were over 130 entries in the various classes. It was a very successful event, marred by the large number of late entries which gave the organisers an unnecessarily difficult job. COMPETITORS MUST GET THEIR ENTRIES IN - IN ADVANCE.

I wonder whether the canoeing organisations may not drown in their self-created forest of bureaucratic water weed. I was introduced to canoeing as a spontaneous, part-time, fun activity some seventeen years ago. Only later did I get to hear of the "B.C.U." which I was interested to learn published a magazine and would, if I could demonstrate mastery of basic skills give me a certificate of competence to instruct basic canoeing. Since then a lot seems to have happened to both "the sport" and the B.C.U.

Since these early, innocent, (ignorant?) days, I have not only paddled a good few miles, but have taken, initially privately and later professionally, to instructing outdoor activities. Amongst other activities I have taught canoeing to people of all ages and from many walks of life in both organised and more spontaneous (dare I say disorganised?) situations.

Long ago my Instructor Certificate fell into disrepute and confronted by an employer who wished to see certificates of competence for every activity that involved hills, rivers or ponds, I set out to obtain the new Senior Instructor Certificate. Alas, in the intervening period, not only had standards gone up generally but in the North-east of Scotland the S.C.A. seemed to have unilaterally "upped" the requirements and we found ourselves required to teach rolling, stern dipping and "J" stroking, as well as demonstrating how to set a slalom course in thirty minutes! All good stuff and very interesting, but is this really necessary for a "basic" qualification? If I cannot do a first-time roll or have not entered a slalom for the last few years, am I really deemed incompetent to instruct basic canoeing to youngsters on flat water, to take a party to explore the Norfolk Broads or even to go touring on some of Britain's less demanding rivers?

I suspect that the organised bodies see canoeing only in the light of an organised club in which instructors and students alike are committed to an ongoing process of learning geared to evermore adventurous canoeing. This may be fine for some, but what of those students who wish to confine their activities to canals and lowland rivers? what of those instructors who, through choice or occupation, involve themselves only with the teaching of "elementary" skills?

Aggrieved, I returned to convert my first defeat into victory, but I have seen too many competent paddlers who wish to introduce young people to a new activity (possibly even a way of life) turned away because they do not possess the skills required for a Senior Instructor Certificate. If the organised bodies are to provide a constructive and meaningful structure that can be used by schools, outdoor centres, adventure groups and occasional canoeists, as well as by dedicated clubs, they should re-instate a BASIC Instructor Certificate whilst raising the standard of the Senior Instructor Certificate to a level that is worthy of this title. Perhaps at the same time they should rename it to avoid the sort of total confusion which existed at the last reshuffle of qualifications.

I have paddled and instructed paddling in Britain (England AND Scotland) and in East Africa. I was happy to know that as a B.C.U. Senior Instructor my abilities were recognised by most organisations. I was proud to be a British paddler whether my paddling was done on the Severn or the Spey. I was disappointed to see the splintering of the B.C.U., for that is what I really believe has been happening. I was amazed to discover that because I happened to be living north of the border during the summer of 1979 I am to be made a member of the S.C.A. and denied membership of something which includes England! If next month, or next year, I should happen to move south, will I be regarded as an outsider? Will my S.C.A. Certificates be honoured? The B.C.U. and S.C.A. are emphatic that membership qualifications will enjoy reciprocal recognition, yet even before the "breakaway" /

"breakaway" paddlers from the south were told "Your qualifications are not accepted by us because you don't have the same sort of water down south"! It seems that there is a move away from national qualifications towards local qualifications, for a similar argument was used when standards of assessment in the north-east of Scotland were higher than those applied in other Scottish areas. Is it really to be supposed that people who instruct will forever stay in the same area? and heaven forbid that they should have to be re-assessed every time they move - it took me five years to find an assessment held at a place within reach at a time when I was available!

Sadly, I am forced to believe that the recent trends mark the beginning of a separatist movement which will result in the creation of an ever increasing complexity of rules and regulations. I hope I am wrong.

As if to keep our minds off such uncharitable thoughts, the B.C.U. and S.C.A. seem to be putting out a smoke screen of paper. Already this year I have received some sixty pages of reports, directives, notes, calendars and forms from these organisations. Being interested in many aspects of outdoor life, I am disturbed by the amount of paper which is filling my canoeing file whilst remaining unread! I am becoming baffled by the changes of name, changes of rules, upgrading of standards, revamping of qualifications, change of membership, appearance of newsletters and upgrading of safety requirements, all of which completely overshadow the recent developments in canoe design and the diversification of the sport. One day soon I shall close my canoeing file for all time, hand in my S.C.A. membership and slink away to some secluded spot and actually participate in some canoeing. I might actually enjoy it if the fishermen don't find me.

J.C.Childs

Note: We invited Andrew Manwell to comment on the opinions expressed above and he sent us a very lengthy article which we shall publish in full in our next issue. Editor.

Letter to the Editor

12, Melrose Road,  
Port Glasgow, Strathclyde.  
17.9.79.

Dear Editor,

Having recently competed in the Scottish Slalom Championships at Grandtully I was very disappointed to pick up the Glasgow Herald and Daily Record next day and read the pathetic and misconstrued reports on the previous day's events.

The Herald mentioned 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Canadian class of whom there must have been a grand total of 8 or 9 competitors (no offence to the Canadians intended). The Record mentioned 2nd Lady and 4th Canadian.

What was particularly galling was that the main event of the day i.e. the Men's Kayak Singles Junior and Senior combined, in which a total of 80 competitors took part, received absolutely no coverage. This event was won by a top river race paddler, Kenny Fraser from Roxburgh. Not only was this a major achievement for Kenny, it was also a sad reflection on our top slalomists!

Congratulations were also due to Silver Medallist Ian McDonald for a fine performance.

It's time that canoeing reports in the press were more precise and put into their true perspective instead of half the facts being published.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin Lang.

Note: The S.C.A. Public Relations Officer was invited to comment on this letter but failed to reply.

CONTINUING OUR FEATURE OF PEN PORTRAITS ON THE S.C.A. COUNCIL

R. KELSO RIDDELL : CANOE POLO REPRESENTATIVE 84 Warrender Park Road  
EDINBURGH, EH9 1ET  
Senior Partner, Engineers Agent  
(Managing Director-designate for new  
Underwater Navigation Company).

Married, Age 31

Started canoeing at school aged 13 by building in lath and canvas. Joined Forth C.C. in 1969. Former member of Glasgow University C.C., founder of Napier College C.C., and former member of Heriot-Watt University C.C. Currently Commodore of Forth C.C. and S.C.A. Auditor. Was Secretary of S.C.A. from 1971 to 1972.

Has sampled the delights of slalom, river racing, long distance (including Devizes - Westminster ("once only")) and dabbled in sprint and surf. Brought canoe polo to Scotland after a summer south of the border, and now organises canoe polo in the Edinburgh area. Has been a member of the S.C.A. council since about 1969.

Believes that top class competitors, having achieved their own personal ambitions, should pass on their experience by coaching newcomers and encouraging promising younger paddlers. Is very concerned at the few committed leaders who do this at present.

Current ambition is to see a Scottish Canoe Polo Team win at the British Championships, and to have enough money to take up an invitation to play canoe polo in Milan.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOCK YOUNG : EAST REPRESENTATIVE 21, Craigleith Drive  
EDINBURGH, EH4 3JT.

Teacher of Technical Education,  
Penicuik High School

Single. Age 24.

Can't remember when he didn't go canoeing.

Won his first Scottish Championships Medal in 1968/69? in the Youth K2 event with David (Kamakaze) Cuthill. Since 1971/72? he has competed in the top British Slalom Division, previously Div 1 and currently Premier Division.

He has been representing his country in International events, both at home and abroad since 1972, in both the Scottish and British Teams.

In the past year he has turned his attention from slalom kayak to slalom C2, forming a highly successful partnership with another previous Scottish Slalom Champion, Alistair (Bluebell) Munro.

Jock has some very decided views on the organisation of canoeing particularly to do with International Representation, but at present prefers to keep these to himself rather than have them misconstrued. He hopes, however, to be more forthcoming in the near future.

TRAVEL SUBSIDY TO SCOTTISH PADDLERS

Scotland's top paddlers have for the past year enjoyed a travel grant subsidy to lighten the financial burden of attending events south of the border.

Such a system is not offered to their counterparts in England, but it must be pointed out that if the money was not spent in this manner it would be spent on training or sending a Team abroad; it is not an "extra", just a different way of making use of our resources.

The reasoning behind it is, that any top competitor, whether they be Senior or Junior, probably gains more from competing at five top class events in England in a year, than he might at some Scottish training weekends or even on a trip abroad, keeping in mind that many more benefit from the travel subsidy than would from being a member of the Scottish Team.

Moreover, by going to events down south, they increase their chances of selection for the British Team.

The subsidy is not intended to cover all expenses, nor is it intended to pay for sundry travel while competitors are attending the event. It is only available to S.C.A. members and the number of events for which grant is available are restricted to Div A River Races, Div 1 Slaloms, British Championships and British Team selection events.

New information for applicants is available at 8 Frederick Street and competitors are advised to obtain a copy before completing forms in 1980. They will find that restrictions have been added to the regulations which will possibly reduce or even invalidate their claims.

A.M.

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NAVIGATION AID

Andrew Morton

I purchased a cheap little compass in Halfords the other day, made by Polco and costing only 52p. I had one many years ago, but lost it after having my car ransacked by some impoverished thief.

It was a pleasant surprise to come across it again as I found it most useful when canoeing on the North and East coasts of Scotland.

The compass is attached to any shiny surface by a simple sucker and stays in position indefinitely, however, if it is knocked off - it floats! The most useful feature of this little gem, however, is that it is infinitely gimballed (to coin a term). Put it another way for the simple minded - it still works in the capsized position if you have the time or inclination to check. Consequently, waves and the rocking of the canoe have little effect on the reading which is reversed so that the letter appearing to the navigator is the direction in which the boat is heading.



Why have one in any case? Well, this one is probably only accurate to about 15° but all I want is a rough indication of the position of land, as opposed to Norway, when the mist comes down!

Warning note from J.C......I discovered once that my compass was 15° off true when one very hazy day I set off from Oban to Duart Castle on Mull, and finished up on Lismore! 1½ miles out in 5 miles.



SCOTTISH SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1979GRANDTULLY 15th - 16th SEPTEMBERRESULTS SUMMARYMEN'S K1 (43)

1. K. Fraser	Roxburgh	183.9
2. I. McDonald	Stirling WW	186.8
3. A. Eastwood	Glasgow Kayak	190.7
4. G. Robertson	Kilmarnock BB	190.9
5. S. Ramage	F.C.C.	193.2
6. A. Munro	F.C.C.	195.3

C 1 (6)

1. A. Munro	F.C.C.	247.4
2. J. Young	F.C.C.	249.1
3. C. Tannock	Strath.U.CC.	293.1

YOUTH K1 (24)

1. G. Willing	Strathearn WW	196.1
2. G. Davies	Selkirk H.S.	232.6
3. N. Andrews	Brechin H.S.	250.2

C 2 (3)

1. Munro/Young	F.C.C.	262.5
2. Hamilton/ McMorris	Uddingston	303.6
3. Cuthill/Brown	F.C.C.	316.2

LADIES K1 (4)

1. Nonie Coulthard	D.U.C.C.	263.6
2. Kathy McLeod	F.C.C.	267.1
3. Lynda Morrison	Moffat	315.3
4. Gill Robbie	F.C.C.	346.1

YOUTH LADIES (6)

1. G. Marles	Selkirk HS	445.7
2. S. Ward	L.C.A.C.	456.7
3. V. Adamson	Wallace HS	459.8

TEAM (16)

1. F.C.C.	Ramage/Baxter/Young	250.7
2. Strath.U.C.C.	"A" Denny/Ashby/Cornwell	339.0
3. A.U.C.C.	"A" Milne/Liddon/Shearer	345.1

With a haul of 7 bottles of whisky from this event (sponsored by Dewars), the F.C.C. are considering an application for affiliation to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Perhaps the S.C.A. Council should debate whether whisky is an appropriate prize to give to healthy young sportsmen unless of course they think it is used in place of embrocation to tone up tired muscles.

---O O O---

QUOTE FROM A LETTER RECEIVED FROM IAN PENDLETON

It may interest you to know that for several years some of those doing the Manchester C.C. Scottish Tour have done the R. Garry - water on from mid-day Tuesday to mid-day Wednesday.

This year when I wrote to check, I got a letter back saying "They could not give any information as the local anglers would not like it". Similarly since we were not to be at Ullapool for a few days, I wrote to another officer of the S.H.E.B. re the River Shin. Answer: "Get in touch with the Fisheries Officer".

I have suggested before that in a few years time Scottish paddlers could find access as difficult as those in England.

Is that day all that far off?

(Taken in conjunction with our Awe problem, these instances suggest action by the S.C.A. Public Relations Department. - Editor.)

COMING EVENTS FOR NEXT 3 MONTHS1979

- 1 - 2 December A.G.M. of the S.C.A. at Aberdeen  
 8th " Bat Polo Squad (East of Scotland) Training Session (see page 18)  
 14th " F.C.C. Disco - Tickets from the Social Secretary:  
 Richard Price, 17 Murdoch Terr. Edin. EH11 1BD

1980

- 6th January Teith R.R. Class C - A. Samuel  
 11th " F.C.C. Social Evening - watch for details  
 Tickets from Richard Price (above)  
 27th " Tay R.R. (Stanley) Class C - Edinburgh University  
 1st February Last day for Kayak contributions  
 2nd " Scottish Canoe Polo Championships (see page 18)  
 6th " Slalom Judges Course at Compass Adventure Centre, Granton.  
 Forth Canoe Club  
 9-10th " Sea Canoeing Conference (see page 20)  
 10th " Clyde R.R. Class C - Glasgow University  
 20th " F.C.C. Beer and Skittles night 'Robins Nest' 50p  
 Richard Price (above)  
 24th " Tweed R.R. - Class C - Kenny Fraser  
 2nd March Nith R.R. - Class C - R.W.S.A.B.C.

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1979 LIST OF TROPHY WINNERS

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CANOEIST OF THE YEAR	4 Championship Event	P. TURCAN
SCOTTISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP CUP	500m Youth	S. MURPHY
AYRSHIRE CUP	L.D. Points Men	A. MORTON
JOHN MEARS TROPHY	1st Slalom Team F.C.C.	RAMAGE/BAXTER/ YOUNG
PETER BURTON TROPHY	1000m Senior Men	R. MONTGOMERY
YOUNG SALVER	Ladies 500m	YVONNE ALLISON
TAY SHIELD	1st Scot in 1st Div	N. BAXTER
GENTS DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP	1000m	A.MORTON/P.TURCAN
FLORENCE SLALOM CUP	Slalom Championships 1st	K. FRASER
ELPHINSTON TROPHY	Junior Slalom Men	G. WILLING
INTER-CLUB L.D. RACING TROPHY	Points from L.D.	KIRKCALDY C.C.
JIM GILMOUR TROPHY	10,000m Junior Men	S. MURPHY
JUNIOR L.D. RACING TROPHY	Points from L.D.	J. ADAIR
ROYAL BURGH OF IRVINE TROPHY	10,000m Sen.Men.	R. LANG
BOBBY JONES TROPHY	500m Senior Men.	R. MONTGOMERY
TOP OF RIVER RACING RANKING LIST		R. LANG
THISTLE CUP		D. NIXON - (Eng)
TAY MARATHON CUP	K1	B. GREENHAM (Eng).
DONALD MARSHALL MEMORIAL SHIELD		A. MORTON
RIVER LEVEN CUP		R. MONTGOMERY



COMMODORE'S COMMENT

If the price of resin and glassfibre continue to rise in line with the current rate of inflation (17.4% at present), I wonder if we shall see a major revival of more traditional canoe construction methods. Certainly, for non-river touring, soft-skinned canoes have many advantages. At the Compass Adventure Centre in Edinburgh, there are a number of these which are more than twenty years old, and John Young has several skeletons in his garden which can be as good as new when re-skinned. In fact, they will be better than new as we now re-cover boats with lighter-weight PVC coated nylon. This is simple and quick to repair by sewing up a major gash and sticking on a patch with contact adhesive. Construction of these 'lath-and-canvas' canoes is straightforward with the use of common hand tools, and construction can be spread out to suit your leisure. There is no mess or noxious fumes, and you can stop at any stage of construction. I wonder how many of the fibreglass canoes made this year will still be serviceable in twenty years time (1999) ?

There seems to be a surge of activity in the seats of learning in Edinburgh. Edinburgh University CC have started a programme of canoe building supervised by Scott ('Daddy') Ramage; Napier College have emerged from the doldrums of the last few years and Forth CC member Lilian Williamson is leading the come-back; Heriot-Watt University CC are also having a burst of activity with Wednesday afternoon outings. They have even managed to entice Gordon Cuthill away from motor bikes back to the fold and inveigled him in as Treasurer and to do some coaching. Telford College continues under the able guidance of John Young.

There has been made a serious but yet to be fully debated suggestion by members of the Amateur Athletic Association that Amateur status should be abolished. This seems an attempt to regularise some of the rather shady 'expenses' scandals recently revealed, and while I applaud this move to more honest dealings for track events, I wonder if the S.C.A. council might have time to think about the possible implications of canoeists possibly competing for a purse and whether the competitive side of our sport has enough public interest or financial sponsorship to raise enough money to pay, for example, a 'start fee' to all entries at Division I events in Slalom. It is good to see that the SCA now has a PRO Officer to liaise with the media, but are events organisers really feeding him with NEWS, the raw material for publicity which can give our sport more public acceptance and lead to a higher level of financial support, both from government agencies and from industry?

RKR.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

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Those who have been missing the happy smiling face of Ian Spiers at recent events will be glad to know that he is alive and well, earning his bread in Saudi Arabia

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We are delighted to announce the birth of a baby boy, Adam Stewart to Sylvia and Scott Ramage, on 5th November 1979. Congratulations!

This brings the F.C.C.'s Kindergarten membership to 5 in just over a year.

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One of Jock Young's pupils came up to him recently in school and asked: "Mr. Young, is Bluebell the name of your canoe" ? .....

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Quotes from a letter from Iain Linn.

Seal Beach, California.

Things are getting along fine here although it is a bit chillier now that the temperature has dropped to 75°.

It is only about 5 minutes walk to the beach so we have a very pleasant time at the weekends if we don't go anywhere. It gets to about 100° downtown but it is usually 80° - 85° on the beach. It gets dark early even in the summer: about 9 p.m. at the latest. We've hardly been into L.A. as it is 40 minutes drive down the freeway and they are always busy.

I've been rock climbing a bit and we've been camping in the Sierras and local mountains a few times. There is a permit system for hiking to keep the numbers down as it was so busy before it was initiated. It works quite well and seems worth it in such a crowded area.

The local Canoe Association are trying to get River Racing and Slalom into the 1984 Olympics. There is a good stretch of Grade III to IV for 3 miles near Bakersfield. We haven't been on it yet as it runs through private land, but the owner is quite keen and rich. It has good access and is dam controlled.

This life of leisure and sunshine is hard to take.

Cheers, Iain and Chris.

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Peter Turcan, son of the S.C.A. President, and one of Scotland's top canoeists, has left for England. He completed his course with Honours at Edinburgh University and is now doing a PhD at Reading University. He is working for the Met.Office, but hopes also to continue his work in writing programmes for popular games such as Mastermind and Scrabble. These types of programmes are very popular in America where some families have their own computers!

Reading is a particularly suitable spot for Peter as he will be able to train with some of Britain's fastest Marathon paddlers including Brian Greenham. We can expect even better results from him in the future.

See also opposite page .....

HAND ROLLING RECORD

Peter Turcan set a new record for hand rolling on 18th June 1979. He performed 100 hand rolls in 3 minutes 44 seconds.

The attempt took place in the swimming pool at Strathclyde University and was supervised by Drew Manzie, Niall Sturrock (both of the University P.E. Dept.) and Allan Easson, vice-President of the University Athletic Club.

The new record was accepted by the "Guinness Book of Records" and appears in the latest Edition.

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NEWS FROM NORWAY

Friends and acquaintances will be delighted to hear that Einar Kjerschow is now the First Norwegian White Water Champion.

Since finishing his studies at Strathclyde University and returning to his native Norway, Einar has been busy developing slalom and WW Racing. He has had to do this from scratch as neither discipline existed, the emphasis being on sprint and L.D.

He has helped build Slalom and WW Racing to a level where the Norwegian Association approved the running of National Championships.

The W.W. Championships took place in mid August on the River SJOA, 300 km north of Oslo. Einar had been training for 15 hours a week and his hard work paid off by his becoming the first Norwegian WW Champion.

An interesting sideline is the response to the Public Relations effort mounted by his organising Committee. Some 400 spectators turned up, Press Journalists and Photographers turned up and the event was recorded on television and shown on the Sports News a few hours after the event. Indeed Einar had to stop and knock on the door of a private house on the road home and ask to see it. A heavy rainfall giving a swollen river made it look very spectacular and no doubt gained a lot of good publicity for the sport.

The Slalom Championships were due in the Autumn but I have yet to hear how he performed there. Drew Manzie.

NOTE: A 'phone call has been received from Ian Fleming, SCA PRO, to explain his delay (see note at foot of p.9). A full report of the Grandtully results was delivered personally to the Herald Office but, once a sub-Editor gets his hands on such material he is master of all he purveys in the way of news. Ian has promised us a write-up for our next issue about his publicity work for the S.C.A. and what he expects in the way of support from Committee Chairmen, Club Secretaries, Organisers of events, etc.

DENNY'S DESTINY DIVULGED

Informed sources claim that August Kayak Cover Hero Alistair Denny missed the November Slalom/WW Training Weekend due to Access negotiations have been officially denied. However Greenock Superstar Denny is known to have been involved in a secret engagement over the last week.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH "ALL WILL BE REVEALED AT THE NEXT TRAINING WEEKEND"  
Nonie Coulthard  
"SWIM WITH THE BIG BUOYS" Jock and Bluebell.

After a delay in securing a grant from Lothian Region, the East of Scotland squad training will start at Infirmary Street Baths, Edinburgh, with a session on Saturday evening 8th December from 5p.m. to 9p.m., to which all those interested are invited.

Those who hold Lothian Region Sports awards for Canoe Polo are expected to attend promptly. Although a grant has been awarded for this squad training, a charge will have to be levied to cover the full cost of the baths. At least ten bats will be in the pool all the time, and training will include some advanced canoeing skills such as effective eskimo rolling as well as Canoe Polo tactics.

For further details, contact Kelso Riddell on 031-229-9586.

The West of Scotland squad should be meeting by the time this issue goes to press. Again, at least ten BATs will be in use weekly at Greenock Baths. Anyone in the area contact Alistair Denny on Greenock (0475) 22755 for details.

Another group taking up Canoe Polo this winter is based at Ayr. Contact James Boyle, of Maybole Club, 78 Westwood Avenue, Ayr, for details.

And it looks as though the RAF at Kinloss, Elgin, may be setting up a squad in that area. Contact R. Parkin of RAF Kinloss CC for more information.

The Scottish Canoe Polo Championships will again be held at Infirmary Street Baths, Edinburgh (the Royal Commonwealth Pool will be dry for tile repairs) on Saturday 2nd February 1980. Club Secretaries make a note in your diaries and get your club entries in promptly to Kelso Riddell. The number of teams for this event will be limited, but a preliminary round may be arranged for the week before if required. We look forward to a rising standard from all over the country.

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#### SCOTTISH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION

Some may remember a note in the February 1979 issue of Kayak urging our readers to write to their local councillors and M.P's. objecting to the Edinburgh Outer City Bypass cutting the canal at Sighthill.

Congratulations to all those who bothered to do so.

The Chairman of S.I.W.A. has now received a letter from the Secretary of State to say that Lothian Regional Council have abandoned their plan to block the Union Canal at Sighthill with the Bypass. Instead they are to build a new aqueduct to carry the canal over the road. We look forward to seeing a large fleet of canoes paddling in the van of the flotilla at the opening ceremony.

All canoeists who make use of the Canal ought to be members of S.I.W.A. Subscription is only £1 for under 18's and £2 for over 18.

The Treasurer is: J. Douglas Anderson,  
16, Grantly Gardens, J.C.  
Glasgow, G41 3PZ.

LISTEN TO RADIO SCOTLAND ON FRIDAY, 30th NOVEMBER (6.30a.m. to 8.30a.m.)  
Ian Fleming the S.C.A. P.R.O. will be interviewing the President  
John Turcan about canoeing in Scotland.

<u>WANTED</u>	<u>FOR SALE</u>
<p>2nd hand Slalom Canoes for school use. Out of date models preferred. Good prices paid. Must be in reasonable condition.</p> <p>Ron McFarlane Gracemount High School Lasswade Road, EDINBURGH.</p> <p>Tele: 664 7440 (during day) 664 8216 (after 6pm)</p>	<p>K 1 (Ranger) Paddle (Gees) Right hand 210mm V Bar Spare seat for K 1</p> <p>THE LOT FOR £ 90 BUT PREPARED TO SELL SEPARATELY</p> <p>Morag Cork, 23 Elliot Park, EDINBURGH</p> <p>Tele: 441-3812</p>

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SEA CANOEING CONFERENCEBlairvadach Sailing and Outdoor Centre9th and 10th February, 1980.

This weekend course is designed primarily for staff from Outdoor Centres and Club members interested in promoting sea touring.

Frank Goodman has kindly offered to give a slide lecture on the Cape Horn expedition, as well as a talk on Canoe Design; and Alistair Wilson will be talking on Paddle Design.

There will be ample time for discussions and questions and it is to be hoped that conference members will bring their own equipment along for others to see. It will be particularly helpful for less experienced members to see this equipment and discuss the pros and cons of various items.

There will be a selection of various sea canoes and paddles for course members to try out.

The fee for this course will be £7.25, to be paid at the time of booking. An extra £0.50 will be payable on the Saturday evening for the slide lecture.

Application should be made by means of the tear-off slip enclosed and sent together with fee of £7.25 per person to The Warden, Blairvadach Sailing and Outdoor Centre, Rhu, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, G84 8NN.

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 9th February	1200 hrs.	Arrivals and check in
	1230	Lunch
	1345-1445	"Paddle Design" - Alistair Wilson
	1445-1515	Questions and discussion
	1515-1530	Tea break
	1530-1630	"Canoe Design" - Frank Goodman
	1630-1730	Questions and discussion
	1800	Dinner
	1930	Slide lecture - Cape Horn Expedition
SUNDAY, 10th February	0900	Breakfast
	0930-1200	Canoe and paddle sampling. A variety of canoes will be available for course members to try.
	1230	Lunch
	1330-1445	Equipment symposium. It is hoped that members will bring along and demonstrate/discuss various items of equipment which they have used on canoeing trips. Please indicate on the application form if you are bringing equipment for this session and state what the item(s) will be.

Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the FORTH CANOE CLUB, held on 26th November, 1979, at Lothian Outdoor Education Centre, Macdonald Road, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: R.K. Riddell in the Chair, S. Balfour, Secretary, Scott Murray, Miles Forde, Jock Young, Tina Mitchell, David Stewart, Ian Jones, Murray Simon, Angus Dickson, Grant Wilson, Doug Wilson, George Logie, Lilian Williamson, Alistair Williamson, David Wolfe, Scott Ramage, Tom Scott, Jerrold Fraser, Gill Robbie, Margaret Jarvis, John Munro, Richard Price and John Young Senior.

Apologies for absence were received from Jack Cuthill, David Cuthill, Andrew Morton, Maggy Jones, Richard Gregory and John Young Sen.

#### Commodore's Report

R.Kelso Riddell

The activities of the club have been well attended with large numbers enjoying the summer sessions at Craiglockhart and the winter sessions at Sciennes Pool.

While the entries from the club in competition are small, those who do compete do rather well. The achievements of Andy Morton and Grant Wilson in Sprint and L.D. are worth noting, and our slalom paddlers excelled at the Scottish Slalom Championships collecting 7 bottles of whisky between them. David Cuthill collected several trophies on the continent.

The Hut at Lochrin Basin is well used and no more keys will be issued until further notice. There has been some delay in the plans for the new hut but I would now expect these to be resolved and a start to be made in early spring. I have sketch plans available for anyone who would like to see what we have in mind.

Commodore's Cup - I have had great difficulty in awarding the cup - as usual Andrew Morton has had exceptional results; Jock Young (with Alistair Munro, better known as Bluebell) has had an outstanding season in C2. The Commodore's Cup, presented to the club by Jack Cuthill and first awarded in 1935, traditionally goes to members achieving the highest honours for the club, or for showing the most progress during the year. This year, I propose to award the cup to a paddler who has been competing regularly and whose efforts have not, to my mind, been fully recognised. I am awarding the cup to Grant Wilson for his efforts in L.D. and Sprint.

#### Secretary's Report

Scott Balfour

The membership growth had now steadied; from a roll of 34 at end 1977, to 92 at end 1978 and now 132 at the end of 1979. Happily, the latter rise included many able paddlers, competitors and keen adults who can do much to help the large number of Junior Members in the club.

As Kelso had reported, the activities of the club were well attended. Jack Cuthill's "first Wednesday of the Month" meets at the Compass Centre and were well attended when films were shown, or the Slalom Judging Evening; but the "Coaching Evening" last November caught a little audience. This reflected the need of the general membership for light-hearted films and slide shows rather than anything requiring too much concentration!

Last winter had seen us thrown out of both Sciennes and James Gillespies Pool - I had pursued the matter with the authorities and gained a successful appeal. It must be emphasised that our presence at Sciennes depends on our continued co-operation with the janitor and orderly sensible behaviour in the pool. I decided not to use Gillespies as it committed the Senior Members in the Club to yet another evening out - the two hours at Sciennes satisfy the instruction needs up to and beyond rolling. We are pursuing "once a month" evenings at other pools where specialist technical instruction can be given. I have Lothian Outdoor Education Pool in use on 4th December for coaching "instructors", Kelso and /

and David Wolfe are pursuing the use of Public Baths, their first session is on Saturday 8th December, 5 - 9p.m. in Infirmary Street, and I hope to get the use of Dunfermline College P.E. Pool at Cramond on a couple of occasions in 1980.

The coaching at Craiglockhart has enabled 2 members to gain their "One Star Test" and another two their "Inland Proficiency Test". Obviously, there are many others capable of passing these tests and we hope that interest and enthusiasm will continue next year. Thanks to all who had assisted at meetings last year, particularly Mrs. Newport, A.Williamson, D.Wilson, S.Murray, M.Forde, S.Ramage and K.Riddell.

#### Treasurer's Report

S. Balfour

The Deposit Account holds £511.75 and the Current Account £41.51 bringing the total cash held to £553.26. The club also holds extensive slalom equipment, some canoes, 5 Bats and s/decks and of course the Hut.

Of the £550 cash, £20 is due to be paid for Autumn use of Sciennes Pool, £20 to pay for the envelopes used for Kayak, and £110 tied up in Kayak subscriptions. This leaves £400 to pay for Hut Rent (£15) Hut Rates (£18), the running of the club, 'phone calls, letters duplication (£52), and the maintenance of our equipment (£85). Thus about £200 is available for future development of the club e.g. more Club equipment, Hut, etc.

#### Revision of Constitution

S. Balfour

The Agenda issued to all members advised all of the decisions which the club would need to make in the future. At this meeting, I outlined the present policy and showed that our present set-up is "unconstitutional" yet obviously sensible and appreciated by the membership. However, we must put our "rules" in order. The issue of "Membership" was given a good airing - the meeting felt strongly that payment of the fee should give membership to the club. The meeting felt strongly that the "voting age" should be lowered to 16 years or over on the 1st January in the current year. The meeting felt that the club should not differentiate between those with canoes and those without; however, hut keys will only be issued to those with their own canoes. While the traditions of the club were felt to be important, the meeting felt that the names of the Officials should be more meaningful and that their duties should be explained in the constitution.

The Committee will look into these matters and issue a copy of the proposed revision to all members before the next General Meeting where it will be discussed and implemented.

The meeting agreed to continue with the New names for Officials as in the past few years.

#### Election of Office Bearers.

Honorary Commodores	Jack Cuthill	(D.Wolfe, Jock Young)
	Elizabeth Cuthill	(S.Ramage, J.S.Young)
Commodore	R. Kelso Riddell	(S.Murray, J.Young)
Secretary/Treasurer	David Wolfe	(R.Price, S.Balfour)
Club Coach	Scott Balfour	(D.Wolfe, J.Munro)
Hut Custodian	Scott Murray	(M.Forde, S.Balfour)
Slalom Equipment	Jack Cuthill	(D.Wolfe, L.Williamson)
Assistant, Slalom Eq.	Miles Forde	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Other Equipment	R. Gregory	(S.Murray, R.Price)
Social Secretary	R. Price	(S.Balfour, M.Forde)
Meet Co-ordinator	D. Wilson	(D.Wolfe, S.Murray)

#### Affiliation Fees /



Affiliation Fees

After much debate and discussion, the meeting carried these by a majority:

Senior Membership	£4	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Junior "	£2.50	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Family "	£6.50	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Hut Key Deposit	£3	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Canoe Storage (each)	£3	(S.Balfour, K.Riddell)
Kayak Subscription	£2.40	(A.Morton, K.Riddell)

Any Other Competent Business

Races 1980 Grandtully W.W.Race D. Wolfe 16th March?  
Tweed L.D. A. Williamson 4th May  
Awe R.R. - Jock Young recommended not to run it.

Slalom Jock Yound and Scott Ramage to investigate and make the initial momentum for a club slalom on moving water.

Exhibition The meeting agreed to participate in the S.C.A. Exhibition at the end of March 1980

THANKS The meeting thanked Mr. Buchanan of Bramdean Rise for his generous donation of a nearly new Olymp Six to the Club. The meeting agreed to restrict its use to Juniors of Novice, 4th or 3rd Slalom Divisions and then only at Competitions.

Leith Boat Club The meeting instructed the Committee to investigate affiliation to the above Club.

Craiglockhart The Club will continue to use Craiglockhart next year.

East of Scotland Bat Polo Kelso intimated that the Club were invited to attend Infirmary Street Baths on Saturday 8th December. There will be two sessions: 5 - 7p.m. Advanced Training & Bat Handling; 7 - 9p.m. Polo. Cost 75p to £1.

The meeting thanked S.Balfour and I. Jones for arranging the premises for the meeting and all eventually left the building at 10.10p.m.

Scott Balfour.

All subscriptions are now due - (see the Minutes for the new rates) - and should be paid without delay.

All those who joined after the 1st of September 1979 may deduct £1 from their subscriptions when they pay up.

We welcome the following new members to the Club. One or two are already "weel kent" faces but are included because of address changes and returning to the fold after a lapse of membership:-

J.	Anne Ambler	Rush Common House, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon, Berkshire.	
S.	Fiona Dickson,	31, Warrrender Park Road, Edinburgh 9.	229-6958
S.	Morag Eaton,	3, Bonnybank Road, Dundee.	
J.	Andrew Johnstone,	97, Oxgangs Farm Avenue, EH13 9PH	441-1612
J.	Philip Jones,	20, Braehead Road, EH4 6BW.	339-4865
J.	George Kay,	152, Currievale Drive, EH14 4AA	449-6386
J.	David Law,	20, Spottiswoode Road, EH9 1BQ	447-6446 H
J.	Kate Law,	"	"
S.	George /		

S.	George Logie,	57, Mayfield Road, EH9 3AA	667-9775	
S.	Ian McDonald	School House, Dumyat Road, Causewayhead, Stirling.	Stirl-70407	
J.	Stewart Ogston,	17, Darwin Street, Craigshill, Livingston, EH54 5EZ	0589-36254	
S.	Kenneth Parr,	170, Currievale Drive, Currie, Midlothian. EH14 4AA.	449-2291	
S.	Sally Ann Phimister, D.C.P.E.,	Cramond Road North. EH4 6JD.	336-6001	H
J.	Ivan Seery,	2, Drumdryan Street, Edinburgh	229-1252	
J.	David Talbot,	7, Leamington Terrace, EH10 4JW	229-4362	
J.	Margaret Williamson,	11, Braidburn Crescent, EH10 6EL	447-4288	
J.	Andrew Wilmshurst,	1, Grierson Square, EH5 2AR.	552-2342	

COMING EVENTS Please read the list on page 14 carefully and give the Club items your support.

Note well that there will be no "First-Wednesday-of-the-month" meeting on 5th December. In fact the next such meeting will not be until 6th February when we have the usual Slalom Judges Course. Every member should hold an F.C.C. Judges Certificate or be ashamed of him/herself. With a membership the size of ours, this Course should be mobbed out -----we'll see.

#### POOL SESSIONS

1. SCIENNES stops at 8.45p.m. on Tuesday 11th December, 1979 to resume at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 8th January. The first members there "book" their canoe for their 10 minutes extras can have a swim and pay for the following week to book their space.
2. OTHER POOLS Scott Balfour has arranged the use occasionally of other pools for canoeing. This is by invitation only - don't call him - he'll call you! Anyway these will only be held once a month.
3. FITNESS sessions stop at Liberton School on Thursday 13th December to resume on 10th January at 7 p.m.

CANOE BUILDING The winter canoe building programme has already started on Wednesday nights at the Compass Centre, under the direction of David Wolfe. All our BATS are in a sorry state of repair, so anyone who has contributed to their damage might show his repentance by coming down to patch them up. If you are a newcomer to glassfibre work, bring your oldest clothes, or get a set from a jumble sale.

GENERAL TOURS As some of you may know, the S.C.A. Touring Committee compile a list of "open" tours for distribution to S.C.A. members in February 1980. This allows people from all areas to join together in the pleasures of touring.

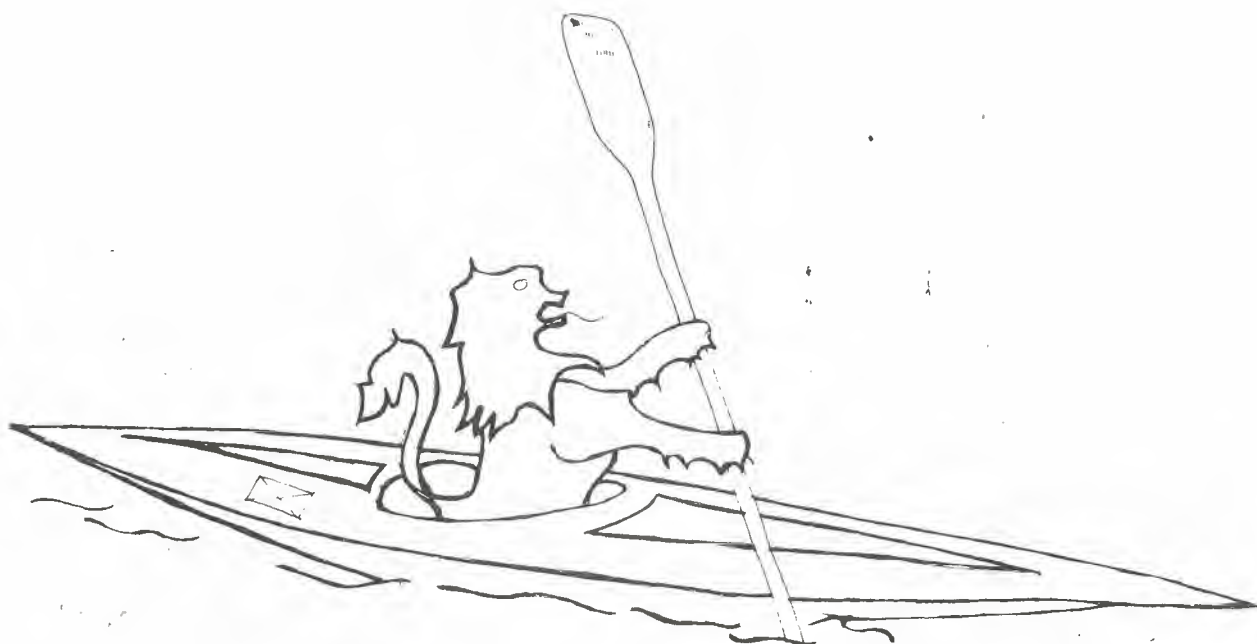
If any Forth Canoe Club members would like to put on a trip and make it open to fellow canoeists in the S.C.A., they should write to

"S.C.A. Touring Committee,  
8, Frederick Street,  
Edinburgh, EH2 2HB."

giving their Name, Date and Location and Grading of the Trip.

- \* briefly
- Grade A - Proficiency Standard - sheltered waters
  - Grade B - " " - waters with alternative bad weather routes.
  - Grade C - Advanced Standard - BCU Advanced Standard, element of commitment involved. Further details from the Secy.

# SCOTTISH CANOE EXHIBITION



MEADOWBANK SPORTS CENTRE  
EDINBURGH

29th and 30th MARCH 1980  
10AM — 6PM



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.

NEW

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